THE WIRE

THE CORPS MAGAZINE OF THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

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VOL. XX.—No. 227. JANUARY, 1939 PRICE—SIXPENCE

Editorial Notes.

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

Colonel Commandant, Royal Signals.—We are authorised to state that Major-General E. A. Osborne, C.B., D.S.O., has agreed to act in the capacity of Representative Colonel-Commandant of the Corps for the ensuing year.

The Corps Association.—Once again we express our thanks to Unit Correspondents, and all contributors who have so ably and regularly assisted in furthering the interests of Association activities.

THE WIRE is now entering its twentieth year. It still continues to hold pride of place among many contemporaries as the Regimental magazine with the largest circulation, and much of the credit for this is due to those who have so consistently contributed to its pages.

We also take this opportunity to thank all Unit and Branch representatives for their loyal support and co-operation. Without such voluntary and valuable assistance it would be impossible to cope efficiently with the task of keeping in constant touch with our members and subscribers scattered throughout the Empire. Services thus conferred are greatly appreciated by the Central Committee and all concerned in the Administration of Association affairs.

During the preceding twelve months the Corps Association has successfully accommodated 442 ex-Warrant Officers, N.C.O.s and men with congenial employment, most of the vacancies being of a well-paid and permanent nature. Those Corps tradesmen most in demand at the moment comprise : "ELECTRICIANS," "INSTRUMENT-MECHANICS," "FITTERS" and "LINEMEN," and we should be glad to receive particulars of any potential candidates qualified as above, who contemplate discharge or transfer to the Army Reserve in the near future.

Any reader requiring advice on the subject of civilian employment is invited to communicate with the General Secretary, Signals Association, 95 Belgrave Road, London, S.W.1.

Bournemouth and District Branch Dinner.—The Committee of the Bournemouth and District Branch of Signals Association have made arrangements for their Second Annual Reunion Dinner to take place at THE GERVIS HALL RESTAURANT, BOURNEMOUTH, on Saturday, 28th January, at 8 p.m., and invite as many Royal Signals Old Comrades to be present on that occasion as possible.

The price of tickets is 3s. 6d. per head, and intending visitors are asked to notify the Hon. Branch Secretary, Mr. S. J. Rouse, 123, Ensbury Park Road, Winton, Bournemouth, at the earliest possible moment.

All applications for tickets should be accompanied by the necessary remittance.

Dress : lounge suits. A

Association of R.E. Despatch Riders.—We have been asked to give publicity to the Ninth Annual Reunion Dinner of the Association of R.E. Despatch Riders, which is scheduled to take place at the WHARNCLIFF ROOMS, HOTEL GREAT CENTRAL, MARYLEBONE ROAD, LONDON, N.W.1, at 6.30 p.m., on Saturday, 21st January.

All officers, warrant officers, N.C.O.s and men of R.E. and Royal Signals who were operating as Despatch Riders during the War are eligible to attend and should communicate at once with the Hon. Secretary, Association of R.E. Despatch Riders (Gilbert Advertising, Ltd.), Hastings House, Norfolk Street, Strand, London, W.C.2, stating their requirements. The price of tickets has been fixed at 8s. 6d. each, and for those requiring "bed and breakfast" accommodation, the hotel authorities are offering a reduced rate.

Passage to India.—The wife of a Corporal, Royal Signals, is desirous of joining her husband in India under private arrangements, and offers her services as nurse to an officer's family in exchange for passage to Karachi. Thoroughly experienced with children of all ages, and willing to remain in service with the family after arrival until alternative arrangements can be made. Correspondence to "Mrs. S.," c/o The Editor, THE WIRE, 95 Belgrave Road, London, S.W.1.

Wanted.—A Royal Signals Brooch set with diamonds. Any reader having such an article for disposal is asked to communicate with "Major X," c/o The Editor, stating name of maker and price required.

Bound Volumes of "The Wire" for 1938.—All readers, Units, Messes, etc., requiring bound volumes of the Corps magazine for 1938 are asked to submit their orders early as only a limited number of copies is available for distribution.

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THE EDITOR.

Signals Association Notes.

BIRMINGHAM BRANCH.

A meeting of the above Branch took place at Cateswell House on Monday, 5th December, under the chairmanship of Colonel J. W. Danielsen, D.S.O., T.D. Many matters of importance were discussed, the principal decision being that the Annual Dinner should be held in the Drill Hall, Stratford Road, on 4th February next.

It is appreciated that a large number of the members would like the dinner held in Birmingham itself, but the difficulty of finding suitable accommodation makes this impossible. It is expected that the attendance will pass the 200 mark and the Drill Hall would seem to solve the problem. Will all those interested please make a note of the time and place. Tickets may be obtained from Major H. Bartlett, Cateswell House, Stratford Road, Hall Green, Birmingham, price 3s. 6d. The sooner these are applied for, the easier will become the task of arranging the catering. A hearty welcome awaits any old R.E. Signals or Royal Signals members who may be able to attend. Come and help to make this a great success.

On Friday, 9th December, we held a most enjoyable Smoking Concert in the White Swan, Edmund Street, and in spite of the inclement weather there was a very good attendance.

Messrs. Steve Whitty, George Clay, Ralph Ironmonger, Bob Barlow, Jock MacLean and two other gentlemen whose names escape me for the moment, entertained a happy crowd until 11 p.m. Val Lacey was his usual cheery and efficient self on piano and accordion. Another Smoking Concert is to be held at the White Swan on 13th January. Don't miss this if you are in Birmingham.

To all old friends at home and abroad, a happy and prosperous New Year.

R. F. B.

EMPLOYMENTS.

Situations found during the preceding month with the co-operation of the National Association for the Employment of Regular Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen.

1	Ex-Signalman, Halifax	Labourer
2	Ex-Signalman, Coventry	Signwriter
3	Ex-Signalman, Sheffield	Electrician
4	Ex-Signalman, Sheffield	Labourer
5	Ex-Signalman, Sheffield	Labourer
6	Ex-Signalman, Sheffield	Electrician
7	Ex-Signalman, Sheffield	Electrician
8	Ex-N.C.O., Yorkshire	Postman
9	Ex-Signalman, Yorkshire	Postman
10	Ex-Signalman, Yorkshire	Labourer
11	Ex-Signalman, Yorkshire	Postman
12	Ex-Signalman, Carlisle	Collector
13	Ex-N.C.O., Shrewsbury	Postman
14	Ex-Signalman, Stoke-on-Trent	Labourer
15	Ex-Signalman, Nottingham	Mechanic
16	Ex-Signalman, Nottingham	Telephonist
17	Ex-Signalman, Hull	Motor Driver
18	Ex-Signalman, Carlisle	Post Office Cleaner
19	Ex-N.C.O., London	Postman
20	Ex-Signalman, London	Labourer
21	Ex-N.C.O., London	P.O. Engineering Dept.
22	Ex-Signalman, London	Factory Forehand
23	Ex-N.C.O., London	Clerk
24	Ex-N.C.O., London	Messenger
25	Ex-Signalman, London	Messenger
26	Ex-Signalman, London	Porter
27	Ex-Signalman, Newcastle-on-Tyne	Electric Welder
28	Ex-Signalman, Newcastle-on-Tyne	Postman
29	Ex-Signalman, Essex	Chauffeur Gardener
30	Ex-Signalman, Essex	Labourer
31	Ex-Signalman, Brighton	Postman
32	Ex-Signalman, Brighton	Postman
33	Ex-N.C.O., Croydon	Postman
34	Ex-N.C.O., Taunton	P.O. Engineering Dept.
35	Ex-Signalman, Yorkshire	Labourer
36	Ex-Signalman, Chatham	Postman
37	Ex-N.C.O., Bulford	Lineman
38	Ex-Signalman, Devonport	Lineman
39	Ex-Signalman, Taunton	Postman
40	Ex-Signalman, Isle of Wight	Lineman
41	Ex-Signalman, Wokingham	Postman
42	Ex-Signalman, Salisbury	Telephone Switchboard Operator
43	Ex-Signalman, Salisbury	Wireless Operator
44	Ex-N.C.O., Salisbury	Fitter
45	Ex-N.C.O., Chatham	Clerk
46	Ex-Signalman, Lancs.	Draughtsman
47	Ex-Signalman, London	Wireless Operator
48	Ex-N.C.O., Lincs.	Works Patrolman
49	Ex-N.C.O., Lincs.	Works Patrolman
50	Ex-N.C.O., Lincs.	Electrician's Improver

37 to 44 inclsuve. Salisbury and District Branch Signals Association.

GENERAL SECRETARY.

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Benevolent Fund Notes.

The Administrator gratefully acknowledges receipt of the following :

BANKER'S ORDER SUBSCRIPTION from :
Major R. H. Rayner, M.B.E., M.P.

CASH SUBSCRIPTIONS from :
3rd Indian Divisional Signals.
R.Q.M.S. D. V. Littlefield.

APPEALS dealt with :

1	Ex-Signalman, Wilts	Grant	£4	0	0	Loan	£3	0	0
2	Ex-Driver, Glamorgan	Grant	£3	11	6				
3	Ex-Signalman, India	Grant	£2	0	0				
4	N.C.O., Canterbury	Loan	£5	0	0				
5	Ex-Signalman, Liverpool	Grant	£1	0	0				
6	Ex-W.O., Exeter	Loan	£4	0	0				
7	Ex-Signalman, Darlington	Grant	£1	0	0				
8	Ex-Signalman, Essex	Grant	£2	0	0				
9	Ex-Signalman, Exeter	Loan	£2	0	0				

(Signed) T. H. L. SPAIGHT, Lieutenant-Colonel,
Administrator, Signals Association Benevolent Fund.

Corps News—Officers.

Extracts from "The London Gazette."

[War Office, 18/10/38]

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE—ROYAL SIGNALS.
2nd Lieutenant W. G. Scott resigns his commission, 15/10/38.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
51st (H.) Divisional Signals. 2nd Lieutenant J. McLaren to be Lieutenant, 29/8/38.
London Divisional Signals. Captain M. M. Cuthbert resigns his commission, and retains his rank, with permission to wear the prescribed uniform, 23/9/38.

[War Office, 18/10/38]

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
54th (E.A.) Divisional Signals. Captain W. J. Wardle to be Major, 18/9/38.

[War Office, 21/10/38]

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE—ROYAL SIGNALS.
N. B. Robins to be 2nd Lieutenant, 22/10/38.

[War Office, 25/10/38]

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS.
Captain W. A. Sanders resigns his commission, 26/10/38.

[War Office, 28/10/38]

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE—ROYAL SIGNALS.
Lieutenant J. W. Stubbs resigns his commission on appointment to the General List, T.A., 28/7/38.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
42nd (E.L.) Divisional Signals. Lieutenant W. B. G. Collis to be Captain, 30/8/38.
43rd (W.) Divisional Signals. Lieutenant-Colonel C. H. Walsh, D.S.O., M.C. (Lieutenant-Colonel ret. pay) to be supern. on vacating command, 29/10/38.
Lieutenant-Colonel C. H. Walsh to be Brevet Colonel, 29/10/38.
Major A. F. S. Fane to be Lieutenant-Colonel, 29/10/38.
Lieutenant C. H. Howarth to be Captain, 1/9/38.

[War Office, 1/11/38]

REGULAR ARMY.
Captain G. B. Bell is restored to the establishment, 1/11/38.

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE—ROYAL SIGNALS.
J. A. Marshall to be 2nd Lieutenant, 2/11/38.
N. L. Hibbs to be 2nd Lieutenant, 2/11/38.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
50th (N.) Divisional Signals. Captain G. B. Bell, Royal Signals, vacates the appointment of Adjutant, 1/11/38.
Captain N. I. Bower to be Adjutant, 1/11/38.
55th (W.L.) Divisional Signals. Lieutenant E. D. Darricote resigns his commission, 7/10/38.

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AND MANY OTHERS

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1.9.1938.

My dear White,
I received your letter dated 29th August and regret that in the rush of arriving I omitted to sign the letter to the Insurance Company.
I am very pleased with the car and thank you very much for the excellent arrangements you had made for me on arrival from India.
Signed.....Major, R.Signals.

Mr. White is an ex-Officer of the Corps, well known to many who served 1914-1918. He offers special terms to all R.Signals customers, first-class service, and guarantees every car sold. Full list of cars and prices supplied by return of post on application to the firm direct or the Editor, "The Wire."

[War Office, 4/11/38]

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS.
Lieutenant L. Willment resigns his commission, 5/11/38.

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE—ROYAL SIGNALS.
E. R. G. Ovenell to be 2nd Lieutenant, 5/11/38.

[War Office, 8/11/38]

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
55th (W.L.) Divisional Signals. Captain and Brevet-Major R. W. Bailey to be Major, 5/11/38. Lieutenant E. G. Day to be Captain, 5/11/38.
1st A.A. Divisional Signals. J. K. Haynes to be 2nd Lieutenant, 9/11/38.

[War Office, 11/11/38]

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE—ROYAL SIGNALS.
H. J. L. Archbold to be Lieutenant (Quartermaster), 2/10/38.
B. Rycroft to be 2nd Lieutenant, 12/11/38.
Sergeant T. R. North, from Royal Signals, S.R., to be 2nd Lieutenant, 12/11/38.

[War Office, 15/11/38]

REGULAR ARMY—COMMANDS AND STAFF.
Major J. V. E. Westropp, Royal Signals, to be a D.A.Q.M.G. (temp.), 5/11/38.

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE—ROYAL SIGNALS.
P. Cheek to be 2nd Lieutenant, 16/11/38.

[War Office, 18/11/38]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
Major J. J. Duvivier is seconded for service with the T.A., 17/11/38.

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE—ROYAL SIGNALS.
Lieutenant R. P. Wilson resigns his commission, 19/11/38.
J. Gardiner, late Captain Royal Signals, T.A., to be Major, 19/11/38.
Signalman Gander R. S., from Royal Signals, T.A., to be 2nd Lieutenant, 19/11/38.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
53rd (W.) Divisional Signals. Captain J. Gardiner resigns his commission on appointment to the S.R., 19/11/38.

[War Office, 22/11/38]

REGULAR ARMY.
Colonel H. I. Allen, D.S.O., retires on retired pay, 23/11/38.
Colonel H. I. Allen, D.S.O., relinquishes the appointment of G.S.O.1, War Office, 23/11/38.

ROYAL SIGNALS.
Captain N. I. Bower is seconded for service with the T.A., 1/11/38.

[War Office, 25/11/38]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
Captain W. A. Purser to be Adjutant, vice Captain L. de M. Thuillier, 25/11/38.

ESTABLISHMENTS—STAFF COLLEGE.
Major H. E. Rance, Royal Signals, from G.S.O.3, War Office, to be G.S.O.2 and granted the local rank of Lieutenant-Colonel whilst so employed, 21/11/38.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
51st (H.) Divisional Signals. Captain and Brevet-Major A. H. Lennie, M.M., to be Major, 5/7/38.
55th (W.L.) Divisional Signals. The date of transfer of Lieutenant J. E. Clare is 10/7/38 and not as notified in the "London Gazette" of 15/7/38.

[India Office, 25/11/38]

INDIAN ARMY.
S. F. M. Howe, from Royal Signals, to be Lieutenant, 5/11/38, with seniority 30/4/37.
Major G. R. Halliday, Royal Signals, to be G.S.O.2, 1/10/38.

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE—ROYAL SIGNALS.
2nd Lieutenant K. J. Amos to be Lieutenant, 9/11/38.

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS.
Major F. V. Drake, M.C., ceases to belong to the Reserve on attaining the age limit, 16/10/38.

[War Office, 2/12/38]

REGULAR ARMY.
Colonel C. J. S. Le Cornu, O.B.E., M.C., retires on an Indian pension, 3/12/38.

ROYAL SIGNALS.
Major C. A. Oliver, M.C., retires on retired pay, 1/12/38.
Major G. St. J. Martin is seconded for service on the Staff in India, 3/12/30.

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE—ROYAL SIGNALS.
Captain R. S. Smith, M.C., D.C.M., to be Major, 29/10/38.
W. Morton to be Lieutenant, 3/12/38.
The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants, 3/12/38:
T. A. Bish, A. S. Renton, J. W. Eagle.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
49th (W.R.) Divisional Signals. Captain C. Bray to be Major, 23/10/38.
54th (E.A.) Divisional Signals. Lieutenant R. E. Jarvis to be Captain, 4/11/38.
London Divisional Signals. Major H. R. Firth, Royal Signals, vacates the appointment of Adjutant, 17/11/38. Major J. J. Duvivier, Royal Signals, to be Adjutant, 17/11/38.

[War Office, 6/12/38]

REGULAR ARMY.
Colonel C. J. S. Le Cornu, O.B.E., M.C., retires on an Indian pension, 3/12/38, and is granted the honorary rank of Brigadier. (Substituted for the notification in the "London Gazette" of 2/12/38.

ROYAL SIGNALS.
Captain L. W. J. Dryland is restored to the establishment, 7/12/38.

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE—ROYAL SIGNALS.
V. H. G. Page to be 2nd Lieutenant, 7/12/38.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
2nd Cavalry Divisional Signals. Major and Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel G. S. Sale, M.C., T.D., resigns his commission and retains his rank with permission to wear the prescribed uniform, 7/12/38. Captain L. F. Messel to be Major, 7/12/38.
51st (H.) Divisional Signals. Captain E. J. F. Heap, Royal Signals, to be Adjutant, 7/12/38.
53rd (W.) Divisional Signals. Lieutenant G. Cawthorn to be Captain, 19/11/38.

[War Office, 9/12/38]

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
43rd (W.) Divisional Signals. Captain E. R. Moore to be Major, 10/11/38.
51st (H.) Divisional Signals. Captain L. W. J. Dryland, Royal Signals, vacates the appointment of Adjutant, 7/12/38.
54th (E.A.) Divisional Signals. Captain H. S. Palmer resigns his commission and retains his rank with permission to wear the prescribed uniform, 12/12/38.

CORPS PROMOTION ROSTER.

Subsequent Amendments.

[The figures in the last column indicate the pages in the "Corps Promotion Roster" (published in April, 1938) on which the respective names may be found. This information cannot, of course, be given in the case of Lance Corporals appointed since that date.]

Promoted Warrant Officer, Class II (C.S.M.).

*1850445	C.Q.M.S. Peerless W.	6/8/38	90
2306759	C.Q.M.S. Griffith C. H.	17/8/38	18

Promoted C.Q.M.S.

2313790	Sergeant Whittington G. W.	16/8/38	22
2313033	Sergeant Fishwick R. H.	16/8/38	22
3517099	Sergeant Bramwell L.	17/8/38	22

Promoted Sergeant.

2314991	L/Sergeant Thompson B. G.	8/8/38	39
2311017	L/Sergeant Clarke A. B.	16/8/38	39
2315542	L/Sergeant Myddleton J. E.	16/8/38	39
5610805	L/Sergeant Brown C. W.	17/8/38	39
1857681	L/Sergeant Ray J. C.	20/8/38	39
6279806	L/Sergeant Parry C. A.	25/8/38	39

* Special Roster.

2316655	L/Sergeant Beach C. W.	1/9/38	39
2317211	L/Sergeant Pope F. E.	1/9/38	39
2315537	L/Sergeant Nuttall R. W.	1/9/38	39
2315170	L/Sergeant Hampton P. R.	3/9/38	39
2557045	L/Sergeant Robins P. A.	6/9/38	39
2312024	L/Sergeant Stevenson L. W. F.	6/9/38	39
2317256	L/Sergeant McKowen G. H.	6/9/38	39
2317026	L/Sergeant Edwards W. B.	6/9/38	40
2315755	L/Sergeant Barlow R. G.	10/9/38	40
2316473	L/Sergeant Wellock H. C.	14/9/38	40
3200988	L/Sergeant Gourlay G.	14/9/38	40
2314502	L/Sergeant Harries T. L.	15/9/38	40
2556792	L/Sergeant Wright F. B. C. E. G.	19/9/38	40
2315008	L/Sergeant Twigger W.	25/9/38	40
2313039	L/Sergeant Pratchett L.	28/9/38	40
2317350	L/Sergeant Atkinson R. W.	28/9/38	40

Appointed Lance Sergeant.

2319033	Corporal Lewis L. A.	7/8/38	49
2317070	Corporal Coles H. L.	8/8/38	45
2318464	Corporal Main W. J.	16/8/38	49
2316365	Corporal Dobson S. H.	16/8/38	49
2315865	Corporal Shepherd N. P.	17/8/38	49
2315736	Corporal South C. W.	20/8/38	49
2314600	Corporal Morrison H. A.	25/8/38	47
2317003	Corporal Henning H. H. C.	1/9/38	49
5100885	Corporal Henshaw F.	1/9/38	49
2318035	Corporal Jarvis W. L.	1/9/38	49
399126	Corporal Strachan J. N.	3/9/38	49
2316922	Corporal Bolton W. L.	6/9/38	49
2320473	Corporal Ditchfield J.	6/9/38	49
2318715	Corporal Watts S. J.	6/9/38	49
2316766	Corporal Dickinson E.	10/9/38	49
2312794	Corporal West E. R.	10/9/38	50
2317312	Corporal Hollands E. C.	14/9/38	50
2309373	Corporal McLaven L. W.	14/9/38	50
2318522	Corporal Stirk A.	14/9/38	50
2316878	Corporal Pike H.	14/9/38	50
2316885	Corporal Greenman A. C.	19/9/38	50
2317990	Corporal Lane A.	25/9/38	50
2318015	Corporal White K. E.	28/9/38	50
2318690	Corporal Hart S. F.	28/9/38	50
6365	Corporal Holman S. W.	30/9/38	50

Promoted Corporal.

2214990	L/Corporal Pipe H. W.	8/8/38	69
2319740	L/Corporal Ferguson F. G.	8/8/38	70
2316526	L/Corporal Gilpin H. C.	9/8/38	70
2316711	L/Corporal Burfield R. J.	10/8/38	70
4385392	L/Corporal Hurst E. E. A.	14/8/38	70
2320792	L/Corporal Tomkinson J. H.	16/8/38	70
2318321	L/Corporal Melly W. G.	16/8/38	70
2321238	L/Corporal Gardner A.	17/8/38	70
2320187	L/Corporal Knight L. R.	20/8/38	70
2314610	L/Corporal Wathen W. N.	22/8/38	70
2319851	L/Corporal Gatford J. A. W.	25/8/38	70
2319857	L/Corporal Gentle E. R.	1/9/38	70
767626	L/Corporal Johnson E.	20/8/38	68
2316039	L/Corporal Howland S. T.	1/9/38	70
2316489	L/Corporal Thomas L. J.	1/9/38	70
2321672	L/Corporal Boughen L. W.	1/9/38	70
2313521	L/Corporal Fox R.	1/9/38	70
2321379	L/Corporal Cooper A.	3/9/38	70
2322269	L/Corporal Sullings F. J.	6/9/38	70
2320787	L/Corporal Bosher L. J.	6/9/38	70
2308405	L/Corporal Raymond C. J.	6/9/38	70
2321625	L/Corporal Grace F. E.	6/9/38	70
2319876	L/Corporal Jordan K. W.	6/9/38	70
2321585	L/Corporal Edwards W. J.	10/9/38	70
2323533	L/Corporal Fisher R.	10/9/38	70
2320516	L/Corporal Mann W.	12/9/38	70
2321347	L/Corporal Taylor C.	14/9/38	70
2317464	L/Corporal Yeadon A.	14/9/38	70
1036203	L/Corporal Pearce R. J. F.	14/9/38	71
2321981	L/Corporal Tompkins J. O.	14/9/38	71
2323037	L/Corporal Linton J. K.	15/9/38	71
2322434	L/Corporal Ambury A. L.	17/9/38	71
2317678	L/Corporal Brown E. J.	19/9/38	71
2322496	L/Corporal Wragg F. H.	19/9/38	71
2317934	L/Corporal Westbrook J. J.	28/9/38	71
2321295	L/Corporal Manning R.	28/9/38	71
2321948	L/Corporal Bracegirdle J.	30/9/38	71

Discharged.

2306288	W.O.I (S.C.) Wigglesworth J.	20/11/38	3
2311582	W.O.II (F-of-S Q.M.S.) Potts W.	31/10/38	10
2306597	W.O.II (C.S.M.) Bardoe V.	14/11/38	8
2306422	W.O.II (C.S.M.) Brooks E. A.	15/11/38	7
2308726	C.Q.M.S. Tolley C.	11/11/38	18
2313001	F/S/Sergeant Vanstone W.	11/11/38	13
1850134	F/S/Sergeant Howells B.	28/11/38	13
2318092	Corporal Pratt L.	4/10/38	68
2317848	Corporal Moulinie H.	1/11/38	54

Transferred to Army Reserve.

2320806	Corporal Macklan J.	2/10/38	68
2321049	Corporal Powell W.	12/10/38	68
2320789	Corporal Martin S.	17/10/38	55
2216394	Corporal Perree E.	22/10/38	59
6396916	Corporal Ready J.	25/10/38	58
2321223	Corporal Oxley C.	29/10/38	69
2321188	Corporal Crust G.	19/11/38	56
2321177	Corporal Johnson A.	27/11/38	55
2320765	L/Corporal Lewis L.	23/9/38	76
2320767	L/Corporal Carter G.	26/9/38	76
4074893	L/Corporal Evans F.	6/10/38	78
2320908	L/Corporal Gallaher M.	6/10/38	77
2320880	L/Corporal Sutherland J.	31/10/38	73
2318516	L/Corporal Pirie C.	3/11/38	69
2318394	L/Corporal Fox F.	4/11/38	72
2320936	L/Corporal Bowling A.	6/11/38	75

Signal Unit, Glasgow University O.T.C.

Headquarters, University Avenue, Glasgow, W.2.

12th December.

This is a busy season in other spheres for your weary scribe, but the compelling glint of our P.S.I.'s steely eye informs me that the date is again due, and I must perforce pen our monthly message, or follow the common course of shifting the responsibility to his able shoulders.

The Contingent Annual Supper and Smoker was held at Headquarters on Wednesday, 16th November. The Signal Unit featured with gratifying frequency on both its programme of entertainment and list of awards. This is indeed a versatile Unit, and its talents appeared to be a revelation, if not, perhaps, the subject of some slight annoyance to the older and longer-established Units. We do try, it must be admitted, to uphold the reputation of "Signals" for high-quality performance.

The Chief Signal Officer, Scottish Command, Lieutenant-Colonel C. Wheeler, paid a short visit to the Unit on the evening of Thursday, 8th December, but we hope he will return on a longer visit when we shall be able to show him further details of our training.

A glance through the new list of stores for Signal Units, O.T.C., reveals additions which will make training more interesting, and perhaps more varied. We must express our appreciation to those who have made the increased facilities possible.

Camp for 1939 having been more or less fixed "definitely," firstly for Turnberry, secondly for Dunbar, has now settled on the probably unsuspecting district of Blair-Atho'l. There being still SIX whole months before we depart to camp, it has been suggested that the whim of the "Higher Authorities" may yet take us on a pleasant mental excursion from one seaside watering place or highland hamlet to another, before revealing to us the true location of '39's "Training."

In conclusion, may I convey, on behalf of the G.U.O.T.C. Signal Unit, our very best wishes for the New Year to all members of the Royal Corps of Signals.

STONE AGE.

Plain Tales.

As Promised.—A Happy New Year to you. I mean it. What was 1938 to you? Were you happy? This week begins my third year as a civilian and I am beginning to get used to it. It was a bit strange at first to receive accounts for rates, water, electric light and coal after so many happy-go-lucky years when accounts were just things you initialled and passed on to someone else. I found myself feeling resentful at having to part with precious coin for things I had come to regard as buckshee. One light-heartedly jokes about letters beginning "Dear Sir, Unless ——." Perhaps it is not so funny when the letter, continuing, refers to a little matter of £8 10s. 6d. and the Corporation will (a) be delighted to receive same, or (b) regret that legal action will be unavoidable, etc. etc. Somehow or other, one always skates gaily round the "legal action" and produces the required sum. Just in time, of course. While I think of it. Any sergeant or above, single or married, who dares to say that he can't save money, should come over on this side right away. I'll prove to him that he is wealthy. However, don't you get the impression that I am struggling. Not I. Happy last year and happier still in 1939. There's a lot of money in this world. Just now and again I strive half-heartedly to get some of it, but I'm not really interested. It is impermanent stuff.

Fairyland.—It is half-past three in the afternoon and as black as the inside of my grandfather's bowler. The rain is pattering on the window through which I can see the shops popping on their lights one by one. The way people are bending their heads, the way the road glistens and the way a sheet of newspaper is careering down the gutter increases my conviction that it is a dirty afternoon and promises to be a dirtier night. And so—is it any wonder that I set here twiddling a pencil searching for a subject that will cheer us up? All is gloom. Football pools pay out a paltry £18,000 even if you win outright. The railways are taking off hundreds of trains. (In the summer they talk about record crowds.) Some of you will be time-expired this year. That is a very solemn thought. With 14 years' service you say "Roll on, my pontoon." With twenty and a bit you probably say "I must do something about this." Too many of us are convinced that there is nothing that can't wait three years. Have you joined all that together, and if so, does it read sense? I thought not. No matter. It is still raining. If I walk home I'll save the fare but I shall get very wet and perhaps have to pay doctor's bills. I'll take a taxi. With a rum tum tiddle and a hi de ho. The miserable devil.

Margin Release.—One of these days I shall be able to work a typewriter like those three charming members of the W.A.T.S. who grace our very ordinary orderly room on certain evenings. They proceed at a pace so startling to our unaccustomed eyes that Charlie, who works a machine occasionally by grasping it firmly in one hand and searching for the letters with a patient forefinger, alleges that the result of such spate of sound and paper can be no more than merest scribble.

That, of course, is absurd, for these ladies actually earn a comfortable living (I believe) by producing readable typescript. Amazing, but beyond doubt See, Charlie? Even I, with only a littke practibe havr managef tp progrexs qt a fair pave witj perjapd am odd miftaje her and thrre. As m6 s9eed ribes s9the errprs increabe unti9 finally tke whoke th8n3 bec8m6s a blu6rbs—which fact tends to discourage me not a little. Maybe I never will type like Faith, Hope or Charity. And now, folks, allow me to present—

No. 11 Company, W.A.T.S.—Well, here we are! Perhaps you have never heard of us, never thought of us; but, nevertheless, we're here. The Auxiliary Territorial Service—A.T.S. or W.A.T.S., whichever you prefer to call us. Our Company, a clerical one, the 11th Warwickshire, consists of our Commander, Mrs. Case Beale, a Section Leader, and twelve or so stalwart, shall we say, ladies.

Our first drill was on Wednesday, 9th November, and since then we have been chiefly under the very patient and encouraging instruction of Major Bartlett. We are terribly keen, and hope to make our Company the best in Warwickshire. Being affiliated to our beloved Signals, we aim to make our drill snappy enough for the most critical and exacting Officer or Sergeant. (No harm in hoping, eh?) And boy. Can we salute?

Yes, we're tough, mighty tough, in the A.T.S.,
Lisle stockings, heavy footwear, known as Bats;
We never use cosmetics,
We're too tough for anæsthetics,
Oh, we're tough, mighty tough, in the A.T.S.

FAITH.

Having been asked to indulge in a little writing I take a firm grasp of my Onoto and write History. In the whole if its lifetime I understand that this magazine has been for the exclusive use of Man. (Cries of No, No. Barleux.) This being so, I must confess that I feel somewhat of an impostor as I, a member of the newly-formed Women's Section of the A.T.S., cautiously prepare to violate the rule. Following the announcement by the War Office of the formation of a Section for Women in the Territorials, I, being young and enthusiastic, obtained particulars and was eventually sworn in. Although there are only twelve of us so far, we are getting down to the general routine of P.T., Drill and Lectures, and everybody seems keen. A vote of thanks on behalf of the Unit to our Deputy Commander, Mrs. Case Beale, for the kind and courteous attention which she has extended to us, and to Major H. Bartlett for his welcome advice.

We are grateful for the use of the Drill Hall at Hall Green on Wednesday evenings and hope to prove to Lieutenant-Colonel P. H. Jones, M.C., and the 48th Divisional Signals that their generosity will bear good results.

HOPE.

Sorry. Can't stop to talk to you now. I'm doing a copy of the new Peace Establishment. Go away.

CHARITY.

Ukann Larfe Baffled.—Having spent a very enjoyable Christmas with Ukann Larfe at the Duck and Rissole, the Hooker crept out in the dead of night, leaving the detective and his wife, Inspector Faceache and Colette locked in the coal cellar. As they were clad only in night attire he decided they would need some incentive to keep warm, so before leaving, he flung two buckets of icy cold water over them. A kindly thought that was probably not appreciated at its real value. This capture of Ukann Larfe and his retinue was not easy, but to explain the procedure here wouldn't do at all. We should have people confessing to the judge, "I read it in the WIRE." You do see what I mean, don't you? I'll bet you don't.

When the maid took tea up to the girls' room at 8 o'clock she was only mildly surprised to find the furniture smashed and blood splashed over the walls. She emptied the tea into a flower pot and went to Manchester where her mother was ill with an ingrowing grievance. The hotel manager noticed the absence of the chambermaid at about 2 p.m. and at once sent postcards to Scotland Yard, the B.B.C., and the Brewery. At 5 o'clock that evening, the telephone shrilled its insistent summons. (I got that out of a book.)

"Hallo," said the manager.

"Hallo," said a strange voice.

"Well, what do you want?" I should say here that the manager's name was Blinkthorp. Not that it matters, as you will see presently.

"Nothing," replied the voice.

Blinkthorp banged the receiver down on its chromium stand and threw himself out of the window. As he hurtled past the seventh and sixth stories he wished he had remembered that he wasn't telephoning from the ground floor.

Ukann Larfe and his party, still in pyjamas, were just too late to catch the manager as he reached the concrete courtyard. The celebrated detective gazed at the body for some minutes.

"Fell out of the window," he said, decisively, and went straight off to London for a hair-cut, watched by his admiring companions. As he reached the end of the drive a large piece of turf struck him on the back of the neck. The sweet voice of Hermione thundered across the stillness of the winter evening. "You didn't kiss me," she screamed.

Uncle Alf: Is he going to London in his pyjamas?
Me: Eh? I—oh, I didn't notice—mind your own business, anyway.

BARLEUX.

The Army Motor Cycling Championships

BY 2ND LIEUTENANT D. R. HORSFIELD.

"On Friday and Saturday, 28th and 29th October, the British Army held its first Inter-Command Motor Cycling Championship for which General the Viscount Gort, V.C., K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.V.O., M.C., Chief of the Imperial General Staff, gave a handsome silver Challenge Cup. It was won after an exceptionally keen battle by the 4th Battalion, Royal Tank Corps team comprising L/Sgt. J. Dalby, Pte. R. Scovell, and Pte. Beathem. They lost a total of 156 marks as against a loss of 200 marks by the runners-up (the 5th Divisional Signals), who were represented by 2/Lt. D. R. Horsfield, 2/Lt. J. de D. Peele, and Cpl. G. Stowers. Third place was won by the School of Signals trio—Capt. Smijth Windham, Capt. Dobson and Dvr. Baker, who lost a total of 209 points." (Extract from *Motor Cycling*.)

I have been asked to produce the formula on which the 5th Divisional Signals worked. In order to do this, I must go back to the beginning of May when we had heard that the Northern Command Trial was to be carried out at the end of June. Plenty of practice was necessary as two of us were new to motor cycling, and teams for the trial had to include one officer.

The time available for such training was during the afternoon of our working days, and most of it was spent in riding over every type of country that we could find. Every now and then we would have an afternoon working out a drill for changing tyres and carrying out similar small repairs *as a team*.

When the date of the trial drew near, we had one whole day ride including the maximum of cross-country. We were very fortunate in having an expert motor cyclist in our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel H. G. Henderson, who was able to give us many useful tips in regard to riding and training.

The Northern Command Trial was held on 19th July. We proved that our training had not been in vain by taking the first place. The team for the trial was: 2nd Lieutenant Horsfield, Corporal Stowers, Corporal Fielding, and Signalman Blundell.

Motor cycling was forgotten during August and September, and owing to A.R.P. and examinations we only had eight afternoons of riding practice before proceeding to Aldershot on Sunday 23rd October. We had three days at Aldershot in which to learn the country, as we wanted to know as much as possible regarding the local roads as well as the types of obstacle we were likely to encounter, and, as a result, we mixed road riding and cross-country work. We were lucky to meet some members of 1st Anti-Aircraft Brigade Signals who very kindly showed us some of the more formidable obstacles in the area.

The morning of Thursday 27th October was spent in cleaning, tightening nuts, and making our final adjustments. After lunch we had to report at the Rushmoor Arena where the motor cycles were checked over, tanks drained and refilled, and numbers fitted. The machines were then parked in marquees to await our arrival for Friday's trials. Later in the afternoon, Colonel C. V. Bennett, the Chief Marshal, addressed the competitors and answered their various problems.

Friday was a day that the competitors will never forget. The course consisted of a circuit of 145 miles including mud, sand, steep hills, water splashes, and every form of ground calculated to tire the rider. I left Rushmoor Arena at 9.30 a.m. and, except for a break of five minutes for lunch, rode continuously until nearly 4 p.m. Had this riding taken place on roads, it would not have been too bad, but the course was mainly across extremely difficult country that was guaranteed to tire the best trained riders.

The course was designed to test map reading skill as well as motor cycling ability, and was divided into a number of sections. At the beginning of each section each competitor was given the map reference of the next control. For fifteen or sixteen miles after the beginning of each section the route would be marked. Then the directions would end and competitors had to locate their positions and make their way to the control with the aid of the map reference.

In addition to a number of difficult sections, miles of muddy lanes and sandy tracks were covered. The first difficult section had a mud patch twenty-five yards long, and, in places, was nearly hub deep. There were a number of people present who were arrayed, as far as one could see, entirely in mud. It was their duty to assist the individual who managed to get stuck half-way.

Then followed the Headley water splash which is, in fact, the River Wey. Competitors had to enter the river, ride upstream for fifty yards, and climb out on the far side.

The next obstacle was the Boulder Alley which was the hardest of them all, especially for those who came low in the starting order. It was a steep muddy lane with big boulders just like steps every few yards of the way. As the mud became churned up, the alley became almost impossible.

The last difficult section was Red Road Hill where the looseness of the surface is the main difficulty. The rain which made Boulder Alley so difficult had helped to bind Red Road and make it easier.

The course also included one section which had to be ridden in a gas mask, and a second where a stop and re-start test was carried out. To the rider the sequence seemed monotonous. First two or three miles of muddy lane or sand through which the rider had to do everything but carry his machine. Suddenly a metalled road would appear ahead, and with a sigh of relief each competitor would open his throttle. This would soon be followed by a groan of despair from both the rider and machine as a red or blue sign announced that once more the course led them through bog, water and sand.

On arrival at the Rushmoor Arena all one wanted to do was to crawl into a corner and die, but the officials had other ideas. There was to be a night ride in which competitors had to ride round a sixteen mile circuit with the aid of their maps. The only lighting allowed was that permissible on training this year. Including map reading time an average of 20 m.p.h. had to be maintained.

Most competitors completed the course in round about the standard time and so ended a really hard day's work.

Saturday brought further hardships. The tests were designed to bring out team work. The course consisted of nine miles of frightfulness in Long Valley. First came Hungry Hill, where the machines had to be pushed over the top one at a time. Next came some very real mud. The teams had to ride along the right hand side of a drained pond and then back through the middle of it. On the right of the pond teams had to get down a ledge, off a wall about two feet high, and over a hummock before reaching the far side, and all this had to be done with deep mud down the bank to our left.

Corporal Stowers could not resist the temptation offered, and a few seconds later all three of us were pulling his bike out of the mud. We restored it to the vertical and weakly leant on the kick starter. Unfortunately the bike was in gear, and the machine and rider overbalanced, falling gracefully into the mud. More pulling and heaving and we were on our way again. We went past the pond and came back through it without any further mishap.

Next came Beacon Hill, which was a very rough, loose, and extremely narrow climb. Here again we had to push the machines up the final part one at a time. A photograph appeared in the *Motor Cycle* of the team climbing this hill. The caption was "A weary team—that of the 5th Divisional Signals getting one of their machines over the brow of the loose earth track up Beacon Hill," and I for one have no fault to find with it.

The fourth section included a stop and re-start test on Miles Hill. Here we had to shoot down hill, up a second with a very loose surface and a gradient of 1 in 2. Half-way up engines had to be stopped and re-started, and this meant that all three of us had to be present in order to help each machine in turn to get started. From the top of this hill we went down a third and up a fourth, the whole thing being timed.

Our difficulties ended here and we returned to Rushmoor Arena.

The prize-giving took place later in the afternoon, and so ended a very interesting and extremely exacting two days' trial.

The Unit took part in the T.A. Inter- Unit Trial at Chesterfield on 6th November and gained first place with the loss of 128 marks. The runners-up, the 49th (W.R.) Divisional Signals, T.A., lost 144 marks, and only two teams finished. Of some sixty-five starters only nineteen completed the course. The Unit was represented by 2nd Lieutenants Horsfield and Peele, Corporal Stowers, and Lance Corporal Nix.

A Competitor's Account of the Army Motor Cycling Championship Trial, 1938.

By CAPTAIN W. R. SMIJTH-WINDHAM, Royal Signals.

A recent development of Army policy is the encouragement of keenness and proficiency in motor-cycle riding, by allowing Unit teams to compete in civilian trials on service machines, and by organising special military motor-cycle trials. 1938 has been the first year of this "New Deal," and is, therefore, of special interest. This is not the place for a general survey of the results obtained; and the writer, who was a member of the School of Signals team in the Army Trial, will confine himself to an account of events within his personal knowledge.

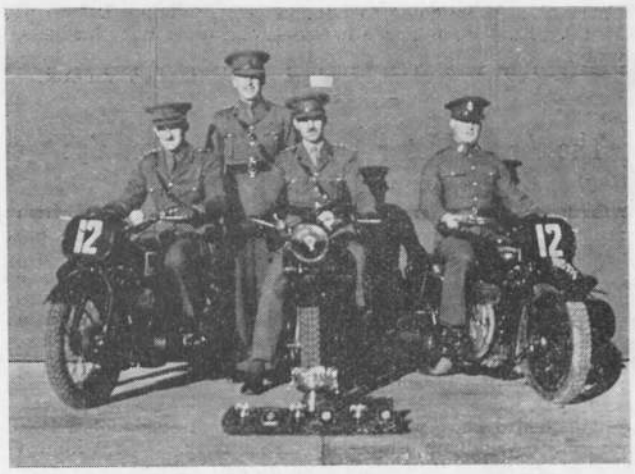
In the Northern Command, a trial had taken place in July in the Reeth area. The first six teams, which included 5th Divisional Signals (winners) and the School, were thereby qualified to compete at Aldershot.

On 27th October, there assembled at Aldershot forty-two teams of three riders apiece, the representatives of every Command in the country. They ranged from obvious youngsters down to comparatively old stagers like the writer, who had given up motor cycling ten years before, and had never competed in a trial simply for lack of somebody else's machine to do it on. All, presumably, had taken as many hard knocks as we had ard, whilst the machines were being inspected, were wondering whether they would still be in one piece on the day after to-morrow. There was little to do except to fit competition number-plates, strap greatcoat, mess-tin and water-bottle to the carrier, and to get an anticipatory headache at the thought of riding 150 miles beneath a tin hat.

Friday, 28th October, dawned fine; and whatever may be said against English weather, it behaved perfectly on that day and the next. At 8.45 a.m. the first competitor pushed his machine from the park to the starting line; at 9 a.m. he received his route to the first control and departed, to be followed at one-minute intervals by the remaining 125 riders. After leaving the start or any control, one followed the arrows marking the route for most of the way. At length a special sign indicated that the remainder of the route was unmarked, so that the control had to be found from its map reference. A mark was deducted for each minute early or late, the standard time being based on a 25 m.p.h. average.

The first day's run was alleged to be a "Road" run, the "Cross-country" being reserved for the Saturday. But it soon became clear that "Road" was a misnomer, for at least half the going consisted of rough tracks of loose sand, wet mud or maybe beech leaves on damp chalk; even such roads as there were could more correctly have been described as narrow country lanes. Very little of the course was severe in the trials sense of the word, largely because one was left to get through somehow, no points being deducted for bad or untidy riding. Nevertheless, keeping 360 lbs. of "Norton" upright was very exhausting. In a short while, too, it became obvious that the 25 m.p.h. schedule was unattainable, and the trial degenerated into a race against time; it was a case of going as fast as the rider could through the mud and as fast as the machine could along the twisting lanes. No discredit reflects on the organisers for this; it was their first trial, and they, like us, were learning a great deal.

The route started off through Crookham, thence via a "mud section" (complete with tow-rope gangs) to Alton, through a "sand section" near Bordon to a "water-splash" (more tow-ropes and dozens of cameras) at Headley Park. The unanimous verdict on the splash was that there was "nothing in it." My machine would probably agree, and would add that it was only sheer incompetence on the part of its rider that caused its



Left to Right: Captain T. E. Dobson, Captain R. G. Yolland (Team Manager), Captain W. R. Smijth-Windham, Driver Baker C. F. G.

unceremonious ejection from the splash with a drowned engine to be the subject of a front page photograph in the evening press. Thence to Stoner Hill and on through Petersfield to Woolbeding (stop and restart test) to the lunch stop outside Midhurst. For many miles before this there had been the stimulating prospect of sandwiches and, more particularly, beer. But it was an empty dream, for the first arrival, already nearly an hour overdue, was given a bare five minutes' respite. Onwards, the way lay through that magnificent stretch of country which lies south of the London-Portsmouth road near Hindhead. Crossing the main road by the Devil's Punch Bowl, the route led unmercifully through a gorse thicket which sticks as vividly in the mind as it did in the person, and thence to Boulder Alley. This was one of the choicest tit-bits of the day. Here is a simple recipe which will enable the reader to sample it for himself: "Take one long flight of stone steps, cover liberally with melted butter, add assorted boulders to taste, season with a sprinkling of pieces of other people's motor-bikes, and serve *al fresco*." To hesitate meant certain failure through wheelspin; it was a question of keeping the throttle open and giving a kind of rodeo exhibition. It was here that Dobson, having reduced the back tyre pressure for better grip, dented the rim and started the tyre trouble which so nearly robbed us of success on the second day.

Soon afterwards, there was a "Gas Section," which proved easy, and so on by devious ways to the redoubtable Red Road hill. Here, for a change, the organisers had been kind, for the official climb was up the central parts of the hill and merely called for plenty of "revs." at bottom gear, whereas on either side lay tracks which had been badly cut up by earlier trials. As it turned out, Red Road was cancelled, it having been considered an unfair proposition for the later competitors, many of whom did not reach it until after dark. And so back to Rushmoor Arena by road, through Sandhurst, Everley and Cove. But one was almost too tired to appreciate the relaxation.

At 8 p.m. that evening the Night Run started. It merits but a brief description, for it was simply a case of maintaining a 20 m.p.h. average speed along roads, by map reference, using headlamps blanked off by a cardboard disc with a 2 in. semi-circle in the centre. The marks were added to those of the day's run, and when the results were published next morning, it was found that the Mills Cup had been won by 4th Battalion, Royal Tank Corps, with 5th Divisional Signals not far behind. The School was placed sixth, our individual loss of marks being: Dobson 55 (10th), myself 56 (12th) and Baker, who had been delayed by a puncture, 95.

The start on the second day was timed at 1 p.m., the idea evidently being to let us give civilian trials enthusiasts a Roman holiday. Individuality was now submerged in the team spirit; one's machine bore the team number, and the timing of obstacles was on a team basis. As before, access was allowed to the machines fifteen minutes before starting but this is insufficient for a change of rear tube, and it was with some misgiving that we set off, having merely blown up Dobson's faulty tyre. The

first section, for which eight minutes were allowed, lay across deep sand and then up Hungry Hill, a sandy track including about thirty yards of 1 in 3 gradient. It is reported that some of the early arrivals had made clean climbs, but the surface soon got cut up and, before long, a queue of waiting teams had formed at the bottom. Rider after rider stuck half-way, was laboriously pushed to the top by his panting team mates, who then descended to repeat the process with their own machines. Sheer physical exhaustion must have contributed largely to the failures. It was a heaven-sent opportunity. Dobson's tube, having disintegrated, was speedily changed ; the timing of the section was, of necessity, cancelled, and we got away with what might have cost twenty marks.

Then came the mud. The route skirted the edge of a seemingly bottomless abyss of yellow slime. Yolland, our team manager, brought hair-raising stories of machines being hauled out on their sides by steel tow-ropes. But mud is mud, and there's plenty of it around Catterick. It only responds to one treatment, and that is to tackle it at " peak revs." in bottom gear. Dobson led with a feet-up crossing, and we were not slow to follow his inspiring example ; we put up the fastest time, so that every team whose timing exceeded ours by more than 10 per cent. lost one mark per five seconds. This was immensely encouraging ; we even began to wonder whether we could make up our leeway of the first day. Moreover, in practice we had concentrated on this sort of riding, and so our confidence rose higher than at any time during the " Road " run.

Twenty minutes were allowed for the next section, which included only one notable hill, and that was mainly troublesome on account of other stationary competitors. The three minutes by which we exceeded the schedule cost us the only three marks that we lost on the second day.

Then came the " Stop and Restart " test, which might as well have been entitled " Stop and Push," for it is manifestly impossible to restart a motor cycle on a 1 in 3 gradient of churned-up sand. The test became a test of team-work and muscle power. Beyond the top lay a steep descent and a climb up a 1 in 2 concrete test hill. Detailed results are not known, but since we lost no marks our time must have been within 10 per cent. of the fastest.

A further six minutes' run took us to the Arena and, what was more, to the end of the Trial. It was no longer necessary to nurse the engine, and we knocked 1 minute 40 seconds off the standard time. It was a fitting climax to a good day, for when the results came to be published, they were : 1, School of Signals (3 points lost)—Holden Cup ; 2, 4th Battalion, Royal Tank Corps (32 points lost) ; 3, 2nd Battalion, Royal Tank Corps (35 points lost).

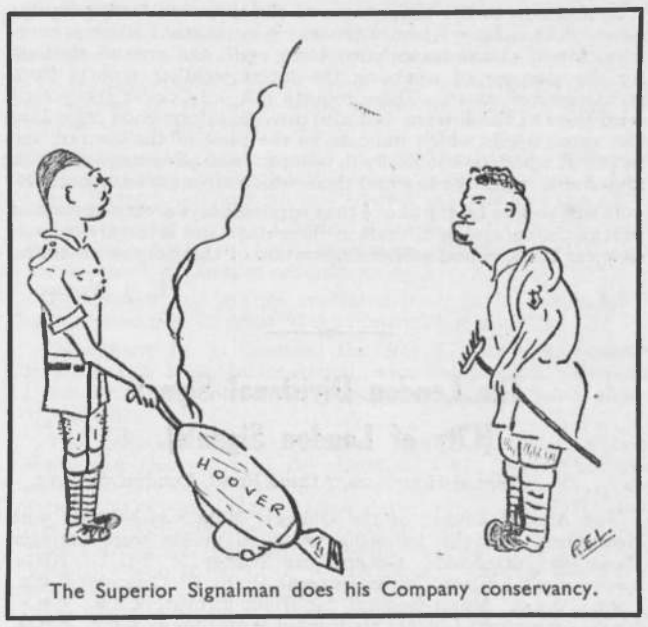
An addition of the total number of points lost on each day gave the following result for the Championship of the Army : 1, 4th Battalion, Royal Tank Corps ; 2, 5th Divisional Signals ; 3, School of Signals.

Our heartiest congratulations to 5th Divisional Signals (2nd Lieutenants Horsfield and Yule and Corporal Stowers) on their success ; we know better than anybody how much practice and hard work went into their achievement, and we feel that had they not been " playing away " they might well have won the Army Trial as they did the Northern Command Trial.

Looking back, it is not difficult to criticise the Trial. Most of its faults will have been put right by next year, simply because the Army will have learnt something of the organisation of trials. It is to be hoped that riding skill, rather than sheer speed, will be given more encouragement. From a military point of view, the D.R would be more efficient were he more comfortably clad, for discomfort and fatigue ride together. Most competitors would agree that military machines are too heavy for cross-country work ; a machine that can fall onto its rider, breaking a bone in the foot and pinning him to the ground for half-an-hour (as one of ours did in practice), wants lightening by 100 lbs. The writer's ideal would be a 350 cc. o.h.v. " Trials " model, weighing about 250 lbs.

Finally, from a Signals point of view, what of the Trial ? Since 1914 the motor cyclist D.R. has been an essential means of communication, and there is no reason why the Corps, with its unrivalled experience, should not keep the Championship Cup permanently in its possession. The ideal, of course, would be a winning Signals team composed solely of D.R.s, but that is not essential, provided that the Trial is won somehow. And since experience counts for a great deal, now is the time to select next year's teams, so that they can compete in some civilian trials before summer training swallows up their spare time.

It is understood that next year's Trial is to be held in April.



The Superior Signalman does his Company conservancy.

Wireless Controlled Aircraft.

It is probable that you have read articles dealing with aircraft which take off and land without the necessity of carrying a pilot. This is made possible by remote control through a radio channel. Has it occurred to you that practically all commercial aircraft of the present day are indirectly controlled by wireless ?

Although the pilot of a machine due to leave one of the airports in the more civilised countries is able to observe the weather conditions over the route he is to follow from a chart, the information contained on the chart has probably been collected from distant points by wireless.

Once in the air, the pilot of a machine sets his course and provided weather conditions permit, looks out for the known landmarks. Should conditions be bad, such as mist or fog which reduce visibility to a point where no visual observations can be made, the pilot merely turns to his wireless operator for information.

By means of wireless, it is possible to obtain various important items of information which are invaluable in connection with the piloting of the aircraft. For instance, if the machine is fitted with direction-finding equipment, the wireless operator can ascertain the position by taking bearings of two or three land stations, and by taking a line on the chart from each of those stations, the point where the lines intersect will be the position of the plane.

Where the aircraft is not fitted with direction-finding equipment, it is possible for the wireless operator to send out a signal which will be received by several ground stations, and the relative bearings conveyed to the machine within two minutes.

In the case of aircraft operating in less civilised parts, as, for instance, on the Empire air routes, it is not always possible to communicate with more than two ground stations at any given time, and as these are sometimes in a direct line with the course being taken by the machine, a " fix " (the process of plotting several bearings on the chart to obtain the position) is impracticable in such cases. However, by checking the bearings of one or other of the stations concerned in conjunction with the ground speed of the aircraft a very close estimate of the position is obtained.

Should conditions be such that the pilot of the aircraft can obtain no indication of his actual position, he can either " home " by means of the aircraft direction finder, which will receive signals from the ground station at the airport for which the plane

is bound, or, alternatively, the aircraft will transmit a series of signals, and the ground station is able to transmit to him the reciprocal of his bearing from the ground station, which will be the actual course the machine should follow in order to arrive at the airport.

In addition to the advantages of the direction-finding equipment, the machine, when in the air, is in constant wireless communication, atmospherics permitting, with the ground stations for the purpose of receiving the latest weather reports from points on the route. These reports not only cover the actual conditions at the surface, but also provide information regarding the upper winds which indicate to the pilot of the aircraft the height at which he should fly in order to take advantage of winds favourable to him, or to avoid those which are most unfavourable.

It will be seen by the above that wireless plays a very important part in the control of aircraft in these days and is largely responsible for the safe and efficient operation of the Empire air route.

E. J. YOUNG.

The London Divisional Signals (City of London Signals).

Signal House, 20, Atkins Road, London, S.W.12.

The Annual Dinner of the Officers' Mess was held on 30th November, and the following principal guests were amongst those who attended: General Sir Walter M. St. G. Kirke, K.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., Major-General P. R. C. Commings, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., Major-General Sir John Brown, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Ronald Waterhouse, K.C.B., C.M.G., C.V.O., Colonel Sir Richard Eaton, T.D., Brigadier G. G. Rawson, O.B.E., M.C., A.D.C., The Right Honourable the Lord Chesham, M.C., D.L., Captain E. H. Tuckwell, M.C., J.P., D.L.

The health of the guests was proposed by Colonel the Lord Pender of Porthcurnow, Honorary Colonel of the Unit, in an entertaining speech, which included many interesting facts concerning the many distinguished guests present. A most able response was made by General Sir Walter M. St. G. Kirke, K.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.

The extremely witty speech of Brigadier H. Willans, D.S.O., M.C., T.D., in which he proposed "The City of London Signals" will always be remembered by officers of the Unit, if only for his very fine translation of the words "Certa Cito."

The response by the Commanding Officer revealed, amongst other things, that Brigadier Willans was largely responsible for his first joining the Territorial Army many years ago.

December, 1938, will be a conspicuous landmark in the history of the City of London Signals. During the month we received the new Peace Establishment for the Unit by which we are converted into a Motor Divisional Signals, a new role to which all ranks look forward with interest.

On 13th December we were honoured by the visit of H.R.H. The Princess Royal, Colonel-in-Chief, Royal Corps of Signals, who attended Signal House to present the prizes. This is the second time in four years that we have been honoured by royalty visiting our Headquarters, for it will be recalled that the Duke and Duchess of York, now Their Majesties the King and Queen, opened Signal House in February, 1934.

H.R.H. was met on the south side of Chelsea Bridge by an escort of an officer and four Despatch Riders from the Unit, who escorted her car to Signal House.

On arrival at Signal House, she was met by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel A. C. C. Willway, Hon. Colonel, Colonel the Lord Pender and the Mayor and Mayoress of Wandsworth. After the Royal Salute and inspection of the Guard of Honour, which had been formed up in the forecourt of Signal House, she entered the Officers' Mess, where she was received by a reception party that included Mrs. A. C. C. Willway, Lady Pender, General Sir Walter and Lady Kirke, Brigadier and Mrs. Britten, the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of London, Mr. Alderman and Sheriff and Mrs. Rowland, Mr. Sheriff and Mrs. Godfrey Warr.

The party then proceeded to the Drill Hall, which had been tastefully decorated for the occasion, and where an audience of approximately 900 had assembled. After the National Anthem, the platform party assembled for the distribution of the prizes, when a bouquet of pink carnations and lilies of the valley, tied with Corps ribbon, was presented to H.R.H. by Elizabeth, the eight-year-old daughter of our Commanding Officer.

After the distribution of prizes, H.R.H. returned to the Officers' Mess, where the senior officers of the Unit and their wives were presented. This was followed by a Buffet Supper. H.R.H. took her departure at about 9.30 p.m.

At 10 p.m. there followed a concert, at which the Argyle Entertainers regaled an appreciative audience with both music and comedy. The Western Brothers fully realised our expectations. Although the programme finished after the scheduled time, it had been such a good entertainment that we should all have gladly stayed for more.

Introducing the Princess, Lieutenant-Colonel A. C. C. Willway, Commanding Officer, said her presence was a great encouragement and an honour which would not be quickly forgotten. "It is a gracious recognition of what we have tried to achieve in the past, and an inspiration to go forward in the future," he added.

"Their Majesties attended the opening ceremony at a time when the nation did not seem awake to the necessity of a Territorial Army. The visit created interest in this Unit, and gave it a prestige, which, though we were only 150 strong then, brought us up to full strength within two years, long before the present recruiting boom began.

"There is sometimes a risk that, because this Unit is at full strength, men of the right type will stay away. That need not be, for the normal period of service is four years, and there is a very heavy annual wastage. To keep up to full strength, at least a hundred recruits a year are necessary."

Dealing with the recent mechanisation of the Unit, Lieutenant-Colonel Willway said the Establishment would not be affected, despite the usual practice in such cases to reduce personnel.

"The willingness of citizens to serve in the Territorial Army," he continued, "was shown last September, and was very heartening.

"It has to be realised that the Territorial Army is a National Army, and can demand national support of employers, trade union officials, politicians and the women folk of serving men. September proved that, but it is an unfortunate failing of democracies to forget that, immediately one danger is passed it is time to ward off the next. A price has to be paid for national and civil liberty, and the Territorial Army is part of this price."

The Princess Royal, in reply, said it gave her great satisfaction to come to the Headquarters.

"I am delighted at the efficiency of the Unit, for the responsibility of Territorial Signals is increasing," she added. "It is only by each individual member putting national welfare before his private affairs that good results can be obtained.

"You have very fine Headquarters here, and when I observe those gathered here to-night I am sure the City of London Signals will be cared for in the future."

The Lord Mayor of London, Sir Frank Bowater, said, "Although it was true that many famous City Units now had their Headquarters away from the 'Square Mile,' they still looked to their welfare and would ever guard jealously the association and ideals which bound them to the City of London."

The annual Children's Christmas Party was held at Headquarters on Saturday, 17th December, when the Drill Hall had a really seasonal appearance with all its Christmas decorations. A round-about and switchback had been installed, and was in great demand by the children.

After tea, a "talkie version" of children's films was given by Lieutenant A. Tomlinson, followed by the appearance of Father Christmas in all his glory, who assisted Mrs. Willway, wife of our Commanding Officer, to distribute the presents, and to select the winning numbers of the various "swindles," the greatest of which, we think, was when Father Christmas himself won a bottle of whisky! After the presentation, the Commanding Officer called for three cheers for the Permanent Staff

and for those who had worked so hard to make the party the success it undoubtedly was.

This was followed by the Christmas Draw in the Sergeants' Mess.

When the party broke up, and the children went home, tired but happy, we were still wondering who had enjoyed the party most, the parents or the children.

Golf.

The Royal Signals Annual Golf Meeting will be held at the Berkshire Club, near Ascot, on Wednesday and Thursday, 19th and 20th April, 1939.

FIRST DAY.—Royal Signals Championship and Royal Signals Handicap, both events played concurrently over 36 holes.

SECOND DAY.—18 holes Bogey Singles in the morning, and 18 holes Bogey Foursomes in the afternoon. Both events off handicap.

All events, except the Royal Signals Championship, are open to serving and retired Royal Signals officers of the Regular and Territorial Armies and the Supplementary Reserve.

Post entries will be accepted, but it would be of assistance if those intending to compete would notify Major H. S. Lewis-Barclay, 4th Divisional Signals, Canterbury.

H. S. LEWIS BARCLAY, Major, Royal Signals,
Captain of Royal Signals Golf.

Corps Hockey.

Royal Signals v. R.A.S.C.

Royal Signals met the R.A.S.C. at Aldershot on Monday, 5th December, the match resulting in a draw of two goals each.

Signals started off in great style and pressed for about ten minutes, during which time two short corners were cleared by the R.A.S.C., and a terrific shot from Corporal Price was brilliantly saved by the goalkeeper.

After some even play, advantage was not taken of a couple of accurate centres from the right-winger, Captain de Lisle.

A movement, initiated by the R.A.S.C. centre-half and good combination by their forwards, gave them the first goal.

Shortly afterwards, a delightful passing movement by our inside forwards enabled Captain Whiteway-Wilkinson to equalise.

The second half opened sensationally as, within three minutes, the opposing outside-right took the ball down the field and gave his side the lead with rather a soft shot.

Signals took up the attack, and Corporal Locke twice got through, only to see his shot charged down by the goalkeeper, who was playing magnificently.

After some midfield play, Signalman Palling got the ball just over the half-way line and, taking it into the circle, scored a good goal.

Captain Whiteway-Wilkinson was a good leader, and both wings were effective. Corporal Dewhurst at centre-half defended well.

Weakness in front of goal, combined with the brilliancy of the R.A.S.C. goalkeeper, robbed us of victory.

Royal Signals v. Royal Tank Corps.

Royal Signals met the Royal Tank Corps at Aldershot on Wednesday, 7th December. A fast game ended in a win for the Royal Tank Corps by 3 goals to 1.

Signals attacked at once and Captain Whiteway-Wilkinson put in a good shot, which was saved. Shortly afterwards, a good chance was missed when one of our forwards chose to shoot from an acute angle instead of passing to the centre-forward who was unmarked in the circle. A few minutes later, another chance was missed when the inside-right mishit from an easy-scoring position.

The Tanks now took up the attack, and continued pressure resulted in a goal by their centre-forward just before half-time.

The second half opened with the Royal Tank Corps attacking, and they soon increased their lead from a short corner.

Signalman Delicate saved some hard shots before play was transferred to the other end, where Signalman Palling just missed with a good drive.

Another short corner against us gave the Tanks a three-goal lead, as, although Signalman Delicate saved the shot, a Tank Corps forward followed up and pushed the ball into the net.

Good passing between Corporal Price and Captain Whiteway-Wilkinson resulted in the latter scoring with a shot which gave the opposing goalkeeper no chance.

The match was evenly contested, but, as in the R.A.S.C. match, weakness in front of goal proved our undoing.

Lieutenant D. J. Coulson, the Royal Tank Corps centre-forward and Irish International, was outstanding. Corporal Dewhurst, our centre-half, played well against such strong opposition.

The following represented Royal Signals in both matches: Signalman Delicate (3rd Divisional Signals); Lance Corporal Dale (4th Divisional Signals), R.S.M. Westwood (1st Divisional Signals); Corporal Collett (Depot Battalion), Corporal Dewhurst (1st A.A. Brigade Signals), Corporal Cox (No. 2 Squadron, Mobile Divisional Signals); Captain de Lisle (2nd Divisional Signals), Corporal Price ("A" Corps Signals), Captain Whiteway-Wilkinson (1st A.A. Brigade Signals), Corporal Locke ("A" Corps Signals), Signalman Palling (School of Signals). Reserve: Lance Sergeant Burrell (Training Battalion).

L. C. BOYD, Major, Royal Signals.

Corps Rugby.

Cobb-Nicholls Rugby Cup, 1938-39.

On Monday, 31st October, the final of this Tournament was played, when the Depot Battalion, Royal Signals, met "A" Corps Signals in a very keenly contested game on the Mons Barracks Ground at Aldershot. Both ground and weather conditions were ideal for rugby.

The match commenced at 2.30 p.m., before a large crowd of enthusiastic supporters. The Depot won the toss and decided to kick down-hill. "A" Corps Signals were soon on the attack and had the Depot in their own half for quite a considerable time, but a breakaway by the Depot right wing took the play into the "A" Corps "25." From a line-out, the Depot got a scrum, heeled, and then "A" Corps Signals were penalised for offside, and from the ensuing penalty kick, the Depot opened the scoring.

From the restart, "A" Corps Signals once again took up the offensive, and after a few minutes were again on level terms, when they scored a try, which 2nd Lieutenant Birkett failed to convert.

Once again from the kick-off "A" Corps Signals swarmed to the attack, and the brilliant work of all the forwards frustrated any moves of the Depot threequarters to get on the attack. After a while the game went to the "A" Corps Signals' "25," and after some good work by the Depot threequarters, they scored a try far out in the corner, the kick just failing from a difficult angle.

"A" Corps Signals were still far from being beaten, and when play went to the other end the Depot were penalised, and this time 2nd Lieutenant Birkett made the scores level with a brilliant kick. Half-time came with scores level at six all.

From the kick-off "A" Corps Signals, with the advantage of the slope, soon had the Depot on the defensive, and some clever work by the stand-off half resulted in another try between the posts, and this being converted, "A" Corps Signals took the lead at 11—6. But the Depot were still very lively, and after some

clever mid-field play by the forwards of both sides, the Depot broke away again and got over for another try. The kick failed, leaving the scores now 11—9, with the time getting rather short.

"A" Corps Signals dominated the play, and Lance Corporal Randle went over for two really fine tries, which were not converted. The final whistle went with "A" Corps Signals as the winners by 17—9.

Well done, "A" Corps Signals! We have no need to single out any individual for honours as all played well. To the Depot, we say, " Hard luck ; try again next year."

The game was ably refereed by Major Gilepsie, R.E.

After the game the trophy was presented, amidst loud cheers, to the winning Captain by Mrs. L. B. Nicholls.

Royal Signals v. Royal Artillery.

The Royal Corps of Signals beat the Royal Artillery in their annual match at Aldershot, on Monday, 14th November, by 11 points to 3.

The game was played in rain, and soon became a fierce forward struggle, but the handling of the outsides was good, despite a slippery ball. The Signals gained an early lead with a penalty goal kicked by Lieutenant Mansergh. Shortly afterwards the Signals' pack made a good forward movement, and Captain Lewis scored far out. The try was not converted. The Artillery then pushed the Signals into their own " 25," and two attempts at a penalty goal were unsuccessful. Lieutanant Rice, for the Signals, and Lieutenant Taylor, for the Artillery, were conspicuous among the outsides. At half-time the Signals were leading by six points to none.

The second half saw a continuation of the forward struggle, the wheeling and heeling of the Signals' pack being carried out with precision. Two three-quarter movements by the Artillery just failed to score, and the Signals then took the ball into the Artillery " 25." A breakaway by Lieutenant Travers, backed up by Lieutenant Birkett, resulted in the latter scoring near the posts. Lieutenant Mansergh converted this try. Just before the end the Artillery scored with a penalty goal, kicked by Lieutenant Jones.

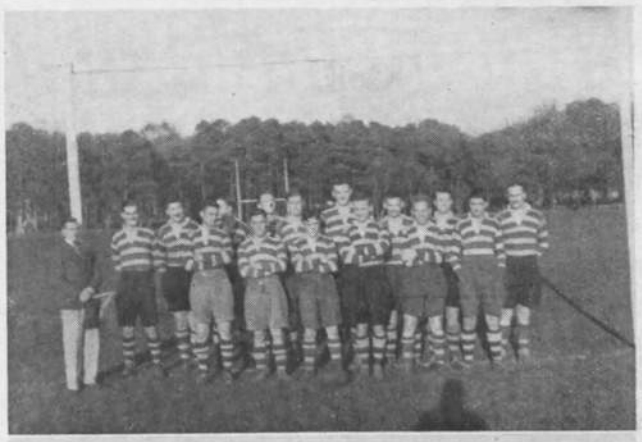
The Royal Signals' team comprised the following: Sergeant A. Fraser (Training Battalion) ; Lance Corporal W. Brookes (2nd Divisional Signals), 2nd Lieutenant J. Sheepshanks (Training Battalion), 2nd Lieutenant J. E. V. Rice (Depot Battalion), Signalman A. Brook (4th Divisional Signals) ; Signalman C. May ("A" Corps Signals), Lance Corporal N. Hockings (3rd Divisional Signals) ; Lieutenant G. H. Starr (Cambridge University), Signalman Williams R. (4th Divisional Signals), Lieutenant M. H. Travers (2nd Divisional Signals), Captain H. L. S. Lewis (44th (H.C.) Divisional Signals, T.A.), 2nd Lieutenant J. D. T. Brett (Depot Battalion), 2nd Lieutenant P. E. S. Mansergh (Depot Battalion), 2nd Lieutenant B. R. M. Hayles (Depot Battalion), 2nd Lieutenant J. B. Birkett ("A" Corps Signals).

Award of Colours for Season 1938.

Captain H. G. Lewis, 44th (H.C.) Divisional Signals, T.A. ; 2nd Lieutenant J. E. Rice, Depot Battalion ; 2nd Lieutenant J. B. Birkett, "A" Corps Signals ; 2nd Lieutenant P. Mansergh, Depot Battalion, 2nd Lieutenant J. Sheepshanks, Training Battalion ; Lieutenant G. H. Starr, Cambridge University ; 2nd Lieutenant J. D. T. Brett, Depot Battalion ; Lieutenant M. Travers, 2nd Divisional Signals ; 2nd Lieutenant B. R. M. Hayles, Depot Battalion ; Lance Corporal Hockings N., 3rd Divisional Signals ; Lieutenant A. F. Freeman, 3rd Divisional Signals ; Sergeant Fraser A., Training Battalion ; Lance Corporal Brookes W., 2nd Divisional Signals ; Signalman Williams R., 4th Divisional Signals ; Lieutenant P. Lonnon, "A" Corps Signals ; 2nd Lieutenant M. A. Philp, Training Battalion.

P. G. CURRY, Lieutenant, Royal Signals,
Officer i/c Corps Rugby.

SOME SNAPS OF THE RUGBY MATCH
ROYAL SIGNALS v. ROYAL ENGINEERS.



HOME STATIONS

School of Signals.

16th December.

First and foremost, by kind permission of the P.R.I., we have at last solved the problem of the " uncreased slacks." Yes, you have guessed right, we are going in for electric irons, but there have been several rumours in circulation concerning other uses to which these implements might be put. Someone suggested bed warmers or an efficient means of breaking the large lumps of coal. Another bright suggestion was that the iron, turned upside down, would prove a very satisfactory means of heating one's shaving water in the mornings. Well, all we want now is the maid to press the trousers, for if the lads are called upon to press their own someone will be " checked " for iron-mould on their garments. However, we are all for bigger, brighter and better barrack-rooms.

Now that Christmas is drawing near, there is much anxiety regarding flying piquets. One bright spark asked who issued the aeroplanes for the flying sentry ?

Promotions.—We wish to congratulate R.S.M. Harrison B. J. on his promotion to that rank ; also W.O.s III Finn V. L., Farmer F. E., Waldron D. and Udell C. on their promotion to that rank.

Last, but not least, all the best to " Square Four " Corporal Hudson J. on his recent promotion to Lance Sergeant. Is that 1,000 cc. B.M.W. in view now, Sergeant ?

Things We Want to Know.—The name of the clerk who, when shown the new duplicator which is operated by the use of methylated spirit, asked " Where is the wick to light this thing up ? " It must have been the same chappie who ran orders off backwards the next day.

Which Driver (I.C.) has all his works tickets made out to " Rawlinson Road " ?

Departures.—We wish *au revoir* and *bon chance* to Signalmen Rousseau and Yeo, who have left us for Government Training Centres. We hope their first step into the " Civvy Street Light Infantry " will be a pleasant one.

Jews' Mail.—Sergeant Waight, T.B. Office. " Do you still lose the " Cricket " and the " 301," Sergeant ? "

" Ben," " D " Company, Training Battalion. " Have they made you Mayor of Bedale yet, Ben ? "

Finale.—A happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year to all.

POOPDECK, S.O.S.

Sergeants' Mess.

Congratulations to R.S.M. Harrison B. J. on his recent promotion. A nice Christmas box, sir !

Congratulations also to Lance Sergeant Hudson J. C. on joining the Mess, complete with pipe and motor cycle. May he never lose his tail-light.

At the moment we are entertaining members of Nos. 19 and 20 P.S.I. Courses, who are staunchly supporting the bar and inoculating the Mess with that " Christmas feeling." We are also being inoculated with something that produces the " hangover " portion of the Christmas feeling, and hope that Christmas Day will find our arms strong enough to support at least one glass, if not two.

Several of our families have risen in the world. During the last week or so, they have moved from the world-renowned St. Quentin Lines to the new Kemmel Lines mansions, which are situated in rear of the Training Battalion and, from all accounts, are the last word in comfort, and a decided improvement on the old " Q " Lines bungalows.

The Mess Christmas Draw is going well and should provide a deal of entertainment on 16th December, when the Draw and Dance takes place.

Former members of the Mess will, no doubt, be pleased to hear that Mr. J. Barleaux and Mr. D. Summerville are still qualifying for a " regular attendance " medal and send their best wishes to all.

They will also be interested to hear that we ARE getting rid of the old wireless set.

We are sorry to learn that our Commanding Officer, Colonel R. A. C. Henderson, M.C., has been admitted to hospital. We wish you a speedy recovery, sir.

Our Orderly Room Sergeant, Sergeant Creaton, has also decided to sample Christmas in bed, and has laid down his shooting stick for a week or so.

At the moment " Sam " is picking up muskets all over the place and, occasionally, a " can " or so.

He also Serves.—A tired pen-pusher stood supporting the fireplace. His busy comrade enquired, " What are you doing ? " " Me," was the reply, " I'm waitin'."

Depot Battalion, Royal Signals.

The following Squads were passed to the Training Battalion :

	Squad.	Average gain in weight. lbs.	Highest individual weight gain.		lbs.
15th Nov.	No. 23	10.2	Signalman	Bicker	17
	,, 24	9.8	,,	Shaw	17
	,, 25	10.2	,,	Halpin	19
			,,	Syrett	19
29th Nov.	No. 26	8.1	,,	Hudson	18
	,, 27	8.57	,,	Le Brun	19
	,, 28	7.06	,,	Spalding	15
			,,	Donkin	15
	,, 29	9.05	,,	Huelin	20
6th Dec.	No. 30	11.1	,,	Snaith	25
	,, 31	8.45	,,	Latto	19
	,, 32	8.7	,,	Senior	18
	,, 33	7.7	,,	Millar	15

"A" Company, Depot Battalion.

12th December.

We await in acute suspense for the forthcoming Christmas leave, which has been granted from 22nd December until 4th January. Needless to say, everybody is anxiously looking forward to yet another Christmas at home.

The weather conditions are still very unfavourable, and during the past month we have had intense cold, wind and rain. We have not yet had snow, but the continual rain makes up for it.

We still can carry on with the good work of training our recruits, and since our recent notes were published, approximately 230 of them have passed through the Depot.

Since the introduction of our new " Three's Drill " we are now able to pass out squads at an even greater pace, and the former period of fourteen weeks' training has now been reduced to eleven weeks. Yes, eleven weeks of entirely new drill movements, that eliminate the necessity for precise covering and a series of words of command to get on the move. For one word of command, a string of movements can now be performed automatically by a Squad, Company or Battalion.

Here is a record of our work since 11th November :

No. 23	Squad	(Corporal J. McGuigan) ..	11th November.
,, 24	,,	(Lance Corporal Driscoll D.) ..	,,
,, 25	,,	(Corporal Norton (2/R. Fus.) ..	,,
,, 26	,,	(Corporal Milner (K.O.Y.L.I.))	26th ,,
,, 27	,,	(Corporal Harrison (Loyals)) ..	,,

„ 28 „ (Corporal Carr) .. .. .. „
„ 29 „ (Sergeant Lunn (Seaforths)) .. „

No. 30 Squad passed off under Lance Sergeant Theobald (2/Beds. and Herts.) with Signalman Laird winning both the C.O.'s whip and the P.T. Medal.

No. 31 Squad passed off under Sergeant Oliver (2/Lancs. Fus.) with Signalman Black T. winning the C.O.'s whip and Driver (I.C.) Hyde winning the P.T. Medal.

No. 32 Squad passed off under Sergeant Langan (2/Lancs. Fus.) with Signalman Whyte J. winning the C.O.'s whip and Signalman Simmonds winning the P.T. Medal.

No. 33 Squad passed off with a fine record, under Lance Corporal McLeod J. We congratulate Signalman Toms for being the best of a good Squad and on his presentation of the C.O.'s whip. This Squad has broken the Depot Battalion P.T. record with an average of 111.7 points. Signalman Hutchison was awarded the P.T. Medal and a Silver Spoon for a very high that he obtained in shooting. Our congratulations to Signalman Wombell on being the runner-up and for winning a medal.

The following Squads have commenced training on the Square with effect from Monday, 28th November: No. 53 Squad under Corporal Breeze, No. 54 Squad under Corporal Carr, and No. 55 Squad under Sergeant Cataneo. We wish them every success, and await good reports at the conclusion of their eleven weeks' training.

Obituary.—It is with deep regret that we announce the death of No. 2328219 Signalman Baker C. F., "A" Company, Depot Battalion, who died in the Military Hospital, Catterick Camp, on Monday, 5th December. We extend our deepest sympathy to the relatives of Signalman Baker in their great bereavement. Although Baker was only a short time in the Depot, he was looked upon as a very fine fellow.

Arrivals.—We welcome Corporal Breeze C. from 5th Divisional Signals and feel certain that he will have a pleasant stay with us
We also welcome the return of Captain Van der Goot from a P.T. Course. We are glad to note that you "can take it," sir, and still resume your work without any ill effects.

Promotions and Appointments.—We offer our heartiest congratulations to the following on finding the bottom rung: No. 2323815 Signalmen Forbes J., No. 2025875 Harper W. and No. 2324888 Driver (I.C.) Hope E., appointed U/Lance Corporal, 16th November; No. 2323805 Driver Smith G., appointed Lance Corporal, 14th October.

Sergeants' Mess, Depot Battalion.

We are sorry for the lack of news this month, but safely promise a headline next month that will cause a sensation.
During the month we were "At Home" to the Inniskillings, and a very enjoyable evening was spent by all. Living up to our record (unbeaten), we had to win the Indoor Games Tournament by 15 wins to 8. The evening's entertainment was concluded with a very enjoyable concert, and talent from both sides was ample to meet all needs.

We opened the show with a pianoforte solo by M.A.D.W.T.M., and then Sergeant Kelly showed us a few steps. Our attached member, Sergeant Culley, was all for being alone, as he came from the silent forest, and asked "Nirvana" to open the window. The visitors then produced several acts, one of whom happened to be a modern "Merlin," eating razor blades and producing things from the air. We were always under the impression that only a Quartermaster could do that.

Amongst the arrivals we have M.A.D.W.T.M. from leave, still very happy and unattached; also a posting order from Records, which changes the Station of our C.S.M. Administration (retired). Such is fame! There are other arrivals, too numerous to mention, to whom we wish a happy stay in the Unit. There is one chap, named "Tab," who persists in paying a visit at odd week-ends, but we hope he will soon be out of "Arms" way.

This must conclude our Mess notes, and we sincerely hope that all our friends at home and abroad have had a wonderful Christmas. To one and all we wish a happy and prosperous New Year.

THREES.

Corporals' Mess, Depot Battalion.

The Mess Committee held a dance in Newbigging Hall on Friday, 2nd December. The dance proved to be a great success, and everybody thoroughly enjoyed the entertainment. Sad to relate, the day after the night before was less enjoyable, but, there you are, every day is not a happy one.

At an invitation from the Corporals' Mess, York and Lancaster Regiment, the Mess members had a really splendid time at York. Needless to say we won the competition for beer consumption, but this was perhaps due to the fact that all our champions were present. (Hush, Tich, we won't split!)

Under the supervision of Corporal Collett, another Indoor Games Tournament was held and was much enjoyed by all our members. Strange to relate, Darky Milner was again knocked out of the Snooker Competition. Bear up, Pip! Maybe you will have a chance to win at shove-halfpenny.

Now to Begin our Serial.—On the mantelshelf in the Mess there stands a beautiful silver (?) Cup awaiting presentation to the best "gripper." There are several in the running for this valuable prize, but we anticipate a great struggle before the finish. Everybody glances now and then at the masterpiece with gleams of hope in their eyes, wondering how much progress they are making for the honour of being the best "gripper" in the Mess. (To be continued.)

Jews' Mail.—To Signalman Catrophysicalogoonia from Byiraphyicologoonia. Why don't you hold your rifle correctly when pulling it through. Once upon a time we had a recruit named Brutiticas, who held his rifle upwards and tried to push his pull-through up instead of downwards. Guess what happened, Gatro? The weight travelled up and up until it fell out of the top of the muzzle down on to poor Brutiticas's head, piercing the skull. He contracted a disease called Brainpulthroughtypius and, after days of agony, died a terrible death. So be careful.

Agony.—Sergeant to Recruit: "Where's you hat, my boy?"
Recruit: "I haven't got used to wearing it yet, Sergeant; and since it is a fine day, I thought I would leave it off."

Training Battalion Royal Signals.

15th December.

General.—Since last month, the main topic of interest in the Battalion has been leave. Passes have been pouring in from all sides, and very soon the lucky ones will be sitting back waiting for the word "go."

As usual at this period of the year, a number of functions have taken place. On 25th November, the Corporals' Mess held their Annual Ball in the Newbigging Hall. This was a very successful event and thoroughly enjoyed by all those who attended.

On 5th December, a Games Tournament, Sergeants' Mess v. Corporals' Mess, was held. In addition, many other social events have been held, and life has been hectic.

To-day, 15th December, is the high spot of the year, as the Battalion Children's Party is being held. From the amount of work done in preparation for this event, the kiddies should have a very enjoyable time. But more of this next month.

Major R. Sutton-Pratt, Royal Signals, has again left the Battalion. He proceeded to Stockholm for duty on 9th December. We wish him well in his new sphere.

The accompanying photograph is of Captain J. S. Usher, Royal Signals, who is at present commanding "E" Company.

L. B.

Captain J. S. Usher, Royal Signals.

TO AN OPERATOR SIGNALS ON I.T.

Aerials where 'ere you get,
Batteries on the brain ;
Condensers variable and set,
Morse code in a train.

Enter ye the gates of school,
Training for the mind ;
Grip the edges of your stool,
Hours of beastly grind.

Ink be-spotted note books all
Jumbled up in stages
Kirchoff and his merry spooks
Litter up the pages.

Every morning, noon and night,
Theories new you seek ;
Often wonder if it's right,
Procedure changed each week.

Queries raised and rectified,
Readings without number ;
Senders should be crucified,
Whose morse is so much lumber.

Poor deluded Signal " Op.,"
Visual you must pass ;
Wireless, line—the jolly lot,
Plus lectures for the class.

You really do deserve your pay,
And passing means sixpence per day.

BURNISTON.

"D" Company, Training Battalion.

With this issue of notes, we start a New Year, and with all sincerity we wish all members of the Corps a happy and prosperous New Year.

Like the B.B.C., we propose to give the weather reports before our news bulletin. As readers know, Catterick is famous for its snow baths at this time of the year. Unfortunately, our publicity agents are unable to advertise any snow yet, but we are having plenty of rain.

Congratulations to C.S.M. Harvey, C.Q.M.S. Storr and Sergeants Hutcheon, Nicholson (late Jubbulpore) and Thorne on being awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal on completion of eighteen years of undetected crime.

We wish all success to No. 2320834 Signalman Baker G. on his entry to " Civvy Street " after completing his Vocational Training Course at the G.T.C., Handsworth. The transfer to the Army Reserve has also been announced of No. 2321005 Signalman Rutherford R., who was a waiter in the W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess. Good luck to both of them, and may they come up and see us sometimes.

" Blue Book " news has been scarce this month, but we have to congratulate U/Lance Corporal French on being paid for his appointment and consequently dropping the " U." Three new " Unpaids " have joined the Junior Mess ; they are : U/Lance Corporals Shepherd, Toogood and McKenzie. And so time marches on.

We welcome Corporal Linton, 2nd Divisional Signals, and Lance Corporal Parry, 1st Divisional Signals, who are attached to us whilst undergoing an Up-grading Course. We trust that their stay with us will be a pleasant one, and hope that they will be successful in their Course.

Many Recruits have joined us from "A" Company, Depot Battalion, and Signalman Campbell has arrived from 5th Divisional Signals. We hope they will enjoy their time in our happy band.

Congratulations to Sergeant North (A.E.C.) and Signalman (Oh, horrors !) Foy on " being considered " as possessing the Army Special Certificate of Education.

Wedding bells will be ringing at St. Peter's Church, Kersal, Manchester, on 26th December, for Signalman Kendrick. We wish him all the luck in the world, and may he enjoy many years of happy married life. Your honourable scribe will be at the wedding, and readers may, therefore, expect a detailed report in next month's notes.

Now for some news of departures. Lance Corporal Buscall joined 2nd Divisional Signals on 5th December. The following also proceeded to join Field Units named : Signalmen Barry and Dineen to Mobile Divisional Signals ; Signalmen Booker to 1st Divisional Signals ; Signalman Kent to 2nd Divisional Signals ; Signalmen Mainprize and Toplass to "A" Corps Signals. We wish them the best of luck in their new Units.

Signalman Binns will join 1st Divisional Signals on 30th December, when he has finished his furlough. He is being held on command so that he can proceed to a little place somewhere in Yorkshire called Boroughbridge. When he joins his new Unit it will certainly be our loss.

Signalman Raynor completes his training in the trade of Draughtsman on 17th December, and will join a Field Unit early in January. Raynor has made a name for himself at cross-country running and many other things. He has represented the S.T.C. on several runs in the North Yorks. and South Durham Harriers' League. Units who are short of cross-country runners are advised to look out for him.

Corporal Trevethan will join "A" Corps Signals on 19th December. Lance Corporal Strutt, who has been in charge of cross-country running in this Company, will join 2nd Divisional Signals on 2nd January. Lance Corporal Strutt is noted for his interest in sport, and here again we are losing a good sportsman.

Now we will take our roving microphone into action. Our stop this month is in a lecture room belonging to the workshops.

Instructor: "Signalman X, you suffer from an inferiority complex!"

Signalman X: "Shall I report sick with it, Corporal?"

Round and round the microphone roams and where it stops next nobody knows!

Major X: "Signalman B., do you consider I have a sense of humour?"

Signalman B.: "Yes, sir."

Major X: "It is a good job I have; just listen what you have written in this Order Book: 'Attention is directed to the Fatigue Detail for Sunday, 11/12/38, which is posted on the Company Orderly Sergeant.'"

(For once Signalman B. was speechless.)

And so, for the present, cheerio, everybody!

ACK PIP BEER.

"E" Company, Training Battalion.

General.—Everything continues with the proverbial swing, and even our arms are doing it, despite the fact that most of us have been inoculated. With the introduction of the new drill and so much progress in other directions, one wonders at the future possibility of obtaining trade ratings by injection—Group "E" first dose, B.111 second, and so on.

The chief topic of the day is Christmas leave, and by the time these notes are published we shall be in the New Year. We take this opportunity of wishing one and all the very best for 1939, and with it happiness and prosperity.

Recent improvements include the furnishing of each bungalow with five chairs, which give a more homely appearance to our barrack-rooms.

Arrivals.—We extend greetings to Lance Corporal Lavelle from India, Lance Corporal King E. F. from "A" Corps Signals, Signalman Gair T. from 2nd Divisional Signals, and hope that their stay will be a happy one.

Births.—Hearty congratulations are extended to Lance Corporal Bagley P. and Mrs. Bagley on the birth of a son on 25th November.

Departures.—This month sees the departure of a well-known personality of the Company. Our Orderly Corporal and horticulturist, Corporal Bridgeman A. W. is proceeding to Southampton on a Vocational Training Course. We shall miss his advice when we start gardening next spring, but perhaps by that time he will be following in Mr. Middleton's footsteps.

Field-Marshal's Baton.—Congratulations to U/Lance Corporals Robinson C., Jackson H., Drake E. E. and Overton R. on their recent appointments prior to proceeding on an N.C.O.s' Preliminary Physical Training Course at York.

Medals.—Hearty congratulations to Sergeant Cornish W. J., Lance Sergeants Pink R. F. and Brunton-Douglas J., Signalmen O'Connor P. J. and Nursaw J. on their award of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. Some of our fraternity were also decorated with the new Indian General Service Medal.

Social.—Many of our football fans and "playboys" took advantage of the organised trip to Middlesbrough on 26th November to witness the match against the Arsenal. The outing was a great success, and more are definitely indicated.

The Corporals' Mess held their Annual Dance at the Newbigging Hall on 25th November. It was certainly a well-organised and successful function.

At the invitation of the Seniors, the Junior N.C.O.s compete in a Games Tournament in the Sergeants' Mess on 5th December. The bout resulted in a draw.

Football.—We have played four matches in the Garrison Company League. Result: won 2, drawn 1, lost 1.

As we go to press, we have just played the first game in the "Mackworth" against our old rivals "D" Company, whom we beat 4—1. This competition is being run on a league basis this year, and we are hoping to retain the trophy for the second year in succession.

Cross-country Running.—In the S.T.C. Inter-Company Run on 3rd December, we gained third place with 434 points. This result is gratifying, considering that our team was suffering from the effects of inoculation.

Signalman Lind has been awarded an S.T.C. "Jimmy."

Mr. Walker Wants to Know.—Is it a roulette wheel and, if so, is it remote controlled?

Will a certain N.C.O. forsake his penny-farthing in favour of the bus?

Who remarked on the "Persil" whiteness of his flag?

Scotch Dak.—To Corporal Gully, 1st Indian Divisional Signals. "You have not won your bet yet. Lill."

Will Corporal McCunnin (Paddy) communicate with S.T.C. printer?

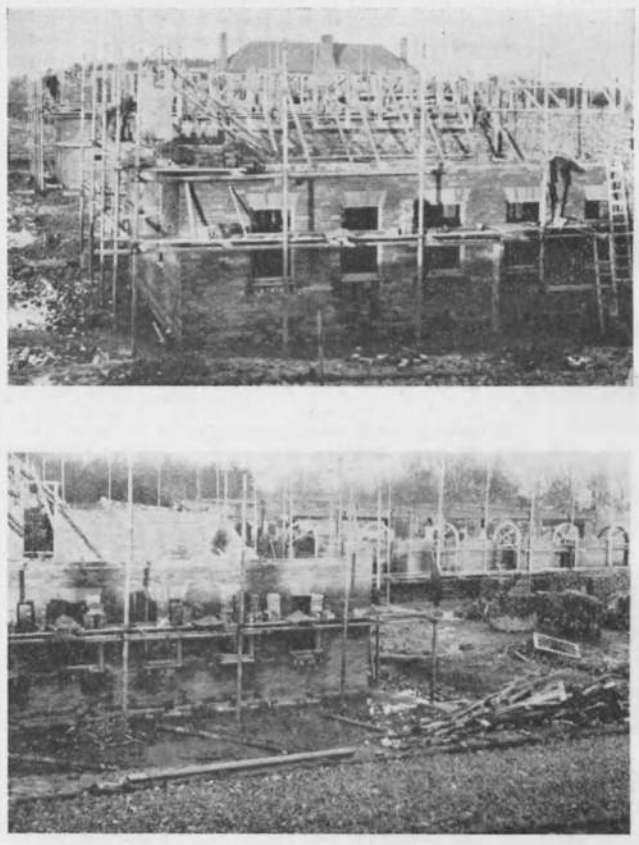
H. W. B.

"F" Company, Training Battalion.

13th December.

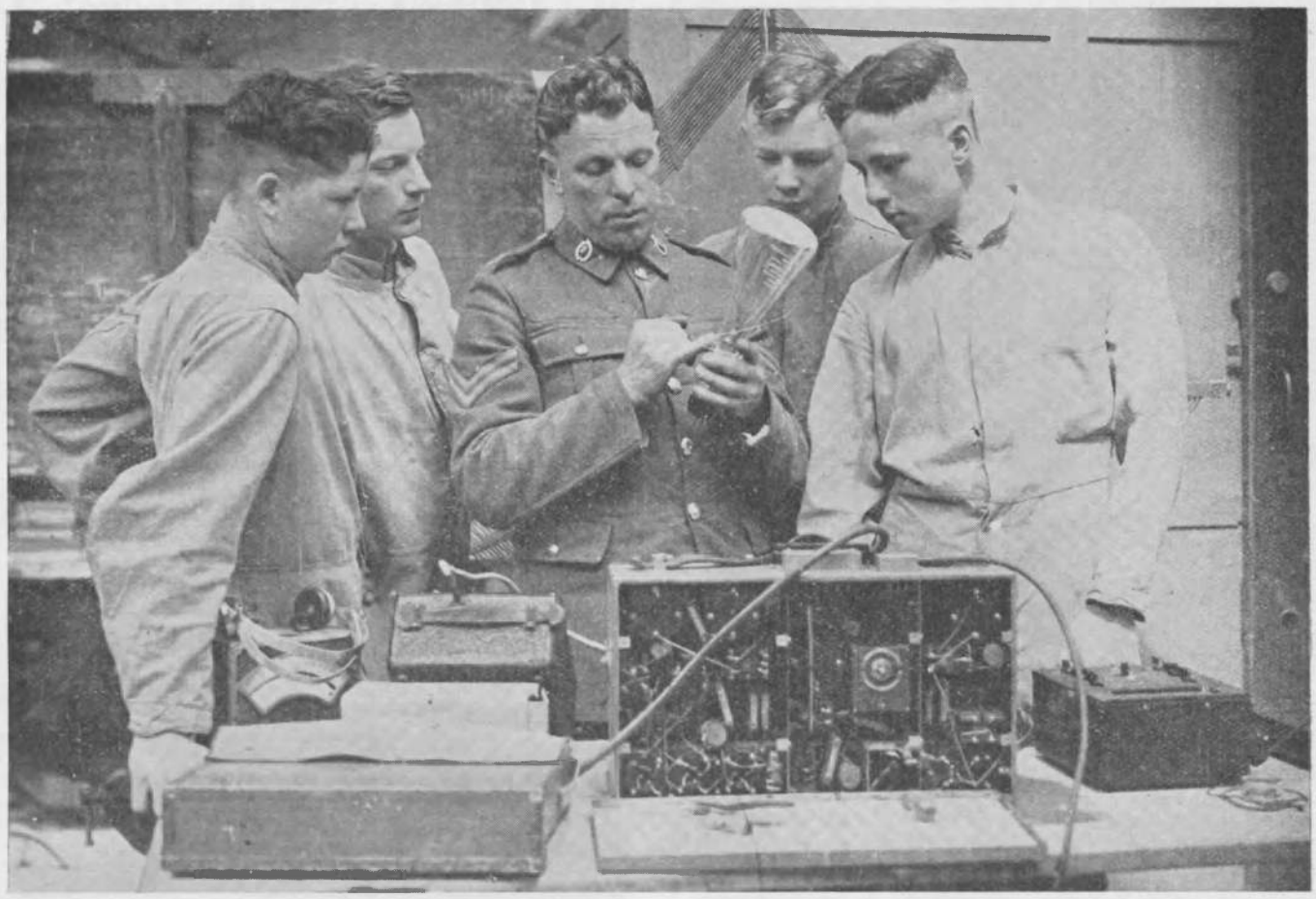
General.—We would like to take this opportunity of wishing all readers a happy and prosperous New Year, and to express our hope that you all had a very happy Christmas.

Education has resumed, and many of us can be seen in the Boys' Club reading *The Virginians*. The results of the last examination were very pleasing. Many have completed the 1st Class Certificate, and a good number obtained subjects towards that Certificate. The following went one better and obtained subjects towards the Special Certificate: Lance Corporal Boys Holdsworth J., Hope B., Hopkins G. and Smith A., Boy Brown J. C., Barton D. and Smith K. (Physics E. and M.); Lance Corporal Boy Murray A. (English "C").



Our New Quarters.

BOYS AT WORK.



The weather here is quite good for the time of the year, although there is still much rain. There was snow on the ground at this time last year.

Our sympathies are extended to the C.Q.M.S., who is Orderly Officer on Christmas Day. There is a rumour that he volunteered for it. We wonder!

It was very pleasing to note the number of boys mentioned in the sporting activities of the Corps. We say boys, but actually mean ex-boys. The slip was due to force of habit. Well done, Terry and Silas! We are looking forward to seeing you play in a rugby international.

Our regrets are tendered to Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Murphy for omitting to thank them for so kindly undertaking the sale of poppies to the Company on Armistice Day.

Concert rehearsals are now in full swing and talent spotting is over. The annual "Christmas Gobble" takes place as these notes go to press. By the look of the programme we should have a real good show.

Departures.—Signalman Fisk has taken a walk down the road to 5th Divisional Signals. Come up and see us often. The N.A.A.F.I. suppers are swell.

Lance Corporal Tracey left us on the 10th for a Vocational Course at Leeds. Haven't you got a cousin there, George?

Promotions.—Rowberry and Hopkins G. have dropped the "Boy" and now call themselves "Signalman."

Our Prospective B.IIIs.—One of our more studious lads had occasion to ponder over the following: "How does one superimpose a banana on a beer bottle?" The answer was promptly supplied by the Company philosopher, to wit, Jordan, who instructed the enquirer as follows: (1) reduce the banana to a pulp by standing on same; (2) persuade the pulp into the bottle; (3) close the eyes and drink contents of bottle; (4) open the eyes and read the label; (5) convince yourself that you have drunk the original contents of the bottle. In this manner the banana will be superimposed on the bottle. Jordan is now working on Charlie Harry Smith's idea of superimposing a flag on an "A" Set.

Hebrews' Mail (That's Original).—Dixie, Palestine. "Address the envelope, post it, and I'll cover the post. Haggis, 948."

Our Trumpeters in their Special Uniforms.

Trumpeter Holness.

Photographs.—We publish with these notes two photographs of our new quarters. Progress is going on apace, and we hope to live in them before the next year is out. Can you imagine the ex-boys in 1950—"When I moved into the new block at Catterick."

We have also submitted photographs of our trumpeters wearing the special uniforms provided for them when they carried out the duty of sounding party at the Armistice Parade, Great Smeaton. Trumpeter Holness, shown in the full dress uniform, carried out the same duty at Heighington, Co. Durham.

Tailpiece.—Visitors wishing to see the Boys' Army Cup should please form an orderly queue in the Boys' Club. (Our typist remarks, "That's what you think.")

ADMIRAL.

Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess Training Battalion.

16th December.

General.—Quite a lot seems to be happening owing to the festive season.

On 5th December we engaged the Corporals in an Indoor Games Tournament. The Corporals, who put up a good performance, brought some of their best talent to meet our everyday "champs." After an excellent evening, nothing less than a draw could be awarded. Who said a wangle?

On 9th December the annual "At Home" at Newbigging Hall was given by the officers of the S.T.C. This event proved to be a very successful function and we are sure that all members and their wives will join in thanking our officers for a very jovial evening.

The Christmas Draw and Dance is another forthcoming event. Results of this will be published next month.

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.

Promotions.—Congratulations to C.Q.M.S.s Adams E., Lawrie J., and Fishwick R. H., Sergeants Kelly F. and Pack E. on their promotion to Warrant Officer, Class III; also to Sergeants Sullivan and Nicholson on promotion to C.Q.M.S.

Arrivals.—We welcome C.S.M. Shilton E. D. from 1st Divisional Signals and Lance Sergeant Hall from Egypt Signals. May they complete their tour before the next crisis.

Departures.—We wish *bon voyage* to Sergeant Fletcher and family and Lance Sergeant Goat on their departure for overseas service. We wish them everything they wish themselves at their new stations.

LOFTY.

R.S.M. Sherman B. T., Regimental Sergeant-Major, Training Battalion.

ALDERSHOT NEWS

"A" Corps Signals.

No. 1 Company.

General.—By the time these notes appear in print we shall have said good-bye to quite a number who have sailed for sunnier climes, and we wonder how they enjoyed Christmas on the " pawny."

Some are now enjoying a well-earned rest, after a strenuous Upgrading Course, and we hope to be able to report next month that many Class Is, IIIs and Group " Es " have been gained, including, of course, the necessary pice.

Arrivals and Departures.—We welcome to the fold Sergeant Sykes from the T.A. and Driver Noakes from the S.T.C. We bid cheerio to C.S.M. Wheeler, who has left us for Sarafand.

Amendments—Blue Book.—Congratulations to the following, who are now paid for the " dog's leg " : Lance Corporals Martin E., Mayor W., Harrison T. and Randle A.

Information.—The following useful information has been gleaned from a Recruit Lineman : " If the condensor of a D.III is out of order, wrap it up in tinfoil, and it will then work O.K."

T. D.

1st Divisional Signals.

Headquarters.

16th December.

General.—During the month our activities have been confined to individual training, annual furlough, and the never-ending topic of drafting rolls.

We somewhat reluctantly said good-bye to many N.C.O.s and men, who have already left for Units in India, Egypt, Singapore and Hong Kong. We wish them all the best of luck for the future.

Another batch of recruits have joined us in order to complete an Operator Signals Course. We also have a class of ex-civilian motor drivers for instruction on the Square, followed by a driver's seat on a six-wheeler, truck or " bug."

Entertainments.—The Royal Signals Amateur Dramatic Society gave their customary annual show in the Regimental Theatre. The play was Anthony Armstrong's " Ten Minute Alibi." The primary object of the Society is to raise funds for the Royal Signals Association Benevolent Fund. It was announced that the sum of £15 has been collected as a result of the show. The 1st Divisional Signals would like to express their appreciation to the Society for their kind services so freely given, and, in addition, to specially thank the producer, Mrs. Spencer, wife of Major H. S. Spencer, M.C., Royal Signals, and Miss Kity Yule, the only lady in the cast.

Mr. Billie Panton, the manager of the N.A.A.F.I., and so well known to many members of the Corps, both past and present, gathered his bachelors together on Tuesday night, 13th December, and entertained the troops to a farewell concert in honour of those who have since left Mons Barracks for service overseas. Tangible evidence of the popularity of Mr. Panton's discoveries was shown by the manner in which the concert was supported.

Children's Christmas Tree Party.—Both young and old eagerly look forward to this annual event, which will take place in the Institute on Wednesday, 4th January.

Officers.—We have already been notified that the following officers will be posted to this Unit early in the New Year: Brevet-Lieutenant-Colonel R. F. H. Nalder, Captains E. F. Napean, E. P. Blake and E. S. Cole and 2nd Lieutenant B. R. Hayles.

Congratulations.—To the following on being awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal: C.Q.M.S. Anthony J., Sergeant Starling C., Farrier Sergeant Long G., Lance Sergeant Swinson L.

Congratulations also to C.Q.M.S. Nokes H. on his promotion to Warrant Officer, Class III.

Departures.—Farrier Staff Sergeant Mains H. to discharge. He has obtained employment at Woolwich.

Sergeant Todman has proceeded on a six-months' Vocational Training Course at Waddon. Sergeant Cooke and Lance Sergeant Page have left us for Hong Kong. R.Q.M.S. Goodman is now a civilian and has found employment with the Command Signal Company.

No. 1 Company.

General.—The Company is back again to the daily round and common task after a happy, if somewhat short, well-earned Christmas leave. Christmas and the trials of the G.O.C.'s Inspection, etc., are just another memory of 1938, and we now look forward to a New Year with all its perplexities and possibilities.

We tender our best wishes and greetings to all ex-1st Divites, both at home and overseas.

Once again the " trooper " sadly depleted the Unit. Drafts left for Egypt, Malaya, and Hong Kong on 14th December, and for India on the 20th and 23rd December. 'Twas ever thus; " Men may come and men may go," but a few of the " rear-guard " are still with the Company, some of whom, no doubt, are waiting for their provisional warning. We hear that there are still plenty of bed-spaces in India.

Departures.—It will probably interest readers to know that the following personnel proceeded to the Stations stated: EGYPT SIGNALS: Signalmen Burford, Appleton, Cochrane, Edmonds, Phillpott, Malcolm, and Owens R. MALAYA IGNAL COMPANY: Signalmen Stuart G. K., Marsden D., Walker A. HONG KONG SIGNAL COMPANY: Signalman Pennington, Lance Corporal Husband.

The following commenced Courses at the Government Training Centres as a preliminary to tasting the joys of " Civvy Street " : Signalmen Main, Holland S., Bowler A., and Jessup, and Sergeant Todman.

We hear that Sergeant Andrews F. S. (discharged), is doing things with the A.R.P. at Corby, near Kettering, and that Farrier Staff Sergeant Mains has " rejoined " the Signals at Woolwich. Their gain is our loss. Lance Sergeant Hardy has left us after a long stay of nearly twelve years for employment at the Field Stores, Aldershot.

Arrivals.—The influx of recruits from Catterick is increasing steadily, and it is hoped that we shall once more see the Unit up to full strength—numerically at least.

Nineteen recruits joined us from the Depot Battalion on 4th December, forming our No. 4 Operator Signals Training Squad, under the wiles of Sergeant Gibbs. A notable addition to the Company is Signalman Hunter (Clerk) who is rapidly being initiated into the mysteries of Company Office " work " by our worthy Sergeant-Major. (We understand that Signalman Hunter is still trying to trace the identity of the " Mysterious Mr. Smith.")

Re-Engagements.—Lance Sergeant Cooper has decided that " he can take it," and has signed on the dotted line to complete twenty-one years with the Colours. (Quetta readers, please note.)

Marriage.—It is with regret that we have to inform ex-members of the Bachelors Club, that Corporal " Tommie " Thompson has succumbed to the wiles of the fair sex and was married to Miss Margaret Eleanor Brannan on 28th November, 1938, at St. Joseph's Church, West Hartlepool. How could you, Tommy? It is regretted that we could not all come. May your married life be as happy as your single.

Congratulations.—We congratulate our No. 1 Operator Signals Training Squad on passing the trade test for Operator Signals,

B III. Unfortunately, we did not derive any benefit as they all proceeded overseas during December.

Congratulations also to No. 2 Squad, who passed the trade test for Operator Signals, Group "E," and to their instructors, Lance Sergeant Cooper and Corporal Robertson on obtaining a 100 per cent. pass.

Things We Should Like To Know.—Which of our potential operators thought that the map was set by the moon on a clear night ?

Does the speedometer register backwards when the engine is in reverse ? (No. 2 Company readers, please note.)

Does Signalman Burgon realise that "Billiard Marker" is not a qualification on a "Q" Sheet, although we admit this has possibilities ?

Appointments and Promotions.—We congratulate C.Q.M.S. Nokes on becoming our first Warrant Officer, Class III, also Unpaid Lance Corporal Timperely on getting a foothold on the first rung of the ladder.

CYNRU.

2nd Divisional Signals.

Unit Headquarters.

To All who are Interested.—Corporal Hesford, recently posted to the Depot Battalion, wishes to say a few words in these notes :

"I made Catterick in good time, passing everything on the Great North Road, and the old 'feed-tin' is still going strong. Any offers ? I would also like to give fair warning to future enthusiastic motorists who attempt the ride up north. Do not stop at Northampton to have a puncture repaired as they charge 1s. 8d."

Arrivals.—We greet Lance Corporal Buscall, who arrived from the S.T.C. on 5th December. As his recent activities are known to members of H.Q., it only remains for us to say that we hope his stay with us will be an enjoyable one.

Departures.—Signalman Golder to Southern Command Signal Company. Congratulations on your "D" in Maths. !

Our best wishes go with the following officers, who are sailing next month for Stations overseas : Major C. Knowles, Lieutenants P. G. Curry and M. H. N. Travers.

Awards.—We are pleased to announce that Lieutenant M. H. N. Travers and Lance Corporal Brooks are now both in possession of one of the coveted "Jimmies" awarded for valour on the rugby field.

No. 1 Company.

I have only just been asked to take over the duties of scribe, and if these notes are somewhat brief, don't be too critical, as at the best of times the wielding of the pen is not one of my outstanding achievements.

Everyone is busy thinking of how many days they will be able to get at the higher rate of Ration Allowance.

General.—The Company at the moment is in a state so well described by those famous lines, "Men may come and men may go." We get them for a few weeks, train them in their particular trades, and away they go. It is rather aggravating, as we just get to know these fellows and then they are lost to us.

There have been many sighs of relief now that the first half of the individual training season has drawn to a close. But what of the second period ? Will this be affected by the day dreaming of those past thirty days ? We shall have to wait and see.

Departures.—There are quite a good number as the trooping season is in full swing. To all who have left us to defend the scattered outposts of the Empire we wish the best of luck at their new Stations.

Arrivals.—To Lance Corporal Buscall we extend a welcoming hand, and trust that his stay with us will be of a lengthy and happy duration. To all recruits, both operators and drivers, we also extend a hearty welcome. To the arrivals from overseas we express the hope that they will find this Company and the Unit as much to their liking as the one they have just left.

Hockey.—A slight misunderstanding helped us to lose the Inter-Company Cup to No. 3 Company, but there are no hard feelings. Congratulations to No. 3 Company on their victory. Maybe next year we shall be able to show them some nifty stick work.

Capt. A. B. de Lisle and Signalman Oakley were selected for a Corps hockey trial. Captain De Lisle was selected to fill the position of right wing in the Corps side. Congratulations, sir !

Rugby.—Lieutenant Travers and Lance Corporal Brooks have each been awarded a Corps "Jimmie" for having represented the Corps in all its matches.

No. 2 Company.

Welcome.—It is with pleasure that we welcome back our Company Commander after a spell of nearly six months on the sick list. We hope, sir, that your stay with us this time will be a long and happy one.

Departures.—This Company is making its usual gesture towards international security in the form of an overseas draft. During this month, twenty-five other ranks will be shaking the mud of Aldershot from their boots for the last time for several years. Some are bound for Egypt, some for Malaya, one for Sarafand, and quite a number for the "land of milk and honey." Here's wishing them a very pleasant voyage, and the very best of luck during their spell abroad. They will return home enriched with that experience that only an overseas tour can give.

Lieutenant P. G. Curry has left us for a trip to Malaya, and we hope that his stay there will be a very happy one.

General.—What with our overseas postings and furlough commitments, life in the Company, though still proceeding along its well-ordered way, is fairly quiet, but there is the possibility that as we approach the festive season we shall have to issue a qualifying amendment : For "well-ordered way" read "well-oiled way."

Agony.—To Signalman Whitwood, 5th Divisional Signals. "I am still waiting for that letter. Reg., No. 2 Company."

C. R. P. S.

No. 3 Company.

Arrivals.—We welcome the arrival of 2nd Lieutenant A. St. G. Prynne from the S.T.C. ; Signalmen Hard and Notley from China ; Drivers (I.C.) Vayro and Blackburn from No. 1 Company. We hope their stay with us will be a happy one.

Departures.—Corporal Lunniss has actually left us at last to start work on 24th December. We wish him well.

Sport.—The Company won the Inter-Company hockey by the odd 99 points. (We understand there was much gnashing of teeth over this, and we have actually been challenged several times since.)

Overheard.—Who asked if a return ticket had to be shown before proceeding on leave to Farnborough ? (Distance exactly one mile, price of return ticket 1d.)

Jews' Mail.—Corporal Stokoe, "B" Corps (kit-plate fame). "Saving up for a three-halfpenny stamp, Tich ? "

1st Anti-Aircraft Brigade Signals, Blackdown.

15th December.

General.—Since our notes last went to press, a few changes in personnel have taken place, and the period of re-adjustment has once more set in.

Long faces suggest that leave for some has ended, others—owing to the kindness of Mr. Records—await their break.

Drafts.—The following N.C.O.s and men have departed this uncertain climate to bask in sunny climes, and our best wishes go with them: HONG KONG—Lance Sergeant Ient, Corporal McCarthy, Lance Corporal Hodge and Signalman Spendelow. EGYPT—Signalmen McGuire, Brown and Howell. INDIA—Lance Corporal Robertson, Signalmen Roffey, Ross, Ashworth, Murray, Wintle, Featherstone, Cole, Riseborough and Elliott.

Arrivals.—We extend a hearty welcome to the following: Corporal Alridge and Signalman Bloom from China; Corporal Brougham from Egypt. We hope that their stay with us will be a happy one.

Education.—Congratulations to Lance Corporal Jackson and Signalman Sharples, both of whom obtained their 1st Class Certificate of Education. (We know now where the sinister scribe betook himself from after duty until reveille daily.) It also cleans up the mystery of the strange mutterings to be heard in the Unit Office during the late hours.

Promotions.—Congratulations to our Orderly-Room Sergeant (Tommy Tucker) on his promotion to C.Q.M.S.

Awards.—Congratulations to the pioneers who have roughed it in those far-flung places. General Service Medals have been awarded to the following: Lance Sergeant McBride, Lance Corporals Hobling and Stone, Signalmen Dewell, Jones, Munden, Pitchford and Wilde.

Those who have not received the honour should remember that it is not too late; failing a medal, their scars should be sufficient compensation.

Army Reserve.—Signalman Brannan has been transferred to the Army Reserve.

Signalman Taylor H. has also left us for "Civvy Street." We trust they are finding life a pleasure; a change is as good as a rest, anyway.

Sport.—More "pats" to Captain F. S. Whiteway-Wilkinson and Lance Corporal Dewhurst. It is an honour for us to have two representatives from the Unit in the Corps hockey team. We know that both of them will keep sport on the map for the A.A. Brigade.

M.T. Driving Instruction Class.—Results of this Course are not to hand as we go to press, but, judging by the comments made by the "cracks," there should be few failures.

Query.—A noted scientist declares that when a driver sits on his lorry, the seat of his pants does not touch the seat because a thin layer of ether separates the two said "seats." But supposing the same driver wants to move his vehicle to the right and shoots out his right arm; then, having moved into the new direction, neglects—due to forgetfulness, obstinacy, desire or any other nonsense foreign to Army drivers—to withdraw his arm. What do you think is the separating medium of the several joints of the arm leading to the head of such a man? MORE PRACTICE? Yes, that's what we thought.

Miniature Range.—Ex-members of A.A. Brigade Signals will remember the "Powell" Cup, of which this Unit has been the proud winner for four years in succession. With this in mind, we started our Club going on 15th November on a twice weekly basis, with a view to discovering new talent and improving the old. So far, the attendance and results are quite pleasing. We are giving nothing away, but it is evident that we have several young fellows who have no objection to carrying telescopes, rifles, coal, etc., for half-a-mile, through the cold blasts, to the Range, and all with the idea of getting their eye down to retain something won by their predecessors. We hope by the middle of January to start a series of first club matches with neighbouring Units in order to bring our selection up to the point necessary for the retention of the Cup for one more year.

Hockey Notes.—The Unit played the 16th Field Regiment, R.A., at Ewshot, on 21st November, in the first round of the Army Cup.

The first half was rather unsettled, mainly because of the fact that we were on a strange ground. The 16th Field Regiment, R.A., have a first-class team, which includes five command players. The R.A. scored two goals within ten minutes of the bully off.

The second half was much better, as the team began to find their old form and were constantly pushing hard around the goal mouth of our opponents. Luck was against us, and the final score was 4—3 for the 16th Field Regiment, R.A.

ACK EDDY.

5th Divisional Signals, Catterick Camp.

15th December.

By the time these notes are in print, Christmas and New Year's Day will be past history. We hope that everyone who was lucky enough to get any enjoyed their Christmas leave, and we wish one and all the best of luck for 1939.

General.—This Unit is now definitely going to be turned into a second Depot Battalion. This is a temporary measure in order to relieve pressure on the Depot Battalion, S.T.C., and to increase the output of recruits in order to enable Field Units to be brought up to Establishment as quickly as possible.

We shall also have to give up Ypres Lines, which are to be handed over to the Mechanized Cavalry Depot that is being formed here. The Unit is moving nearer to the S.T.C. and will take up its abode in Le Cateau Lines, opening there as a Depot Battalion on 1st January, 1939. We shall probably stay there until we become a Divisional Signals again, by which time it is hoped that our new barracks will have been built.

Our technical stores and M.T. are to be returned to Ordnance; all of which has thrown a lot of extra work on the Quartermaster, whose staff appears to be bearing up well under the strain.

Congratulations.—Congratulations are extended to Corporals Preston R. and Pyne L., and Lance Corporals Featonby and Roscoe on obtaining their first " gong." They have been awarded the new Indian General Service Medal with bar " Waziristan, 1937-38."

Armistice Day.—The Unit mustered 61 ranks at the special Church Parade Service held at St. Oswald's Church on 6th November. The following ladies of the Unit sold poppies: Mrs. Donaghy, Mrs. Dowie, Mrs. Barker and Mrs. Shipton. It is not yet known how much they raised, but two of them sold all their poppies.

There was no special parade for the " two minutes' silence " on 11th November. The " silence " was observed by all ranks ceasing work when the signal was given. After the " silence," the remainder of the day was observed as a holiday.

Training.—Recruits under training have been kept busy with examinations. There have been two " Second Class " examinations, at which most candidates were successful.

The top Squad have completed their Group " E " test, the results were very satisfactory as all candidates qualified. Lieutenant A. Trapmore and his instructors may well be satisfied with their work.

All concerned have earned their leave, which starts on 22nd December and ends on 2nd January, 1939, after which all four Squads, with their instructors, proceed to Canterbury, where we wish them the best of luck and success.

Departures.—Corporal Fielding G. is posted to 49th Divisional Signals, T.A., for duty as a P.S.I. Corporal Howland, Signalmen Pleavin and Jones W. have proceeded to Malaya and Egypt Signals, respectively.

Arrivals.—We extend a cordial welcome to the following, who have joined during the last month: C.S.M. Stevenson W. and Signalman Bullock.

Promotions and Appointments.—Congratulations are extended to the following: Lance Corporals Whitaker, Clavering and Nix on their appointment on the Corps Roster, and to Signalman Dobing on getting his foot on the bottom rung of the ladder as an U/Lance Corporal.

Hockey.—

v. Inniskilling Fusiliers	Lost	1—4
v. 7th Battalion, Royal Tank Corps	Won	2—1
v. Inniskilling Fusiliers	Lost	1—2
v. 7th Field Regiment, R.A.	Drawn	0—0

Northern Ireland District Signal Company, Belfast.

5th December.

In order to appreciate the meaning of " The Call of the East," one has to spend a year in Belfast. Since our last notes we have been gazing through dripping, or fog-bound windows, and working in artificial light until we wonder if service in the Maginot Line can really be as bad. However, the grass is getting greener all the time, but we notice that the cheery morning whistle of several of our folk is rather subdued, and on some really poisonous mornings, ceases altogether.

The Recreation Room during this period is very popular, and the table tennis and dart exponents are becoming very efficient with so much practice.

We do have our little gurgles of glee, and here are a few examples.

Some of our friends thought they would like to have some members of the opposite sex with them in order to help them make " whoopee." Some one suggested that they should ring up " Malone 200." This was done four times, but without success. One of the party who was more inquisitive than the others, asked a policeman who lived at " Malone 200." Suspicion gradually dawned in the eyes of the bobby who replied, " That's the asylum." The party came home!

Heard in the cookhouse: " How many days in the year? "

Willie: " 1,365." (Pause). " Sorry, I'm wrong, I guess I was thinking of pounds in the ton."

Old Indian wallah returning from a film: " I've just seen ' Shargai ' on the pictures; have you? "

Recruit from Catterick: " Haven't seen that fellow act yet, Mac."

Goodbyes and Hellos.—The following have proceeded to sunny climes: Algy Scoffin, Sergeant McLaren, Signalmen Busby and Slavin, Lance Sergeant Maguire (without matches), Lance Corporal Roy, Signalman Davidson, Lance Sergeant John Oliver, Lance Sergeant (Snug) Barron, Signalmen Morrice, Cox A., and Uncle Tom Cobley and all.

The following have arrived: Signalmen Jamieson and Richardson from the S.T.C., Catterick Camp, and Lance Corporal Gray from Canterbury. Can we accommodate him? May their new home come up to their expectations.

S.O.S. Karachi.—Will someone please tell SADIQ to get in fifty gross of matches and half a ton of tobacco for a certain senior N.C.O. who is going to Karachi. He has a pipe as large as a Tub G.S., that has an odour of our schoolday stink bombs You are hereby warned.

Promotions (ex-Niscovites please note).—Big Hearted Arthur is now publican in the R.A.S.C. Mess for one week. On his first day he locked all the taps, drank half a bottle of lemonade, and lost sixpence. Good show, eh!

Lost and Found.—The sixpence has now been found. Arthur came out very hot and dusty after shifting the pub around.

Sport.—The Unit went down fighting in the first round of the N.I.D. Hockey Challenge Cup, when we lost 2—0 to the Depot, R.U.R., at Armagh. It was a very good game which was only slightly marred by the long grass.

On 6th December we again mustered all sticks against the Band and Drums of the Welch Regiment, and after being one down in the first half, we warmed up and finished 2—1. With a bit of practice we should produce a good team this season

BIG HEARTED.

LONDONDERRY SECTION.

Our contribution this month starts on a very cheerful note, for they are being written whilst the rays of dazzling sunshine play on the waters of the Foyle. Past tenants of this station will probably advise me to consult a mind specialist, but I can assure them that it is the truth. It is impossible to have a water shortage in Derry at the present time.

Captain Orr, Royal Signals, accompanied by Captain Grant, Royal Engineers, again honoured us with a visit in order to inspect the station.

Corporal Grey has accustomed himself to our mad habits and is rapidly becoming one of us.

Signalman Lamb, our aquarium expert, is probing into the mysteries of short-wave working and as a result we have to sleep in the annexe. It is no joke having spare condensers and coils of wire as bed-mates.

The tiddlers are still going strong, and we are soon expecting a litter of tiddlerettes. Sergeant (Topper) Brown displayed great interest in them on his last visit and was heard to murmur, " Come on fishy-wishy " in rather caressing tones. We will exchange one for the famous Belfast 500 watt set that is such a sore point with them.

Departures.—Lance Corporal Whitters to Armagh and Signalman Slavin to Malaya. Best of luck, Patrick, and remember your tummy.

Achievements.—Corporal Grey and Signalman Biggs have convinced the War Office that they had earned the I.G.S. medal. Congratulations to both of them, and may they never walk lop-sided.

Corporal Grey and Signalman Goodsir in the Small Units team that won the Garrison Darts Championship.

Signalman Biggs who is still smiling after four months of married life.

Tailpiece.—We actually have an operator who does not know the meaning of " Gormless." We told him to look in a mirror.

LADDIE.

INDIAN·SIGNAL·CORPS

Signal Training Centre (India), Jubbulpore.

6th December.

Visits.—On Monday, 14th November, His Excellency, Sir Francis Wylie, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., Governor of the Central Provinces and Berar, and Lady Wylie, honoured the S.T.C. (I.) with a visit. The tour of inspection around the Training Centre included visits to the various workshops of the S.T. School, the Wireless Station, the Indian Officers' Club and the Indian Institute, the Musjid, Gurdwara and Mandir, and the horse lines of " E " Mounted Company.

His Excellency who inspected squads of recruits on parade, and the Boys of " F " Company at physical training, expressed his keen appreciation of all he had seen.

Arrivals.—We welcome Major W. U. Tyrrell, Royal Signals, from Egypt, and Lieutenant B. H. P. Barnes, Royal Signals, from the United Kingdom, and hope that their stay at Jubbulpore will be a happy one. Captain P. M. P. Hobson on his return from the United Kingdom is looking very fit.

Golf.—The S.T.C. (I.) Golf Club played a series of matches against the Gun Carriage Factory Club on Saturday, 19th November, and were defeated by seven games to three, but we hope to avenge this defeat with a return match on our own course.

We are all out to win the Victory Column again this year, but we have a much harder task than last year.

Members are making headway against great odds and are playing like heroes. Keep it up, players! We need all of you.

Athletics.—" A " Company entered a team in the S.T.C. (I.) Cross-country Run on Sunday, 27th November, and although not in training, the team did very well against the Indian ranks of the Battalion who have been training for some time.

Note must be made here of an excellent effort made by Signalman Pearce who came in ninth in the run, and Signalman Coulson about twelfth—the first and second of " A " Company team.

We soon hope to start training in anticipation of winning the Fazal Din trophy next February. " A " Company won this trophy last year by a great margin.

All Ranks Golf Course. The New Club House at the 14th.

Entertainments.—Much work is in preparation for the Christmas festivities, and the various committees are once more putting on their thinking caps in order to produce something novel; a very hard job nowadays.

The Ladies' Club Night was held as usual, and a very enjoyable evening ensued.

During the month the Armistice Ball was held at the Gun Carriage Factory, and a very large number of people attended. It was patronised by His Excellency and Lady Wylie, the Commissioner and Mrs. Jayarathnam, and the Deputy Commissioner.

The sideshows, etc., did very well in donating towards the total income required for the ex-Service Association.

General.—The war cry at present in favour in the S.T.C. (I.) comes from " Snow White." We have never heard so many men *happily* dashing off to work? Hi! Ho!

Here is a short story by a member of the gallant gang that went forth to compete in the Inter-Company Cross-country Run. Leaving barracks in a bit of a daze and parading in running kit at the appropriate place in good time I discovered what seemed to be several thousand coloured gentlemen also clad in various colours with numbers on their backs. Still being dazed I heard a voice shout, " On your marks, get set, go! " With a loud yell, much puffing and blowing, and some light friendly language, we went.

After running gently uphill for what seemed about ten miles, we turned a corner and proceeded to climb over some small rocks, roughly about the size of the Royal Albert Hall. We appeared to be heading for home and so I gently reduced speed and subsided to a walk. Later, picking up courage, I started to run again and reached the summit of a small mound some 200 ft. high when I saw, stretched out in front of me, all the runners including some of the B.O.R.s, and right away in front a large crowd of people who were shouting and cheering the arrival of the first man home. At last I also arrived there and taking my ticket from one of the stewards handed it in and lay down to ask myself, " Why, oh why, did I have sausages for tiffin? "

At present there does not seem to be much activity in the Company in regard to entertainment, but we understand that there are going to be great events during the forthcoming month, and judging by the number of committees that desire the services of all and sundry, there is going to be a dickens of a lot of work for some poor blighter.

Here are some titbits from the First Class Examination by our own correspondent. It is understood that " Scotland Yard " is the H.Q. of the League of Nations.

Britain's colonies have always been abroad, it helps the Empire.

Titus Oates were the only kind obtainable during the Great War.

King Henry VIII signed the pledge at Runnymede. It is one of the milestones of British History.

Good Queen Bess was an unladylike woman who was always with a lot of men.

NORTHERN COMMAND ..... INDIAN ARMY

"A" Corps Signals, Rawalpindi.

8th December.

Greetings.—The Officers, Warrant Officers, N.C.O.s and men of " A " Corps Signals take this opportunity to wish all members of other Units, both at home and abroad, all the best for Christmas, and a very successful New Year.

Congratulations.—To Corporals Phillips L., and Sullings F., also Lance Corporal Jones, I.M.A. (formerly of this Unit), on passing the entrance examination for the forthcoming Foreman-

of-Signals Course, which is being held at Catterick Camp at the beginning of next year. To Lance Corporals Campbell P., Bennett T., and Wood P., on being paid for their stripes.

Comings and Goings.—Last month saw the departure of C.S.M. Saul J., Sergeant Gilmour J., Sergeant West C., Lance Corporals Fall F., Hade W., and Morrison J., Signalmen Hedley T., Lowe W. and Jordan H., who left us on repatriation. Signalman Patrick J., has left us for attachment to the newly-formed Signal Section of the 3rd Carabiniers at Sialkot, and will be followed in the New Year by Signalmen Austin R., and Cunningham D.

Next month will see a big upheaval in the Unit, when two drafts from the United Kingdom arrive within a few days of each other. At the same time the remainder of our folk who are due home this year, will leave us; about twenty-five are concerned.

Lance Sergeant Houghton H. arrived from Jubbulpore at the end of November in order to take over the duties of Orderly-Room Sergeant, much to the relief of Lance Corporal Hills, who has been acting as O.R.S. during the last few months. We hope that he will enjoy his stay with us.

Junior N.C.O.s and B.O.R.s Tennis Club.—This Club has now been completely reorganised, and thanks to the interest shown by Major J. A. I. Watts, and a hard working committee, it is making splendid progress. Regular notes have been promised for this Journal, and as several matches have been arranged with other Units, both for the first and second teams, there should be plenty to report.

The first team opened their programme against our neighbours and friendly rivals, 1st Indian Divisional Signals, and won by 96 points to 48, a very good effort on their part.

The tennis courts have been resurfaced, and rain is now eagerly awaited to put the finishing touch to them.

The first of a series of "At Homes" is being held on 11th December, when about twenty or thirty guests will be entertained. A "Tin and Bottle" and other interesting tournaments are to be held during the winter season, and should prove to be a huge success.

Sport.—We have entered a team from No. 2 Company in the recently formed Rawalpindi Football League, and also teams from Headquarters and No. 2 Company in the Hockey League. A large number of teams from the Units stationed in Rawalpindi have entered these leagues, and, as a result, fixtures will take place every few days. We hope to meet with considerable success with all our teams. The league should prove to be a source of great interest, and we are looking forward to some very good games.

Cricket matches have also been arranged, so we shall be very well off this winter in regard to sporting fixtures.

Things We Want To Know.—Is it true that "FIRE ENGINE" was painted on the fire shed in such large letters because the machine is so old that the place might easily be mistaken for the Unit Museum?

Rowing Notes.—M.A.R. Section held a Bumping Race with their vehicles between Rawalpindi and Lahore. It is understood that the Section Officer is still "Head of the River."

PEDLAR.

M.A.R. Section, Ambala.

6th November.

Gone with the Wind.—Just after dawn had broken (with its usual dull thud), on 29th October, the Section shook the dust of 'Pindi from its wheels. There was not much point in this shaking business for when we arrived at Lahore a few tons of real honest-to-goodness Punjab dust had to be washed and scraped off.

Freedom of the City.—Having accomplished sartorial wonders, we flung ourselves at the mercy of Lahore. The Zoo (no wise-cracks) and the All-India Exhibition received our attention, and, according to the stall-holders, that is all they did receive. "Lofty" Ramsden wanted to know why we went to the "flicks." *Ad decorum*, old man!

Still Going.—After enjoying the hospitality of "T" Field Battery for a day, we completed the second stage of our journey to Ambala without incident.

OFFICERS

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CAMBRIDGE CIRCUS
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Welcome Little Strangers.—The smiling visage of Corporal (All change Newport, Cardiff, and Swansea) Bevans awaited us, although a slight argument with a door spoiled the effect of the aforementioned visage. The M.A.R. Section had arrived and the situation was well in hand. U.S. Marines, please copy!

Expectorate and Polish.—Under the supervision of Lieutenant G. A. Dutton and the watchful eye of Sergeant Andrews, the stores and equipment were unpacked. Within a short time the stores assumed that spick and span appearance for which the Section is justly famed. The I.O.R.s set to work on the M.T. and did much to gratify Mr. Ford and Lord Nuffield. What's a 400-mile journey to us, anyway.

Sport.—Our hosts, the VII Med. Regt., R.A., are not lacking in courage, so they turned out a team from the Battle-Axe Company (25 Med. Bty.) and beat us seven to nil. The fact that "Spike" Francis was in goal had nothing whatsoever to do with the result. At the time of writing, we are angling for games of hockey or football and, somehow, I don't think we shall have much difficulty in getting them.

Dog Notes.—"Haggis," the Unit "champ," and his stable companion, "Biff" (owners, "H.J." Kelly and Lance Sergeant McKenzie, respectively), are in strict training. They are accompanied by "Kiwi," a fly-weight of unknown quality (owner, Lieutenant G. A. Dutton).

Finis.—Regimental Schemes and Exercises are due to commence shortly so wish us luck. *Salaams* and salutations to the lads holding them back and putting them back in 'Pindi and the Frontier.

KAY.

5th December.

General.—The Section has ably demonstrated its efficiency during Schemes with H.Q., 7th Medium Regiment, R.A. We are now awaiting the arrival of the 26th and 27/28th Medium Batteries, which will bring the Regiment up to strength. The O.C.

has also taken us out on Section Schemes, and we now know the surrounding country pretty well.

Sport.—We are enjoying a surfeit of football, and taking into consideration the fact that we are playing Battery, Company and Squadron teams, we are doing rather well. Our record up to date is played 12, won 2, drawn 5, lost 5. Please note that our last two games resulted in our winning 6—1 and 4—1, thus proving the old adage that " practice makes perfect "—or does it?

Stalwart play by " Honest John " Kelly and Signalman Lancashire has helped us enormously. Tommy Wilding has discarded his referee's whistle, and, putting his knowledge of the game into practice, has reached double figures. More power to his wind.

We have played but one game of hockey, winning 2—0 ; the R.A. steered clear of us afterwards. After all, the B.M.H. is not the best place in which to spend Christmas, is it ?

We hope the Sections in No. 2 Company can read the writing on the wall, and realise we are a force with which to reckon when we return.

Golf.—Utilising a good stretch of Mother India, we have constructed a miniature golf course. Under the expert tuition of the Pratt Brothers, ex-caddies and undefeated champions of Budleigh-Salterton, we are rapidly approaching championship form. (Shades of H.Q.). However, the stage has not been reached when we can wear multi-coloured pull-overs and shed tears on missing a two-inch putt. Oh, no ! We simply stand and scream.

Banana Oil.—Now for a song dedicated to the Pay-Sergeant entitled, " You Can't Have Everything." This mighty brain has thousands of gags just as bad as that, but why waste them on one issue ?

A-d-s-e had ideas about a Body-building Course ; fortunately he thought of J-m-y E-e-r-d and decided against it. No names no Northcom.

The Section were receiving instruction in heliograph erecting and aligning. The voice of authority had emphasised the necessity of choosing permanent objects upon which to align and decided upon a tree stump about two hundred yards away. Sighting rods swung round but, like the little pig in the song, the " tree stump " got up and slowly walked away. Nature works in a mysterious way !

Prelude.—The lads are looking forward to Christmas in 'Pindi, and visions of last year's Bacchanalian orgy spring clear before us. So with this mundane thought we sign off.

KAY.

1st Indian Divisional Signals, Rawalpindi.

2nd December.

General.—The annual Unit Camp is now over, and in spite of the strenuous training, it appears to have been greatly enjoyed by all. Although the Unit returned to Rawalpindi by Shank's pony on the 11th and 12th November, many of the Sections had grown so fond of outdoor life that they left us again almost immediately for happier hunting grounds with their respective Brigades for further training. We hope, however, to lure them back to barracks with our Christmas attractions and the tasty menu on the great day. The dinner on Christmas Day will be served in a brand new and most pleasant mess-room. Old Pindi-ites please note how we look after our lads. We are all looking forward to a peaceful but cheery time again this year.

Arrivals.—We welcome the following on their return to the Unit : Captain C. D. Gardiner, Royal Signals, from U.K. leave ; Lance Corporal Cox and Signalman Faulkner from Waziristan. Incidentally, we have to report that a certain B.O.R. had to be put into the stocks so that the " nappi " could cut his hair. The victim had returned from the wilds of the North-West Frontier. Oh well, two years is a long time to be away on service isn't it ?

Departures.—It seems that in spite of our offers of brighter barracks and social amenities some of the " old soldiers " of the Unit prefer a bowler hat to the " hats, pith, etc." To the following who left us on the Neuralia we wish all the best. They are Signalmen Anderson, Hutchins, Kimpton, Williams, H., Ellis H., and Moore. Just plain sailing boys, just plain sailing !

The following have left us for the destinations stated : Sergeant Spearpoint to the S.T.C. (I.), Jubbulpore ; Sergeant Brunton to W/T Duty at Poona ; Lance Corporal Sharpe and Signalman Jackman to the Frontier just to see what it's all about ; and Lieutenant P. A. Watts, Royal Signals (Our Accounts Officer), to U.K. on leave with all our sundry creditors (we hope).

Promotions and Appointments.—Our heartiest congratulations to the following on their step upwards towards the baton : Sergeant Nuttall, R., Corporal Tompkins, and Lance Corporal Robins.

Things We Want to Know.—Who were the two Superintendents concerned in the following short story ? The line from Rear Division to Corps was " dis," and an Indian lineman was out on the line. Suddenly a voice was heard saying, " *Kann hi ?* " The Superintendent at Division replied, " *Nay mallam.*"

After bursts of very bad Urdu from both ends of the line, one Superintendent apparently could not stand the ordeal any longer, and making one final bid shouted, " Who the — hell are you." The gentle reply came back, " Er, Superintendent so-and-so, speaking, sir." OO-er ! !

Which lineman (B.O.R.) swears that about 50 yds. of cable was stolen from his line directly outside a cemetery ? H'm ! Sounds like ghosts to me, mister.

Conclusion.—May we commend the bath-house orderly on his wonderful effort in putting up a smoke screen over Cambridge Barracks the other day. Maybe he discovered the hot water fund was in credit for the first and final time. Rumour whispers that the chap in question has since been relieved. Robinson and his merry band of sweepers can relax once again.

Sergeants' Mess.—The event of the season has been the farewell dance for our C.S.O., Colonel L. G. Phillips.

This function took place in the Sergeants' Mess on Wednesday, 23rd November, and proved a most enjoyable and successful affair. Dancing continued until a very late hour, and it was a remarkable fact that a great many of the dancers developed a first-class " Lambeth Walk " sway towards the end. This may have been due to the popularity of this particular dance during the evening, or, perhaps, to the personality of the caterer behind the counter. Whichever it was, it afforded much amusement and enjoyment to all.

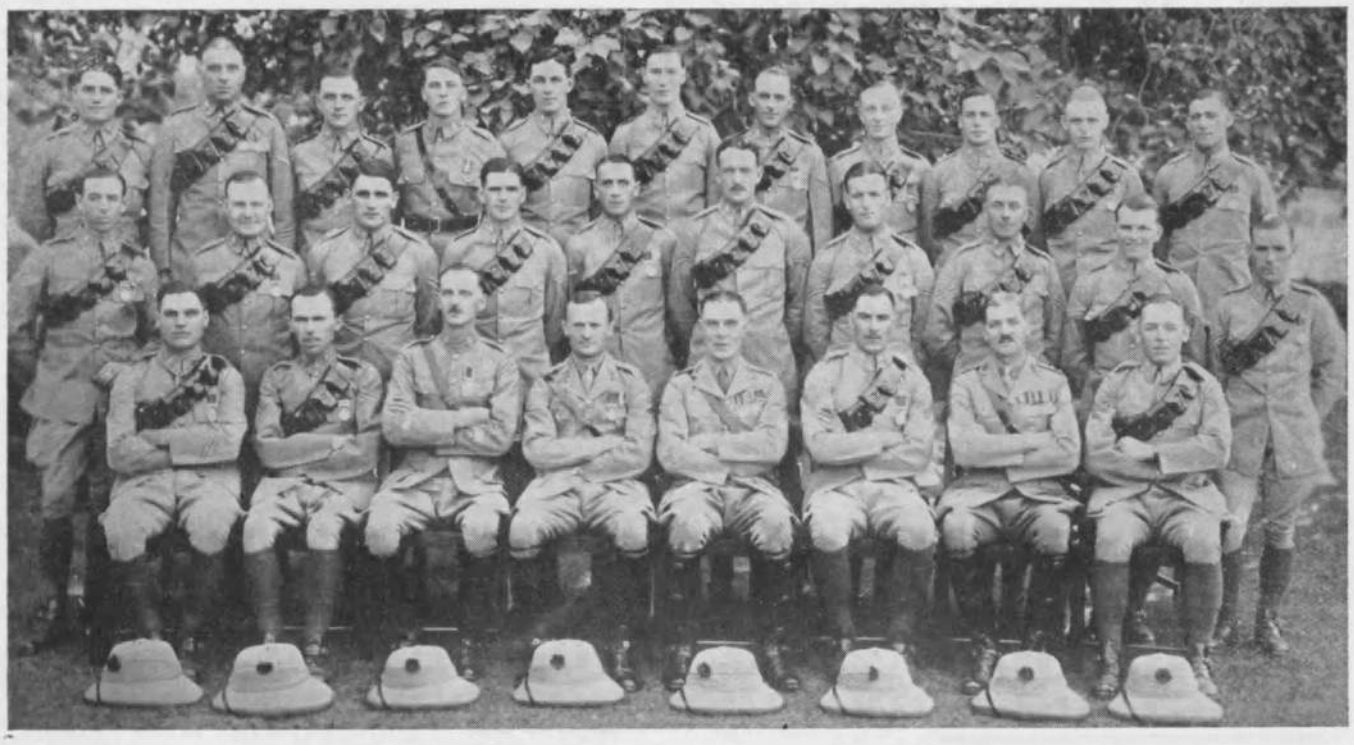
During an interval in the dancing, a very noble attempt at speech-making was made by the Mess President, R.S.M. Day. He stressed the fact that the presence of Colonel and Mrs. and Miss Phillips would be sadly missed by all ranks at Rawalpindi, as there had seldom been a function held in the Signals' lines at which we had not been honoured by a visit by Colonel and Mrs. Phillips, or a representative of the family. This, he went on to say, showed clearly the great interest taken by them in our welfare during their long stay in India. In conclusion, he wished Colonel and Mrs. Phillips and family, on behalf of all Mess members and their families, *bon voyage* and the very best of health and luck for the future.

This was replied to by Colonel Phillips in a short but highly amusing speech at the conclusion of which he expressed his sincere hope of renewing our acquaintances in the near future.

Corporals' Room.—The only event to report is the frequent gathering of distinguished members in order to debate with great gusto, the behaviour of the Corporals' Room chimney. It is a true, but nevertheless strange fact, that for three solid months a certain N.C.O. has been trying to light the fire in the room.

After numerous unsuccessful attempts, the R.S.M. was called in to cast his evil eye over the said chimney, with the result that the chimney was opened up, and to the dismay of all, there just wasn't any hole there for the smoke to go up. The M.E.S. had forgotten to do this little job of work when they built the fireplace in 1936. Would you believe it ?

JUNIOR N.C.O.s, PESHAWAR DISTRICT SIGNALS, NOVEMBER, 1938.



Back Row (left to right) : Lance Corporal Buirski, Lance Corporal Ormiston, Lance Corporal Bread, Corporal White, Lance Corporal Holder, Lance Corporal White V., Lance Corporal Purkiss, Lance Corporal Hansen, Lance Corporal Ricketts, Lance Corporal Healey, Lance Corporal Legge.

Middle Row (left to right) : Corporal Blaikie, Corporal Abbott, Corporal Evans, Corporal Mills, Lance Corporal Moseley, Corporal Fenton, Corporal Gentle, Corporal Spence, Corporal Jordan, Corporal Mann.

Front Row (left to right) : Lance Corporal Sergeant, Corporal Day, R.S.M. Strange, Captain W. A. K. Stodart, Lieutenant-Colonel H. N. Brown, Corporal Robson, Lieutenant (Quartermaster) C. H. Caulfield, Corporal Bowyer.

Peshawar District Signals, Peshawar.

4th December.

The absence of notes from this Unit for the last two months is regretted.

Promotions.—The following B.O.R.s of this Unit have been promoted as shown : Sergeant Wilkins T. to C.Q.M.S. ; Lance Sergeant Atkinson R. to Sergeant ; Corporals Dobson S. and McLaven L. to Lance Sergeants ; Lance Corporals Gentle E. and Mann W. to Corporal ; Signalmen Haxell and Pritchard to Paid Lance Corporal ; Signalmen Healey L., Simpson, Legge and Kedwards to U/Lance Corporal. Promotion beer has been flowing by the gallon !

Musketry.—Musketry results for the year 1938-39 were quite flattering, as the Unit obtained all first class shots with only five exceptions. The highest score was obtained by Lance Corporal Purkiss with a score of 63 out of a possible 65. Rather good shooting (or good marking !). Which was it, Peggy ? Lance Corporal Purkiss received the Commanding Officer's prize of Rs. 10 for the " best shot."

Arrivals.—Lieutenant-Colonel H. N. Brown, Royal Signals (our new C.O.), with his family, have arrived from England. May your stay be a long and happy one, sir.

Entertainments.—We held our first All Ranks Dance of the season on 5th November, and it was voted a great success. Everyone has told us how much they enjoyed it. (The Bar seemed to be a great attraction.)

We have also started the weekly Whist Drives, which are proving a great success. (All the card sharpers in the Unit are busy getting their packs of cards marked.)

The Corporals' Mess held a " Smoker " during November, when a good time was had by all—at least the Beer Bar Babu thought so next morning. He had to get in a new stock of headache powders after the " locals " had finished doctoring themselves.

Collective Training.—" J " and " F " Sections are at present in camp with " PESHBDE " at Spin Kana. They return on 15th December, or thereabouts.

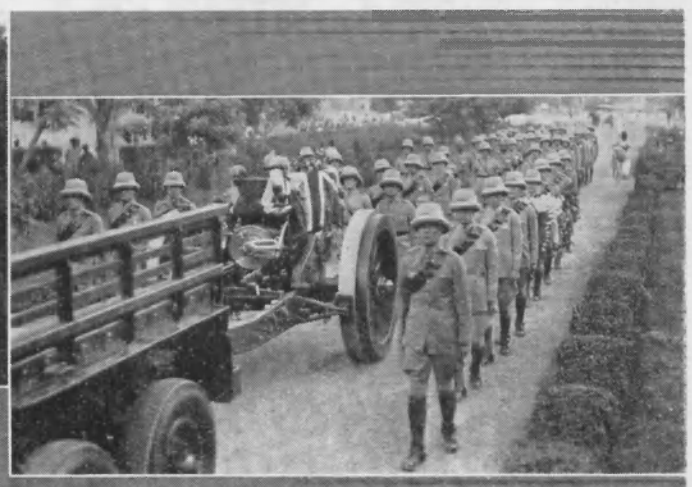
Repatriations.—The second Unit draft left on 2nd December, per H.T. Neuralia. The draft comprised : Corporal Robson F., and Corporal Thomas P. and family. They are destined for Catterick.

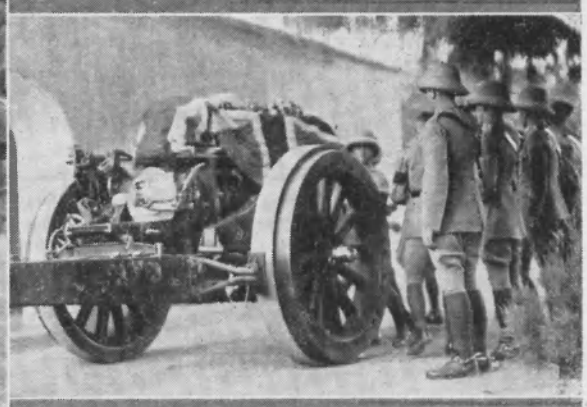
The next drafts from this Unit proceed on 17th January and 21st January, respectively, per H.T.s Lancashire and Dorsetshire. All we hear in the Unit at present is, " Forty days to go " and " Roll on Blighty."

Obituary.—It is with regret that we have to announce the death of No. 2325198 Signalman Curtain W., who died of typhoid fever at the British Military Hospital, Peshawar, on 1st November. He was buried with full military honours on 2nd November.

Many former members of the Indian Signal Corps will also be shocked to hear of the death of Colonel A. W. Pulverman,

PESHAWAR DISTRICT SIGNALS.





Funeral of the late Signalman Curtain W.

I.A., at Peshawar, on 29th November, as the result of multiple injuries sustained in a motor accident on the previous day.

Colonel Pulverman raised "E" Divisional Signals (now 3rd Indian Divisional Signals) in 1916, and served with the Indian Signal Corps until 1924. At the time of his death he was A.A. and Q.M.G., Peshawar District. He was buried at Peshawar on 30th November.

He took a great interest in Peshawar Signals, and will be greatly missed by us. He was one of a strong contingent of ex-Signals officers in Peshawar and District, among whom may be mentioned: Colonel de Butts, the G.S.O.1 (late 7th Indian Divisional Signals), Majors Dixon, Leonard and Cradock-Watson and Captain MacMunn, to name only a few at random.

Cricket.—Another sporting honour bestowed upon Peshawar District Signals was the selection of Lance Corporals Moseley E. and Buirski E. to play for the N.W.F.P. cricket team in the "All India" Cricket Tournament.

In the first match, the team played the Delhi and District team, whom they beat by an innings and 140 runs; Lance Corporals Moseley and Buirski distinguished themselves by their brilliant fielding, which was a feature of the match. Lance Corporal Purkiss, also of this Unit, was selected to act as umpire in the match.

The next game is against "Patiala State," which is to be played at Patiala, and both Lance Corporal Moseley and Lance Corporal Buirski have been selected to play in this match, which will commence on 2nd January. Lance Corporal Purkiss has also been selected to officiate as umpire.

Other Sports.—Nothing of note has happened in the hockey, rugby or football sphere, but the District Tournaments are due to commence in the near future and will be reported at a later date.

SILO.

Waziristan District Signals.

Dera Ismail Khan,
6th December.

Apologies are tendered for the absence of notes from the Headquarters of this Unit.

The summer has been a busy time for all Sections, and detachments from Headquarters have gone out frequently whenever two or more Brigades have co-operated. The Unit is at present re-inforced by detachments from most of the Signal Units in the Northern Command, and our stations are scattered over all the lines of communication in the District, at Bannu, Mirali, Damdil, Miranshah, Tal-in-Tochi, Razani, Razmak, Wana, Manzai, and Dera Ismail Khan.

Captain Hoysted has proceeded home in order to attend a Staff College Course. Lieutenant Young has joined us from "A" Corps Signals, and is now commanding Bannu Section. Captain Harrison and Lieutenant Honeybourne are home on leave. Lieutenant De Souza has left us, having finished his attachment, and has gone to Trimulgherry. He has been replaced by Lieutenant B. D. Kapur, S.L., I.L.F.

The first boat has gone, and with it sailed Sergeants Bosworth, Searle, and Brown, Lance Sergeant Greatorex, Signalmen Fox, Hallam, Hernen, Metcalfe, "Vass" Morrison, Read, and Wright, all for Vocational Training Courses; Signalmen Craig and Petrie for transfer to the Army Reserve; Signalman Moss to the Home Establishment; and Signalman Taylor as an invalid.

Lance Corporal Kelly has had the good fortune to be selected to attend a Foreman-of-Signals Course at Catterick Camp, commencing in January, and he sails in a few days' time.

The following are going home in January: C.S.M. Lombard, Sergeant Field, Corporals Ashford and Honeybourne, Lance Corporals Satchwell, Sweeny, and Stanley, Signalmen "Bones" Adams, Herberts, Chappel, and Carrott.

Corporal Durnan has gone to Quetta Arsenal on transfer to the I.A.O.C. with the rank of Sergeant.

The winter season has begun. The Sergeants' Mess are holding their weekly dances, and there have been two All Ranks' Dances.

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Farewell nights were held by the Draft for at least ten days prior to their departure.

Our Christmas preparations are proceeding apace. Fortunately they will not be interfered with by the local Prohibition Act, but they might be for the usual reason that occurs in this part of the world.

Kohat District Signals, Kohat.

General.—Like the famous brook, the personnel of this Unit seems to go on for ever. New faces come and old faces go, but Kohat District Signals still remains to supply the necessary personnel for Schemes, War Games, and other pastimes of the "un-idle" soldier.

By now, our readers will have guessed that we are in the midst of the training season with "Northland" suddenly invading "Southland" (the brutes) and, since might is not always right, we must turn out and do a little against the approach of militant hordes. This fact is our excuse for any frailty in these notes and also for their "scrappiness."

We often wish that all the old-timers were here with us, for, judging by the way in which they talked about Schemes, Routes Marches, "Recces" and the like, they would have been thoroughly at home here. We are led to believe that the services of our chiropodist, "Beau Sidney" have been, and will be, much in evidence this season, for sore feet and aching backs seem to be the order of the day on a return from Schemes, not forgetting, of course, that main item of a soldier's existence—a gentle "tick."

In addition to Schemes, we must not overlook the intense fervour with which Individual Training is greeted, for it is only afterwards that we hear of the strain placed upon those who participate. We do appreciate the fact, but can we believe all that we hear? Being confirmed disbelievers, we venture to think that the personnel of the I.T. Class will not be any the worse for the trouble, certainly not—we hope—financially.

Passing.—Rather a cryptic title for this part, but we refer to those who have left us, and to those who will leave us before these notes are in print.

Kohat should now become a quiet peaceful little suburb as the worthy " Robbo " and his confrere " Dinty," have left us for the English countryside. It became rather boring towards the end of his sojourn here for the news that, " there were only . . . hours to go " became most tiresome after being heard about thirty or forty times a day. Remonstrance having little or no effect, someone removed the calendar and consequently changed the subject. Our heartiest thanks are due to this anonymous benefactor for creating a precedent and giving " Robbo " something worth talking about.

Still, all this is by the way. We really are glad that they have at last reached that goal of the serving soldier—the limit of their engagement. They will be missed on the field of sport. We wish them all everything they may wish themselves.

With them went our quiet, but efficient, I.M.T. Corporal, " Happy Harry " Ransome. In passing, may we extend to him our congratulations on passing the Foreman-of-Signals entrance examination. " Copper " Jimmy Robson, who will be missed in the sporting arena, and the Unit goalkeeper, Signalman " John " Hobden, have also gone. We were hoping that it would have been possible for John to have stayed a little longer, at least until we had obtained a substitute, but he decided that England, home and beauty (?) called far too strongly. The last member of this band to go was our " Geordie " (Signalman Faulder, chaps, Signalman Faulder), who decided that a Vocational Course—whether civilian or Army does not matter—would be just " up his street " for six months, and so, with George Oram—who had a pleasant stay in Waziristan just before leaving us—he has gone to work.

Many others will be leaving us shortly, amongst whom are C.S.M. Quick, Sergeants Bryant and Taplin, Lance Corporals Turvey, Clarke H., Fordham, and Signalmen Rae, King, Knight, and Birkbeck. We can only hope that the large draft which we are supposed to receive in January will not be lost *en route*.

Arrivals have been few. Signalmen Hobday, Hudd, and Lintott joined us from Jubbulpore.

Our comic scene painter and hockey star, " Ginger " Bateman, who has committed himself for another year, has proceeded to Jubbulpore.

We wish all newcomers to the Unit the very best, and to all those who have left, or are shortly leaving us, we hope that they may find their dreams come true in England.

Greetings.—To all Units, home and abroad, we extend our wishes for a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

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WESTERN COMMAND ..... ***INDIAN ARMY***

Western (I) District Signals.

November.

While these notes are in the process of being laboriously compiled, stirring events are in progress in every Signal Unit, as they must be throughout the rest of the world, for Christmas is in the offing. As usual, we are looking forward to what should be a bumper festive season.

During the past month several startling changes have occurred. R.S.M. Noonan M. J. has left us to take his commission in the U.K. The following have also left us for Blighty on H.T. " Neuralia " : Sergeant McAdie and family, Corporal Bradshaw, Signalmen Ager, Parker, Everson, Ford, and Buckles. Our best wishes go with them for the future.

We tender our heartiest congratulations to Lieutenant and Mrs. P. C. Williams on the birth of a daughter on 5th December at the British Military Hospital, Quetta.

A Unit Dance (All Ranks), which was held on 15th November at the Masonic Hall, resulted in a very happy time being spent by all. The Unit Dance Band played for the dancing, and was very much appreciated by the large number of visitors. Several members of the community hearing the Band play at this dance were so pleased by the performance that they decided that it would be to the benefit of all concerned if the Band made its debut at a Railway Dance to be held at Sukkur. (This may or may not be due to the reputed excellence of the xylophone solos given by our very versatile drummer, Signalman Walker. (The writer has, so far, been denied the privilege of hearing them).

In answer to a query by " BARLEUX," the Lance Corporal Crockett mentioned in our earlier notes is not the Drummer of Tom Sayers' Band. So far his musical talents have been confined to the " Big Pig " in our dance band.

Our Nursing Sisters have returned from the B.M.H. where they were relieving the P.W. Vols. until the arrival of the Lancashire Fusiliers. So far, no sudden deaths have been reported and no miraculous cures have been effected, so we gather that they performed their duties in a smart and soldier-like manner typical of Western (I) District Signals.

Zhob Signal Section called for our aid in a " Column," and Corporal Allen and eleven B.O.R.s left us for a short stay with that Section.

Sport has been mainly confined to games within the Unit during the month, and almost every one has been at some time or another emulating the First Division stars at football, or showing how much air it is possible to displace with a hockey stick. Training is now in progress for the " Polo a la Mule " Tournament, to be played during the Christmas period.

Individual training is still in progress, but no real howlers have reached the scribe for reporting, but we hear that instructors are wondering how a message marked " IMMEDIATE " came to be marked " P," and was received as " D " during a recent Traffic Scheme.

We have not yet had the pleasure of welcoming any one from Utopia (pronounced England), but we are informed by Unit Part One Orders that three fortunate individuals are shortly coming this way. According to their own statements, all those due for repatriation are sailing on the next boat. We have no comments to make, but D.V.W.P.

And so in the words of the famous poet we conclude with that old Latin tag, *Auf wiedersehn mes braves.*"

RONKAY.

OTHER STATIONS ABROAD

No. 2 Company, Egypt Signals.

6th December.

Having been in this country for about twelve months, the present "Winchell" should surely know some interesting flashes concerning No. 2 Company, says my predecessor. S—r-g——nt Sn——k, the old maestro, is a most charming man, and combines this virtue with an almost infinite capacity for hard work. He is very sorry indeed that, owing to the special circumstances described below, he is unable at this time to satisfy the avidity of his wide public. However, he begs me to assure you that next month, or the next, or the month after that, he will surely be with you again, and on that occasion he promises you a bumber number and a free gift. By a special arrangement, the price of the WIRE will not be increased on this occasion, but readers are earnestly recommended to order their copies well in advance.

Like a lusty caterpillar after hibernating during the winter, No. 2 Company has, at last, burst its cocoon, and emerged a more gorgeous creation than was perhaps dreamt of at its conception. At present, with "A" Section from No. 1 Company, it forms the nucleus of Egypt Mobile Divisional Signals. At present, however, and until the trooping season, the function and scope of the formation will continue to be limited, owing to the lack of personnel, and further notes, beyond mention of its existence, are therefore not available.

To Major Wheatley, recently repatriated, is to a large extent due the credit for the success of the Company. Major Walford, who was at the helm during the difficult time of the recent Emergency, is our Company Commander, Lieutenants Walker and De Blum are the industrious and deservedly popular leaders of "W" and "Z" Troops respectively.

Please do not think of this as an obituary when we write that Lance Corporal Hancox is with us no more. Like Mr. Neville Chamberlain, "Hank" comes from Birmingham, and, in addition to this obvious advantage, has become an A1 tradesman since joining the Corps, and is ambitious withal. Consequent upon his recent repatriation, he has announced his endeavour to obtain an appointment as Staff-Sergeant in the R.A.O.C. He is assured that all the Company mourns the departure of an excellent all-round sportsman and a good fellow.

Although our mutual friend "Walter" is not an athlete, he feels a detached pride in the achievements of his Company. The great event of the month was, of course, the winning by Company Headquarters, with "F" Troop, of the Unit Cross-country Championship. During the Boxing Tournament unsuspected talent was uncovered in the persons of "Sammy" Argyle and "Champ" Parsons. The Company supplies the Unit team with its three brightest stars—"Wee Jock," "Gary" and "Topper."

This Month's Fairy Story.—Once upon a time a certain N.C.O. took a Course of Pelmanism. In compliance with one of the lessons, he went to Cairo and memorised the articles in the window of one of the shops. The following week he returned for a check-up and found that he had forgotten the name of the street.

The first person to reveal the identity of this N.C.O. will receive a prize of one month's leave, subject, of course, to the usual exigencies of the service.

W. W.

"F" Troop.

While your humble scribe was holding them back in Palestine, the remainder of the Troop was sent to help (?) "W" Troop at Mersa Matruh during the Emergency, which, we gather, materialised into a grand swimming party!

Arrivals and Departures.—Little is left of the original Troop. "W" Troop found their assistants indispensable, and have kept them. The select few who remain are under the able leadership of Corporal Gant.

Boxing.—Although we only entered three men in the Inter-Section Tournament, they finished as winners of their respective weights. Our congratulations are tendered to Drivers Argyle and Parsons. The other name must remain forever hidden. (I blush every time I see my name in the papers.)

Cross-country.—Once again we "shook them," winning the first run by a clear margin of sixty-six points. In the two following runs, "D" Section beat us by a very narrow margin. On the aggregate, we won by forty-four points. Hurrah for us!

Flash.—We have just won the first Inter-Section Shooting Match, beating No. 3 Company and "E" Section by thirty-six points.

Our Tame Poet.—The Poet Laureate had better look to his laurels if the following is an example of what our tame poet can produce.

CAIRO.

The kites of Old Cairo are circling high,
Weird specks in the wondrous blue of the sky;
Before me the polyglot populace streams,
Like kaleidoscopic relays in dreams;
There's a spell o'er this Egypt—its women and men,
But I'm longing—just longing—for Blighty again.

The lure of this Cairo—how hard to resist,
There's wine to be quaffed, and lips to be kissed;
The heart of the desert—it calls all the while,
I hasten to Alex.—I bow to the Nile;
There's the Sphinx, the Pyramids and Suez, but then—
My soul always yearns for Blighty again.

The sands of the desert are scorching our feet,
We're cursing the flies, the dust, and the heat;
Old "Abdul" doesn't like us,
We can't make him smile;
Oh, I'm sick of it all, and am wondering when
I shall ever see England—my England again.

E. R. N.

The following masterpiece comes from an entirely different source; some of the more observant of you may notice a slight difference in the style. It's all about a fellow who is anxiously expecting to proceed home next year for a very sinister reason.

AN ODE TO GARY, OR MATRIMONIAL MATHEMATICS.

3 winks	=	1 smile.
4 smiles	=	1 meeting.
2 meetings	=	1 kiss.
100 kisses	=	1 proposal.
3 proposals	=	1 engagement.
1 engagement	=	1 marriage.
1 marriage	=	30 years of misery.
30 years misery	=	1 funeral.
1 funeral	=	HAPPINESS.

PEACE, PERFECT PEACE.

Which just goes to prove that marriages can be happy after all.

Finale.—That's all for now, folk, except that Christmas is almost upon us, though it hardly seems the case here. We wish you all that you wish yourselves, and hope that the after-effects will not be too bad.

Jews' Mail.—"Crack" (701). "What about that letter you owe me? Nobby."

Parsons to Wally K.: "What about some Tidworth news?

Hello, "Basher"! Ern calling. "What about slinging some ink this way?"

Good hunting!

CLARKICKO.

"W" Troop.

General.—Section training is once again in full swing, and the days are enlightened with short trips into the surrounding desert. The biggest event of the month was the birth of a daughter to Queen Farida. The peace of the Egyptian night was shattered by the roar of guns announcing the event. The Troop sent a few representatives to the parade which took place the next day.

Arrivals and Departures.—During the month the following Troopites have sailed across the briny: Lance Sergeants Orton and White, Signalmen Watt and Beveridge. The last-named is proceeding for a Vocational Course in preparation for "Civvy Street."

Sport.—Since returning from our holiday in the Western Desert, we have tried to make up for lost time. Two friendly matches against the R.E. Services resulted in a home loss and an away win.

At the last moment the Troopites rallied round and entered a team for the Unit Boxing Competition. What they lacked in skill was made up for in spirit, and they finished second to "D" Section. The Troop leader's gesture after the boxing was much appreciated by the team. Thank you, sir! The team was congratulated by the Adjutant on their fine spirit.

The Troop entered a team in each of the three Inter-Section Cross-country Runs. Despite injuries and other sport interfering, we finished third in each run, thus gaining third place in the grand total.

With the hope of a good team for football and hockey, we hope the Mansergh Cup will find a new home this year.

Conclusion.—As we shall not be in print again before the New Year is well on its way, we wish all ex-Troopites and all readers of the WIRE a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

EIFLA.

No. 3 Company, Egypt Signals.

General.—We regret that by the time these notes appear in print it will be too late to wish readers a happy Christmas, but it will, we trust, be in time to extend to all readers our sincere greetings for the New Year. We regret also the spasmodic appearance of WIRE notes from No. 3 Company during the past three months, but Palestine and the Western Desert, and the departure of our scribe, have all tended to make us procrastinate. All Sections have returned from their various "wars," and we trust that the pages of the WIRE will henceforth increase accordingly.

It is difficult for us to be quite up-to-date. "J" Section, for example, returned from Palestine only this morning, and it will be six weeks or more ere we or you read these notes in print. We are sure that "J" Section's contribution to these notes could be most interestingly trebled given a little more time; but by the time they are written, the *Daily Mail* and many others will have made the front page scoop that "J" might easily have done.

R. B.

"E" Section.

To all those readers who have any reason to follow events of interest in the Land of the Pharaohs, and especially of No. 3 Company, Egypt Signals, we humbly present the latest gift from the military stork—"E" Section.

The Section was organised during the early part of the current year. The function of its members is to serve the Royal Artillery in this Command.

Owing to pressure of work and sundry crises, both international and local, your correspondent on the Mersa Matruh front must cut this despatch short with a definite promise of news in the next issue of the WIRE.

NOMAD.

"K" Section.

During the early summer our five W/T Detachments were employed on reconnaissances over the desert and among the hills of Sinai. These little trips, which are usually of about three hundred miles during the three or four days of the reconnaissance, are very interesting, and provide some very good tests for vehicles, sets and men's nerves.

As far as we are concerned, these trips came to an end when Lance Sergeant Davey and the five W/T Detachments were rushed off to Palestine. Their good work during the following twelve weeks in that troublesome part of the world was brought to an end by the crisis of October, when the Section was concentrated at Moascar. During the period that followed, we can only say that the work carried out in the Canal Zone was of a very interesting character.

In November we were back in Abbassia once again for a week's local leave, and the chance of getting that B.1 that we thought lost. Time was also devoted to the much-needed overhauling of stores and vehicles.

Our O.C. Section, Lieutenant M. A. Lloyd, is at present with the R.A.F. We are hoping that he has spotted some short cuts through those hills for next summer's work.

Arrivals and Departures.—We have said good-bye to three of the lads: Driver (I.C.) Jarvis, Signalmen Martin and Allen, who prefer city life to the wide open spaces. We wish them good luck in civilian life. Signalman Barnett has left us for No. 1 Company and Moascar, and Signalman Watts for No. 2 Company. Their bed spaces are now occupied by Signalmen Salmon and Calderwood from Nos. 2 and 1 Companies respectively. The latter recently joined the Unit from Palestine Signals.

Our best wishes for a happy 1939 to all readers.

SALMON.

"J" Section (Cairo Brigade).

Introduction.—To all but old soldiers and R.E. fixtures, the above heading is a new one; hence these few introductory words regarding the work done during the last month or so.

The Section boasts of Sergeant "Griffin" Penn; Lance Sergeants "Chippy" Wood and Main; Corporals Marsh and Bennett; Lance Corporals Tyler, "Wog" Calver, "Father" O'Donnell, and the rest of us, concerning whom much more will be related in subsequent issues of this magazine.

The *original* purpose of Cairo Brigade (of which "J" is the Signal Section) was to ensure that Cairo was a safe place for its cosmopolitan population and American tourists to live in. Needless to say (read your newspapers for confirmation), this purpose has been successfully accomplished, for Egypt's fair city of sunshine, sand and shoe-blacks now enjoys an enviable freedom from trouble and strife, and Cairo Brigade has now to look elsewhere to justify its existence.

The powers that be soon settled this point, and the July of this year saw many of us in Palestine.

On 28th September, the remainder of the Section, under Captain J. E. S. Sanders, moved to Mersa Matruh in full war paint, anticipating the worst, but hoping for the best. Later on, the "Palestinians," less Signalman Douglas, joined us, and the good work was continued. Our stay, thanks to the Prime Minister, was short lived, and on 10th October we had two hours' notice to quit.

In the middle of October we set out for Alexandria by road, and, after a long and dusty ride, we boarded the S.S. "Vasna." We landed at Haifa on 17th October, and took up our duties at Sarafand the same day. We left Palestine on 2nd December, returning to Abbassia.

Arrivals.—Signalman Thompson W., from "E" Section. Welcome, pal!

Departures.—Captain J. E. S. Sanders left us at Sarafand for duty with No. 2 W/T Company. We wish him the best of everything in his new appointment.

Signalman Douglas left us for "E" Section, and Signalman Clement has proceeded to "Blighty" and civilian life. (Good luck, "Sandy"!)

FLAP.

Egypt Signals Cricket Notes.— The 1938 season has been a comparatively good one for the Unit as a whole. There have been many pleasant and interesting games, and the general standard of cricket is better than it has been for some years. It is hoped that next season will be even better.

UNIT GAMES.

The Unit XI developed into a good, all-round team, their main weakness being in batting. Under normal circumstances most of this year's team should remain for next season, so that the prospects are good.

In the Command Cricket Championship we beat the 1st Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment, in a very exciting two-day game at Moascar by four wickets. The scores were :

Royal Sussex Regiment : 194 (Major Walford 3 for 27 ; Lance Corporal Malony 3 for 26) ;
and 76 (Major Walford 3 for 10 ; Lance Corporal Nurse 4 for 18).

Egypt Signals : 121 (Brown 32 ; Captain Sanders 20) ;
and 153 for 6 (Signalman Searle 34 ; Major Walford 33).

In the second round, 3rd Battalion, Coldstream Guards, who reached the final, beat us at Alexandria by two wickets in an even more exciting game. The scores were :

Egypt Signals : 47 (Brown 23) ;
and 79 (Major Walford 19 ; Brown 19 ; Lance Corporal Nurse 18).

Coldstream Guards : 81 (Lance Corporal Malony 4 for 10) ;
and 47 for 8 (Major Walford 4 for 22).

In the Frank Cook Cup Competition, we were beaten in the first round by the Willcocks Sporting Club, who ultimately reached the final. The scores were :

Willcocks S.C. : 269 (Corporal Newman 4 for 65 ; Drury 3 for 36).

Egypt Signals : 125 (Searle 19 ; Brown 19).

The record of the Unit for other games during the season was : Played 18, won 10, lost 7, drawn 1. Players averages were :

BATTING.

	Ings.	Not Out.	Runs.	Highest Score.	Average.
Signalman Willoughby	5	3	130	57*	65
Lance Corporal Nurse	11	4	194	56*	28
Major Walford	12	1	274	71*	24.9
Lance Corporal Cooper	18	1	383	81*	21.5
Signalman Dickerson	12	3	189	67*	21
Signalman Brown O.	18	0	337	52	18.7
Captain Sanders	13	2	198	36	18
Signalman Taylor	12	3	140	48*	15.5
Lance Corporal Malony	13	0	181	36	13.9
Signalman Hadfield	3	1	27	14	13.5
Signalman Crossman	5	1	49	20	12.2
Signalman Searle	14	2	135	34	11.9
Lance Sergeant Wood	11	1	108	37	10.8
Signalman Drury	6	0	58	19	9.7
Corporal Newman	7	2	48	22	9.6
Captain R. G. Muir	9	0	54	23	6

* Not out.

BOWLING.

	Overs.	Maidens.	Runs.	Wkts.	Avge.
Major Walford	124	29	297	39	7.6
Signalman Crossman	10	1	34	3	10
Signalman Taylor	86	15	283	25	11.3
Lance Corporal Malony	122	27	396	29	13.7
Lance Corporal Nurse	84	11	340	23	14.8
Lance Sergeant Wood	17	1	79	5	15.8
Corporal Newman	81	9	332	19	17.5
Signalman Drury	62	11	233	11	21.2
Signalman Willoughby	29	5	91	3	30 3

"X" Troop, Cavalry Signals, Cairo.

Helmieh.

By the time that these notes appear in print Christmas will be over, but we do sincerely hope that all readers of the WIRE will have had a thoroughly enjoyable time.

The Troop is still distributed far and wide. Some are here, others at Haifa and Jerusalem, and there is a detachment at Nablus, one at Iqrit, and one at Nazareth.

Lance Corporal Lea and Signalman Rogers have left us for good. We miss them both very much, and wish them every success in civilian life.

Signalman Hart has at last returned from leave in the U.K. We were sorry to learn that he had been ill (on his way home, in fact), and are pleased to know that he is quite fit again. He certainly missed the Palestine move, but for how long he is destined to stay in Egypt (we) he tremble (s) to think.

Driver (I.C.) Cray is still languishing in hospital, but we are hoping that he will be able to spend Christmas with the Troop.

H.Q. recently lost a very good friend in a dog that we knew by the name of " Garry." He was an English setter and had attached himself to us on our first visit this year to Palestine. (We have to say " this year " because some of the older hands have been here before.) On our second visit, we stayed at a different billet, but " Garry " found us within a very short time. At night he walked round with the sentries ; during the day he stood at the gate with the policeman. The dog never seemed to sleep, but just appeared to snatch a few minutes' rest now and again. It was during one of his short sleeps, beneath a car, that the driver decided to pull away. " Garry " is still asleep !

" Mick," our other old dog friend, is still as fat and lazy as ever. He is at Jerusalem with the inimitable Smith. We are told that " Mick " made a dive at one of the Friars in the Monastery, part of which is used as a billet by the troops. But was it a nun ? A word in Mick's ear : " Nun of that ; do you hear ? "

As a finale to this epistle, we have added a short elegy concerning " Garry," written by Signalman Rogers. Both have now left us, but we all hope to meet the latter in England.

" GARRY'S " ELEGY.

Lament in rhyme, lament in prose,
With salt tears trickling down your nose ;
Our doggie's fate is at a close,
Past all remede.
The last sad milestone of his woes ;
Poor " Garry's " dead !

It's not the loss of worldly gear
That could so bitter draw the tear
Or make us soulful wear
The mourning weed ;
We've lost a friend and neighbour dear
In " Garry "—dead !

On all our journeys he trotted by us,
A long half-mile he could descry us ;
With kindly bark when he did spy us,
And ran with speed ;
A friend more faithful ne'er came nigh us
Than " Garry "—dead !

ELEGY.

Which man could esteem or woman love
More than he who lies beneath the sod ;
If such thou refusest admission above
Then whom wilt thou favour, O God ?

PRO CANTATA

He shall not grow old as we that are left grow old ;
Age shall not weary him, nor the years condemn ;
At the going down of the sun, and in the morning,
We will remember him.

G. A. D.

Delta Area A.A. Signal Section.

Alexandria.

14th December.

Having read in the December WIRE of the exploits of our brother Units in Egypt during the recent political crisis, we hastily take up the pen to chronicle our own adventures. Although we are doomed to remain anchored in Alexandria, and rather envy those who had excursions into the desert at the tax-payers' expense, we probably took a greater part than anybody in the activities of that exciting period.

Up till 7 p.m. on 22nd September all was peace and quietness in Alexandria. During the evening of that day Signalmen were idly returning from the bathing beaches, or shaking themselves to wakefulness beneath their mosquito nets preparatory to a visit to the night life of the town. At 7 p.m. all that was changed. A conference was suddenly arranged at Headquarters, and the Group was ordered to prepare to take up their positions in Alexandria at two hours' notice. The notice came at 9 p.m. that all guns and searchlights were to be in position by 4 a.m. next morning, and that telephone communication to all of them must be through by then.

The positions in question are scattered all through and around Alexandria, covering a very wide area. Luckily, the Section had previously erected air-line routes to most of them, but owing to lack of stores, some twenty miles of route remained to be completed. Having packed up their kit and drawn ammunition, the Section was out of camp by 10.15 p.m., and a night of real activity had begun. The Exchange had to be wired up, some thirty lines had to be connected, and we only had a ten-line cordless switchboard. A telegram was sent to Cairo for a larger one, which arrived the next day; but in the meantime three lines were connected to each number on the cordless board. Fifteen miles of cable were laid during the night, while the O.C. Section spent many hours arranging for the hire of civilian lines.

The next few days were hectic. Telephone calls everywhere; twelve connections at once were very often on the board; trunk calls to Cairo and Suez; hundreds of messages and phonograms; and in the middle of it all we had to move our telephone exchange and control room to a bullet-proof room!

Our activities were not entirely confined to A.A. work. Line and W/T communications had to be established with R.A.F. Units and other formations. One of the most amusing jobs we had to do was to lay a four-mile cable route for the Navy, part of which was in the sea. A naval pinnace and cutter were used for the job and, although these grounded several times, much to the consternation of the naval authorities, our lads and the *matelots* enjoyed themselves immensely. It is interesting to note that the "D8" cable used was recovered two months afterwards. The outer cover had perished where it had been in the sea, but the insulation was still good and the route was "through."

On 28th September, the political tension eased, but traffic flowed in great quantities on our lines for fully another week. On 15th October the last of the "Group" returned to barracks, but it was not until 7th November that the Section finally packed up and returned home. By that time we had picked up all our cable and made the lay-out complete in a semi-permanent state. This included the laying of 300 yards of 28-pair lead-in armoured cable, the erection of many more miles of air-line, and a 28-feet permanent terminal pole.

It is interesting to note that the Section arrived in Egypt in February of this year as a "Mobile" Cable Section. During its short stay in the country it has covered every item in a lineman's trade sheet, including permanent line and armoured cable, and has even dabbled in wireless!

H. N. C.

8th Divisional Signals, Palestine.

Haifa.

This is our first notes in the WIRE as we only came into existence with the Palestine Emergency Force. Our officers are Captain E. S. Cole, of boxing fame, and 2nd Lieutenant R. Lyle; the R.S.M. is Mr. Kingman. We are all grateful to them for their guidance and help during our early days.

Our journey in the S.S. "Helenus" was very uneventful, and, considering the time of the year, very smooth, but there were the usual cases of sea-sickness.

The first days following our arrival in Palestine had to be very carefully mapped out as we had to take over almost all the communications from the 16th Infantry Brigade.

We are very comfortably billeted in a commandeered hotel in the main part of the town, and are very near to all places of entertainment.

Our first rugger match in the country was played against the R.A.S.C., Haifa. It was a very successful game, much to the surprise and astonishment of the players and spectators, as the team was picked at extremely short notice and had never played together before. We hope that our future matches will have the same result.

Several N.C.O.s from other Signals Units here are attached to this Unit to show us how things are done out here. Amongst them are Corporals Callan and Ball, Lance Corporals Cooper and Lovatt. We also have Signalman Gibson with us. It was Signalman Gibson who organised the rugger match; he is a good player himself, and is always ready to provide a game for those who are as interested as himself.

There is one cafe that will miss the face of a certain N.C.O. when he departs. He is such a good orchestra leader, demonstrations of which he combines with displays of the rumba, etc.

Those "Punki Wallahs" who have been describing Palestine as a Cook's Tour have altered their views somewhat. Some of us are already losing weight.

Which chap selected himself for a game of football, turned out for hockey, and then discovered that someone had omitted his name from both lists?

Sergeant Shaw was sent up to us from Jerusalem. He has been found very valuable, and after much discussion, we have been allowed to keep him here.

There has been a lot of rain during the past few days, a fact which has caused much delving into remote corners for overcoats and waterproofs. Some of the hardier stalwarts have been swimming; they hasten to assure us that the water is very warm. Like so many others, we take their word for it.

An excellent effort was made by Corporal Callan and Signalman Walker to erect an aerial made of galvanised piping. Regarding their handiwork, one would think that it was an aerial mast gear that had been drawn from stores, for they have made a neat job of it.

Jew's Mail.—Jock Cameron. "We must band together chapsies, etc."

Alleo. "Hya Oway Akay Ownay?"

3902. "Wallace has died a natural death."

Sagandagie. "How did the leave go? What's Punki like nowadays? Pagoole."

Palestine Force Signals.

Headquarters.

Jerusalem.

December.

Congratulations to No. 2325222 Signalman Graham G. H. and No. 2324474 Signalman Dodman R. B. on the award of the Medal of the Military Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire for Meritorious Service. To Major R. H. R. Steward, M.C., Corporals Vigurs A. and Lane A., Lance Corporals Westbrook J. J. and Spearman G., Signalmen Purvis J. and Kebble H. for being cited in *General Orders* for devoted service other than in actual Operations in Palestine. To Lance Corporal Barr A. of Egypt Signals for distinguished conduct during Operations against armed bands in August, 1938. To Signalmen Kearney P. and Heaton P. for distinguished conduct in Operations during September, 1938.

To Lance Sergeant Lane on his promotion to that rank, and Corporals Pearce and Westbrook and Lance Corporals Evans K.

and Ryan on promotions to the ranks and appointments stated; and to Signalmen Smith J. (1691), McConnell-Wood F., Evans J. E. and Mitchell R. on obtaining a foothold on the ladder of fame.

To Lance Sergeant Lane, Corporal Lavender and Lance Corporal Callan on obtaining their First Class Certificate of Education.

It is with pleasure that we welcome back to the fold Major R. H. R. Steward, Mrs. Steward and daughter, and Mrs. Vickers, from their well-earned holidays in the United Kingdom.

The Units that recently arrived in Palestine from the U.K. included the 7th and 8th Divisional Signals, and the 18th and 19th Infantry Brigade Signals. With them came Lieutenant-Colonel C. P. Prescot, Major F. K. Morton, Major and Quartermaster C. H. Manton, M.B.E., Captains F. C. Newsome, F. R. B. Moore and E. S. Cole, 2nd Lieutenants O. B. G. Shoubridge and B. A. H. Bogle, R.S.M. Kingman, R.Q.M.S. Evelyn and many other well-known N.C.O.s. We welcome back the old hands, known as the "Pioneers," and hope that they will find everything to their liking.

The strength of Signals in Palestine has more than doubled, but as a result of the increased Operations that followed the arrival of the extra Divisions, we still feel short-handed. However, we look upon the new arrivals as the "new rich class taking their winter holidays in the Mediterranean," but we do wish that we were homing birds, too.

This year the trooping list is very small, and only one other individual remains to sail. Corporals Honor V. C. C. and Mills and Signalman Fortune have departed, the former to the H.E., the others to the Reserve. Signalmen Brooks, Fulton, Worton and Lynch have been invalided to the U.K., and it is hoped they will soon be back in harness again.

The weather has now reached breaking point, and soon we shall be competing with a winter that only Palestine can produce.

Christmas arrangements are in full swing, and great things are in the offing.

Howlers.—To P.F.S. from No. 3 Section: "BEER and BOOZER with 'C' Set to you by D.R.L.S. Monday."

To P.F.S. from No. 5 Section: "No. 1 Set available for ALLENBURY Bridge."

Why, may we ask, does a certain operator complain that he hears morse in his sleep?

Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess.

Headquarters, Palestine Force Signals, Jerusalem.
9th November.

Much water has flowed down the Nile since notes under this heading appeared in print. What with additional labour put upon our already over-burdened shoulders, the siege of the Holy City, and the appearance of many familiar faces from home in the Mess (see list of sailings catalogued in Cook's Tourist Agency), something had to go west.

First on the agenda comes the news of further "Mentions" in connection with service in Palestine. The names of the following have been brought to the notice of the G.O.C. for devoted service, other than actual Operations: Major R. N. R. Steward, M.C., Royal Signals, Lance Sergeant Lane and Corporal Vigurs. Congratulations to all of them.

Further congratulations of the Mess are bestowed upon the following upon their appointment: Lance Sergeants Holsey, Vize, Lane and Greenman.

We welcome back from leave in the U.K. our Commanding Officer, Major R. N. R. Steward, M.C., Royal Signals, and hope to see him, together with other officers of those Signal Units that have recently arrived in Palestine from England, in the Mess at an early date.

Reference was made in my opening paragraph to many familiar faces appearing in the Mess. Well, here they are: R.S.M. Kingman, R.Q.M.S. Evelyn, C.Q.M.S. Higham, Sergeants Dunn, Stibbs, Prees, Beckley, Wintermere and Boxall, Lance Sergeants Stevens, Bartley and Shaw, Corporals Dollimore and Nicklin. Good hunting to you all, and don't forget to buy a ticket in the Mess Christmas Draw; you will still be here to wrap yourselves around the "Double X."

Preliminary arrangements for the festive season at Yuletide are well on the way, and everything points for a bumper show.

Social life, owing to heavy pressure of duties outside the Mess, has been rather curtailed; nevertheless, some good shows have been put on, and our thanks are extended to the Committee.

Apart from water flowing down the Nile, Jerusalem has had more than its share during the past week. Ex-Palestine Signals will, no doubt, understand when we say that it has commenced to rain.

A recent very welcome visitor to the Mess was Conductor G. Hales, R.A.O.C., better known to the Corps as "Dub." Mr. Hales recently arrived in this country with Headquarters, 7th Division, but, unfortunately, his stay in Jerusalem was only destined for a few days; Sarafand is now his country address.

Time is up, readers, and so here's to the next time, wishing members of the Corps, at home and abroad, a merry Christmas.

FOUR X TWO.

No. 3 Section, Nablus.

December.

Although WIRE notes from this Section have been conspicuous by their absence, we really have a legitimate excuse. About six months ago we indicated that we were busy, but we find now that we could not have been as busy as we thought. We are doing about ten times more work now, and thriving on it.

The arrival of more Signals from England has not, unfortunately, eased the strain in this part of Palestine. On the contrary, we have lost A/Corporal Ball and Lance Corporal Lovatt, who have been called away for duty with 8th Division, Haifa. On the other hand, we have got both Sergeants Aitken and Stevens back to the fold, after a lengthy sojourn in hospital; both appear little the worse for their accident. Both Signalmen Worton and Lynch are no longer with us, having been sent to England on medical grounds. Signalman Davoll is recuperating at the Nathanya Convalescent Camp, and Signalman Dempsey is recovering from the effects of a bullet.

We congratulate U/Lance Corporals Evans and Mitchell on their appointment, and also extend the congratulatory hand to Sergeant Stevens on becoming the proud possessor of another son, Robin Antony by name, and who was born on 2nd December.

The Section is very scattered, and we are finding it increasingly difficult to keep in touch with everybody. We propose to carry out Individual Training Courses this winter through the medium of a Correspondence Course. This is, we think, something of an innovation, and a very good idea.

Life is inclined to be a little grim and earnest, but everybody is bearing up extremely well. Leave parties proceed to Tel Aviv for a couple of days occasionally, and is very much appreciated, although some ideas of relaxation are, to say the least, a trifle peculiar.

We have no tales of hand-to-hand fights with Arabs; no sagas of breathless heroism enacted beneath the romantic eastern moon (peeping, of course, through the fronds of softly whispering palm trees). No; we just have our work to do, and no time for such pleasantness. It is not for nothing, however, that we are known as "The Terror of the Terrorists." Or, perhaps, we aren't. Never mind!

CHIB.

THE CORPS IN THE NEWS.

We are glad to publish the following extract from the *Daily Express*, and congratulate Signalman Heaton on his well-deserved decoration.—ED.

"Signalman Peter Heaton, of the Royal Corps of Signals, lay behind a small stone wall at Bureika, Palestine, sending out and receiving radio messages while under fire from Arab rebels.

"The wall gave him little cover. As the fighting developed it was impossible to move the position of the radio.

"But Signalman Heaton continued to operate with complete disregard to danger—and all messages were got through quickly.

"The story of his bravery is told in last night's *London Gazette*, which announces that he has been awarded the Military Medal for 'gallant and distinguished service in Palestine.'

"It is added: 'He set a magnificent example of bravery and coolness in action.'"

Hong Kong Signal Company.

3rd December.

General.—Armistice Day was commemorated by a service at the Cenotaph in Victoria. It was attended by detachments from every branch of the services, and also by representatives of various foreign powers. His Excellency, Sir Geoffrey A. S. Northcote, K.C.M.G., Governor of Hong Kong, was present.

Combined Operations have terminated, and the Unit is now back to normal again.

As a point of interest we should like to mention the good work of the Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Corps Signals. From time to time, when the Volunteers are at camp, we send instructors to them. Lance Sergeant Crow and Lance Corporal Carter take the Line Section, Lance Corporal Nation deals with the Operators, and Signalman Dickens instructs their D.R.s.

Arrivals.—We extend a hearty welcome to all members of the new draft who arrived, per H.T. " Dunera," on 25th November.

Unfortunately, the welcome Smoker was not held as intended, but we hope that there will be one in the near future.

Departures.—This month sees the departure of several well-known members of our Unit: Corporal Pfeiffer, Lance Corporal Hutton, Signalmen Bromley, France, Lowe, Rowlands and Seaman for the United Kingdom. We wish them *bon voyage* and a pleasant time in Blighty.

THE OPERATOR'S LAMENT.

Britforce, Praebebo and Fervour,
Are a group in the China Command;
H.Q., which is Fervour, at Hong Kong
In in charge of this bright little band.

The other two members, though distant,
Keep contact through thick and through thin;
And activities up North are reported
To H.Q. from Shanghai and Tientsin.

Down South, LOA, which is Fervour,
Has a crew that is not at all bad;
Though toiling away for a pittance
Is a disgrace to Signals, by gad!

And using back-dated Receivers,
Their groans and their curses combine;
With the Supts. muttered threats and grim warnings,
But the bacon's brought home every time.

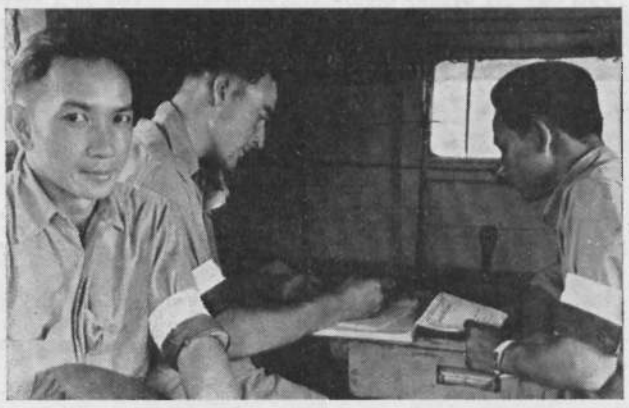
And when signals fade out completely,
The Supt. often thinks that he's mad;
And the chap on the Set dumps his headphones,
And relentlessly chews at his pad.

So spare a kind thought for these heroes,
Who would much sooner offer to die
Than delay that " P " message to Syntax,
And let down the Old Corps tie!

Hockey.—Owing to Combined Operations, we have had to cancel several games this month, and the remainder have not been interesting enough to mention.

Lance Sergeant Whitefield, who arrived from U.K. with the draft, has been placed on the selection list for the Large Units Hockey Competition, together with the following regular Company players: Sergeant Morgan, Lance Corporals Austin, Blount, Dove, Stanford and Signalman Holland.

Football.—Our first eleven has been weakened owing to the departure of Signalmen Bromley and France, both of whom have been instrumental in pulling our team through many difficulties. Signalman Laing, who arrived from Shanghai recently, has been selected for the first team. We also have two very promising players in Signalmen Willis and Blakeney.



Instructing Volunteers in a Mobile Signal Office.

Hong Kong Whispers.—It is rumoured that the new draft have formed an Expeditionary Force, and have already commenced an intensive "debugging" campaign. A situation report from the Whitfield Front states that, so far, the enemy have met with little opposition.

Which Signalman tried to " borrow " some hair oil from a comrade's locker, but in error took a bottle of sunburn lotion instead. Was he burned up?

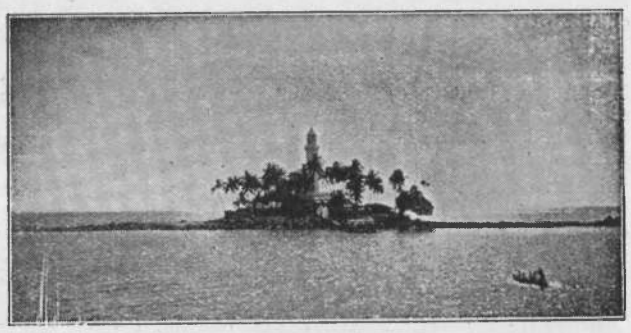
Call of the Yid.—To Holland, Egypt. " Haven't passed out yet. How about it? Med. 2324416."

Lance Corporal Stanley, ex-93 Squad. " See Depot Battalion notes dated October. Hutch and Vernon."

To Stooge, ex-Spike. " I still reside in the Colony. Butch."

Finis.—Roll on Christmas.

B. V. P.



Malaya Signal Company.

Fort Canning Detachment.

25th November.

From ex-Malayans everywhere,
The cry goes round and round,
Fort Canning now we do not hear,
They hardly make a sound.

Our object is to cure all this,
And let the wide world know,
That here we still hold up the flag,
Like the lads that had to go.

Of Alex. jungles you have heard,
And Changi swamps and python;
Of none of these we have to boast,
We always use the syphon.

Fort Canning Cycling Club.—This enterprise is now in a very healthy state, the membership having jumped from four to five in the past three months, and is stoutly supported by two of the Detachment on the Administrative side. The following typical notice is re-published for the information of members of any other similar formation in the Corps :

FORT CANNING CYCLING CLUB.

To All Members.

The run which was to be held on Sunday, 13th November, 1938, is definitely off, owing to the inability or stupidness on the part of certain members to obtain the necessary means of conveyance.

In future, any member who fails to carry out orders with a right good will, will be fined the small sum of $15.00, which will be paid direct to me. This paltry fine, and other donations will go to whatever use I may think fit.

Complaints have come to me from the Commandant of the Police, referring to members who make a practice of riding upside down and between the headlights of cars ; also of doing their running repairs in the middle of the road. This is rather disconcerting to the police and to other users of the road. All this will cease forthwith.

Reference our Handbook (F.C.C.C., 1938), para 14,237, sub-para. 20, line 1938, page 1, which clearly states that :

" The object of cycling is to ride with both wheels on the deck. The feeding of ricksha' pullers with rissoles and slingers whilst in motion is strictly forbidden, as it is detrimental to the prestige of the club."

The next run will be to Kuala Lumpur, via Penang, Bangkok, Hong Kong and Shanghai. It is hoped that as many members as possible will attend this run.

(Signed) Tisket A. Tasket,
Hon. Pres., Hon. Treas. and Hon. Sec. (etc.).

P.S.—Bring your own mugs.

Pigeon-napping.—I am sorry to report, on my first attempt to write these notes, a sad blow to Britain's air power in the East. The majority of our high-powered super war-birds have gone, I'm afraid, to join their ancestors. Their going was rather sudden, and was in the manner of a moonlight flit. It has been noted with interest that jugged pigeon has been included in the cuisine of these select chop joints, the " Stamford " and the " Malaya."

The pigeoneer has been inconsolable since their departure and is quite confident that the pigeon-nappers will be caught one night when they return for the hangar. The matter is, however, in the hands of two of our best gang-busters, and a quick arrest is anticipated.

Moves.—Sergeant Cook and Signalman McLennan have left us, and joined the "Alex." group. Since the move, our ex-draughtsman, on one of his rare visits to Headquarters, complains loudly of being moved among all those young soldiers. We all understand that it must have been a terrible blow to one with so many years with the colours.

Arrivals.—We welcome the family of S.M. (F-of-S) Flynn G. H. R., M.B.E., to Singapore, and we all hope that their stay in Malaya will be a pleasant one.

Things We Want to Know.—When will the standard of Malay spoken at Headquarters improve ? A tamby, on being sent for a D.R. to the barrack block, finished up at the Guard House, and demanded from the Guard Commander one D.R. The Guard Commander thought that he had lost a prisoner, and took a lot of soothing before he got over it.

The position of the little-known Hugenot Line ? This line has been discovered by noe other than Signalman Harris.

Rascol.

Alexandra Detachment.

3rd December.

Malaya calling ! Salaams, everybody !

We extend a hearty welcome to Lieutenant M. D. and Mrs. Price. May their stay in Malaya be a happy one, and may Malaya treat them kindly.

We also welcome (per H.T. Dunera) the following stalwarts : Lance Sergeant (Darkie) Roberts from Bulford ; Lance Corporal White E., Signalmen Craddock H., Brady C. and Laing W. from Aldershot ; Signalman Hilton from Blackdown. May their tour be a pleasant and profitable one.

At present the new drafts are undergoing a Refresher Course, but it is whispered that there will be much to occupy their time and the time of any other additions to our strength that Records may accord us in the future.

In the sporting sphere we have as yet nothing serious to report, although a great hockey team is in process of forming.

Heard at Canning.—" Have you seen Alexandra's Ragtime Band ? "

What ? Has "Alex." got a band now ? Yes, it's quite true.

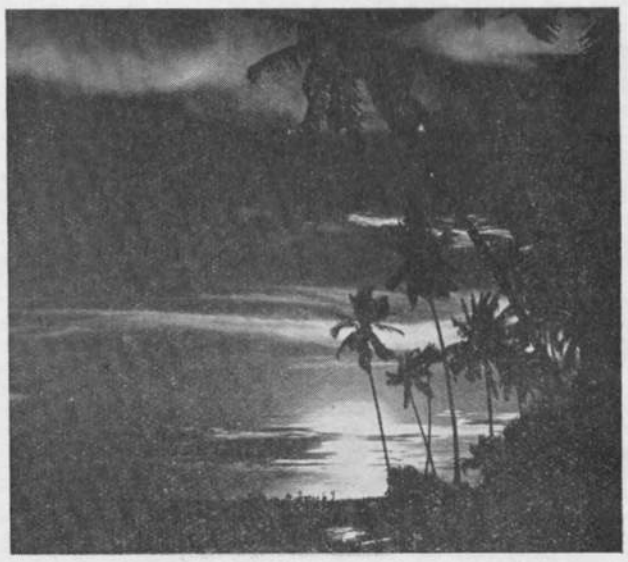
We have only been moderately busy this month, but we cannot complain. In Malaya one takes one's ease whilst one may.

Malayan matutinal greeting : " When's the wife sail ? "

About to sail for England, home and beauty, is C.Q.M.S. (Notchy) Knight, per H.T. Dunera, on 5th December. Bulford, please note ; he may be coming back.

We take this opportunity of wishing " Notchy " *bon voyage* and the very best of luck in " Civvy Street." May he slip into a " snip " billet.

Sigmalay.



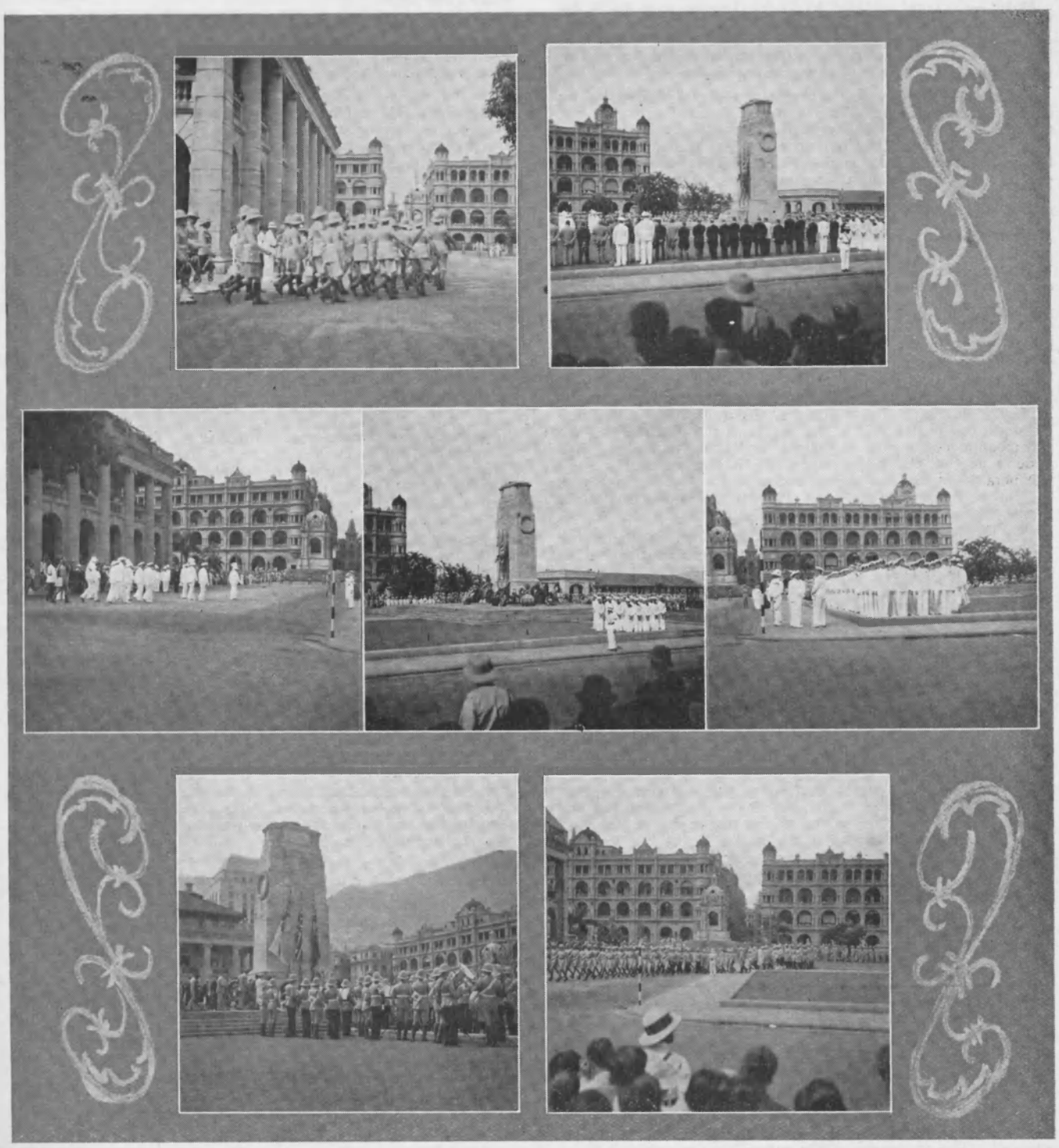
Changi Detachment.

Kitchener Barracks, Changi.

The general scheme of things remains unchanged in this part of the wonder (?) isle of the East. We are glad to state that one or two items worthy of note took place during the month.

The first trooper of the season arrived in Singapore and the Detachment proceeded to Alexandra to welcome the " New Draft " from England. This was done in the traditional style for which the Signals are noted. A Malay string band was in attendance and numerous instruments were in use, namely, a gill pot, a pint pot and even five gallon jugs. The " Grippers' " Shield was won outright (keep it clean, Alex. !) and we did not have sufficient medals to go round. The following day was a nightmare period and the linemen were to be observed creeping about like ghosts. Even the Changi Bible remained closed for the day. Anyway, we are now on an even keel and take this opportunity to extend a welcoming hand to Lance Corporal Radford, Signalmen Hudson, Garner, Burgess, Platt and Webb. The latter managed to get his credits mixed up with a shower bath and at present is decidedly part-worn. We almost forgot to mention Signalman Darlow—complete with " ladders, field, 22 ft."

HONG KONG SIGNAL COMPANY—ARMISTICE DAY CEREMONY.



1. Troops approaching Cenotaph. 2. Foreign Diplomats.
3. H.E. The Governor and Party. 4. Detachment of the United States Navy. 5. Detachment of the British Navy.
6. Massed Military Bands. 7. Troops leaving after the Ceremony.

May their stay in Malaya be a happy one, and here's hoping that their pliers never get rusty. With the experience that "Soapy" is getting at present on the launches, he should soon qualify for a Mate's ticket.

Moves.—Corporal Gatford to Pulau Tekong as a titbit for the "mozzies." Lance Corporal O'Callaghan to a Snake-crushing Course at Pengereang—a new health station. Signalman "Nobby" Clarke (our Rumba expert) to the Signal Stores to take charge of "Nanoo" and the spare phones.

Musketry.—October saw the beginning and end of the Malayan grouse shooting season. The Company results were excellent and there were no second or third class shots. Dolfuss (the Reveille Nightingale) did not do so well in the snap practice, but made up for it in the gas practice. Two bulls, one inner, one in the "bank" and a range warden. Changi Detachment were very pleased when it ceased to be necessary to rise at the crack of dawn in order to proceed to Pierce Ranges.

Hockey.—We have had one or two games during the past month, losing the first to a team from 30th (F.) Company, R.E., by 6—2. After the match, Sergeant Gordon was heard to say something about "Malaya for the Malayans."

The second game was also a defeat. We played the second eleven of 41st (F.) Company, R.E., and lost 5—0. This may appear to be rather discouraging, but we are looking forward to a return match with the rest of the Company at Alexandra, when we hope to smarten them up.

Entertainments.—These are few and far between. "Uncle Wilkey" did play "bears" on the "Neuralia," and with a fine disregard of wind and limb, hurtled down the hatchway to the accompaniment of yells of delight from the youngsters. We understand that this performance will NOT be repeated on the "Dunera." Anyway, we are not supposed to mention this. Since the departure of Charlie Strong, Dolfuss has remained faithful to the "Lonely Hearts Society" at the R.E. dances.

This brings to an end our notes for this month, and in closing we should like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

J. O'C.

Malta Signal Section.

Command Signal Office, Strada Torre, Valletta, Malta.

7th December.

General.—During the last month the Section has been kept quite busy with Exercises in one form or another, and matters have not been improved by rainstorms, which have been very prevalent.

Despite wind and weather, a reasonable amount of sport has been possible, hockey and football engaging several of our Section. Recent weather has been kind to our rugger fans, and there is every possibility of a few games before the grounds harden to their normal rock-hard surfaces.

Since our last notes, Sergeant Williams H. R. V. has progressed favourably and he is now *en route* for Netley for further treatment. The best wishes of the Section go with him, and we sincerely hope that his satisfactory progress will be maintained.

Sergeant Purcell is now having (we almost said enjoying) a spell in hospital. Our hospital visitors, who report that he is now quite comfortable, seem almost envious. Apparently Sergeant Purcell, who is about and taking plenty of nourishment, is due for a speedy return to duty.

Things We Hear.—An alarming disturbance that shattered the precincts of St. Francis Barracks recently merely proved to be the "Kroaking Kutler" doing something to a Flower "Show." As a result, we may anticipate the formation of a concert party or not ?

Exchange Operator.—"I get them all right, but they don't answer." The comments of the subscriber are censored.

P.T.—Certain members of this Section have been re-classified as "elderly gentlemen" and may be seen haunting the vicinity of barracks in the hours before the dawn. This is no cause for alarm, as they are merely seeking their lost "youth-health" through fitness.

Observations indicate that the Section is generally keeping very quiet of late. This may be the lull before the storm, and we may anticipate a bumper Christmas with the usual crop of remorseful resolutions which will no doubt suffer the fate of those gone before.

War Memorial.—This was unveiled on Armistice Day by His Excellency, The Governor, and a small representation from this Section attended. As the local press point out, this is the second memorial, a hospital already exists commemorating the Great War.

Greetings.—All ranks of Malta Signal Section send their best wishes for a happy and peaceful 1939 to members of the Corps wherever they may be stationed.

Officers.—Lieutenant T. de B. Miller has been granted sick leave in England until 27th January, 1939. We hope he will return feeling much fitter for his holiday.

2nd Lieutenant D. D. Dickson, 2nd Divisional Signals, has been posted to this Section. We are sure that he will enjoy his stay in Malta.

SKIP.

Shanghai Signal Section.

24th November.

To those who do read the notes of this Section, however old they may be, apologies are tendered for their non-appearance for some time.

Arrivals and Departures.—Captain A. B. Whatman, our former O.C., left us at the end of September on posting to Hong Kong. The Section were sorry to lose him, and join in wishing him the best of luck at his new Station. We understand that his relief will arrive early in the New Year.

Only a few repatriations have taken place this year, and we hope that Corporal Aldridge, Signalmen McCann and Abel find their Home Stations convivial ones.

A hearty welcome awaited Lance Sergeant Wright and family, Signalmen Laing and Phimister; we think they will like Shanghai. Signalman Laing has since left us for Hong Kong.

Signalmen Potton and Dixon have arrived from Hong Kong, and we hope they will like the change.

Marriages.—Driver Acton to Miss Lydia Collaco on 14th November. Hearty congratulations. Does this example inspire others ?

Sports.—A large percentage of the Section are stalwarts in the Area Details hockey and rugger teams, who are doing very well against the local Shanghai Clubs. More strength to their sticks and feet !

Indoor Sports.—Billiards and darts have become very popular, and the following are results of matches and the names of players who represented Area Details.

BILLIARDS (AREA DETAILS v. H.M.S. "BIRMINGHAM"): Area Details won 4 games to 2.

AREA DETAILS v. H.M.S. "BIRMINGHAM" (return match): A draw of three games each. Win for H.M.S. "Birmingham" on aggregate points.

AREA DETAILS v. 1ST BATTALION, SEAFORTH HIGHLANDERS: Area Details won 4 games to 2.

PLAYERS: Staff Sergeant Burnett, M.P.S.C., Sergeant Church, R.A.S.C., Lance Corporal Andrews, R.A.S.C., Lance Corporal Cleveley, Royal Signals, Signalmen Hall, Pemberton, and Laing, Royal Signals, and Private Baird, 1st Seaforths.

DARTS (SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE AND *Volunteer Gazette* KNOCK-OUT COMPETITION):

AREA DETAILS v. RESERVE UNIT, S.M.P. (1st Round): Walk-over for Area Details.

AREA DETAILS v. YANGTZEPOO POLICE STATION (2nd Round): Area Details won six games to nil.

PLAYERS: Corporal Bushell, C.M.P., Lance Corporal Andrews, R.A.S.C., Signalmen Thomson, Evans, Pemberton, Phimister, and Ray, Royal Signals.

WALLA WALLA.

THE TERRITORIALS AND SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE

42nd (East Lancs.) Divisional Signals.

Norton Street, Brooks' Bar, Manchester.

17th December.

Greetings.—A Happy New Year to all.

General.—We hope everybody have enjoyed themselves during the Christmas holidays, and are now ready for work.

At this time of the year we always think it is about the right time to start marking off the calendar towards camp. Speaking of camp, we can all look forward to one of the most interesting camps we have ever held; this has been made possible by our new equipment, more transport, etc.

Since our last notes we have commenced to teach the Sergeant-Majors and N.C.O.s of the Unit to drive a car and to ride a "bike." "No. 3" made the first start, and on each Sunday morning our parade ground is converted into a dirt track. Needless to say, it has rained every Sunday. The splendid progress made is due to the time and care spent by the instructors, and in connection with this, we understand that the Sergeant-Majors are discussing the question of promotion. The writer has to move his car when the Sergeant-Majors mount their "Nortons."

The W.A.T.S. are now getting busy. Miss Hopley has been selected for the command, and we extend a hearty welcome to her.

D.R.s.—We extend hearty greetings to all other D.R. Clubs and look forward to some interesting trials during the next few months. We congratulate the 48th (S.M.) Signals and the City of London Signals on the success of their display teams during the past year.

Boxing.—By the time these notes are printed the boxing team will be in full stride, and we take this opportunity of reminding the team that we must win that Cup for the third year running. Good punching!

Shooting Match.—A shooting match was held at the 8th Battalion, Lancashire Fusiliers, Barracks on Wednesday, 16th November, when a most interesting evening was spent. Six of our officers fired on behalf of the Unit. A "hot-pot" was held immediately after the match, and the evening proved a great success.

This is the first of a series which are to be held during the year, and it is hoped to have a return match against the same Unit in January. We were unsuccessful in winning our first match, and offer congratulations to the 8th Battalion, Lancashire Fusiliers, on their victory.

43rd (Wessex) Divisional Signals.

Headquarters.

The Priory, Exeter.

14th December.

Editorial.—We must apologise for overlooking the fact that these notes appear after the festive season has passed. However, we hope every one has had a really happy time, and wish all past and present members of the Corps good luck and success in 1939.

Another very successful Dinner has taken place, that of No. 2 Company, at Southampton. From reports received, it was an excellent evening, and the writer greatly regrets he was unable to "make contact."

The first group of Officers and N.C.O.s have returned from the Course at Fort Tregantle, and they give account of a strenuous time. Telling-off by numbers and the counting of picks and shovels appear to have been, among other things, matters of daily routine.

We heartily congratulate Major E. R. Moore on his promotion to that rank, and also on his elevation to the command of No. 2 Company.

MERCURY.

No. 1 (Plymouth) Company.

The Drill Hall, York Street, Devonport.

Training.—The month has passed along quietly and quickly, and we are glad to see a gradual but steady improvement in the operators' speeds in receiving. Four more men have qualified for the 1st Class. Some of the men in the lower classes need to put on a spurt in order to fill up the gaps in the middle regions.

Social.—We have had two more visitors to our drill hall from the other Companies, in addition to Sergeant Taylor and Sergeant Griffith, mentioned in last month's notes, namely, Captain (now Major) E. R. Moore and Lieutenant H. W. Fenwick, both of whom have been on a Gas Course at Fort Tregantle. Incidentally, we take this opportunity to congratulate Major Moore on putting up the crown since his visit to us.

Signalman Hickman A. J. is the latest victim to the Regular Services. He joins the R.A.F. in January, and takes with him the good wishes of No. 1 Company in his new activities.

Our wireless wizard has been busy recently sorting out speech and morse over the ether. He tells glowing tales of conversations in Welsh (?) with our contemporaries in Cardiff, and we have reason to believe he has been in touch with non-contemporaries around the Fen Country. 'Tis marvellous what the right hands and ears can do with pieces of wire and glass bottles.

ONECOY.

48th (South Midland) Divisional Signals.

Cateswell House, Hall Green, Birmingham 28.

Boxing.—The outstanding event of the month has been the Boxing Tournament held in our Drill Hall on 25th November, when the Unit Boxing Club, jointly with the 69th Brigade A.A., met the Shirley Boxing Club. A full account of this event will be found further on, but we should like to take this opportunity of remarking on the high standard of keenness displayed by our own Boxing Club, which is flourishing under the guidance of Captain R. M. Chatterley.

To the uninitiated, amateur boxing seems to reward the contestants with more knocks than ha'pence, and it requires very real enthusiasm to keep up the necessary stringent training. If this contest was not remarkable for skill, then the keynote was certainly the willingness "to have a go," and that is what is wanted, the other will come with experience. One would also like to congratulate those who were responsible for the efficient organisation, to thank Shirley Stadium Club for the loan of the ring, and Mr. Tommy Reed for his invaluable assistance in its erection and other details.

Sergeants' Mess.—A Carnival Dance, which was held on 26th November, attracted about 250 visitors. C.Q.M.S. Powell, who officiated as M.C., kept the dancers on the floor. Among the officers present were Major E. A. James and Captain Bowen.

The Mess has been newly re-decorated and now presents a very cosy appearance. A snooker handicap is at present in progress for the Simpson Cup. Forthcoming functions are the Children's Party on 17th December, and a dance on 28th January.

D.R. Notes.—A Sunday Training took place on 4th December in a deluge of rain, in spite of which there was a turn-out of thirteen riders. The Scheme took the form of a treasure hunt with map reference clues. We cannot truly say that we saw much of the two umpires, Lieutenant Fellows and Captain Bowen, on the course. They seemed to have a spot of bother with the W.D.

machines which they were riding. Flying helmets look very nice when the weather is dry.

Four members of the Display Team, led by Lieutenant R. W. N. Danielsen, represented the Unit at the Annual Dinner of the City of London Display Team on 12th November and, as usual, were made very welcome.

The Despatch Riders' Dance took place on 2nd December, when about 200 dancers were present. A very enjoyable evening was spent. The D.C.S.O., Colonel M. E. Holdsworth, T.D., and Major F. E. B. Jones were present with their ladies, as were also Lieutenant Danielsen and 2nd Lieutenant J. F. Timings. The Commanding Officer was, unfortunately, prevented from being present by illness.

The Display Team wish to thank Mr. Graham Walker, Editor of *Motor Cycling* for the present of a splendid 4-ft. enlargement of the Pyramid, which appeared at the Motor Cycle Show at Earls Court this year. This will be framed and hung permanently in the Drill Hall.

Annual Unit Dinner.—Anent our query last month. We note that the All Ranks Dinner has been arranged for 1st April. We only hope that all practical jokers will be sequestered beforehand.

Congratulations.—To Lieutenant S. E. A. Anthony, who was recently selected to play in an England Rugby Union Trial. Mr. Anthony plays regularly for the Leicester Club, and his position is wing forward.

A Happy New Year to every one.

Boxing (48th (S.M.) Divisional Signals T.A. and 69th A.A. Brigade R.A. versus Shirley A.B.C.).—A series of boxing contests between the 48th Divisional Signals jointly with the 69th Brigade R.A. against the Shirley Boxing Club attracted a good attendance at the Drill Hall, Cateswell House, Hall Green, on Friday, 25th November, when the honours were shared—each club winning five of the ten contests.

The prizes were presented by our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel P. H. Jones, M.C., T.D. The premier prize was a Cup, which was presented by Councillor Eli Fletcher for the best winner of the evening. This was won by J. Edwards of Shirley.

Contest No. 1—J. Edwards (Shirley) v. Pugh (Royal Signals and R.A.)—A well matched contest between two hefty fighters, involving much hard hitting on both sides. Edwards was the more aggressive of the two, but Pugh by clever dodging made him miss repeatedly. The verdict was given to Edwards.

Contest No. 2—D. Lewis (Shirley) v. Signalman Wheeler.—Lewis, who led a vigorous attack, was obviously the heavier and more experienced fighter. Wheeler made a plucky attempt to fight back, but found himself outclassed, and retired in the first round with a cut under the left eye.

Contest No. 3—E. Morgan (Shirley) v. Gunner Charles.—Charles, who appeared to lack effective cover, made up for it by considerable advantage in height and reach, making use of long swings without much damaging effect. In the second round, Morgan managed to land on Charles' nose, drawing first blood. Charles landed some heavy lefts, and Morgan took a short count. In the final round Charles led a vigorous attack, connecting repeatedly, but Morgan fought back pluckily, and there was some rough and tumble fighting, both taking heavy punishment, and fighting themselves nearly to a standstill. Charles was given the verdict.

Contest No. 4—T. Jones (Shirley) v. Lance Corporal Rose.—Both fighters took a short count in the first round. Rose made Jones miss heavy swings to the head by clever dodging. In the second round, Rose made good use of his left, but the scoring was fairly even. In the third round the referee cautioned Jones for holding. The verdict was given to Jones after a close contest.

Contest No. 5—D. Edwards (Shirley) v. W. Davies (Royal Signals and A.A.).—Davies made good use of his left. In the second round, Edwards carried the attack, but Davies recovered and fought back, both boxers landing heavy blows. In the third round, Davies was cautioned for holding. The advantage throughout was with Davies who made good use of his left. The verdict was given to Davies.

Contest No. 6—J. Nichols v. Lance Bombardier Spindler.—In the first round, Nichols was cautioned for low hitting. Spindler made good use of his advantage in reach with heavy lefts to the head. Nichols returned a plucky fight against a taller opponent, but Spindler covered well and took most of the blows on his gloves. In the third round, Nichols put Spindler down for a short count with a right jab to the nose. Nichols was the more aggressive of the two throughout and received the verdict.

Contest No. 7—G. Allen (Shirley) v. H. Pentol.—A one-sided contest with Pentol scoring heavily with left and right swings. Allen found himself outclassed by a more experienced opponent, and the referee stopped the fight in the second round to save him from further punishment. The verdict was awarded to Pentol.

Contest No. 8.—This was an exhibition bout between Lieutenant R. V. Luke, R.A. (heavyweight champion of the T.A.) and Lieutenant G. S. Lewis, R.A.

Contest No. 9—Ivor Barton (Shirley) v. A. Clutterbuck.—Barton came in with a vigorous onslaught, but Clutterbuck recovered and returned the fight, scoring to the head with both hands. Barton was out on his feet early in the first round and the referee intervened.

Contest No. 10.—Was a bout between two young boys Ronald Davies and R. Usher, both of Shirley Club. They are promising young lads who certainly meant to have a go. Usher was awarded the referee's verdict.

Contest No. 11—D. Lewis v. Signalman Bond.—Lewis (Shirley) was boxing his second bout of the evening. A most interesting contest in view of the plucky performance put up by Bond, who gave away several inches and considerable weight. The first round placed him mostly on the defensive, although he managed to land effectively on several occasions, drawing blood. In the second round, Bond returned a plucky fight, leading a good left whilst cleverly parrying a vigorous attack from Lewis. The points must have been very close, and the referee's decision in favour of Lewis met with a mixed reception.

Contest No. 12—H. Harper (Shirley) v. J. Rice.—Harper forced the pace, but Rice parried effectively taking the blows on his gloves, and scoring with rights and lefts. A well matched pair. In the second round, Harper rushed in ominously, but Rice was ready for him, returned the fight and had his man at his mercy when the bell came to Harper's rescue. In the last round Rice had Harper through the ropes. A good hard-hitting contest, with the verdict for the Army man.

Referee, Lieutenant R. Luke. Judges, Captain G. Danielsen and Lieutenant L. White. Timekeeper, Captain R. M. Chatterley.

GETCHER.

49th (West Riding) Divisional Signals.

Gibraltar Barracks, Leeds 2.

Training.—On Tuesday, 29th November, a test was carried out as a climax to the Course held during the previous three months for operators. The results, generally, were very good, and a prize was given to the operator obtaining the best result in each of the three classes.

Boxing.—Several members of the Unit are now training hard for the forthcoming Divisional Championships. They are very keen, and should go a long way if keenness and fitness counts. We wish them luck in their respective weights.

Wireless Link.—The No. 2 Set communication between Darlington and Leeds closed during the Christmas season after providing many interesting nights at the Leeds end. We hope to continue early in January, and C.S.M. Frampton tells me that he hopes to link up with Chesterfield also.

Despatch Rider Club.—Signalman Wells P. A., Honorary Secretary, tells me that the D.R. Club is now affiliated to the Yorkshire Centre A.C.U. with a membership of thirty-four. Club nights are held in their own room at Gibraltar Barracks every Tuesday and Thursday evening, when darts, dominoes, etc., are played, and current motor-cycle topics are discussed.

The recent Inter-Unit Trial organised by the 49th in conjunction with the North Derbyshire Motor Club seems to be a lively topic of conversation, and our D.R.s are anxious to meet the 5th Divisional Signals team again, when they hope to reverse the last decision.

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Future Inter-Unit Trials are as follows: 26th February, organised by 49th Divisional Signals starting at Barlow, Derbyshire; 26th March, promoted by North Midland Corps Signals, starting at Derby; 30th April, organised y 48th Divisional Signals starting somewhere near Birmingham. The 55th Divisional Signals will also organise one, the date to be made known later.

The D.R. Club held a dance at Gibraltar Barracks in November last when, in spite of wretched weather, over 400 visitors attended. Another dance is to be held late in January, the date to be announced in the Press.

Officers' Ball.—For a long time the drill hall had a strange appearance with officers very busy, and, we must confess, rather smudgy, with paint brushes, hammers and saws, etc., and chaos seemed to rule for a while. The result on 16th December, the night of the Officers' Ball, was a credit to all concerned. Our usual plain work-a-day drill hall was magnificently transformed into a Victorian garden. What a chance for the ladies to show the new crinoline styles.

In future we shall eye our officers with even more respect; they have done a job of work which we think would have taxed even us.

AQUA.

Air Formation Signals, S.R.

Gibraltar Barracks, Leeds.

The expansion of the Unit is continuing apace, recruiting being very good, particularly for the new No. 5 Company at Bradford. The new barracks in Currer Street are now ready for occupation, and a Teleprinter School has been established there for the joint use of the G.P.O. personnel and our own men.

After a very strenuous effort, mainly by Captain Houghton and his P.S.I.s, to get the above barracks ready in time, the first dinner in the Officers' Mess was held on 14th December. Many prominent G.P.O. executives attended, including Colonel Hobbins, the Regional Director, as well as our own C.S.O. Colonel Barker. The dinner was a great success, and enabled us to show our appreciation of the assistance that the G.P.O. have accorded us, not only in our efforts when recruiting, but also for their help with our furniture, accessories, etc.

On Thursday, 15th December, an inaugural dinner for the N.C.O.s was held, and it is proposed to have a full-dress ceremonial opening at a date early in the New Year.

The latest news concerning the Unit is that we are to expand still further, in all probability picking up new men in London. The possibilities of forming a new Company in the Guildford area are, it is understood, being discussed. It seems that we are already the largest Signal Unit in the British Army.

Arrangements for winter training at both Gibraltar and Bradford Barracks are going rapidly ahead, and it is expected that, with the commencement of the New Year, both Teleprinter Schools will be in full blast. Large consignments of new apparatus have arrived, and will enable us to train our operators on the very latest teleprinters.

A rumour has been heard to the effect that the Unit will probably train in two parts during the forthcoming year; the months of August and September have been mentioned. This is not official, however, but we hope to have some definite information by the time that our next notes are in print.

May we offer our congratulations to Major R. S. Smith on attaining that rank.

We welcome the new Lieutenants, Messrs. Rycroft and North, on their appointment to this Unit.

PICK.

51st (Highland) Divisional Signals.

Headquarters and No. 1 Company.

Fonthill Barracks, Aberdeen.

Training.—The first Operator Signals and Linemen's Courses are almost completed, and Trade Boards are the only topic of conversation. Hopes are running high for that extra sixpence per day, and we hope there will be no disappointed candidates.

Sport.—The football team are still pegging away, but luck seems to be dead against them. In one of the local Territorial needle matches, they managed to defeat the R.A.M.C. by 5—2, but that is the only success they can record in the past five matches.

Boxing is taking a firm hold in the Unit, and we hope to give a good account of ourselves in the T.A. Championships. It is hoped to stage a try-out for the team against a strong Aberdeen Club early in the New Year.

Against Aberdeen St. Andrews, the badminton team scored a fine win by six matches to three, but the Aberdeen Schoolmasters proved too strong for us. We are holding our own in the league, and are looking forward to further fixtures in the near future.

Now that our miniature rifles have been overhauled and retubed, the rifle club are getting in plenty of practice. It is too late to join the league for the current season, but next winter will see a Signals team doing its bit.

Postings.—It was with regret that we said goodbye to our Adjutant, Captain L. W. J. Dryland, Royal Signals, who left us during December on posting to Canterbury. During his tour as Adjutant to this Unit, his keenness and the efficient manner in which he has carried out his duties has helped to make 51st (H) Divisional Signals, T.A., one of the most efficient Units in the Territorial Army. All ranks of the Unit join in wishing Captain and Mrs. Dryland the best of luck and success in their future undertakings.

We welcome Captain E. J. F. Heap, Royal Signals, who has taken over the duties of Adjutant, and we hope he and his family will enjoy their stay in Aberdeen.

Congratulations are extended to Major A. H. Lennie, M.M., on his recent promotion to that rank.

ONECOY.

No. 2 Company and 223rd Signal Section.

The officers, N.C.O.s, and men of the Company extend to all ranks of the Corps, at home and abroad, their hearty greetings and best wishes for a Bright and Prosperous New Year.

Winter Training.—By the time that these notes appear in print, the first of our Winter Courses for Operators will have come to an end. There has been a very good attendance throughout the Course, and it is hoped that when the Trade Board assembles in April, we shall have some really excellent operators, as it is intended to continue the same classes on a further 60-hour Course after Christmas.

Courses.—It is hoped, early in the New Year, to commence training N.C.O.s and men to drive vehicles. In order to assist in this tuition, we trust that Lance Corporal McFarlan D. will return from his fortnight's M.T. Course at Leith brimming with knowledge.

Lance Sergeant A. Wilkie is away by the sea at Plymouth on a P.A.D. Course. We trust the results will be of great benefit to the Company.

Departures.—It is with great regret that we record the departure from the Unit of Captain L. W. J. Dryland on completion of his tour as Adjutant. Captain Dryland has done magnificent work in improving the standard of efficiency of the Unit, and all ranks of this Company would like to record the personal loss they feel of one who was always willing to give so freely of his knowledge and help. All ranks of No. 2 Company tender their best wishes to Captain and Mrs. Dryland, and trust that they will find Canterbury to their liking.

Arrivals.—All ranks of the Company extend the hand of greeting to Captain E. J. F. Heap on his appointment as Adjutant *vice* Captain Dryland, and trust he will not find Aberdeen too chilly after his sojourn in India.

Congratulations.—We offer our heartiest congratulations to Major A. H. Lennie, M.M., on his promotion to that rank.

Congratulations are also extended to Lance Corporal McFarlan D., on his appointment, and we trust that the extra weight on his arms will not affect his ability as a driver whilst at Leith Fort.

TWUCO.

No. 3 Company.

Hunter Street, Kirkcaldy.

General.—We wish all Units of the Corps a Bright and Prosperous 1939.

The festive season is fast approaching and with it a break in the training activities of the Company, during which we hope to retain the Inter-Unit Miniature Rifle Shooting Cup, which will be fired for on New Year's morning and for which the Company " dead-eyes " are getting down to practice.

The Paid Courses for Operators and Linemen are having 100 per cent. attendances at present, and it is hoped that this will be maintained after the Christmas recess.

We have just concluded an inspection of our antiques. We refer to the " A " (Pack) W/T Sets which have been examined. The examiners found that most of their up-to-date apparatus was of little use when testing these little boxes of tricks. They will have a different task when visiting Nos. 1 and 2 Companies, who, lucky fellows, have the more up-to-date No. 1 and No. 2 Sets. We wonder how many other T.A. Units are still blessed (?) with the " A " Set. We live in hopes of disposing of ours some day and getting some No. 1 Sets.

Lieutenant D. L. Campbell, who is O.C. of the Dunfermline Detachment, has gone into a Nursing Home to have his appendix —that troublesome part of the human anatomy—removed. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Entertainments.—The second dance of the season, which was held on Friday, 9th December, proved as much a success as the previous one, and it was very pleasing to see more members of the Company present. We had the pleasure of using for the first time the decorations recently purchased by all Units in Kirkcaldy, and very nice they looked too. The Badminton Club, who have played two league fixtures, were " grannied " each time. They will have to go into the transfer market to get some new players. Still, better luck will come with more experience.

Arrivals and Departures.—Sergeant Stephen J., who has left us after serving twelve years with this Company, finds that his duties in the P.O. are preventing him from giving as much time as he would like to his T.A. duties.

We welcome the recruits who have recently joined us, and hope that they will stay with the Unit for a long time. They are already studying their " iddy-umpty."

THREECOY.

52nd (Lowland) Divisional Signals and G.H.Q. Signals S.R.

21, Jardine Street, Glasgow, N.W.

William Murphy of Royal Signals.—It turned out to be a fortunate event for many a Scotsman when young William Murphy enlisted in the King's Liverpool Regiment at Birkenhead in August, 1917. The day was to come when Private Murphy of the King's Liverpools was to be an outstanding man in his profession, a soldier and a power for good, whose name was to be known in Scotland, especially in the west.

Peaceful England during the war was no place for " Spud " Murphy. He proved to be an apt recruit, and was soon ready for draft. The Irish blood in " Spud " caused him to clamour for France and the fighting. For the best part of a year young Murphy fought as a soldier of the line, seeing many sights and braving many battles.

It was after the Armistice that William Murphy decided to make the Army his career. He proceeded to Constantinople with the Cheshire Regiment in 1919, and remained there until 1923.

Attracted by the prospects of service in the Royal Corps of Signals, Private Murphy transferred to that Corps in 1920. His industry and eagerness to learn singled him out for promotion, and he was placed on responsible work. It was while serving in Constantinople that Murphy of the Signals met the lady who was one day to become his wife—an accomplished and cultured official of the Constantinople Telephone Service, who has been the subject of our cameo comments in the WIRE.

Leaving Constantinople in 1923 for England, our friend was posted to the Anti-Aircraft Signals, Blackdown. Bill Murphy was by now a promising junior N.C.O., and his record of work at Blackdown makes good reading, proving that he was held in high esteem by his superiors.

India claimed Jardine Street's future R.S.M. in 1926. Five years of good solid foreign service fully qualified our man for a trip home to Scarborough, where he remained until 1933. In that year he proceeded to Glasgow, and was posted as P.S. Instructor to the S.R., and it was not long ere Sergeant Murphy assumed full P.S. charge of Supplementary Reserve affairs at Glasgow. Later he was given the post of acting R.S.M. of all Royal Signals T.A. and S.R. Units here. At that time the Glas-

"William Murphy."

gow Units comprised one of the largest Corps formations administered by one Adjutant and R.S.M.

William Murphy's work as the man at the wheel in Glasgow would be difficult to over-rate. He proved to be peculiarly adaptable, and specially fitted for dealing with the part time soldier. There was nothing of the brusque military man about "Spud"; his manner was always quiet and engaging, inspiring and inviting confidence. An accomplished man at his craft, and an astute organiser, William Murphy did much to raise the standard of Glasgow Signals' efficiency to its present high level.

But "Spud" has taken his bow, and having served twenty-one years as a soldier, has left the Army and the Lowland Divisional Signals. He takes with him that which is finer than much fine gold—the blessing and affection of those who were privileged to serve with him.

So we pay tribute to one who meant much to us. Many a fine soldier has passed beneath the red gables of Jardine Street. Many men of worth have passed through the gates of the old drill hall. Yet there is one whose influence for good it would be difficult to equal, one who by precept and example has graced the honourable records and traditions of Glasgow's Signals Headquarters. That man is William Murphy.

Sergeants' Mess.—The Sergeants' Mess has made a start with their attractive events for the winter. A dance was staged at Headquarters on 2nd December. There was a goodly company present with quite a strong representation of officers. The committee hope for an even greater success next time, especially in view of the elaborate arrangements made for this, the first dance of the season, and for the events which are to follow.

Adieu Andrews.—It is with regret that we say goodbye to Sergeant Andrews A., P.S.I., No. 3 Company, T.A. Sergeant Andrews has left us in order to proceed overseas. Our best wishes go with him and Mrs. Andrews, and we trust that for many a day they will have a thought for Glasgow and the Lowland Signals.

Major J. Anderson.—We offer our somewhat belated but nevertheless sincere congratulations to Major J. Anderson, T.A., on his promotion to that rank. Major Anderson has had a long and honourable connection with our S.R. and T.A. Units. His promotion was good news to his many friends.

Lieutenant-Colonel McGreehin.—It is with mixed feelings that we take farewell of Lieutenant-Colonel J. P. McGreehin, R.A.M.C., T.A., who, on promotion, is posted to the 157th (Lowland) Field Ambulance. While we are sincere in our congratulations to Colonel McGreehin on his well merited advancement, we cannot but record our regret on his departure from the Lowland Signals.

The Colonel was our Medical Officer for thirteen years. Indeed, he was more than that for he could be well described as our doctor, counsellor, and friend. Always patient, tactful, and courteous, our M.O. would go out of his way to help a man. It was these and other good qualities which endeared him to all ranks. Lieutenant-Colonel McGreehin will long be remembered with affection by many men of the Signals who served with him since 1925.

And Again.—Once again we greet our friends at the beginning of a new year. To our comrades in all parts of the Empire we send our sincere good wishes for 1939. So here's tae ye—a guid New Year tae yin and a' I

53rd (Welsh) Divisional Signals.

Cardiff.

14th December.

As usual at this time of the year, social events are predominant in our activities. The officers' lectures are still in progress, and will continue for some time, and a certain amount of training is being carried on by enthusiasts.

The Unit Smoker was held on 15th November, when the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel W. G. Trice, presided. A good musical programme was supplied by members of the Unit. During the course of a very enjoyable evening, presentations were made to C.S.M. Greenwood E. W., who is leaving the Unit to return to 3rd Divisional Signals, Bulford, prior to his departure to India. Captain A. W. Barth lomew, O.C. No. 2 Company, on behalf of that Company, and C.S.M. Forse T. for the W.O.s and N.C.O.s Mess, made their presentations, respectively.

Lieutenant-Colonel W. G. Trice, addressing those present, spoke of the satisfactory report obtained at last year's Annual Training, but stressed the necessity for greater efforts to increase the efficiency of the Unit.

Advantage was taken during this occasion to welcome the new P.S.I., Sergeant Barnett W., from 3rd Divisional Signals, Bulford.

The second outstanding event was the W.O.s and N.C.O.s Annual Dinner on Saturday, 10th December, at the Carlton Hotel, Cardiff. An excellent menu was provided for the company, which numbered about one hundred, and the evening was enlivened by a concert party and speeches. Captain R. H. Copeland (Adjutant), proposing the toast to the 53rd (Welsh) Divisional Signals, emphasised the importance of Despatch Riders and W/T in these times of mechanisation. He surprised us by telling us that W/T was employed in the Boer War. Referring to the Information Bureau set up during the recent Territorial Week, he said that the W/T Section had attracted a lot of attention, and he appealed for wireless enthusiasts.

Lieutenant-Colonel W. G. Trice, who responded, congratulated the W.O.s and N.C.O.s on the excellent attendance at each of these occasions, and stated that it showed the true spirit of

comradeship. This was manifested particularly at the time of the recent crisis, and he was grateful to those who had rallied round him. The seriousness of the position then was not fully appreciated, but he was able to say that the Unit was well prepared.

He thanked all for the good work done in connection with the Men's Smoking Concert, and the P.S.I.s and N.C.O.s for excellent efforts during the Territorial Week. As a result of the latter, we have attested sixty-nine recruits. The five per cent. over Establishment mark has been exceeded, but still more recruits are needed.

Colonel Trice continuing, said, that last year's work was good and had obtained a satisfactory report, so that we were not doing badly, but there was still a long way to go. The training of Instructors was proceeding well. Extra efforts were required from the lowest to the highest rank in order to obtain a still better report. There were indications that next year's camp would be at Weston-super-Mare.

The Commanding Officer, in referring to members who had left the Unit, regretted that no Old Comrades' Association of the Unit existed. He was prepared to support an organisation of this kind, and encouragement from him and help from the Unit Staff would be readily forthcoming if one were formed.

Lieutenant-Colonel W. G. Trice, concluding, said that it was most important to instil into the minds of the recruits that their motto should be to GIVE to their country and not to RECEIVE.

Presentations were made by C.S.M. Forse T., as President of the W.O.s and N.C.O.s Mess, to recently retired members of the Mess, namely, C.S.M. Baxter A., C.Q.M.S. Williams R. E., Sergeant Baxter P., Sergeant Dowers F. C., and Corporal Roberts W.

R.S.M. Field C. E., proposing a toast to " Officers and Guests," gave them a sincere welcome. He appreciated the assistance that all the officers had given him, and expressed thanks for all that had been done in the past year. The guests were ex-members of the Unit.

Colonel R. C. Seel, O.B.E., M.C., T.D. (D.C.S.O., Western Command) responded for the guests, and congratulated the Commanding Officer and the Unit on being up to strength for the first time in their history. Entitled to twenty per cent. above Establishments, we still had fifteen per cent. to make up, and that fifteen per cent. should be W/T Operators. He thanked the W.O.s and N.C.O.s for a most enjoyable evening which would be long remembered by all.

Major V. W. Hawkins, second-in-command, responded for the officers, and after a humorous beginning, said that these functions enabled us to get together and facilitated the easy and efficient running of the Unit. He heartily congratulated R.S.M. Field C. E., on attaining substantive rank, and welcomed Sergeant Matthews F. A., the new P.S.I. He also thanked the W.O.s and N.C.O.s Mess for the invitation and also for the splendid evening.

The Commanding Officer paid a special tribute to the excellent work done by R.S.M. Field C. E., during his period with the Unit. The R.S.M. is returning to the Regular Army in a few weeks' time. The evening concluded with some rousing community singing.

The Children's Christmas Party will be held at the Drill Hall, Park Street, on Saturday, 17th December. The W.O.s and N.C.O.s are all taking a part in the preparations, and it will be a most joyous occasion. We sympathise with Sergeant Greenwood E. W. on missing this treat. He was in his element with the youngsters.

Congratulations to the recipients on their appointments: Major V. W. Hawkins to Unit H.Q. as second-in-command; Major W. R. Hawkins to the command of No. 1 Company; Captain W. G. F. Bale to the command of No. 3 Company.

Congratulations to Captain G. Cawthorn on promotion to that rank, and to Captain J. G. Gardiner on relinquishing his commission in the T.A. on appointment to the S.R. as Major.

C.Q.M.S. Woodyatt J., ex-Sergeant Marchant F. (Quack-Quack), and the " Boilermaker Sergeant " convey their heartiest Christmas and New Year greetings to Sergeant McLachlan P. in Peking. All the best Mac, from all, including the kids.

We hope all our brother members in Territorial Army Signal Units will have a very happy Christmas and New Year.

THE LEEK.

54th (East Anglian) Divisional Signals.

No. 1 Company.

Stratford, E.15.

General.—The spirit of the season prompts us to commence by extending to all our friends at home and abroad the compliments of the season.

The display of wealth by the more fortunate members of the Company denotes the payment of the extra-drill bounties and travelling allowances. The look of contentment, however, is not on every face, one notable exception being our rather overworked P.S.I., whose juggling with bounty forms and the like has left a haunted look in his eyes.

The Adjutant's lectures have finished. The N.C.O.s are now back on their jobs, as the recruiting boom has provided plenty of material upon which to work. Whisperings of the strenuous days ahead at the next annual training have made the N.C.O.s realise that the better the lads know their jobs then the easier will be their own task. The order of the day now is, " All shoulders to the wheel."

Arrangements are now complete for the Company Dinner, which is being held at Headquarters, on Saturday, 17th December. Reports on this event will have to wait until the next issue of this journal, when an eye-witness account of this auspicious occasion is promised.

Promotions.—Our congratulations to Lance Corporal Collins on receiving his first tape. We can visualise our " Drivers I.C." having quite a " Green Line " look about them in the future.

Sergeants' Mess.—The chief event in the " Farmyard " recently has been the end of the Individual Darts Championship. The two semi-finals were contested between R.S.M. Male and Sergeant Smith, and C.S.M. Warner and Sergeant Reed. The first of these " matches of the century " resulted in the exit of the last of the P.S.I.s, Ernie Smith knowing just where the " double five " was. The scribe regrets that he is unable to give any report of the second match, as the two contestants, for reasons unknown, or should we say known only to themselves, decided upon a midnight matinee. What happened that night may never be known, the only trace next day was the erasing of the name of C.S.M. Warner.

The final, contested before a hushed audience and a marker who could not count, resulted in Sergeant Reed becoming our champion. Nice work, George; mine's a pint!

Now that the event is over, we will disclose the secret of how we overcame the challenge of the P.S.I.s. We just matched them together, and they knocked themselves out. Hence the words, " When Greek meets Greek."

A Mess Supper is to be held shortly, and we should be pleased to welcome ex-members to this event. The date has not yet been fixed, but we should be pleased to send details to any ex-members on request.

Bedford Detachment.

The Drill Hall, Ashburnham Road, Bedford.

Greetings.—To all members of the Corps we extend a merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Social.—On Wednesday, 7th December, a General Meeting was held for the official opening of the new Social Club.

There was a good attendance, and the meeting was presided over by our O.C., 2nd Lieutenant J. D. Cooke. Now that the club room has been furnished with new curtains, chairs, tables, etc., the whole place speaks of comfort at a glance. We shall now see who can throw a nifty dart (Canterbury, please note).

Corporal Giddings, who was appointed Secretary, will be ably assisted by Lance Corporal Leach. The committee was formed and held their first meeting on 8th December. All that is now required is the support of our members, and we feel sure that the Club will be a great success.

Musketry practice has been held on Thursday evenings, and much enthusiasm is shown by those anxious for a place in the Detachment team. We have been presented with the Musketry Cup, so we have no cause for worry. This year we were presented with three of the eight Cups. Nice work, lads, but more next year.

TAFFY.

SPORTS NOTES

School of Signals.

Football.—Owing to the usual Catterick weather, which has resulted in the placing of all grounds out of bounds, it has not been found possible to play any of our league matches since our last notes.

For the Army Cup (third round) our usual three stars, namely, Lance Corporal Kerr, Signalmen Todd and Sutton, were selected to play against the 2nd Battalion, Cameronians, by the Depot Battalion, and were unlucky to be on the losing side. The score, 5—1, was rather flattering to the winners, as several members of the Depot team, who were badly injured, became passengers for the remainder of the game. Still, there's another year coming.

Hockey.—The following matches have been played :

v. 5th Divisional Signals	Lost	3—2
v. Depot Battalion, Royal Signals	Drawn	1—1
v. "F" Company, Training Battalion	Won	5—3
v. Masham H.C.	Lost	3—4

Congratulations to Signalman Palling, who was selected to play for the Corps against the R.A.S.C. and the R.T.C. at Aldershot, and for the Garrison against Leeds University and Scarborough.

Shortly we shall lose the services of several players of No. 12 F-of-S Course, who proceed to Units, but we hope their places will be filled by talent on No. 13 F-of-S Course.

Miniature Range Shooting.—The first match of the season was fired on 22nd November against "C" Company, Depot Battalion, and resulted in a win for the School.

Depot Battalion, Royal Signals.

Rugby.—

			Pts.
19th Oct.	v. Training Battalion, Royal Signals	Won	8— 3
22nd ,,	v. 21st Field Regiment, R.A. ..	Won	14— 3
29th ,,	v. "A" Corps Signals	Lost	9—17
9th Nov.	v. R.A.F., Catterick	Won	8— 0
16th ,,	v. 2nd Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment	Won	6— 5
19th ,,	v. 2nd Battalion, Cameronians ..	Won	23— 0
23rd ,,	v. R.A.F., Catterick	Won	12— 3
30th ,,	v. 1st Battalion, K.O.Y.L.I. ..	Lost	11—12
3rd Dec.	v. Darlington R.A. XI	Won	14— 0
7th ,,	v. R.A.F., Dishforth	Lost	0—11

Army Cup (Second Round).—This game was played on the Central Ground at Catterick Camp on Saturday, 19th November, in conditions not conducive to good rugger. There had been a number of heavy showers during the morning, making the ground very wet on top, and the ball soon became very difficult to handle.

Signals had won the toss and kicked off with a strong wind and sun at their backs. This wind made kicking a tricky business, though the ground level itself was fairly sheltered, but ten feet up it was very strong.

The Cameronians had not had very much previous practice as a team, and were also unfortunate in having two of their good forwards injured a few days before. The Signals also had to make a last minute change at fly-half, and 2nd Lieutenant H. L. H. Tayler at scrum-half was also off colour, having just recovered from a slight attack of influenza. These halves had only played together once in a match, some three weeks previously, and though Signalman Beaumont L., at fly-half, tried hard, and was holding a difficult ball well when it came his way, the necessary combination was not present, and many passes went astray. In consequence, the outsides never really got going in the first half. The forwards also lacked their usual fire and dash, failed to obtain possession in the line-outs, and were being held in the tight scrummages.

During this period, tries were scored by 2nd Lieutenant P. E. S. Mansergh and Driver Stenner, both forwards, and 2nd Lieutenant P. E. S. Mansergh also kicked a penalty goal, making the score 9 points to nil after a rather dull opening half.

The second half, however, produced an entirely different proposition, and it was very difficult to believe that the Signals were the same team. The wind had dropped somewhat, and the forwards, ably led by 2nd Lieutenant P. E. S. Mansergh, really got down to business, and on the rare occasions when 2nd Lieutenant R. R. Morrison, who was hooking very well, failed to obtain possession in the tight, the Cameronians were literally pushed off the ball and one could see from the tough line that there was a shove at last.

The halves were also connecting much better, and, in spite of the greasy state of the ball, a number of really constructive movements followed. 2nd Lieutenant Rice, in the centre, began to show what he could do, and scored a beautiful try on his own between the posts after dodging half-a-dozen men. He also made the openings for 2nd Lieutenant Blackburne, who ran in a very determined manner on the left wing, to score two tries, one of which was converted by 2nd Lieutenant Mansergh.

Finally, Lance Corporal Wilson scored a try from a loose scrum on the enemy's line. 2nd Lieutenant Brett just failed to add the extra points, the ball hitting the upright.

Though the Cameronians were given many chances but failed to make use of their opportunities, Signals never looked like losing after half-time and, after watching this half, one felt that the team ought to go a long way towards winning the Army Cup. Amongst the forwards, 2nd Lieutenant Hayles, 2nd Lieutenant Mansergh and Lance Corporal Ballard were always prominent in the loose, while Lance Corporal Wilson and Driver Stenner produced many useful movements.

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Outside the scrum, 2nd Lieutenant Rice was well backed up by 2nd Lieutenant Blackburne, and should do much better with a little more assistance from the halves, while Lance Corporal Driscoll did plenty of useful work on the right wing.

Army Cup (Third Round).—1st Battalion, K.O.Y.L.I., 12 pts.; Depot Battalion, Royal Signals, 11 pts.

This game, played at Strensall on Wednesday, 30th November, was, as the score suggests, a most exciting and interesting game to watch, the tension also being increased by the fact that the lead changed hands five times. It was an exceedingly fast game, very keenly contested, but played in the best of spirit throughout, due, no doubt, to the excellent control maintained by the referee, who did not allow the slightest infringement to pass unnoticed.

One feature of the game was the number of free kicks awarded, a conservative estimate placing them at about twenty against the K.O.Y.L.I., and half that number against Signals. None of them, however, were in really easy scoring positions, a diagonal cross wind, fairly strong in the first half, adding to the difficulty of place kicks, and in spite of the many attempts at goal, each side only scored two penalty goals.

The ground, which had been covered with straw the night before in anticipation of frost, was in perfect condition and bone dry, in spite of considerable rain during the night and morning. Signals, who kicked off against the wind, soon had the K.O.Y.L.I. in their "25," and kept up a strong pressure for the first ten minutes or so. The Signals outsides, who looked the more dangerous throughout the game, started many movements, but the K.O.Y.L.I. forwards, who were an extraordinarily well-drilled pack in the loose, were always up on the ball and seized the least opportunity given them by any pass which looked like going astray or being delayed.

After withstanding this first onslaught, the K.O.Y.L.I. then took up the attack and, after some play in midfield, opened the scoring with a try, from a line-out movement, started by a three-quarter, a Signals forward failing to gather the ball from a short kick ahead. The extra points were not added in spite of a fairly easy kick.

Signals were not long in replying, when Rice gathered the ball beautifully from a loose fly kick by a K.O.Y.L.I. three-quarter in the Signals "25," and then, after swerving past this man and the full-back, ran the length of the field to score a good try between the posts, Mansergh having no difficulty in adding the extra points to give Signals the lead.

The K.O.Y.L.I. returned to the attack after this set-back, and a few minutes later a good three-quarter movement nearly ended in the wing scoring in the corner. He was brought down on the line, but in the ensuing scramble a forward picked up the ball after a suspicious looking fumble and dived over the line. This try was not converted, but restored to them the lead by one point.

It was now Signals turn to resume the pressure, and the lead was regained after Brett kicked a very fine penalty goal into the wind from just outside the "25" line. Shortly before half-time, a Signals three-quarter was penalised for not playing the ball, and once again the lead was lost by the resulting penalty goal, the score remaining 9—8 till half-time.

Signals crossed over with hopes of reducing this slender deficit with the aid of the wind, but the latter decided it had done enough and practically died down. The second half was evenly contested, Signals holding off the initial pressure of the K.O.Y.L.I. for a considerable time, but the latter increased their lead by another penalty goal. One goal would have regained the lead, but though the lead was reduced by a long-range penalty goal kicked by Wilson, the K.O.Y.L.I. defence proved secure against all Signals attacks. It was, undoubtedly, the speed and combination of the K.O.Y.L.I. forwards that not only defeated the Signals eight, but kept the more dangerous Signals outsides from developing their attacks to the full, and which perhaps justified the remarks heard afterwards that though the K.O.Y.L.I. deserved to win, Signals did not deserve to lose.

One went away feeling that the score very fairly represented the balance of the play, but might have been just as easily one point the other way.

Army Soccer Cup.—We reached and stopped at the third round of the Army Cup. We disposed of the Wiltshire Regiment in the first round by two goals to one. In the second round we beat the K.O.Y.L.I. from Strensall, by three goals to two.

On Wednesday, 7th December, the Cameronians put a stop to our progress by five goals to one. In this game, as usual, we started off well, playing good football, but later deteriorated. The two main causes of our heavy defeat were due to injured, patched-up players, and lack of condition.

Driver Stranks at left-half and centre-half was outstanding throughout the games. His tackling was splendid and he did the work of two players. Lance Corporal Kerr of the School of Signals scored excellent goals in the first two matches, but was poorly served in the match against the Cameronians.

Signalman Yeats, with a painful boil under his arm, played a plucky and excellent game at left-back.

We hope for better luck next year, when facilities may be given to enable the team to get in some road and other training that will allow them to last out the severe one-and-a-half hour's play of a cup tie.

"A" Company, Depot Battalion.

Football.—There is little to report in this respect, except that the Depot Battalion soccer team were good enough to enter the third round of the Army Cup. The match took place on the Garrison Central Ground, where the team had two previous victories. This time, however, we were handicapped greatly by a number of injuries sustained during the progress of the match. The Cameronians emerged victors after ninety minutes of play. The score was: Cameronians, 5; Depot Battalion, 1.

Rugby.—This team was also expected to do well in the Army Cup. They received a bye in the first round, then played the Cameronians on the Command Central Ground on Saturday, 19th November. The Signals won easily with a score of 23 points to nil.

The third round of this match was played at Strensall against the K.O.Y.L.I., the team that won its way into the fifth round of the Yorkshire Cup. We met defeat by one single point, after one of the finest games of the year. The score was: K.O.Y.L.I., 12; Depot Battalion, 11. Well done, Signals!

We take the opportunity of wishing the team luck and hope that this will encourage them in their efforts towards the Army Cup.

"F" Company, Training Battalion.

Rugby.—Since our last notes only one game has been played, and this was against Ampleforth on Scotton Ground. After a very good game, we lost by the odd point in 27. Stewart, Mole and Holdsworth scored tries, and Smith A. kicked a penalty goal.

Cross-country.—The Inter-Company Shield is still in the Boys' Club. As usual, we won every run, and our individuals won six "Jimmies" in the final and S.T.C. Individual Run. Lance Corporal Boy Hopkins beat the evergreen Tommy Blades into second place, and Boy Gladwin filled third place. It is hoped to bring other coveted cross-country trophies to Catterick, as we think that the civilian clubs have held them far too long. We publish a photograph of all the runners, who are to be congratulated on their excellent performances.

Association Football.—Several games have been played by both "A" and "B" Sections. "A" team is now at the top of the Garrison League with the following results: Played 8, won 7, drawn 1, lost 0, goals for 43, against 1; points 15.

"B" team are in second place by virtue of goal average: Played 10, won 6, drawn 2, lost 2, goals for 41, against 16; points 14.

Boy Brooks holds the goal-scoring record with 26 goals, Ward comes next with 21 goals, Pavey follows with 11 and Griffin and Tucker have scored their fair share.

"A" team will shortly be losing Rowberry, a goalkeeper of no mean repute.

Army Cup.—The second round of the Boys' Army Cup was played on Vimy Lines Ground between the R.E.s from Chatham and "A" team (Senior Workshops). The team was as follows: Rowberry; Warren, Murray A., Weeks V., Smith A., Thompson; Beattie, Pavey, Brooks, Griffin and Marshall.

Having lost the toss we kicked off, but something went wrong and the R.E.s carried the ball down the field, and only a very daring leap at the feet of the forwards by Rowberry saved us. These leaps were frequent throughout the game and saved us repeatedly. It was a ding-dong battle throughout and thrills were the order of the day. The biggest thrill came early in the game and practically decided the match. Pavey broke through and, despite the handling of the ball, managed to get away with it. He shot, and the goalkeeper was beaten by a very slippery ball. Half-time arrived with no further scoring.

Immediately after the resumption of play, the R.E.s went all out, but our defence was just that bit too strong. Smith A. sustained an injury, and had to exchange places with Thompson, who literally ran himself to a standstill.

A clever movement, started off by the half-backs, drew the defence of the R.E.s out of position, and the goalkeeper out of his goal, with the result that Griffin placed the ball over their heads into an empty goal. The Signals were two up, and there was very little time left, but Griffin again drew the defence of the R.E.s out of position and passed the ball to the left wing. Here Marshall returned quickly into a practically empty goal. Brooks put the finishing touch to what was a practically certain goal.

Much praise is due to Marshall, whose play on the left wing was excellent. His centering was splendid. The whole team played well, and each of them deserves much praise for sacrificing their individualism.

The team have a bye in the next round, and are now waiting anxiously for the draw for the semi-final of their Section.

ADMIRAL.

1st Divisional Signals.

Association Football.—Our team of young operators, who are showing considerable enthusiasm and promise, defeated a young soldiers' team of 2nd Divisional Signals by 4—2.

Hockey.—Our match against the 18th Field Regiment, R.A., in the Army Cup, turned out to be a veritable tourney. We had to play this team three times before we were ultimately defeated. In the first match at Deepcut, there was no score. The match was abandoned during extra time, owing to bad light. In the first replay, at Mons Barracks, there was again no score. The match was played during one of the worst gales recorded in 1938. In the second replay, at Deepcut, the 18th Field Regiment did the trick, winning 3—0.

In the Corps hockey trials, R.S.M. Westwood, Corporal Pettit and Lance Corporal Moase were given a trial. Eventually the R.S.M. played in the two Corps matches that followed.

2nd Divisional Signals.

No. 1 Company.

Cross-country Run, 16th November.—Over a very wet course of 6½ miles, 2nd Divisional Signals beat 11th Company, R.E., and "A" Corps Signals. The R.E.s were second and "A" Corps Signals third by a very narrow margin of points. Scoring was as follows: with ten men to run and eight to count. 2nd Divisional Signals had their eight men in the first nine, and ten in the first fourteen. The first three home were: Sergeant Shardlow, 2nd Divisional Signals (39 mins. 3 secs.); Lance Corporal Walton, 11th Company, R.E.s (40 mins. 31 secs.); Lance Corporal Jones I., 2nd Divisional Signals (40 mins. 32 secs.).

POSITIONS.

2nd Divisional Signals: 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, (43) 11, 14.
11th Company, R.E.: 2, 12, 15, 16, 18, 24, 25, 28, (140) 29, 30.
"A" Corps Signals: 10, 13, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, (145) 26, 27.

"F" COMPANY CROSS-COUNTRY TEAM.

	Time : Mins.	Secs.
1. Sergeant Shardlow, 2nd Divisional Signals	39	3
2. Lance Corporal Walton, R.E.	40	31
3. Lance Corporal Jones, 2nd Divisional Signals	40	32
4. Signalman McIvor, 2nd Divisional Signals	41	48
5. Signalman McKenna, 2nd Divisional Signals	41	54
6. Lance Corporal Martin, 2nd Divisional Signals	41	57
7. Signalman Payne, 2nd Divisional Signals	42	18
8. Signalman McDonough, 2nd Divisional Signals	42	55
9. Signalman Pitman, 2nd Divisional Signals	42	55
10. Lance Corporal Williams, "A" Corps	43	53
11. Driver Coleman, 2nd Divisional Signals	44	23
12. Sapper Pestin, R.E.	44	26
13. Signalman Jackson, "A" Corps Signals	45	4
14. Lieutenant D. A. Jackson, 2nd Divisional Signals	45	13
15. Sapper Washington, R.E.	46	1
16. Sapper Smallman, R.E.	46	39
17. Signalman Lunley, "A" Corps Signals	47	26
18. Sapper Patrick, R.E.	47	50
19. Signalman Bathany, "A" Corps Signals	48	26
20. Signalman Walker, "A" Corps Signals	49	6
21. Signalman Colgrave, "A" Corps Signals	49	36
22. Signalman Wallis, "A" Corps Signals	49	38
23. Signalman Whelan, "A" Corps Signals	49	39
24. Sapper Seewray, R.E.	49	47
25. Sapper Scott, R.E.	49	57
26. Signalman O'Brien, "A" Corps Signals	50	4
27. Signalman Barnett, "A" Corps Signals	50	13
28. Sapper Slade, R.E.	50	40
29. Sapper Holden, R.E.	50	41
30. Sapper Reardon, R.E.	51	12

It may be interesting to note that our team have the benefit of training with the Aldershot Command Harriers, who have as their Secretary Lieutenant D. A. Dickson, 2nd Divisional Signals, and Sergeant Shardlow M., who trains both the Command Harriers and the Army team. So now you cross-country fiends, get posted to 2nd Divisional Signals, for although we cannot promise you much on the track (the Unit has too many camps to compete with during the summer), we can certainly cater for you from September until April.

RUN ON 30TH NOVEMBER.—2nd Divisional Signals v. 11th Company R.E. and the R.E. Depot. Distance, 6½ miles; twelve to run, eight to count. Result: 1, 2nd Divisional Signals, 51 points; 2, 11th Company, R.E., 125 points; 3, R.E. Depot, 220 points.

First three home: Sergeant Shardlow, 40 mins, 15 secs.; Lance Corporal Walton, 41 mins.; Sapper West, 43 mins. 20 secs.

1st Indian Divisional Signals, Rawalpindi.

My spy in the Vital Statistics Department has supplied me with the astounding news that the number of miles run by individuals in various games during the last couple of moons, would, if converted into crambles, be enough to run a train for five minutes. The figures given further on do not include "Busty" Crouch's figure for Basket Ball during P.T.

Here are the figures: Cricket, 7,035½; Hockey, 10,999½; Tennis, 8,000; Basket Ball, 601; Boxing, 100; and Soccer, nil.

Everything is being done to get some results from the other games' experts, but just at present we have only obtained the cricket results for the simple reason that I do this job myself.

1st Indian Divisional Signals, 71 (Signalman Ellis, 16; Signalman Gale, 12) v. Silver Jubilee C.C., 170.

1st Indian Divisional Signals, 71 (Lance Corporal Hall, 13; Signalman Gale, 11) v. 'Pindi Sports, 212 (Ahmed Khan, 158).

1st Indian Divisional Signals "A," 118 (Signalman Ellis, 62; Signalman Pauley, 27 not out; Sergeant Bloodworth, 25 not out) v. Detachment, 1st Devonshire Regiment, 35 (Signalman James, 7 for 18).

1st Indian Divisional Signals "A," 92 (Signalman Gale, 56) v. Detachment, 1st Battalion, R.U. Rifles, 38 (Signalman Davies, 5 for 22).

1st Indian Divisional Signals "A," 110 (Signalman Ellis, 34; Signalman Pauley, 20) v. 5th Field Regiment, R.A., 39 (Signalman James, 4 for 10).

1st Indian Divisional Signals, 98 (Signalman Gale, 51) v. 1st Battalion R.U. Rifles, 93 (Signalman Maskery, 4 for 8).

1st Indian Divisional Signals, 113 (Signalman Maskery, 24; Signalman Pauley, 19; Lance Sergeant Chamberlain, 18 not out) v. North-Western Railway, 46 (Signalman Davies, 5 for 7).

1st Indian Divisional Signals, 83 (Lance Sergeant Moody, 20 not out) v. Rawalpindi Arsenal, 163 for 8.

1st Indian Divisional Signals, 223 for 5 (Signalman Dawson, 56 not out; Signalman Gale, 46; Sergeant Bloodworth, 44) v. North-Western Railway, 113 (Sergeant Bloodworth, 8 for 49).

1st Indian Divisional Signals, 86 for 9 (Signalman Adcock, 16) v. "A" Corps Signals, 72 (Signalman Davies, 3 for 12).

1st Indian Divisional Signals, 95 (Signalman Gale, 23; Signalman Cox J., 22 not out) v. R.I.A.S.C., Chaklala, 50 (Sergeant Bloodworth, 8 for 26).

1st Indian Divisional Signals, 84 (Lance Sergeant Moody, 27) v. Rawalpindi Military Officers' Club, 232 for 8 (Signalman Davies, 3 for 56).

1st Indian Divisional Signals, 85 (Signalman Gale, 18; Signalman Pauley, 18) v. North-Western Railway, 90.

1st Indian Divisional Signals, 68 (Signalman Dawson, 31) v. North-Western Railway, 84 for 6 (Signalman James, 3 for 20).

1st Indian Divisional Signals, 68 (Signalman Whitehead, 17; Signalman Adcock, 17) v. 1st Battalion, Devonshire Regiment, 125 (Signalman Davies, 4 for 30; Signalman James, 2 for 2).

The Unit has been drawn against the Devons in the First Round of Jamasjee Cricket Tournament, and the match will be played on the 4th and 5th January, 1939.

Hockey.—We have managed to obtain a few results of hockey matches which have been played during the last few days.

v. 'Pindi Rovers	Won	3—2
v. Gordon College	Lost	0—3
v. 'Pindi Rovers	Drew	1—1
v. "A" Corps Signals	Lost	0—2
v. Northern Command and Rawalpindi District H.Q.	Drew	2—2

The ladies of the Unit and those of "A" Corps Signals have combined and formed a Hockey XI. They have played a number of matches against other Ladies XI's in the Station. The results do not seem to matter so long as the ladies can get together and hack one another to pieces. If they can get down to it and learn to keep their positions, they should make a good combination as some of them can certainly wallop that ball. The main difficulty at present seems to be in deciding which position they really want to occupy. When they want any practice a Men's XI turns out, and gives them a run out. I have played in a couple of games against the ladies and can vouch for the fact that it is very startling to get the ball and find yourself tackled by five ladies at the same time.

General.—Somehow or the other, soccer seems to have faded right out in the Unit. Why, we don't know, as most of last year's players are still in the Unit and they were keen enough last season and did well in the tournaments. Perhaps, by the time out next notes are due they will have emerged from their retirement.

We have got several likely lads in training for boxing, and it is hoped that they will be as free from black eyes, when they have finished what they intend to do, as they are now.

Basket ball is our "Night Starvation" remover, and we indulge in it each morning during P.T. There is always a great fight on the part of the teams to get "Busty" Crouch and me to play for them, why, I don't know, unless it is because of his weight and my personality.

Look for big things from this Unit when the athletic season starts as we have great plans for winning everything "winable."

AUSTIN.

THE WIRE

THE CORPS MAGAZINE OF THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

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Editorial Notes.

Christmas Greetings to Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal, C.I., G.C.V.O., G.B.E.—On behalf of all ranks of Royal Signals, the Corps Committee sent a suitably inscribed Christmas card to our Colonel-in-Chief, to which the following reply was received :

" HAREWOOD HOUSE,
LEEDS.
28th December, 1938.

DEAR BRIGADIER WILLAN,

The Princess Royal desires me to write to you and to ask if you will convey to all ranks of the Royal Corps of Signals the very sincere thanks of their Colonel-in-Chief for the charming water-colour and illustrated inscription, which they have sent her as a Christmas card.

I am to assure you that it is much appreciated by the Princess.

Believe me,
Yours sincerely,
SYBIL KENYON-SLANEY,
Lady in Waiting."

New Year's Honours List.—We extend our felicitations to the undermentioned recipients in the recently published New Year's Honours List :

Major-General E. A. OSBORNE, **C.B.,** D.S.O., Colonel Commandant, Royal Signals.

Lieutenant-Colonel E. BERNIE-REID, **O.B.E.,** O.C., 51st (Highland) Divisional Signals (T.A.).

Lieutenant-Colonel R. BARON, **O.B.E.,** T.D., O.C., 55th (West Lancs.) Divisional Signals (T.A.).

Major A. HEMSLEY, **M.B.E.,** T.D., 1st Anti-Aircraft Divisional Signals (T.A.).

Major V. D. WARREN, **M.B.E.,** 52nd (Lowland) Divisional Signals (T.A.).

Anti-Aircraft Corps Signals, T.A.—Lieutenant-Colonel and Brevet Colonel G. C. Wickins, T.D., is to be heartily congratulated on his recent appointment as Deputy Chief Signal Officer to the 1st Anti-Aircraft Corps (T.A.). This is a new Territorial appointment and indicates the expansion of Anti-Aircraft Signals.

Colonel Wickins served during the Great War, from 1914 to 1919, with R.E. Signals. On his return to England, he was transferred to London Army Troops and later to 3rd London Corps Signals (T.A.). When that Unit was disbanded, he was appointed assistant to the Deputy Chief Signal Officer, Eastern Command and London District, Colonel J. Waley-Cohen, C.M.G., C.B.E., D.S.O., T.D.

Colonel Wickins commanded the 1st Anti-Aircraft Divisional Signals (T.A.) from 1933 to November of last year and, during his command, the Establishment of that Unit increased from approximately 150 to 550.

A descriptive account of the work performed by 1st Anti-Aircraft Divisional Signals (T.A.) during the last crisis was published in the November, 1938, issue of this magazine.

In civilian life Colonel Wickins is employed in the Post Office and, as the result of his many Post Office contacts, he was instrumental in the setting up of The Technical Development Committee for Air Defence Communications, with Mr. B. O. Anson, formerly Assistant Engineer-in-Chief, G.P.O., as its first Chairman.

The work accomplished through the activities of that Committee, which included Dr. Hart of the Air Defence Experimental Establishment, has resulted in the production of apparatus which is now being installed in all Anti-Aircraft Gun Operations rooms, not only in London, but also in strategical areas throughout the country.

▲

For many years, Colonel Wickins has taken an active interest in the work of the Signals Association and is President of the Westminster Branch of that organisation and also a member of the Central Committee.

He has just completed a tour of the country in connection with the formation of four Anti-Aircraft Divisional Signal Units with Headquarters at Nottingham, Edinburgh, Liverpool, and Reading, to serve the four A.A. Divisions outside the London area.

Congratulations.—We also convey our hearty congratulations to Lieutenant (I.P.C.) E. H. Spindler and Lieutenant (Quartermaster) M. J. Noonan on their recent appointment to commissioned rank.

Obituary.—We regret to announce the death of ex-C.Q.M.S. Bird H. W., D.C.M., who passed away after a brief illness, at the age of 53, on 3rd January, and was buried at Farnham Royal, Bucks, on 7th January.

" Dicky," as he was more familiarly known to his friends and associates, will be well remembered by many of our older readers, and was a familiar figure at S.T.C., Catterick (Q.M. Stores) up to the time of his discharge to pension in September, 1927.

The late C.Q.M.S. H. W. Bird, D.C.M.

He enlisted in the Border Regiment in 1906, was transferred to Royal Engineers in 1912, served in France from 17th August, 1914, until 17th July, 1919, and was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for gallantry on 22nd September, 1916.

We tender our deepest sympathy to his widow and family in their sad bereavement.

The attention of all readers is drawn to the Situations Vacant Announcements on page 51 of this issue.

EDITOR.

Signals Association Notes.

The attention of all readers is drawn to the Situations Vacant Announcements on page 51 of this issue.

EXETER AND DISTRICT BRANCH.

Fourth Annual Dinner.—Ninety-seven attended the " Fourth Annual " at Exeter on Saturday, 3rd December. They came from all parts, and the Salisbury Branch sent fifteen to escort their Colours.

It was a jolly evening and nothing " sticky " about it. There was a larger crowd than ever of the " old originals " (the " Exeter mob " of 1914), and they filled up one long table.

Major R. F. Rayner, M.B.E., M.P., who represents the Totnes Division in Parliament, came along and insisted on finding a seat for himself among the boys. He said he thoroughly enjoyed himself and, judging by the merriment all around him, we think he really did have a " night out."

Colonel W. G. Michelmore, D.S.O., M.C., T.D., D.L., was in the chair, but speech-making was got over quickly and then everybody moved about to have a word or two with old friends.

Our General Secretary, although not feeling at his best after his recent illness, came down and we think he enjoyed himself.

He responded to the " Signals Association " toast, and gave details of the work of the Association during the past year.

Major J. W. Western, O.B.E., T.D., the local Honorary Secretary, when toasting "Absent Friends," read many letters of regret from those unable to be present.

A very enjoyable evening !

EMPLOYMENTS.

Situations found during the preceding month with the co-operation of the National Association for the Employment of Regular Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen :

1	Ex-Signalman, Reading	Postman
2	Ex-Signalman, Derby	Postman
3	Ex-N.C.O., Sheffield	P.O. Engineering Dept.
4	Ex-Signalman, Sheffield	P.O. Engineering Dept.
5	Ex-Signalman, Sheffield	Labourer
6	Ex-Signalman, Wolverhampton	Iron Worker
7	Ex-Signalman, Wolverhampton	Postman
8	Ex-Signalman, Stoke-on-Trent	Postman
9	Ex-Signalman, Preston	Postman
10	Ex-Signalman, Preston	Postman
11	Ex-N.C.O., Essex	Postman
12	Ex-Signalman, Brighton	Sorting Clerk
13	Ex-N.C.O., Brighton	Sorting Clerk
14	Ex-Signalman, Manchester	Postman
15	Ex-Signalman, Manchester	Postman
16	Ex-Signalman, Manchester	Postman
17	Ex-N.C.O., Manchester	Postman
18	Ex-Signalman, Manchester	Commissionaire
19	Ex-Signalman, London	Labourer
20	Ex-N.C.O., London	Metal Worker
21	Ex-Signalman, London	Metal Worker
22	Ex-Signalman, London	Metal Worker
23	Ex-Signalman, London	Postman
24	Ex-Signalman, London	Messenger
25	Ex-Signalman, London	Fitter
26	Ex-Signalman, London	Fitter
27	Ex-Signalman, London	Porter
28	Ex-Signalman, Sunderland	Postman
29	Ex-Signalman, Yorkshire	Porter
30	Ex-Signalman, Yorkshire	Labourer
31	Ex-N.C.O., Yorkshire	Postman
32	Ex-Signalman, Yorkshire	Postman
33	Ex-Signalman, Sunderland	Telephonist
34	Ex-N.C.O., Somerset	Sorting Clerk
35	Ex-Signalman, Yorkshire	Labourer
36	Ex-Signalman, Yorkshire	Labourer
37	Ex-Signalman, Yorkshire	Postman
38	Ex-Signalman, Yorkshire	Postman
39	Ex-Signalman, Surrey	Wireless Operator

40	Ex-N.C.O., Newcastle-on-Tyne	Sorting Clerk
41	Ex-Signalman, Yorkshire	Postman
42	Ex-Signalman, Yorkshire	Postman
43	Ex-N.C.O., Somerset	Postman
44	Ex-Signalman, Hull	Clerk
45	Ex-Signalman, Essex	Telephonist
46	Ex-Signalman, Yorkshire	Labourer
47	Ex-Signalman, Bristol	P.O. Engineering Dept.
48	Ex-Signalman, Somerset	Postman
49	Ex-Signlaman, Devonport	Sorting Clerk
50	Ex-N.C.O., Devonport	Postman
51	Ex-Signalman, Coventry	Wireless Examiner
52	Ex-Signalman, Chatham	Wireless Examiner

GENERAL SECRETARY.

Benevolent Fund Notes.

The Administrator gratefully acknowledges receipt of a cheque for Thirty Pounds from the Chief Signal Officer, Northern Command, York, as a donation to Signals Association Benevolent Fund from the Northern Command Tattoo Committee, also :

CASH SUBSCRIPTION from :

Mr. W. Moffat.

GIFT OF CLOTHING from :

Captain F. W. P. Bradford.

APPEALS dealt with :

1	Ex-Signalman, Hull	Loan	£1 17 0	Grant	£3	0	0
2	Ex-Signalman, Hants			Grant	£1	0	0
3	Ex-Signalman, Darlington			Grant	£3	0	0
4	Ex-Signalman, Swindon			Grant	£2	0	0
5	Signalman, Palestine			Grant	£5	0	0
6	Widow of Ex-N.C.O., Kent			Grant	£2	0	0
7	Ex-N.C.O., Yorks			Loan	£10	0	0

(Signed) T. H. L. SPAIGHT, Lieutenant-Colonel,
Administrator, Signals Association Benevolent Fund.

Situations Vacant.

Required immediately for a War Department Establishment at Chatham :

CLERK.—Rate of pay, 58s. per week. Candidates should qualify as under :

(a) Have been discharged from the Army after not less than 12 years' service with the Colours, or have been invalided out.

(b) Have left the Colours not more than two years.

(c) Possess a 1st Class Certificate of Education, and an Army certificate of character endorsed " Exemplary " or " Very Good."

(d) Be not over 49 years of age, and prepared to compete at the next examination for appointment as Departmental Grade IV Clerk in War Department " Out-Station " Establishments *at Home*.

ALSO

CIVILIAN STOREKEEPER.—Rate of pay, 55s. per week, rising by annual increments of 1s. 6d. a week to 61s., to cover all time worked in a week of not less than 48 hours. Familiarity with wireless stores essential ; Ex-C.Q.M.S. preferred.

Required immediately for War Department Establishment at Reading :

STOREMAN.—Preferably an ex-C.Q.M.S. (unmarried). Prepared to enlist in T.A. as C.Q.M.S. (LIVE IN.) Rate of pay, approximately £3 per week.

CLERK.—Preferably an ex-Orderly-Room Sergeant. Prepared to enlist as such in T.A. Rate of pay, £3 per week, rising to £3 5s. od. after three months, thence to a maximum of £3 7s. od.

Required immediately for a War Department Establishment in the North of England :

Authority has been received for the temporary employment of three CIVILIAN INSTRUCTORS to recruits under technical training as Instrument Mechanics and Electricians Signals. Rates of pay, £3 15s. od. per week for a minimum of 48 hours.

Candidates must be ex-N.C.O.s who were Class I Instrument Mechanics.

A number of ex-N.C.O.s will also shortly be required for temporary employment as Civilian Instructors to recruits under training as Operators Signals. Rates of pay similar to those for Instrument Mechanic Instructors above.

Those desirous of nomination should submit their applications, together with full particulars of Army service, qualifications, etc., to The General Secretary, Signals Association, 95, Belgrave Road, London, S.W.1.

Only those who are eligible for discharge within the next three months should apply.

CORPS PROMOTION ROSTER.

Subsequent Amendments.

[The figures in the last column indicate the pages in the " Corps Promotion Roster " (published in April, 1938), on which the respective names may be found. This information cannot, of course, be given in the case of Lance Corporals appointed since that date.]

Promoted Warrant Officer, Class III.

2309201	C.Q.M.S. Adams E.	1/10/38	18
2306838	C.Q.M.S. Hoyland V.	1/10/38	18
2308866	C.Q.M.S. Lawrie J. A.	1/10/38	18
2313509	C.Q.M.S. Napper H.	1/10/38	19
2312645	C.Q.M.S. Farmer G. E.	1/10/38	19
3438039	C.Q.M.S. Boon F. E.	1/10/38	19
2309040	C.Q.M.S. Prior W.	1/10/38	21
2314213	C.Q.M.S. Jennison F.	1/10/38	21
2308397	C.Q.M.S. Waldron D.	1/10/38	21
2313942	C.Q.M.S. Nokes H. S.	1/10/38	21
2306771	C.Q.M.S. Collins H. J. S.	1/10/38	21
2313033	C.Q.M.S. Fishwick R. H.	1/10/38	22
3517099	C.Q.M.S. Bramwell L.	1/10/38	22
2309787	Sergeant Lockyer F. E.	1/10/38	22
2313643	Sergeant Bowler W. H.	1/10/38	22
2312338	Sergeant Green P. C.	1/10/38	22
6296	Sergeant Williams, H. R. V.	1/10/38	22
4178303	Sergeant Kelly J. W., M.M.	1/10/38	22
2306723	Sergeant Aitken J. S.	1/10/38	22
2311115	Sergeant Brett T. P.	1/10/38	22
2310654	Sergeant Hoy C. L.	1/10/38	23
2308411	Sergeant Pack E. W.	1/10/38	23
2311362	Sergeant Udell L. C.	1/10/38	23
2311450	Sergeant Finn V. L.	1/10/38	23
2308407	Sergeant Smith J.	1/10/38	24
2309516	Sergeant Shardlow M.	1/10/38	24

Promoted C.Q.M.S.

2313059	Sergeant Stainer J. W.	1/10/38	22
2309194	Sergeant Cutler E.	1/10/38	22
2306618	Sergeant Sullivan R.	1/10/38	22
2310884	Sergeant Nicholson W.	1/10/38	22
2313875	Sergeant Tucker S. A.	1/10/38	22
7734091	Sergeant Peachey R. M.	1/10/38	22
739952	Sergeant Deamon V. E.	1/10/38	22
2308130	Sergeant Jarvis E. T.	1/10/38	23
1850114	Sergeant Male J.	7/10/38	23
2306781	Sergeant Beckley A. E.	7/10/38	23
2310868	Sergeant Cole W.	23/10/38	21

Promoted Sergeant.

4436107	L/Sergeant Walch H.	1/10/38	40
2309482	L/Sergeant Colwell H. F.	1/10/38	40
2316171	L/Sergeant Orton P. E.	1/10/38	40
2310791	L/Sergeant Young W.	1/10/38	40
2311316	L/Sergeant Keywood F. C.	1/10/38	40
2315133	L/Sergeant Knight H. R.	1/10/38	40
2317009	L/Sergeant Smith A. T.	1/10/38	40
6909744	L/Sergeant Alexander A. G.	1/10/38	40
5241693	L/Sergeant Pearson J.	1/10/38	40
2317154	L/Sergeant Bartley H. G.	1/10/38	41
5097375	L/Sergeant Clay S. W.	1/10/38	41
2313902	L/Sergeant Turner F.	1/10/38	41
2317073	L/Sergeant Cook T.	1/10/38	41
2317052	L/Sergeant Glass J. McD.	4/10/38	41

2312932	L/Sergeant Hodge C. H.	7/10/38	41
2309861	L/Sergeant Vine J. C. T.	10/10/38	41
5664800	L/Sergeant Woodbury W. J.	22/10/38	41
2314256	L/Sergeant Mundy J.	23/10/38	41
6653403	L/Sergeant Ient A. V.	25/10/38	41

Appointed Lance Sergeant.

2319190	Corporal Routledge J. S.	30/9/38	50
2320499	Corporal Moore S. C.	1/10/38	50
2318099	Corporal Blanchard A.	1/10/38	50
2318219	Corporal Galbraith A. C.	1/10/38	50
2310885	Corporal Hadland C. N.	1/10/38	50
2312037	Corporal Cottingham A. M.	1/10/38	50
2317146	Corporal Morton A. J.	1/10/38	50
2316190	Corporal McCann R. J.	1/10/38	50
2319565	Corporal Milligan A.	1/10/38	50
2320422	Corporal Christian W. L. G.	1/10/38	50
2318325	Corporal Darby A. L.	1/10/38	50
2314053	Corporal Croucher W. H.	1/10/38	50
2312905	Corporal Rose H. J.	1/10/38	51
2315439	Corporal Smart R. G.	2/10/38	51
2319427	Corporal Furniss S. W.	4/10/38	51
2316799	Corporal Dallimore T. A.	7/10/38	51
2316769	Corporal Page R. F.	15/10/38	51
2318976	Corporal Poole S. E.	17/10/38	51
2312715	Corporal Poulton G. L.	17/10/38	51
6196279	Corporal Missen S. V.	18/10/38	51
2319035	Corporal Puleston E. H. G.	22/10/38	52

Promoted Corporal.

2320700	L/Corporal Rixon D. H.	1/10/38	71
2569530	L/Corporal Ballard J. J.	1/10/38	71
2315367	L/Corporal Chambers L. E.	1/10/38	71
2317319	L/Corporal Birkett E. N.	1/10/38	71
2317011	L/Corporal Winter F. A.	1/10/38	71
2565315	L/Corporal Wright J. B.	1/10/38	71
768835	L/Corporal Kennard H. L.	1/10/38	71
2322304	L/Corporal O'Rourke P. J.	1/10/38	71
2318562	L/Corporal Mintram E.	1/10/38	72
2321817	L/Corporal Luscombe T. H.	1/10/38	72
2320330	L/Corporal Verlander F. L. G.	4/10/38	72
2320870	L/Corporal Dove G. S.	4/10/38	72
4341615	L/Corporal Carrison S.	5/10/38	72
2320459	L/Corporal Barker N. B.	4/10/38	70
2321225	L/Corporal Willcocks G. S.	13/10/38	72

Appointed Lance Corporal.

2319879	Signalman Stanford G.	17/5/38
2323367	Signalman Mower H.	18/5/38
2321800	Signalman Tyers W.	19/5/38
2322220	Signalman Kettlewell L.	25/5/38
2318926	Signalman Bailey W.	25/5/38
2321768	Signalman Marks S.	25/5/38
2322483	Signalman Cross C.	25/5/38
2318509	Signalman Buckman R.	25/5/38
2317501	Signalman Walker L.	29/5/38
2324377	Signalman Brown G.	11/6/38
2323450	Signalman Ward S.	12/6/38
2323463	Signalman Stott J.	12/6/38
2323588	Signalman Horstead R.	12/6/38
2569006	Signalman Mallins R.	18/6/38
2211268	Signalman King W.	20/6/38
2320023	Signalman King V.	21/6/38
2321530	Signalman Scott W.	21/6/38
5495760	Signalman Ganner A.	21/6/38
5493644	Signalman Vitale J.	21/6/38
2323553	Signalman Martin V.	21/6/38
2316932	Signalman Ives J.	21/6/38

Discharged.

2314713	F/S/Sergeant Mains H.	5/12/38	13
4114919	C.Q.M.S. Murphy W.	4/12/38	21
7578257	L/Sergeant Hardy W.	2/12/38	42
2306651	L/Sergeant Gresham W.	27/12/38	41
2320092	Corporal Hartley F.	5/12/38	58
2317993	Corporal Cameron F.	16/12/38	54
2312123	Corporal Lunniss D.	24/12/38	38

Transferred to Army Reserve.

2321067	L/Corporal Beevers H.	12/11/38	74
2320953	L/Corporal Nicholson N.	23/11/38	77
2320973	L/Corporal Chatfield E.	23/11/38	71
2563721	L/Corporal Scriven T.	23/11/38	74
2320859	L/Corporal Wilson A.	28/11/38	69
2320983	L/Corporal Cordner N.	29/11/38	70
2321307	L/Corporal Forder C.	29/11/38	
2313342	L/Corporal Plummer O.	30/11/38	73

Plain Tales.

Save 'Em or Burn 'Em.—It is rather late to talk about Christmas cards so, just to be awkward, I'll tell you about mine. But first, what do you do with yours? Calendars, of course, one keeps and book-markers are useful right through the year. The robins, stage-coaches, and country roads at sunset however, must suffer the indignity of a ride in the Corporation cart. This Christmas card business is a grand idea, and I hope it never dies out. My mantlepiece was completely filled with figures of Mercury, and the Corps colours were represented in so many ways that I had to resurrect my regimental tie to find out by comparison who was right. One of the neatest cards came from Sergeant and Mrs. Tom Sayers who, by this time, are in China. Do they have pianos in China? A certain hairdresser at Catterick sent a charming card made out of a cinema handbill rather unskilfully embellished with rude remarks in blue crayon. Business must be either very bad or he is buying another car. I was disappointed to note the absence of a card from a former friend who has not only married without my consent but has taken himself off to 5th Divisional Signals at Catterick. I demand an apology, but I do not expect to get it.

Play this on Your Radiogram.—One of these days, as they say in Birmingham, I shall get down to the business of writing something really serious and then no one will read this page at all. Not that I want that to happen because I read this in print and believe me, I'm tickled to death to know that others are mad too. I reluctantly admit that there are two or three people who are not interested. They miss a lot by not throwing off that dreadful cloak of superiority. What use is it? Why be a mental snob? Have you acquired an expensive education? Well then, you should be in a very good position to appreciate what some of you call tripe and others call —— no matter. With your accumulated knowledge you could get a wonderful view of things. Out of all your poor lives you may expect only 40 to 50 years in which to enjoy yourselves. Me too I guess. It isn't much when you think about it. When I was in Sussex (before you came up) I remember they dug up a man who was believed to have lived 100,000 years ago. The only comment I heard was made in the "Chequers." An old gentleman said, "OOh. Wouldn't 'e 'ave bin old if 'e 'adn't died?" True there was a chorus of "Aaah's," but the subject was dropped when it was seen that old George Skipley was about to call for a round. Not that it matters to us. I thought I'd mention it as I happened to be trying a new pencil.

Do you think symphony concerts should over-run their time on the radio? Do you adore chamber music and regard swing music as low? Do you look down on a man because he thinks Socrates is a new brand of scouring powder? Would you deliberately split an infinitive? Say pal, you ought to take somep'n. Does it make me sad if I don't know where the Venus de Milo came from? Does it—well perhaps you're right. Anyway, become a registered reader to-morrow and give yourself a break. I seem to have wandered from the point which was if I remember rightly something about writing a serious article. But there, I begin to think I wasn't made that way. I might try a few hundred words on "Grim Struggle to exist as a Civilian," but bless your cotton socks it is a perfect scream all the time. Now if you'd suggest "Desperate Fight to remain a Sergeant" I could spread myself. Or say, "R.S.M.s I Neglected to Shoot." Here. Gimme a pencil. Well some other time eh?

Cookery Corner.—Once again I think I can find time to help the ladies in the married quarters. Poor souls, so many of them land happily in a brick or tin house and think they have done something clever to grab their man. After a few days they wonder if they haven't made a bad break somewhere. This attitude is due primarily to lack of experience in housekeeping and/or coping with the vagaries of coal burning kitchen ranges. The ranges, generally speaking, are selected by people who don't care whether they will cook or not, and are then fitted in by others who are not quite sure which way round they should go. This may not be strictly true, but is just an impression of mine based on many years experience at both first and second hand. The only solutions are to buy (*a*) a gas cooker, (*b*) an electric cooker, or (*c*) your husband's discharge. In the matter of economy however, I can be more helpful. The amount of waste in the married quarters is appalling. Only last month I had news of two mutton chop bones being found in a Catterick dustbin. Now it may not be generally known that old bones can be used again and again if only a little ingenuity is employed. Try this method to obtain "Mutton Bones *a la* Aunt Nelly." Place the bones in a clean saucepan (if you can find one) and pour one pint of champagne over them. Add a pinch of snuff and two ducks' eggs. Simmer gently. At 1.15 p.m. add two dozen oysters. Cover with sliced ox-tongue and a Mk VIII ground sheet. Leave until pan begins to burn. Counteract this with a Bolonga sausage and a handful of old ale. Heat gently over a small blast furnace and finish with three buttons on cuffs.

Next month. How to fold pancakes standing on one foot.

Ukann Larfe at Home.—"I trust, sir," said Fogworthy, Ukann Larfe's extraordinary butler (whom you have probably forgotten) "that you find yourself very well." He parked his gum on the end of the sideboard with a regal flourish of his fat white hands. "I haven't been lost, you fool," replied Ukann kindly. "Bring me a bottle of brandy and some fags and then you can ——."

"Yes sir," interrupted the butler. "I know." He bowed gravely and idly tipped a Chinese vase over the edge of the writing desk. He went out laughing quietly. In less than five minutes, or at the most seven, he was back.

"Some blokes to see you sir," announced Fogworthy.

"Dash it man," snapped the dectective. "You know I don't see blokes in the library. Bring me another Chinese vase. A Ming if we have one." At that moment there was a confused clatter on the stairs and a motley collection poured itself into the room. Ukann Larfe went forward to meet them with gladness in his heart, his hands in his pockets, a cigarette behind his ear and a welcome on his lips. A piece of wet turf propelled by a beautiful but singularly muscular arm put an efficient stop to the welcome on his lips. He sat down abruptly on the Persian rug (Harridges, 25s. 6d. carr. pd.) amidst a burst of laughter and clapping from his visitors. Who was they? I mean who is these? Oh blow it! If you like this, tell your friends. Then run.

Saturday Night at Six.—I nearly wrote a serious and informative article about P.A.D., because I know a lot about it now. Time, however, appears to have become mechanised and is not content to merely march on. While admitting that P.A.D. is of primary importance I cannot foresee any sort of development in a war, as a war. There can be no fighting, no digging trenches, no signal work, no lorry driving and no football behind the lines. Everyone will be fully occupied putting anti-gas ointment on and scratching it off or changing their eyeshields, capes, hoods, boots and gloves. When not doing this they will submit to being plastered all over with bleaching powder. Eventually, all available clothing will be destroyed by the action of gas and there will be no more forthcoming. Then of course, the armies on both sides will die horribly, until finally the last two opposing airmen will fight it out in the sky. The winner will fall wounded into a field full of mustard gas and as there will bo no one left to help him, he too will pass out screaming. So the gigantic stupendous struggle between two proud nations brings to its sorrowing remnants of women and children the dreadful fruits of this utterly futile, heart-breaking —— Ah Nuts. Where's my football coupon? "Association football results. The League, Division One. Aston Villa, 0; Fairwarp, 9."

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1937 Austin Ten Cambridge Saloon de Luxe, low mileage	£110
1933 Morris Minor two-seater, one owner, carefully kept	£35
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Account of the part taken by Razmak Signal Section in the Operations about Kharre, 9-19th July, 1938

By C. T. H.

Introduction.—This is an account of the work done by the Razmak Section in the recent Operations against Ipi's Headquarters in the Kharre area. Whilst this is simply one of the many Operations which are being regularly carried out in Waziristan against the many hostiles active there, it is of peculiar interest for several reasons. In the first place, because of the trying climatic conditions and country which were met with; in the second place the action took place close to the Afghan border in territory which had not before been entered by Regular troops. Finally, it illustrates the modern developments in tactics and signalling in this type of warfare.

The object of the Operation was to enter the Kharre area, destroy Ipi's ration dumps and inflict as heavy casualties on his lashkar as possible.

The account is given in the form of a diary.

1. The March to the Point of Concentration—Saturday, 9th July, 1938.—" Razcol " marched from Razmak to Gardai. This was a fairly easy march of twelve miles down the main Bannu-Razmak road. As we passed Razani, members of the 3rd Brigade Signal Section handed out mugs of tea to the Section, for which we were very grateful. The 3rd Brigade Signal Section always did their best to help us during the Operations, and we did our best to help them. Co-operation was always very good.

The march went off without incident, and we soon settled down in Gardai. We knew this camp well as we had spent several days in it whilst on Operations against a lashkar in the Mamirogha area in June. " C " Set communications were opened up to Razmak and Razani, and we " teed " in to the G.T.D. line.

Sunday, 10th July, 1938.—" Razcol " marched from Gardai to Mamirogha. 3rd Brigade also marched from Razani to Mamirogha. A reduced District H.Q. and Signals moved out from Razmak, and the whole force was known as " Wastrike."

The concentration went off without a hitch, and, apart from a few sniping shots, the enemy took no action. This was in strong contrast to the last time we were here, when this camp was heavily sniped even in daylight. It was also the camp where Ipi had brought his guns into action against the 3rd Brigade.

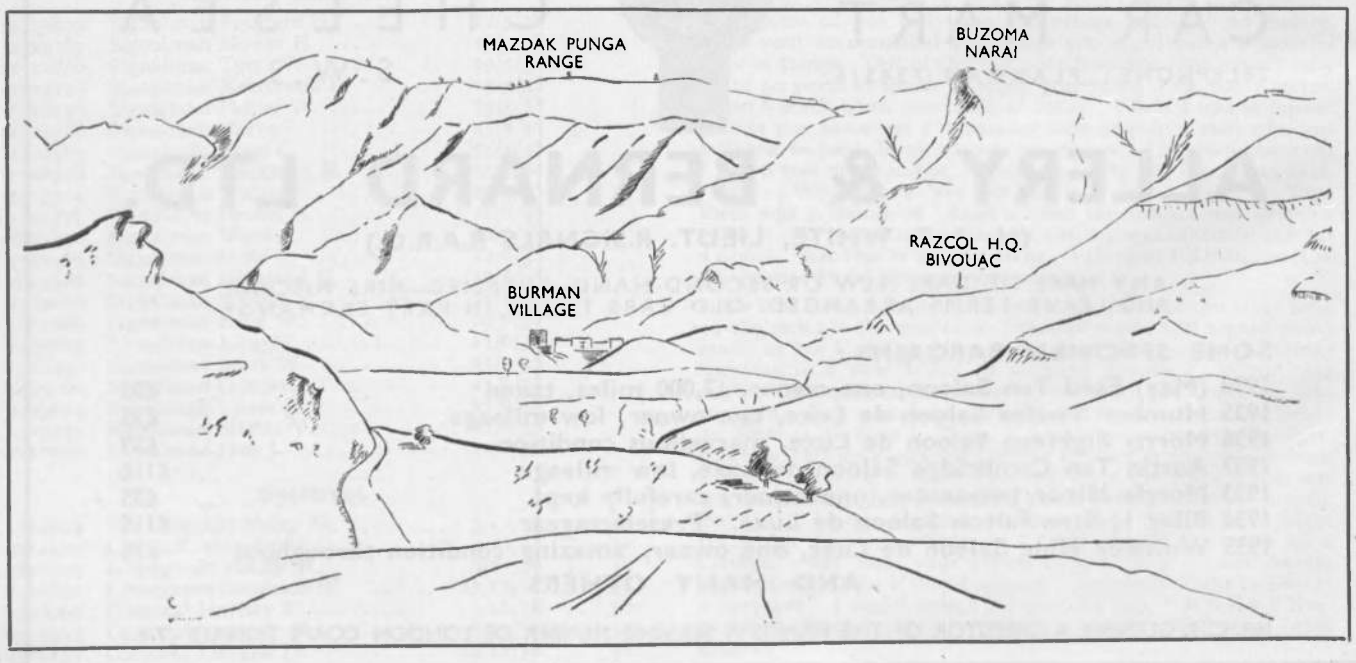
2. " Wastrike " marches to Wuzgai—Monday, 11th July, 1938.—" Wastrike " moved to Degan in the Tochi Valley. 3rd Brigade went out first, " Razcol " passed through them and continued the piquetting up to the camp site. 3rd Brigade then withdrew into the camp and " Razcol " followed. This was a ten-mile march under trying conditions. As we came down in to the plains, the heat was considerable and the loose surface of the nullah beds we marched over made the going difficult.

Lance Corporal Wyatt was in charge of a " C " Set detachment. He felt dizzy with the heat, but refused to give in until he could only stagger. Even then he refused to fall out until he had walked the length of the column and got permission from his officer. After this he collapsed. It was with very great regret that we heard four days later that he had died from pneumonia. His was a magnificent example of courage and devotion to duty.

Apart from the usual communications within the Brigade, W/T communication was kept by No. 1 Set to " Wastrike " H.Q. and 3rd Brigade, and by " C " Set to the R.A.F. aerodrome at Miranshah (*see* diagram of communications). For the remainder of the Column these communications were maintained. The link to the aerodrome proved of great value to the A.L.O., who could send situation reports back which could be read by the pilot of the next sortie waiting to go up. This ensured that the pilot went up with a clear picture of the situation and could thus co-operate more effectively.

We got into camp just before dark, very tired after a long day, but we were not going to be allowed to rest in peace. Shortly before " lights out," the enemy sent a volley of some fifty shots in to the camp. Several fell in the Section lines, fortunately without serious damage. One smashed a bottle of beer on the canteen table; needless to say all the occupants were under it. Two more went through the contractor's lorry. The Green Howards officers Mess had a near shave when a bullet passed down the length of the table and knocked over the coffee pot. Spasmodic sniping continued through the night. It was too hot to sleep, and there were thousands of mosquitoes.

Tuesday, 12th July, 1938.—" Wastrike " rested at Degan. A so-called day of rest. The heat was considerable, and there was no shade. Sets were overhauled and protected with sandbags in preparation for the night's sniping. The positions of camp piquets had been altered, and we had a fairly quiet night.



Wednesday, 13th July, 1938.—" Wastrike " moved to Wuzgai. " Razcol " was to move out first and piquet as far as possible. 3rd Brigade to pass through and secure the route up to the camp site. There was a certain amount of doubt as to whether there was enough water at the camp site for two Brigades, so a Section of light Tanks with a R.E. officer and a Staff officer, Major F. K. Wilson, Royal Signals, were sent forward to hold and reconnoitre the site. The enemy had planted the road liberally with bombs and road blocks. The Sappers were kept busy removing and destroying bombs and the Column was not held up for long.

Enemy resistance now increased, and determined attacks had to be launched on the left and right to seize the heights in order to prevent the Column being fired upon. At this point signal traffic was particularly heavy and we were using every means —W/T, V/T and mounted orderly.

Meanwhile the important message came through from the Tanks (by W/T on our frequency) that the camp site was suitable, and that there was enough water. This was handed to " Wastrike " H.Q., who were by then beside us, and was received by the staff with great relief. 3rd Brigade now passed through, and we had a quiet time until the withdrawal began.

We were not followed up and began the seemingly never-ending trek up the Duga Khulla Algad to Wuzgai. The heat began to be felt again, and most of us had to draw on our water bottles As luck would have it, we had a short halt by a broken-down contractor's lorry and bought up most of his lemonade.

At Wuzgai we had a protected position in a nullah, and there was no need to dig in. This village had been one of Ipi's supply dumps, and many sacks of atta were captured. A party of enemy had arrived to take the stores away, but were forestalled by the Tanks.

The Action in the Kharre Area—Thursday, 14th July, 1938.—On this day, " Wastrike " advanced into the Kharre area to bring the lashkar to battle and destroy further ration dumps.

The advance was carried out on a two-Brigade front—" Razcol " on the left and 3rd Brigade on the right. Owing to the nature of the country, the number of mules had to be cut down to an absolute minimum, and only the bare necessity of men and animals were taken ; the remainder stayed in Wuzgai. The various detachments of the Section carried emergency rations, and were prepared to spend the night out. The country over which we had to operate was mountainous in the extreme.

The line of objectives which we were to seize rose from 2,500 to 3,500 feet above Wuzgai. The paths were in most cases very rocky and steep, and were only goat tracks.

As soon as we left camp the climb began. We were advancing on a two-Battalion front—the 2/1 G.R. and No. 2 Company, 2/Green Howards attached on the left, and the 4/8 Punjab Regiment on the right. The latter were being held up by fire from their right flank and the 2/7 Rajput Regiment were put in on the right to assist them. W/T communication was kept between these three Battalions and Brigade H.Q. The No. 1 Set operators sent and received messages whenever the path was broad enough for them to get alongside their mules, and often when it was not.

After a long climb, Brigade H.Q. reached a small plateau on which was the village of Burman. Towering above this was Bazuma Narai, and we saw the 4/8 Punjab Regiment finally seize the crest. Their advance had been so fast that the enemy had left several bodies of their dead dotted about the hillside. The ascent of the Bazuma Narai then began. This was stiffer than any we had experienced so far, and the path was very bad in places. Several times it looked as if the mules carrying No. 1 Sets would fall down the Khud, but, fortunately, they never did.

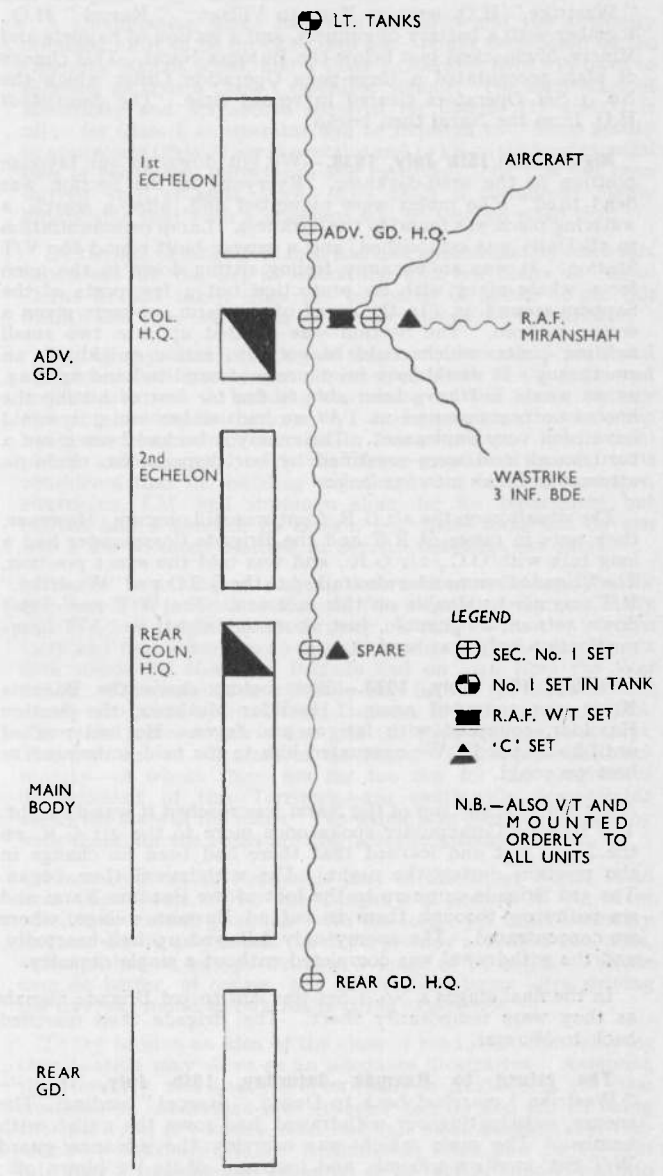
Just before we reached the top, a message was received to clear to R.A.F., Miranshah. Fortunately a small ledge was found on which the " C " Set could be erected, and the message was cleared promptly. Once on top of the Narai, the Sets were unloaded and V/T established. Reports from the 2/1 G.R. on the left on Mazduk Punga showed that the country over which they had to travel was impassable to animals. The W/T Set had to be left behind, and communication forward was by V/T. This made information regarding the position on this part of the front very slow in reaching Brigade H.Q. They were meeting considerable enemy opposition. It had been intended to launch a raid by eight platoons of Tochi Scouts down in to the area in which it was believed Ipi had his main H.Q. It soon became apparent that this raid would have to be abandoned, owing to the nature of the country and consequent late arrival of troops on their objectives on this part of the front.

The 2/1 G.R. had advanced five miles and climbed 3,000 feet, the last 2,000 of which had been up precipitous mountain sides. The men were exhausted and adequate artillery covering fire was not possible. Nevertheless, many enemy ration and supply dumps had been found and destroyed. It was also getting late and darkness was only a few hours away.

The decision was made to bivouac in day positions. Two laagers were formed. On the left the 2/1 G.R. and attached troops formed one completely isolated from the rest of the force. The remainder of the force formed one big laager, the sides of which

RAZCOL COMMUNICATION DIAGRAM

9th—19th JULY, 1938



were in the form of a box. Three sides were held by Battalions of our Brigade, and the fourth and rear side was held by a Battalion of the 3rd Brigade. In the middle, down in the valley, the remainder of the force bivouacked. 3rd Brigade and "Wastrike" H.Q. were in Burman Village; "Razcol" H.Q., together with a battery of gunners, and a section of Sappers and Miners, bivouacked just below the Buzoma Narai. This change of plan necessitated a three-page Operation Order which the No. 1 Set Operators cleared in record time. The descent of H.Q. from the Narai then began.

Night—14th/15th July, 1938.—We got down to our bivouac position in the semi-darkness. Everyone in the Section was dead tired. The mules were piquetted and, after a search, a watering place was found in the darkness. Lamp communication to all Units was established, and a sangar built round the V/T Station. It was an uncanny feeling sitting down in the open for a whole night with no protection but a few posts of the Sappers around us. In the event of an alarm, we were given a sector to hold. The Section was divided up into two small fighting Units, which could be got into action quickly in an emergency. It would have been a case of hand-to-hand fighting, as we would not have been able to fire for fear of hitting the line of outposts around us. As we had no bayonets, it would have been very unpleasant. The enemy, who had been given a hard knock and were mystified by our dispositions, made no attempt to break into our laager.

The situation on the 2/1 G.R. front was still obscure. However, they were in range of R/T and the Brigade Commander had a long talk with O.C., 2/1 G.R., and was told the exact position. The Brigade Commander also talked to the G.S.O.1 at "Wastrike." R/T was most valuable on this occasion. The W/T was closed down as soon as possible, just about midnight, and V/T communication only was kept.

Friday, 15th July, 1938.—Well before dawn the Bazuma Narai was ascended again. Havildar Mathews, the Section Havildar, collapsed with fatigue and fever. He had worked until he dropped. We evacuated him to the field ambulance as best we could.

By the time the top of the Narai was reached it was daylight. The Brigade Commander spoke once more to the 2/1 G.R. on the No. 1 Set and learned that there had been no change in the position during the night. The withdrawal then began. The 3rd Brigade came up to the foot of the Bazuma Narai and we withdrew through them to behind Burman village, where we concentrated. The enemy only followed up half-heartedly, and the withdrawal was completed without a single casualty.

In the final stages a No. 1 Set was lent to 3rd Brigade Signals as they were temporarily short. The Brigade then marched back to Wuzgai.

The return to Razmak—Saturday, 16th July, 1938.
"Wastrike" marched back to Degan, "Razcol" leading. The enemy, anticipating our withdrawal, had sown the nullah with bombs. The mule which was carrying the advance guard W/T Set, trod on a bomb, and had part of its leg blown off; the operator, No. 2323881 Signalman Downing G., received many cuts about the arms and legs. In spite of his wounds, with the aid of the second operator, he unloaded the Set, put it together and continued to receive a message. Not until he had finished receiving the message (the transmitter was "dis") would he allow the ambulance men to dress his wounds. For this act of gallantry he was subsequently awarded the Military Medal.

As soon as it was realised what had happened, the Instrument Mechanic and a spare mule were sent to the spot. The only fault on the Set was that the aerial ammeter was "dis." This was quickly replaced and, within a few minutes, the Set was on its way up to the advance guard in working order. The designers of the No. 1 Set may well be proud of having designed a Set which can stand up to these conditions.

Sunday, 17th July, to Tuesday, 19th July, 1938.—The remainder of the march was carried out in the same stages as the outward journey. One or two more bombs had been planted in the road but not in large quantities. Enemy action was practically negligible. We were very glad when we saw the red roofs of Razmak once more.

In ten days, with only one day's rest, the Section had covered over 120 miles in bad conditions of climate and country. During this time over 1000 messages had been cleared without a single serious delay.

Signal Unit, Glasgow University O.T.C.

Headquarters, University Avenue, Glasgow, W.2.

13th January.

The New Year is well on the way now, and the first flush of "whatever it was" has now died from our faces.

Our first duty must be to congratulate those members of the Unit who were successful at the November Certificate examinations. Seven O/Cadets passed in "B" and nine passed in "A." The number entering for the March examination is even greater and the keenness of all ranks is indeed gratifying.

Various items of our new equipment have arrived, including six ultra-ultra-super cases map with sling (this is, obviously, not official Army terminology), and it is with some surprise that we learned that leading members of the Unit—pause and allow for chest swelling—are not to be allowed to borrow them for "civilian duty."

There seems to be some stickiness on the part of the Army authorities to trust us. Our point is, of course, that we want to master every branch of signalling, and a little extra practice with the map case should not be discouraged; but, evidently, some selfish motive is suspected, and we innocents must suffer.

STONE AGE.

Signals in Tanganyika.

By C.Q.M.S. (F-of-S) C. W. CATT.

(FOURTH INSTALMENT.)

Believing these descriptive articles to be of interest to readers of the Corps Magazine, this further record of progress in Tanganyika Territory has been prepared.

It may be recalled that at the time of writing the last article, published in THE WIRE for July, 1938, collective training had just been started, and the arrival of the new O.C. awaited.

Lieutenant A. L. Atkinson, Royal Signals, arrived and assumed command of the Signal Section during the middle of May, 1938. His enthusiasm, modern and progressive ideas, constructive criticisms and correct sense of right and wrong renewed the flagging enthusiasm of the F-of-S and native ranks alike.

Concurrently with training, a thorough sorting out of technical stores was tackled, higher authority being advised regarding the disposal of surplus serviceable equipment, the unserviceable equipment being boarded. Training had to suffer slightly during this check, but it was still progressive, continuing in the form of alternate Tactical and Operating Schemes. It will be appreciated that with forty odd operators and two W/T Sets, it took a considerable time for all to have a "go" at operating the Sets.

Towards the end of May, the Transport Corps moved to Dodoma in accordance with the re-organisation of the Southern Brigade, K.A.R. This meant that the Signal Section had to take over the wireless lorry and driver, and assume responsibility for maintenance. As within a week the driver had to proceed on leave to Nyasaland (the Askari serve for three years then get three months' leave), the O.C. and F-of-S had to take turns at driving the lorry for Schemes.

An activity not mentioned before was the compiling of a pamphlet on procedure for the native operators. Volume V and the Handbook for W/T Operators (a Stationery Office publication regarding commercial procedure) were, of course, used as a basis for the pamphlet. Anyone who has attempted the compilation of a pamphlet of any sort will realise it was no light task, especially as it had to be done at odd times, and particular care given to the style of language used to ensure its suitability for use by native ranks.

Yet another activity had been the design of a transmitter, receiver, and building for a permanent W/T Station. A detailed explanation may be of interest. The Administrative authorities were, and are, anxious to have several W/T Stations installed at outlying District Headquarters. It is a matter considered, by some to be long overdue, and they were particularly anxious for one to be installed at the Masai district at Loliondo. The Posts and Telegraph Department were not prepared to take on the job right away as they have no native or Asiatic staff to " man " such stations, and, in any case, there would be little revenue from them. At the same time, this Department desires a hand in the administration of such stations.

The K.A.R. accepted the job of installing and maintaining the Sets, but had no funds from which to buy apparatus. Money was eventually obtained from the Public Works Department, and so the station, when completed, will be a real Territorial concern. The K.A.R. were then asked to design a suitable Set, as no standard equipment is available. The F-of-S, therefore, got down to it, deciding that a standard " Eddystone Homelander " receiver would be entirely suitable, and selected as a basic circuit for the transmitter a design suggested in the 1937 A.R.R.L. Handbook.

This design was amplified and modified to suit local requirements, a type of building suggested, and the design and indent submitted for approval in February, 1938. By the beginning of April the Post and Telegraph Department had decided that the design was not altogether in accordance with their requirements, and it was necessary for the F-of-S to go from Tabora to Dar-es-salaam for a conference. The result of the conference was that the design was altered very little, as the Posts and Telegraph Department's representative had ideas which were far more costly than the money available would allow. His aerial for 43 metres would have been 90 odd metres long, and it was not until this was put into yards that the remainder present realised the significance. The trip to Dar-es-salaam was a welcome nine days' change from Tabora, as although four days were spent in the train, the work was a little more advanced than is possible in Tabora, and no askari were hanging around.

The Section provided No. 1 Company, commanded by the O.C., for the parade held by the 1st Battalion, King's African Rifles, on the official celebration of the King's Birthday, and the F-of-S was made responsible for breaking the Royal Standard. At the Gymkhana given by the K.A.R.s in the afternoon, the Signal Section was billed to give a P.T. display. Those responsible for the organisation considered the forming of a " pyramid " sufficient, and it was, unfortunately, impossible to convince them that a few minutes of P.T. prior to the " pyramid " would be most effective. It was a difficult task, getting the askari to form the pyramid, as in the first place their arms are invariably weak, and they are unable to lift or hold up weights, and, secondly, they had not the " guts " required to give them confidence. However, the day before the Gymkhana, they did it reasonably well, and at the actual performance it was quite an effective " turn."

From the third week in June it was possible to devote more time to actual training. Those askari found unsuitable for W/T training were either discharged or posted to one of the Infantry Battalions. A drastic weeding out of the physically unfit was made, and several men discharged on medical grounds. Fairly wholesale changes were made among the junior N.C.O.s.

All this left the Section considerably under strength, and it was decided that it was desirable to recruit more boys, and that as high a standard as possible would be set. A simple test paper was prepared for the guidance of those responsible for the actual recruiting. The ability to speak either Ki-Swahili or Chinyanja, to write fairly legibly in English characters when copying from a book, to be able to convert inches to feet and minutes to hours, and to obtain 50 per cent. at " Kim's Game " were the subjects of the test paper.

So far, not a single recruit has appeared. The ambition of boys from both Government and Mission Schools is to become a clerk in Government service. The aims of the Government education authorities seem to be concentrated on trying to get boys to pass on to " higher education," with what object they alone know. Several Mission School products have expressed their willingness to be taught " Signalling "—providing they never have to wear uniform, perform drill evolutions, use a rifle, or live among the askari in the cantonments.

A Qualification Sheet has been prepared and the authority obtained for it to be brought into use. It has been based on the Operator Signals Sheet, and a Class I Operator here will have to function as does a Class I Operator Signals. The knowledge of Electricity and Magnetism required for Classes III and II is nil ; for Class I an operator will be required to " Show ability to appreciate Ohm's Law in practice and to know the fundamental uses of resistance, inductance and capacity," but this has been waived until at least April, 1940, as it is considered highly improbable that such a standard will be reached until then.

By the end of August all men had had approximately ten hours experience on the Set as operators, and ten hours as Signal Clerks (it had taken since the beginning of March to get this result), and they were then taught to tune in the transmitter.

During 1937 and 1938, a fair amount of workshop tools and equipment had been indented for from both the A.O.D. and civilian sources. A building containing a W/T room, battery charging and repair room, a W/T stores room and a workshop had been designed for erection in Dar-es-salaam. When completed and equipped with the above-mentioned stores, it is considered that the building will delight the heart of operator, electrician, I.M. and storeman alike, for no department but Signals had a hand in its design, and those tools and devices which are so often omitted in Service buildings are there.

At the beginning of August, instructions were received for the F-of-S to proceed to Nairobi (the capital of Kenya Colony and H.Q. of the Northern Brigade, K.A.R.) with the wireless lorry and four askari, to co-operate in tests with the two No. 11 Sets which the Northern Brigade had on loan from the War Office. This entailed a 250-mile trip by rail to Dodoma and nearly 500 miles by road from Dodoma to Nairobi *via* Arusha. The train journey took a day and the road journey four days. This was due to the state of the roads. The non-official community—of whom there are far too few for the progressive development of this Territory—are continually complaining about the state of the roads. The writer is in complete sympathy with them, for the roads are disgracefully atrocious.

From Dodoma to Nairobi is part of the Great North Road from Cape Town. Over the Tanganyika portion it was never possible to exceed 35 m.p.h. with the lorry, yet often necessary to go as slowly as 5 m.p.h. A day's journey averaged 120 miles, accomplished at an approximate average of 15 m.p.h. Private cars do better, of course, but about eight hours lorry driving per day was found to be a really tiring experience.

To try to give an idea of the class of road here, the following classification may serve as an adequate illustration. Assuming there are 1st, 2nd and 3rd class roads in England, a 3rd class road can be subdivided into groups : (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*), (*c*) being the bad type of country road one can meet around, say, Catterick or Salisbury Plain. Imagination must now be brought into play. Imagine this group (*c*) to be further subdivided into sections (i), (ii) and (iii), then roads in Tanganyika Territory will be in section (iii) and a first-class road here would be classified as 3rd (*c*), (iii), 1st. This is not the classification adopted in this Territory, for most officials seem to consider the roads not too bad.

The No. 11 Set tests were all very successful and lasted ten days. One set was fitted into the lorry and the askari instructed in tuning-in, etc. The usual sort of tests were conducted, and the Set has the final approval of all concerned.

Time did not permit of a great deal of sight-seeing, although the cinemas were visited, and appreciated, several times.

Two impressions remain, however. One is that Nairobi is quite English in climate, and the other the difference between the state of the roads in Kenya and Tanganyika. As has been suggested, 30 m.p.h. is a dangerously fast speed with the lorry in Tanganyika. On the roads experienced in Kenya, 45 m.p.h. was often a comfortable cruising speed, and 30 m.p.h. appeared agonisingly slow. It is significant that in this Territory the

petrol consumption has never been better than approximately 8 m.p.g., whereas for just over 500 miles covered in Kenya the consumption worked out to be just over 10 m.p.g. This included all the running around during the tests, with never more than about seventy miles as a non-stop run.

On returning from Nairobi, the No. 11 Set, which had been brought back to Tabora, was erected and communication established with Nairobi. A daily half-hour schedule was maintained by the askari for practice purposes.

After fairly long negotiations, two secondhand R.A.F. T.R.4 Sets were obtained on loan from the R.A.F. Squadron in Kenya; having received their new type of Set, these T.R.4s were lying idle in stores. This loan meant that group working could now be taught, but a start was delayed—in the first place—by the fact that the O.C. and F-of-S were forced to devote their attention to the compilation of a War Equipment Table and the annual indent.

Indents can only be submitted once a year here and it will be realised that it is no light task getting a year's supply, ensuring that all essentials are obtained, bearing always in mind the condition of the Territory's finances and keeping the cost to an absolute minimum. These jobs of work were finished by the middle of September, when it was found that the interests of the Section's future would best be served if the O.C. paid a hurried visit to Dar-es-salaam, whilst the F-of-S proceeded to erect the two borrowed Sets in disused buildings, arrange one of the Section's T.R.4 Sets in the lorry and the other as a field station, and so have a group controlled by the No. 11 Set.

These plans were nearing completion when the international situation spoilt our little games. As situations concerning German politics must be of particular interest to this Territory, the Army in Tanganyika has its own peculiar problems. It is proposed, therefore, to finish at this point and continue this narrative in a further contribution, describing at the beginning Signals' activities during the crisis period.

And so, for the present, we leave you.

Corps Cricket.

The following Corps cricket matches have been arranged for 1939:

Friday, 9th June:	v. R.A.O.C., at Aldershot.
Saturday, 10th June:	v. R.E. at Aldershot.
Monday, 12th June, Tuesday, 13th June:	v. R.A.S.C. at Aldershot.
Wednesday, 14th June:	v. R.M.A. at Woolwich.
Monday, 19th June; Tuesday, 20th June:	v. R.A. at Aldershot.

The names of those desirous of playing in any of these matches should be forwarded to Major H. S. Lewis-Barclay, 4th Divisional Signals, Canterbury.

H. S. LEWIS-BARCLAY, Major, Royal Signals,
Officer i/c Corps Cricket.

Golf.

The Royal Signals Annual Golf Meeting will be held at the Berkshire Club, near Ascot, on Wednesday and Thursday, 19th and 20th April, 1939.

FIRST DAY.—Royal Signals Championship and Royal Signals Handicap, both events played concurrently over 36 holes.

SECOND DAY.—18 holes Bogey Singles in the morning, and 18 holes Bogey Foursomes in the afternoon. Both events off handicap.

All events, except the Royal Signals Championship, are open to serving and retired Royal Signals officers of the Regular and Territorial Armies and the Supplementary Reserve.

Post entries will be accepted, but it would be of assistance if those intending to compete would notify Major H. S. Lewis Barclay, 4th Divisional Signals, Canterbury.

H. S. LEWIS BARCLAY, Major, Royal Signals,
Captain of Royal Signals Golf.

Cadet News.

1st Anti-Aircraft Divisional Signals Cadet Corps.

December.

November was a busy month for the Cadets. On Armistice Day we laid a wreath on the Army Signals Plot in the Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey. The Cadet Company paraded at Westminster Pier and, escorted by mounted police, who cleared the way for them, marched to the Abbey. At the Field of Remembrance, two minutes' silence was observed. Afterwards, escorted by the Special Constabulary, the Cadets went for a march around Westminster and along the Thames Embankment.

On Armistice Sunday, by kind invitation of our Parent Unit, we attended Church Parade at St. Mark's, Kennington, with them. To many of the boys, this was their first experience of marching behind "real troops," and they much enjoyed the experience. Amongst the Parent Unit, too, we are proud to be able to say are many of the fathers and brothers of the Cadets. Our Cadet Company, thanks to the splendid leaven of sons and nephews of serving members of our Parent Unit, is absolutely "part of the Royal Signals."

On 29th November we celebrated our first brithday. The Company Commander was a proud and happy man, for at this date last year there was but one Cadet on the roll! To-day, there are 68, 40 of whom are in uniform. We hope, indeed, as the months roll on, that this Cadet Company will blossom forth into a worthy Cadet Battalion, and thus be able, in some small measure, to repay all the kindness, help and sympathy consistently shown to us by our Parent Unit, and, in particular, Brevet-Colonel G. C. Wickins, T.D. Their encouragement and sympathy has ever been a source of inspiration to us.

A.A. SCOTTIE.

January.

We now have 100 on the roll, and the Unit is only just a year old. We look back to the past with pride and gratitude, and face the future with confidence.

Ere these notes appear in print, we hope to be an independent autonomous Cadet Corps with the above title. We have emerged from our chrysalis, and hope to blossom forth as a worthy Cadet Battalion. We shall be affiliated, as before, to our Parent Unit, the 1st Anti-Aircraft Divisional Signals, T.A., from whom we receive every sympathy and help.

Next month it is hoped to announce a few promotions consequent upon our new status.

We continue to welcome to membership many of the sons and nephews of serving members of the Parent Unit, and hope to maintain a good leaven of such promising material in the years that lie ahead. In common with all other Cadet Units, we believe that the time has now come when the Cadet Force is going to receive more aid and encouragement from the taxpayer. When more money is forthcoming, we hope to adopt a more ambitious programme than we have hitherto dared to contemplate.

1st Cadet Signal Company (Haberdashers' Schoo').

16th January.

This Cadet Unit has completed a satisfactory year's work. During the winter, in addition to the usual training parades, several Traffic Schemes have been organised and run by the cadet signal N.C.O.s, resulting in a noticeable improvement in operating and procedure. The Survey Section has been occupied in working out data obtained at the summer camp.

On 13th December a party from the Unit, at the invitation of Lieutenant-Colonel A. C. C. Willway, attended and very much enjoyed the annual concert of the City of London Signals, and the distribution of prizes by H.R.H. The Princess Royal.

A few days later, the members and instructors of the Unit, together with the School O.T.C., were entertained, through the kindness of the Headmaster, to an excellent tea and a clever exhibition of conjuring, both of which were much appreciated.

We are pleased to hear that another former member of the Unit, P. C. Akass, has joined City of London Signals.

We conclude our note this month by offering to our many friends and helpers in the Royal Corps of Signals rather belated but very sincere wishes for a happy New Year

HOME STATIONS

SIGNAL TRAINING CENTRE NOTES

School of Signals.

17th January.

We extend the heartiest of congratulations to our Chief Instructor, Colonel R. A. C. Henderson, M.C., on his recovery from his recent operation and sincerely trust that the New Year will be one of good health for him.

We also welcome the return of the Orderly-Room Sergeant, Sergeant Creaton S., who has been in hospital for some considerable time, and hope he will enjoy the best of health in the future.

Christmas festivities are now forgotten, and the Company has settled down to its usual routine. This year we experienced a real white Christmas at Catterick, and the thermometer did its best, as usual, to knock the bottom out of things completely.

The unfortunates, or should we say fortunates, who stayed behind at Christmas had a grand spread in the N.A.A.F.I. Institute on Christmas Day. The officers of the Unit came in to wish the troops the very happiest of Christmases, a greeting that was heartily reciprocated. We understand the beer had very short shrift.

The New Year has started well, with the commencement of No. 13 Foreman-of-Signals Course, No. 17 Royal Signals N.C.O.s' Wireless Course, and No. 89 T.A. Signalling Course. Shortly we shall have No. 126 R.S.I. Course with us. (Signalman Todd, please note, Middlesbrough will suffer).

It has at last become necessary to amend the R.E. Inventory Board at the School of Signals for Signalman Wilson W. (Ropey) left us at the end of December in order to proceed on a Vocational Training Course at Handsworth. How he managed to tear himself away after all these years is still a mystery; his face behind a pint glass is very much missed in the Canteen.

On 12th January Signalman Wilson S. H. (Tug) left us for Waddon, where he is to undergo a Vocational Training Course.

Best of luck, Messrs. Wilson in your new ventures.

There seems to be a glut of musical instruments in the Unit Orderly Room for the strains of mouth-organs, ukulele banjos and Jews harps can often be heard wafting across the square, denoting that the Orderly Room Trio are once more in action. They will be broadcasting on Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from Radio Scotton on a wavelength of .00003 metres, and all they want is "Mandoline Gimme" Wood from the Training Battalion to join them. How about it, "Gimme"?

Motor Cycle Trials.—We wish to congratulate Signalman Baker G. F. G. on his excellent display in the recent Exeter Motor Cycle Trial and the gain of a premier award in this arduous test of man and machine.

Jews' Mail.—To Signalman Beswick, late of Q.M., School of Signals: "Please forward address. (Not for use by Scotland Yard.) Hallett."

POOPDECK, S.O.S.

Sergeants' Mess.

We offer our heartiest congratulations to our Commanding Officer, Colonel R. A. C. Henderson, M.C., on making a complete recovery from his recent illness.

Our month of Yuletide festivities was given a flying start on 9th December, when the Annual Christmas Tree Party for the families of the School was held in Newbigging Hall. One outstanding item of the evening programme was the "The Magician and His Cat," a playlet produced by several members of the Training Battalion. The production was voted on all sides as a splendid success, and deserved a much longer run. We offer our heartiest congratulations and thanks to the producers and cast for giving us such a clever and entertaining show.

A week later, the Sergeants' Mess of the School entertained a large number of friends at their Annual Christmas Draw and Dance. Our friends of the Training Battalion cleared our board very effectively with their customary skill, and joined in the jolly dance which followed. We should like to take this opportunity of thanking the Training Battalion and the Depot Battalion W.O.s and Sergeants' Messes for the choice Christmas Draw prizes that we lifted from them during the month.

On Christmas Day approximately twenty members foregathered to help the troops with their Christmas dinner and, as usual, everything went smoothly and pleasantly.

The Promotion Roster, getting that Christmas spirit, also made a jump in the right direction during the month, and we have to congratulate W.O.s III Farmer F., Waldron W., Udell C. and Finn V. on their promotion to that rank. Sergeant Keywood (slim) has also lost the "Lance," and Lance Sergeant Poulton G. has been given the opportunity to do his stuff on the Mess Messing Committee. With these two last promotions, the Mess should now be able to produce a first-class tug-of-war team.

Sergeant Betty is the proud daddy of a brand new 1939 baby boy, and we offer Mrs. Betty and the flag-wagger our heartiest congratulations.

S.S.M. Udell has taken delivery of a very nice looking Special Certificate of Education, which he will no doubt add to all the others. It was noticed that this Warrant Officer has since purchased a new Cap, S.D. Well done, "Inky"! Were the boots required to distribute the weight?

Scots' Mail.—To "Chota," Rawalpindi. "Congratulations; believe you've won several ducks."

To A.E., Stratford, E.15. "Can we still call you 'Bert'"?

Depot Battalion, Royal Signals.

13th January.

Recruits' Development.—During the winter months, it is normal for recruits to put on more weight, and the averages shown below may be considered very satisfactory increases after twelve to fourteen weeks recruit training:

To TRAINING BATTALION, 19TH DECEMBER.

Squad.	Average gain in weight.	Highest individual gain in weight.	
No. 34 ..	10.46 lbs.	Signalman Dixon	16 lbs.
,, 35 ..	10.6 ,,	,, Evans	19 ,,
,, 36 ..	8.07 ,,	,, Robinson	15 ,,

To TRAINING BATTALION, 12TH DECEMBER.

No. 37 ..	10.78 lbs.	Driver (I.C.) Harvey	19 lbs.
,, 38 ..	7.4 ,,	Signalman Simcox	18 lbs.
,, 39 ..	10.3 ,,	,, Scott	21 ,,
,, 40 ..	8.7 ,,	,, Parker	17 ,,
,, 41 ..	10.0 ,,	,, Clark	18 ,,

"A" Company, Depot Battalion.

13th January.

Catterick, at last, has procured its lovely annual surface of white, for the snow that we eagerly awaited arrived in good time for Christmas. A further share arrived for our New Year, and it seems that we shall get a still further share for Easter.

We have just returned from a fortnight's Christmas leave and are settling down again to do some work.

Remarkable changes in the Depot are in progress. Readers may be interested to learn that, owing to the great rush of

recruits, we were compelled to open a new Depot with the 5th Divisional Signals, which will be known as No. 2 Depot. Training in the new Depot will commence on Friday, 6th January, and is to be carried out in the same manner as our own. A number of Instructors have been posted to No. 2 Depot to continue their good work in new surroundings. Over 200 men have been posted, and now Baghdad Lines looks deserted, with only a handful (?) of about 300 men to contend with. Recruiting at the moment is very good, and we anticipate some broken records in 1939.

We still continue to pass out Squads in great numbers to the Training Battalion and other Stations, and in three months we have to record the disposal of approximately 400 men. Training upon the Square still continues quickly and efficiently, and we publish a list of those Squads which have recently commenced training on the Square: No. 53 Squad, under Corporal Breeze, Royal Signals; No. 54 Squad, under Corporal Carr, Royal Signals; No. 55 Squad, under Sergeant Catanio, Cameronians; No. 56 Squad, under Corporal Harrison, Loyal Regiment; No. 57 Squad, under Corporal Gallone, 2/East Yorks; No. 58 Squad, under Sergeant Lunn, Seaforths; No. 59 Squad, under Lance Corporal Macleod, Royal Signals.

Nos. 34 to 41 Squads have passed off successfully since the appearance of our last notes. This alone should be convincing proof of our good work. Here is a record of the Squads that have passed out: No. 34 Squad, under Corporal Gallone, with Signalman Dockerty as the winner of the C.O.'s whip and Signalman Stonely the P.T. Medal. No. 35 Squad, under Sergeant Makewell, with Signalman Evans as the winner of the C.O.'s whip and Signalman Geddes the P.T. Medal. No. 36 Squad, under Corporal Growns, with Signalman Gittings as the winner of the C.O.'s whip and Signalman Beardmore the P.T. Medal. No. 37 Squad, under Lance Sergeant Stonehouse, with Driver (I.C.) Groom as the winner of the C.O.'s whip and Driver (I.C.) Harvey the P.T. Medal. No. 38 Squad, under Corporal Trout, with Signalman Middlemiss as the winner of the C.O.'s whip and Signalman Simcox the P.T. Medal. No. 39 Squad, under Sergeant Gandey, with Signalman Symmonds as the winner of the C.O.'s whip and the P.T. Medal. No. 40 Squad, under Corporal Dugdale, with Signalman Rayward as the winner of the C.O.'s whip and P.T. Medal. No. 41 Squad, under Lance Corporal Graham, with Signalman Benton as the winner of the C.O.'s whip and Signalman Eeles the P.T. Medal.

Congratulatory.—We find great pleasure in joining with our Commanding Officer in a cheer for the Depot Battalion Shooting Team for their great success when competing for the Army Rifle Association in the Corps Shield. They obtained second place in 1938, the first time that we competed. They rightly deserved to win the large Bronze Medal and Spoons, as bad weather conditions handicapped them at practice. Our Commanding Officer hopes that after such a fine performance it will encourage more efforts for first place during 1939. Their fine results can be seen from the following record:

	Grand Total.
Corporal Collett E. C.	64 points.
Corporal Trout F.	62 ,,
Lance Sergeant Pike H.	62 ,,
Lance Corporal Graham	59 ,,
Corporal Voice	57 ,,
Farrier Corporal Hart	56 ,,
Lance Corporal Driscoll	53 ,,
Corporal Raymond	48 ,,
	461

The team coaches were Captain J. H. E. Panton, C.Q.M.S. Watmore, Sergeant Shurer and Lance Sergeant Small, M.M.

Arrivals.—We welcome No. 2320865 Lance Corporal Justice J. from 3rd Divisional Signals for duty on the permanent Cadre as a drill instructor with effect from 2nd January. A long stay and good luck.

Departures.—The following have been placed under orders for service in India, and will embark on or about 8th February: No. 2316878 Lance Sergeant Pike H., No. 2315565 Lance Sergeant Chidgey E., No. 2316577 Corporal Edmunds F., and No. 2321027 Corporal McGuigan J.

We are sorry to lose 2nd Lieutenant Hayles, who is to be posted to 1st Divisional Signals on 15th January. Good luck, sir!

Agony.—Which recruit entered the Guard Room and almost knocked out one of our policemen by a request for firelighters?

Drill Instructor to recruit, after a tiring half-hour at "Pile Arms": "Can't you do your job, boy? Get out of the way, and let me show you. What's your number?"

Recruit (smartly): "4012916."

Collapse of "pile" *and* Squad Commander.

Heard in the barrack-room:

Joe: "I wouldn't have joined the Army, Bill, if it hadn't been for a great misfortune."

Bill: "What was your misfortune?"

Joe: "My shop burnt down and I was bankrupt."

Bill: "Gee, that's tough, Joe, but what was your business?"

Joe: "Making fire extinguishers."

"C" Company, Depot Battalion.

13th January.

Arrivals.—Major H. A. Spencer has assumed command of the Company, owing to the absence of Major C. M. F. White, who has left us for the East. We sincerely hope that Major H. A. Spencer's stay in Catterick will be a long and pleasant one.

General.—Now that the Christmas festivities have been fully celebrated, all that remains are the historic tales that are told round the old fireside, a bag of nuts and our memories.

We are starting the New Year with plenty of good resolutions, for how long remains to be seen.

Catterick weather persists at its excellent standard, and there are plenty of winter sports.

Sports.—Owing to inclement weather, no sports have been possible, and there is nothing to report in regard to these activities.

Sergeants' Mess, Depot Battalion.

General.—Christmas has passed by once again, and we are all looking forward to that prosperous New Year. May the "Points Pools" provide the prosperous part.

The only functions that the Mess had during the seasonable period was the usual Christmas Draw, which was held in Newbigging Hall, and was followed by a dance. The "Draw" and dance was a huge success, and we are more than sorry for those who did not manage to get a prize, but, never mind, try again at Christmas, 1939. A lot of emphasis was put on the "Bag of Nuts" by the announcer (Sergeant Stickley). Why did he have to do this? The name of C.Q.M.S. Stainer will always be remembered by the patrons of this "Draw," and we wonder what his larder looked like with all those prizes.

We take this opportunity of thanking all those who helped to make the "Draw" such a success and, on behalf of the Mess, also thank Mrs. Beverly and Mrs. Arnell for their kindness in decorating the stands. We also thank all the officers for attending; we were more than pleased to see them.

Christmas Tree Party.—The kiddies "Christmas Tree" was once again a splendid success. This year it was modernised, for Father Christmas did not have a "sooty" journey down a chimney, but a grand entrance with the aid of "Television." The show was produced by Colonel Carey, and everyone congratulated him on his splendid efforts. Our "Molly" made the ideal "magician," but what a pity that the infernal machine did not produce a "Good for you." Never mind, we had a good laugh and some fine entertainment, and old and young enjoyed every minute of it.

Departures.—We have bid a fond farewell to our "Ivory King" and "Keyboard Chaser." Yes, Jonah has left, and we wish him all the best at his new Station. A committee of two saw him safely on his journey and, amidst great cries of "good-bye," "*bon voyage*," etc., the writer managed to shake his hand. True to his promise he left us a "bachelor," but broke out at the Station, where he kissed all four ladies good-bye. Jonah, we salute you! After a lot of trouble in convincing Big Bill Hallett that the train was Jonah's and not his, we saw him off well and truly for India's sunny clime.

There have been many arrivals to whom we extend the usual greetings, and hope that their stay will be an enjoyable one.

Promotions.—Many congratulations to all those who have managed to increase their pay check.

For Sale.—One " Frontage Finder " ; protrudes 1½ inches to right, and 1½ inches to left. Can be seen at anv time. Apply to Taffy.

GUGS.

Corporals' Room, Depot Battalion.

13th January.

We deeply regret to announce the loss of some of our popular members, who left us for No. 2 Depot, 5th Divisional Signals, Catterick Camp, on Friday, 6th January. We take this opportunity to wish them well in their new surroundings and, since they have not left Catterick, we sincerely hope our Mess will not altogether lose their jovial companionship.

Again this year, every available space in the Mess was taken up by Christmas cards and New Year cards, mostly from afar. We should like to tender our thanks and heartiest wishes to all the senders.

The Silver Cup, Part II.—As you may have read in last month's issue, we have a mysterious silver Cup standing on our mantleshelf, which is to be presented to the best " Gripper " in the Mess.

A very hard struggle has taken place for this honour and, at the end of last month, two members had a spectacular lead—" Soap Box E. C." and " Great Lover J. D." Many dark horses stare hopefully at the silver treasure (which improves the illumination of the Mess by its brilliance), wondering what tale from the East should be related in order to gain an advantage.

Our favourite, " Soap Box E. C.," has lost his valuable lead since his new job and cannot find time to visit the Mess so frequently and annoy us with his " cribbing." (All's fair in love and war, " E.C.," when competing for this honour.)

J.D., our " Great Lover," has rather disappointed us since his return from leave, for he looks so depressed about something and, consequently, has dropped below " J.C.," who now leads with some gorgeous " Spanish Tales." A good second-place man should be Darkie (K.O.Y.L.I.).

We still cannot forecast the winner of this masterpiece in silver, but more anon.

J. C. A.

Headquarters, Training Battalion.

14th January.

Since our last notes, several changes have taken place in this Battalion. Captain G. Mellor has taken over the duties of Adjutant, *vice* Captain Hyde, who is now in command of " E " Company. Captain A. T. Sladen embarked for service in India on 6th January. Major R. W. Morgan has been posted to Headquarters, S.T.C., as Brigade Major, *vice* Major Woodbridge, who is awaiting embarkation orders. Captain Vulliamy has also joined S.T.C. Headquarters as Staff Captain, *vice* Captain Keddie, who is proceeding to the Staff College.

Those who remained at Catterick over Christmas are still talking about the festivities. On Christmas day, dinner was served in the Institute, and amongst those present were : Lieutenant-Colonel R. T. O. Cary, M.B.E., Major C. E. Sketch, Major E. H. du Cros, Major W. E. Pain (P.R.I.), Captain P. R. Hyde, Captain W. G. Daubeny, Captain J. D. L. Morris, Lieutenant (Quartermaster) A. R. Manley, Lieutenant (T.M.O.) F. Branley and R.S.M. B. T. Sherman.

Signalman Baker, the veteran Signalman present, proposed the toast " The C.O. and Officers," and in his short speech remarked on the spirit of co-operation which is characteristic of the Corps everywhere.

Appreciating his remarks, the C.O. said that the spirit of co-operation was remarkably evident during the recent emergency, and the evidence of this spirit especially pleased him.

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In conclusion, he heartily extended the compliments of the season to all present.

The dinner had again this year been prepared by the N.A.A.F.I. staff, and was excellent.

Ball games in the Unit have been brought to a standstill by the arctic weather which prevails. Skates, skis and sledges are now at a premium. It is hoped, however, that we shall be able to provide some rugby and soccer notes before the June issue of THE WIRE.

"D" Company, Training Battalion.

Hello, everybody ! This is not R. E. Jeffrey, Ted Husing, Reg. Foort, the Chief Ovaltiney or even Syd Walker saying " 'Ow are yer, chums." This is the worst of the lot—Public Menace No. 1, or Ack Pip Beer.

Our heartiest congratulations go to Major R. Sutton-Pratt, Royal Signals, on being awarded the O.B.E. by His Majesty The King in the New Year's Honours List. For the information of those interested, Major R. Sutton-Pratt still belongs to this Company, but is at present attached to the War Office.

There have been many arrivals during the past few weeks ; they have been mainly recruits from "A" Company. We extend a hearty welcome to them, and also to the following : Corporal Dove and Lance Corporal Harrod from 5th Divisional Signals ; Sergeant West from Jubbulpore ; Corporal Pfieffer from Hong Kong. Lance Corporal Chetwynd joined the Company from 1st A.A. Brigade Signals on 2nd January, but is rejoining his Unit on 19th January. (The length of his reign is seventeen days. Is this a record ?)

Here are a few words about postings. We should like to inform our readers (if any) that Corporal Strutt will not go to 2nd Divisional Signals as announced in our last notes ; he is staying here. (Recovery of the cross-country running powers-that-be.)

After quite a long wait, we congratulate the following on having attained the ranks shown : W.O. III Fishwick, C.Q.M.S. Nicholson W. (late of India) ; Sergeant Vine ; Lance Sergeants Darby, Furniss, Jennings, Poole, Smart and Rose ; Corporals Balfe and Strutt. We feel sure the landlord had to fill the flowing bowl, the contents of which should be very familiar.

Now, playmates, our roving commentator is waiting to speak to you from St. Paul's Church, Kersal, Salford, where Signalman Kendrick is being joined in matrimony to Miss Annice Humm. The date is 26th December, so let us put the clock back. Over to St. Paul's Church !

" The weather is of the kind that can be described in one word, but the B.B.C. would never pass it. Signalman Kendrick is due to arrive any minute now, and, lo and behold, he comes. (Speak of the—never mind.) He is dressed in khaki and, as he steps out of the car, he is followed by the best man. They have now entered the church. (Few minutes pause.) The automobile (good word that) has returned and is filled with guests (A further pause.) The transport (another good word) has returned for the third and last time, and from it steps Miss Annice Humm. We will now follow her into the church.

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" In one of the front benches I recognise a familiar figure of 'Doncoy' dressed in blues—now who could that be? The service has started and I can distinctly see a shaky movement in the knees of the bridegroom. (The third and last pause). They are now Signalman and Mrs. Kendrick and are signing the Marriage Register in the Vestry. The guests are now outside the church waiting to cover our happy pair with confetti. That same figure in blue has approached the bride and he is wishing her the same as we all do—health, wealth and happiness for the future."

Here we are, back in the studios and ready to carry on with our normal programme. At the time of broadcasting, everybody is filled with the joys of after-leave fever. Sitting round the fire our happy family are swapping yarns and adventures of that wonderful period. This month we shall tune our microphone in to a barrack-room and listen to one of them.

" Do you know, Bill, I made such a fool of myself on leave."
" Cheer up, matey, we all do."
" This was different though. I was invited to a Bottle Party on New Year's Eve. Well, I had never been to one before and was told to take a bottle of anything. After looking round the house to see what I could pinch, I took a bottle of pickled onions." (Bill faints.)

Round and round the microphone goes and it stops next in a lecture room in the workshops.

Sergeant B.: " When you are at home, how would you tell which way the current flowed in your electric meter?"
Bright Student: " I couldn't, Sergeant."
Sergeant B.: " Why not?"
B.S.: " We use gas, Sergeant."
(What a world?)

This Company has many queer people (including myself) on its strength, and each of them has a signature tune. That for Signalman Lockey is, " My voice goes round the world "; your honourable scribe also uses the same one. Signalman Ettenfield likes " Love makes the world go round," and we have a faint suspicion that " Pettifer " uses it, too.

Unfortunately, we are unable to describe our next bit of nonsense as " Mr. Walker wants to know," but we are calling it " Mr. Munchin wants to know." (Here he comes with his old cart weighed down by searchlights, barricades, anti-tank Brigades, and other old rubbish.)

" 'Ow are yer, chums? I only have a few troubles this month, and here they are. Drop me a postcard and let me know the identity of the following: Naussea Bagwash, Colonel Bogey, Big Hearted Arthur, Belisha Beacon and Ack Pip Beer. Cheeripip, mateys!"

Those interested in gramophone records are advised by our expert to buy the following: Gertcha's " Rhapsody in a Glue-Pot," played by the Band of the Coldcream Guards; and " Cookhouse Memories," played by the Band of the Rissole Heavy Artillery.

Carry on, " Band Waggon "!

ACK PIP BEER.

"E" Company, Training Battalion.

11th January.

General.—Captain P. R. Hyde, Royal Signals, is now in command of the Company.

We have all settled down again to normal routine after the Christmas leave, although one still hears glowing stories of activities during the festive season. From all accounts those who stayed behind to carry on the organisation in skeleton form certainly had an enjoyable time, too, and we learn that the Christmas dinner was a huge success. The Commanding Officer attended and delivered a cheery message.

Those who Christmas in Catterick are always assured of the right climatic conditions, and this season certainly surpassed itself in this respect. Mother Nature gave us a typical " Dickens " Christmas, but, unfortunately, neither the former nor the latter are able to assist us in the ponderous task of the snow-shovelling fatigues on which we have spent so much of our valuable time.

Arrivals.—We welcome Lance Sergeant Winder T. from Palestine, and feel sure his stay with us will be a happy one.

Births.—Our hearty congratulations to Sergeant and Mrs. Cornish W. on the birth of a son, Malcolm Charles, on 12th December; and also to Lance Sergeant and Mrs. Jones on the birth of a daughter, Valerie Ann, on 14th December.

Marriages.—Best wishes to Signalman Bowen D., who was married to Miss E. McKavanagh at Richmond on 17th December. We wish them every happiness.

Promotions and Appointments.—Congratulations to W.O., Class III, Adams E., Sergeant Smith A. T. and Lance Sergeant Routledge J. on their step up the ladder.

Queries.—Who thought an A.B. 64 was a sailor?
. Who tried walking through a fence, or was he really " gate crashing "?
Who thought that Continental time was something to do with music? Perhaps he thinks the time of sick parade is " swing-time."

Scotch Corner.—James. " What's keeping you back—the city lights? Henry."
Mack (305). " What about a line? Jim."

H. W. B.

"F" Company, Training Battalion.

16th January.

General.—Glum faces and heavy hearts are much in evidence owing to the fact that the Boys returned from leave on 3rd January. Many a lad has started chalking up the days remaining until the next leave; it seems to be their only consolation. Not one Boy remained in barracks this Christmas, so it seems to be certain that all had an enjoyable time. The first greeting on our return was the sight of frozen snow and a particularly strong wind. What a home-coming!

There was enough snow about to supply everybody's needs in regard to snowballing and tobogganing, but in a couple of days the thaw set in, accompanied by a miniature gale, that cleared roads and moors overnight.

Everyone has settled down to normal routine and Christmas is just a thing of the past.

We were pleased to hear that " Pop " Warren, who recently left this Company, has obtained his B.1 trade rating and is now a Lance Corporal. Well done Pop, we envy you!

Company Family Tree.—With the departure of Corporal Boy Verlander, ends an association with " F " Company of ten and a half consecutive years, as far as the Verlander brothers are concerned.

Boy Verlander E. J. (now Lance Corporal), who was the first to join, in April, 1928, left the Company in May, 1932. Boy Verlander F. L. (now Corporal), who was the second brother to join, in December, 1929, left the Company in September, 1933. Boy Verlander D. A. (now Lance Corporal), who was the third brother to join, in December, 1931, left the Company in June, 1935. Corporal Boy Verlander L. R., who was the fourth and

SIGNAL TRAINING CENTRE BOYS.

last brother to join, in January, 1935, left the Company on 24th January, 1939.

Boys Verlander E. J., F. L., and D. A. represented the Company consistently in cross-country running. Boy Verlander D. A. won the S.T.C. Individual Championship at the age of 16½ years. Boy Verlander L R. finished second in the Discus event in the North of England Junior Athletic Meeting in 1938. All three brothers have represented the Company in athletics, soccer, rugger and cricket.

Promotions and Appointments.—C.Q.M.S. Lawrie to W.O. III ; Sergeant Sullivan to C.Q.M.S. ; Sergeants Pack and Kelly to W.O. III ; Lance Sergeants Hawkes and McDowall to Sergeant ; Corporals Fearnley and Smith to Lance Sergeant.

Things We Want to Know.—If Len has a licence for his gun (pipe).

If Emma will frame his 1st Class Certificate.

B. A. B.

Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess Training Battalion

Greetings.—A happy and prosperous New Year to all officers and other ranks, both past and present members of the Corps.

General.—General routine is once again in full swing.

The Annual Christmas Tea Party was held at the Newbigging Hall on 15th December, when all families of the Training Battalion were invited. Approximately 300 ladies and children, assisted by their husbands, made very easy work of a splendid tea. After tea, the Punch and Judy Show for the children caused much laughter from the children of all ages. During this performance there was much activity behind the scenes in preparation for the staging of the " Magician and His Cat " (our local Pantomime), which is followed by the arrival of Father Christmas.

" The Magician and His Cat " was a novelty to the children, and a very pleasant surprise for everyone. The " stars " were as follows : C.Q.M.S. Molyneaux (Depot Battalion) played the

"The Magician and His Cat" Pantomime.

part of "The Magician"; Bandsman Moore was "The Cat." They were accompanied by Peggy Kelly and Sheila Robinson, who very ably played their parts as "Jack and Gill." It was a splendid show, which was much appreciated and applauded. Father Christmas (played by Corporal—now Lance Sergeant—Poole) arrived on the scene at the behest of the Magician's wand. Prizes and toys were then distributed to the children, and so ended a most pleasant and enjoyable evening.

Annual Christmas Draw and Dance.—These events took place at the Newbigging Hall on 19th December, in the presence of Brigadier and Mrs. R. Chenevix Trench, Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. R. T. O. Cary, and the officers of the Signal Training Centre. Approximately 250 visitors attended the "Draw." The Corps Dance Band assisted towards a successful and enjoyable evening, during which everything went with a swing from the commencement.

The "Draw," with intervals for dancing, went on until 11.30 p.m., when the prizes were distributed to the lucky number holders. The single members did very well, as usual, whereas the remainder did extremely well in drawing the many blanks.

Promotions and Appointments.—Congratulations are extended to the following on their promotion or appointments: Lance Sergeants Smith A. T., Hawkes W. M., McDowall G. V. and Vine J. C. T., on promotion to Sergeant; Corporals Routledge J., Fearnley C. F., Rose H., Smart R. G., Furniss S. W., Poole S. E., Smith F. A., Darby A. L., and Jennings F. A., on appointment to Lance Sergeant. (The only Christmas boxes recorded.) The new arrivals to the Mess are heartily welcomed.

Long Service and Good Conduct Medals.—The following have been recorded in Army Orders for the award of the medal for Long Service and Good Conduct (with Gratuity): C.Q.M.S. (now C.S.M.) Harvey G. E. and C.Q.M.S. Storr P., Sergeants Cornish W., Rigden W. J., Hutcheon E., Hancock E., Nicholson W., Thorne G., Lance Sergeants Pink R. and Brunton-Douglas J. A. Congratulations to all of them; they have plodded steadily along the unbroken path without a blister.

Engagements.—Our hearty congratulations are also extended to R.Q.M.S. Deptford T. on his recent engagement. We offer him and his fiancée our very best wishes for a very happy future.

Agony.—5th Divisional Signals will be delighted to know that their lost champion on the green baize is still undefeated. He has, however, met his match with the "arrows."

Games Tournament.—The monthly Games Tournament for December, 1938, which follows the Mess meeting, resulted in another win for the Q.M. team. Another Shield, and the trophy will probably become their personal property. The 'Q'uery 'M'ixed team was as follows: R.Q.M.S. Deptford, C.Q.M.S. Storr, Sergeant Murphy C., Sergeant Ashford, W.O. III Adams (5th Div., please note), Sergeant Saunders, Lance Sergeants leCoque and Robinson.

LOFTY

ALDERSHOT NEWS

"A" Corps Signals.

Unit Headquarter Company.

This Company was formed on 1st December, 1938, as an experimental measure, and so adds another two markers on our daily Works Parades, bringing the total to thirteen.

In the Company at present are the following: Major J. H. Cameron-Webb, Captain L. C. C. Harrison, M.C., Major (Quartermaster) W. A. Gallagher, C.S.M. Crockford, Sergeants Bygrave and Bartley.

In addition, we have those regular stalwarts of "A" Corps Signals, namely, the O.R.S. and his staff, and the Quartermaster's staff.

We have not yet got into full swing, owing to the majority of the Company being on annual furlough, but, by the end of this month, we shall be prepared for anything.

In to-day's orders we observe that "Stanley's" capabilities have at last been recognised, for Signalman Baldwin has been appointed U/Lance Corporal. He is now a fully fledged "clerk," a fact that should be of interest to those who knew him in the "bays" at Catterick. Congratulations!

We are anticipating a long and heavy training season, and if rumours are correct we shall be having another change of air, this time in the North of England. These changes of venues do add interest to our task and perhaps on this occasion we shall be able to take the "waters."

H. G.

No. 3 Company.

Drafts have again depleted the strength of the Company, although those now sunning themselves in far warmer climates abroad are probably not envying us our recent spell of arctic weather.

The Command of the Company was taken over on 24th December by Captain F. C. Seely, Royal Signals, from Major S. J. Fielder, Royal Signals, who is now in command of No. 1 Company, "A" Corps Signals.

Lieutenant D. Mansel, Sergeant Pearson, Lance Sergeant Davies, Corporals Gunn and Cheesman, Signalmen Harrison, Webb and Sunley are now with No. 6 A.S.S., attached to 2nd Divisional Signals, and four Signalmen left us on 31st December for service with No. 2 W/T Company, Sarafand.

Congratulations are extended to Sergeant Pearson, Lance Sergeants Hadland and Davies, and Corporal Cheesman on their step up; and to Corporal Dean, Signalmen Galloway and Harrison on their success in the recent Upgrading Courses.

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The Unit Children's Christmas Party was held in the Institute on 22nd December, and, judging from the expressions on the children's faces during the entertainment, a good time was had by all. The arrival of Father Christmas was certainly eagerly awaited by the youngsters. We feel sure that the obvious enjoyment of the kiddies throughout the party will be accepted by those responsible for the arrangements as an adequate reward for their hard work, which contributed so much to this successful event.

NR.

1st Divisional Signals.

17th January.

General.—The main topic since our last notes continues to revolve around the subject of furlough and drafts. The drafting roll still oscillates, and the unexpected invariably happens. We have the satisfaction of knowing that the Officer i/c Records is as much perturbed about this subject as our Commanding Officer. However, the Unit has hopes for 1940.

The Weather.—As elsewhere, the cold snap of Christmas, 1938, provided manifold problems in Mons Barracks, and left a good many of us a lot wiser from the experience. We had all we wanted of the cold spell, and were indeed thankful when the thaw came along and the roads and green fields were visible again.

Mr. Rouse, the Foreman-of-Works, was a very much harassed individual, as he had to answer so many questions of a technical nature on anti-frost precautions.

Training.—A casual glance at the Collective Training programme and the War Office Pamphlet reveals that Signals are in for a busy time this season, and a trip to the moorlands in Yorkshire is included in the itinerary.

Complimentary.—All ranks of 1st Divisional Signals desire to congratulate Colonel H. Bernie-Reid, O.B.E., Commanding, 51st (H.) Divisional Signals, on being awarded the O.B.E. in the New Year's Honours List.

Arrivals and Departures.—To India: Lieutenant D. R. Yearsley, Royal Signals; to Malta: 2nd Lieutenant W. C. Ramsay, Royal Signals. From Catterick on 15th January: 2nd Lieutenant B. R. M. Hayles, Royal Signals. Sergeant Hoy has arrived from India. Farrier Sergeant Long has left us pending discharge from 20th January. Corporal Govey, Lance Corporals Gilchrist and Verlander have joined us from overseas.

Promotions and Appointments.—Sergeant Hoy to be W.O. III and to command "A" Section; Lance Corporals Knox D. and Wilcox G. to be Corporals; U/Lance Corporals Scott, Philmore, Howell and Jones E. to be Paid Lance Corporals; Signalman Irving A. to be U/Lance Corporal.

Entertainment.—The Unit held their usual Annual Children's Christmas Tree Party in the Regimental Theatre on Wednesday, 4th January. After an enjoyable tea, the party adjourned to the theatre for the surprise item of the programme—a Punch and Judy Show. The enthusiasm was equally shared between fathers, mothers and children.

Father Christmas later joined the party and distributed the presents. Afterwards the ladies were invited to have a "lucky dip." Special thanks are due to Mrs. Harris, Mrs. Thompson and the committee for their efforts in making the party such a success.

2nd Divisional Signals.

No. 1 Company.

14th January.

What a relief it will be when this trooping season and the I.T. period is over, which reminds us of collective training and manœuvres. A little bird whispers that this Unit is going to have more than its share of both this year.

General.—The Christmas leave period is drawing to a close and many exploits of the festive season are being related round the barrack-room fires.

Promotions.—Congratulations to Lieutenant (I.P.C.) Spindler now with the Southern Command Signals, on promotion to commissioned rank, and also to S.S.M. Shardlow and Sergeant Knight on attaining those ranks.

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Nearly.—A certain N.C.O., after a visit to his home, found himself looking into the angelic faces of people dressed in white. His first thoughts were that he was above the clouds waiting to hear his name called at the Pearly Gates; but, no; it was just the Kingston County Hospital. What a shock to find that those visions of loveliness were in reality nurses—and male nurses at that. Cheer up, Lofty; better luck next time!

T. AND L.

No. 2 Company.

14th January.

Dictatorship.—The ultimatum was very decided and equally definite: "No WIRE notes, no leave." Some might look upon this effort as being yet another towards appeasement; others, like myself, might look upon it as something to be exploited. Some WIRE notes, some leave! A little collective bargaining on the part of all writers of WIRE notes might produce that happy state of affairs when writing up the news for the magazine would be but a monthly interlude during a period of perpetual leave. Mind, it's only an idea.

General.—Since writing our last notes, we welcome No. 6 A.S.S. back once more to the fold. Only Lieutenant D. Mansell remains of the original Section. Nevertheless, all of them are decidedly welcome, and we hope they will enjoy their stay with us.

A hearty welcome is accorded to Lieutenant D. N. Deakin. He is no stranger to us, for he commanded "Eddie" Section in the not so distant past.

Now that the annual leave period is drawing to a close, the duty roster is beginning to look less like a football pool coupon. The Sections are beginning to exist as such, to the great personal satisfaction of at least one individual, whose efforts at decentralising a good deal of responsibility in one day produced at least three headaches. It is a great life, "G," if you don't weaken!

And now, what? Individual training; drill and musketry courses—Thursley, Dorsetshire, Yorkshire; and then annual furlough once again—where's my bowler hat?

It really happened. A certain Signalman was told that his leave did not expire until Tattoo. Tattoo! That's the sixth of June this year, isn't it?

Condolences.—The sympathy of No. 2 Company is extended to Mac. on being left holding the baby. It is a boisterous infant. but can easily be kept under control.

Our Company Clerk also deserves a little sympathy. Third time lucky, although a better method of ensuring that his third deputy stays put would be to borrow a "chain, securing" from the stores. His leave is still a pleasure deferred, but Spring will soon be with us. Perhaps that is what he is waiting for?

We trust that these notes will be accepted, and that the blue pencil will be used sparingly. According to ancient custom, the writer now staggers into the wide open spaces, hoping all the while that his umbrella will be allowed to remain unopened and undisturbed by any crisis, real or imaginary.

Heigh-ho! Heigh-ho! With a song and a smile and all that.

R. C. P.

No. 3 Company.

General.—Everyone by now has sufficiently recovered from Christmas to sit up and take notice—we hope! Those returning from leave tell of the remarkable time they had, and the unlucky ones who stayed behind also enjoyed themselves, which rather evens matters up.

On Wednesday afternoons we are taken for a walk (no, not a ride) by S.S.M. Shardlow. One of the walkers was asked the other day how he liked it. "Oh," he said, "the walk was O.K., but we lost our way a couple of times and, strangely enough, there was a signpost handy on each occasion. On the first one it said 'Southampton—2 miles,' so we turned north and, after walking for what seemed to be several hours, came to the second one, which read 'Aberdeen—10 miles.' It was then about three o'clock, so we had to put on a spurt in order to get home in time for tea."

The weather is almost ideal for football, rugger and hockey, and plenty of matches are taking place in the Unit.

Two very good concerts were given in the N.A.A.F.I. Institute just before Christmas by the N.A.A.F.I. Concert Party and "Billy Panton's Bachelors," respectively. Both were excellent shows and finished up, as all concerts should, with a spot of community singing.

Arrivals.—We welcome the following A/O.S., and hope they will enjoy their stay in Aldershot: Signalmen Rushman, Feather, Cottee and Morphy.

Departures.—Sergeant Armstrong, Lance Corporals Lind and Stott, Signalmen Cox, Head, Conner and Driver Ward. We wish them *bon voyage* and the best of luck at their new stations.

Things We Want to Know.—Which D.R. turned out in a brilliantly spotted scarf, and what did the C.S.M. have to say on the subject?

THREECO.

Aldershot Command Signal Company.

VIRTUS IN ARDUIS.

General.—There is very little of importance to record this month as excitement seems to pass this place without ever stopping. We all enjoyed the four days' break afforded to us at Christmas, and returned to face the New Year with whatever resolutions we had made. To some of us it will mean new faces, new places, and a new life, far away from W/T Sets, except, of course, for casual listening to "Monday Night at Seven" or the Children's Hour.

Our sandbags gave up the ghost during a snowstorm and collapsed but, like the poor, are still with us. They will probably still be here when we come home again.

Departures.—Those horrible pro-formas called "Warning Orders" continue to arrive, and the latest one bears the name of Lance Corporal (Corps-fast-bowler) Williams, who is due to embark for India on 8th February.

Arrivals.—Signalman Waterhouse has joined us. May he fit in with the rest of the fitter staff.

We Note.—That Austen made 18 not out! Were they bowling underhand? Would he like the A.C.S.C. score book sent out so that he can show the marvellous succession of "ducks" he made against the "Co-op" or Sands? Did we hear that he had descended to basket ball?

That ABY was left out of that bright ode from Hong Kong Signal Company last month. Perhaps in our case there is no cause for lament.

Autos, Broadcasts, W's,
Causing consternation;
At ABY we do or die,
Ignoring oscillation.

That William the Abbott still makes a nice photograph. Thanks for the card, Bill.

Sympathy.—To H.Q., "X" Troop, Cairo, on the loss of a dog that was apparently something more than a dog. We've had one, pals!

Congratulations.—We would like to take this opportunity of congratulating everyone, from the fatigue parties to the organisers, for the excellence of the Christmas Party for the kiddies. We think all the mummies and daddies enjoyed it just as much as the children, and if the shrieks of delight from the youngsters were anything by which to judge, then we think that the organisers of the show were amply repaid for their efforts.

Finale.—Well, there you are; another month has been crossed off that long calendar, and so we conclude with best wishes to all Units for good stations and good listening during 1939.

FRANKIE.

Wireless Wing, A.F.V. School.

Bovington Camp, Wareham, Dorset.
13th January.

General.—We must apologise for the absence of notes from this Unit last month. There appears to have been a little misunderstanding about posting that we hope to avoid in future.

With the Christmas "break" just a pleasant memory and all the New Year resolutions duly broken, everyone is settling down to our new Course, which is now well under way.

The old year went out on a rather depressing note, as I drew Airdrie in the sweep. They got 8; Middlesbrough got 9; but wasn't drawn (cheers). I was just working out the interest on the winnings at 2½ per cent. per annum, when someone pointed out that a team called Portadown had got 9 (groans). Anyway, where is Portadown? I know where I wished it!

Promotions.—Congratulations to W.O. III Smith J. on his promotion to that rank.

Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.—Sergeant Little V., having successfully avoided being caught, duly appeared in Orders for the above award. Congratulations! The next question is, will the presentation parade count as a Church Parade?

Arrivals.—One belt, waist, leather, measuring 53 ins. Nice work. It does pay to advertise in THE WIRE!

"Ginger" to 8A bearing signs of —er—Battle?

Agony.—Whifflesnoop, ex-"H" Troop, Egypt. "When do the wedding bells ring?"

'Erb 3, last heard of in Hong Kong. "Happy New Year. 'Erb 2."

And so, until that "any WIRE notes?" reminder comes again, we conclude, wishing one and all a belated prosperous New Year.

WEEPIN' WILLO.

4th Divisional Signals, Canterbury.

No. 2 Company.

We apologise for the absence of our notes last month. Your humble scribe was on leave and there was so much writing to do for a big London "daily." Apology accepted?

Welcome.—We extend a hearty welcome to our new O.C., Major Maguire, and hope he will enjoy his stay here. We also welcome the five Squads of recruits from 5th Divisional Signals, Catterick, who seem to be settling down.

Departures.—Departures have been too numerous to mention individually, but all concerned know that we wish them the best of luck and, in some cases, *bon voyage*. Our one and only Arthur, who has escaped the tide which takes the boats out west, doesn't seem at all pleased about it; perhaps it is because so many whisper, "You are going East, young man, going East."

Signalman Shilson sails for Jamaica to-day, and many an envious voice has commented upon the fact. Unfortunately, we cannot say the same about those going to India. Why?

Congratulations to Corporal Thorpe and Lance Corporal Hudson on going up a step, but we didn't notice any free beer flowing in the Mess at the time.

M.T.—Once again our "theme song" (have patience) comes into its own, especially when cracked cylinder heads, etc., are mentioned. The severe frosts certainly took everyone by surprise; they even nipped the heads off my geraniums.

Last week a convoy of vehicles were returned to Chilwell, and thereby hangs a tale. About 100 miles from our destination, we ran into icebound roads, and did we have fun ? One of our drivers went for a swim in a ditch and forgot to let go of the Austin he was driving. The same driver a little later (when he was on tow), developed a kink for exploring the unknown, and so insistent was the call that he drove the Austin (same one) through a hedge to find out what was on the other side. Another driver in an Austin thought that the 30-cwt. lorry in front of him needed a little push to help it on its way—but forgot that the 30-cwt. had its brakes full on. We will not dwell on the painful results. Before leaving the story of this drive, the writer wishes to mention that the car he was driving did not take enough water with it and, eventually, the rear kept on trying to catch up with the front ; it almost succeeded once or twice.

The final episode of these convoy runs will probably appear in next month's notes.

Re-organisation.—Quite a number of men have arrived here from Catterick to be trained as tradesmen. The idea is to relieve the pressure of work at the Depot.

It is rumoured that a number of the old hands are to be posted to other Units. We wonder what the Unit will look like without our R.E. fixtures.

Children's Party.—A party was held for the children of the families on 9th January. Afterwards there was an All Ranks Dance. Both functions were enjoyed immensely and the arrangements were excellent.

Dancing reminds us of bands, and bands of crooners. Whilst on the subject of crooners, we recollect the talent that came to light at the dance. (Possibly the " XXX " was responsible !) It is really amazing the difference in tastes when it comes to crooning. Never mind, Blackie ; I'll get the words of that song written out for you.

Theme Song.—The theme song for the month is, " I was on leave at the time." It comes in very handy, and covers a multitude of sins.

Personal.—Hope, Sarafand. " I have faith and a certain amount of charity, but no manuscript ? R.S.V.P."

Final.—Someone told the writer the other day that I bear a charmed life. I wonder what he meant ?

No. 3 Company.

General.—Since our last notes, many things have happened in our small world.

The Unit is now a Training Battalion, and already our A/C.S.M. (Sergeant Ball) and C.Q.M.S. Wells bear that troubled look, and long for Egypt's sunny climes again.

The first batch of recruits for this Company is due to arrive here on 16th January. We were pleased to see our old friend, R.S.M. Trapmore, now Lieutenant Trapmore ; he arrived in charge of the first batch of recruits, who went to No. 2 Company. The Company office is now a hive of industry.

Sport.—Congratulations to our Unit football team on reaching the semi-final of the Kent Junior Cup. Judging from the amount of talent that has arrived from Catterick, the team will soon be up to its old standard.

News.—Former 4th Divites will be interested to know that " J," " K " and " L " Sections' Stores are now lecture rooms, and that all our cars have been returned to Chilwell.

Arrivals and Departures.—Major H. S. Lewis Barclay has relinquished his command of this Company, but has not left the Unit ; he has taken over the duties of P.R.I. Our new O.C. is Captain L. W. J. Dryland, and we hope his stay with us will be a long and happy one.

Lance Corporals Smyth and Salisbury have arrived from Malaya. Lance Corporal Hancock has also joined us from overseas and is due to go to the Military College of Science in March.

Things We Want to Know.—What happened when the knob on the Morris gear lever got reversed on the Chilwell run ?

THREECOY.

5th Divisional Signals, Catterick Camp.

13th January.

General.—Six inches of snow and hard frosts, which we think applies to the whole of England.

The Unit—as the 5th Divisional Signals—has temporarily ceased to exist. Although retaining our own designation, we are now functioning as a second Depot Battalion, and about 200 recruits joined us on 6th January. This number will probably be in the neighbourhood of 400 before April.

On 4th January the four Squads of recruits, who were under training with us as Operator Signals, left for 4th Divisional Signals, Canterbury, where they are to complete their training They travelled down in three reserved coaches, under the command of Lieutenant A. Trapmore, Royal Signals.

Move of the Unit to Le Cateau Lines.—The Christmas holiday was spent in preparing for this move. The fact that we had to maintain a guard in Le Cateau Lines put a certain amount of strain on those who were unfortunate enough not to be on leave during that period. Unit Headquarters moved on 30th December and, although at the time of writing some of the Unit is still in Ypres Lines, it is hoped that another week will see the move completed.

Christmas Day.—A party of about thirty sat down to dinner at midday. An excellent repast, which was followed by the usual toasts, was provided, and the thanks of all are extended to Corporal Newton A., Lance Corporal Dobing J. and Driver Eden W., and all other members of the cookhouse who helped to arrange, cook, and serve the meal.

Children's Christmas Tree.—This was held in the Regimental Institute on Thursday, 15th December. The party began at 4 p.m. with tea, at which Mrs. Henderson, the C.O.'s wife, cut the Christmas cake. Crackers were pulled and the room took on a festive air with all the grown ups and children wearing paper hats and blowing whistles.

After tea, " Uncle Fred," an entertainer and conjuror, gave an amusing and clever exhibition of conjuring, which lasted about half-an-hour. At 5.45 p.m. the roar of an engine was heard outside, followed by a bump on the roof, and we knew that Father Christmas had arrived in his aeroplane. A few seconds later he emerged from the chimney laden with parcels and toys. He had something in his bag for every little girl and boy in the room, and with each toy was a novelty that consisted of something which made a noise. By the time Father Christmas left, the noise was deafening ! After Father Christmas had gone, there were ices for the children, port for the mothers, and beer for the fathers.

At about 6.30 p.m. the party came to an end, when the Colonel (Lieutenant-Colonel H. G. Henderson) asked for a vote of thanks to Corporal Newton and all the others, who had helped to make the party such a success.

Each child, on leaving, was given a bag of fruit, and was also confronted by four large bran tubs marked " Ladies," " Gents," " Boys " and " Girls," from which they all got a small present to take home with them.

Sergeants' Mess.—The Annual Christmas Draw was held at 7.30 p.m. on 17th December, when the array of turkeys, chickens, pork, beer and many other commodities in the ante-room would have compared favourably with any of Mr. Sainsbury's efforts. Nearly everyone drew a prize, an arrangement which must have proved most acceptable, although we have not yet discovered what happened to the pound of butter won by a member of the Orderly Room Staff. The organisers are to be congratulated on their successful efforts.

Arrivals.—We extend a cordial welcome to the following, who have joined the Unit since our last notes were published : Captain R. C. Yule, Royal Signals, from India ; Captain W. G. Daubeny, Royal Signals ; and the Instructors and recruits from the Depot Battalion, Royal Signals, who start us off as a Depot Battalion.

Departures.—With regret we publish the departure of Signalman (Bill) Wolsey to civilian life, and wish him every success in the future.

Promotions and Appointments.—Congratulations to Lance Corporal Barker N. on promotion to Corporal, and to Signalmen Fenton, Miller and Tovell on their " first step " on the long ladder as U/Lance Corporals.

INDIAN SIGNAL CORPS

Signal Training Centre (India), Jubblepore.

General.—The efforts of Officer i/c Records in the roll of Santa Claus are appreciated. The following promotions were published during Christmas, and those who found their stockings filled are heartily congratulated: W.O.s, Class III: Jackson J., Ellis J., Cook T., Hoy A. and Andrews E. C.Q.M.S.s: Pickering E. and Howard T.

Christmas Festivities.—The main festivities started on Monday, 19th December, with a grand Christmas Party for the children, given in the Regimental Institute by the officers of the S.T.C. (I.). Before tea was served, most of the guests were amusing themselves at the Miniature Fair, which was held outside the Institute, several taking the opportunity of a ride on the camels. We wonder how the rider's feelings, when mounted on a "ship of the desert" compare with those sometimes experienced on a troop ship.

There was an extremely large Christmas Tree, which was very tastefully decorated with coloured lights, glass bulbs, tinsel, etc., and surrounded with toys; in one of the rooms a real log fire made the place look just like home.

Tea was served in the dance hall to what seemed several hundreds of hungry mouths, and all thoroughly enjoyed the music, which was supplied by the S.T.C. Dance Band during the meal. The band played an excellent selection of carols and seasonable music.

After tea, "Uncle Tom" gave us a very interesting description of the arrival by air of Santa Claus, who spoke to the kiddies through a "mike" from his plane, which, by the way, had a very realistic engine. He then came down into the hall, *via* the chimney, and distributed the toys in the grand old Christmas style.

There was a comic hockey match held on Christmas Eve between the Junior N.C.O.s and the Signalmen. During the game many peculiar rules were introduced, such as playing with a rugby ball, golf ball and things like that. After an hour's exhausting play there was still no definite result, and so the game was abandoned, to be resumed later in the evening, when a smoking concert was held in the Regimental Institute. This concert, which was organised by Corporal Mitchell and a band of very willing helpers, was described as a great success by all those who could speak after consuming the copious quantities of the beverage from Burton.

On Christmas morning we played a grand fancy-dress cricket match against the ladies, who beat us by a substantial number of runs.

Christmas dinner was held in the "A" Company recreation room, which had been absolutely transformed by the splendid efforts of the Decorations Committee; they deserve a special mention for their great efforts. On the Committee were Lance Corporal Kilburn (the "bloke") and the two draughtsmen Lance Corporal Munslow and Signalman Bateman. The first-named is given full marks for the idea, and the last two the same for their really beautiful drawings of "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" and all the other little odds and ends.

The dinner, which was voted a huge success, consisted of courses too numerous to mention. The meal was a credit to Lance Corporal Dunlop, Signalman Scriven and their team of "babagees." The meal was served by the senior N.C.O.s, and all the officers were in attendance.

R.S.M. Nash E. opened the proceedings by wishing us all the compliments of the season on behalf of the W.O.s and Sergeants of the S.T.C. (I.), to which Corporal Adkins J. replied in a suitable manner. During the dinner, Colonel G. L. G. Pollard, M.B.E., made a short speech, telling us that he would not be with us for another Christmas, and also that Lieutenant-Colonel W. M. Miller, M.C., Royal Signals, who is Officer Commanding, Signal Training Battalion, would shortly be leaving us to take up the appointment of Chief Signal Officer in Egypt.

During the evening, the junior N.C.O.s very kindly invited the Signalmen to their Mess for a smoker. This function was well attended.

On Monday, 28th December, a picnic had been arranged to "Happy Valley," one of the well known health resorts in the vicinity of Jubbulpore. The majority of the Company were transported in lorries under the guidance of Sergeant Page W. W. There were games and competitions, "house," and also swimming for those who liked the idea. Here again, Lance Corporal Dunlop made a great success of the feeding arrangements. The outing was voted a huge success.

During the evening, the W.O.s and Sergeants Mess had their Annual Dinner, to which all the ladies were invited, together with numerous guests. This was followed by a dance till the very early hours of the morning.

On Wednesday, 28th December, we held our grand "Coster Ball" in the Regimental Institute, at which about 250 were present. The music was provided by the S.T.C. (I.) Dance Band, under the leadership of Lance Sergeant Collett. Amongst those present were Colonel G. L. G. Pollard, C.S.O., Southern Command and Commandant, S.T.C.(I.), Lieutenant-Colonel W. M. Miller, M.C., and many others too numerous to mention. Many prizes were given for both coster and fancy dress. The first prize for lady "Coster" went to Mrs. Ellerton-Long, and the first gents. "Coster" prize was won by Signalman Knight K. O., of "A" Company.

The Committee, under the control of Sergeant Page, are to be complimented on their clever decorations, and the excellent arrangements which made the show such a huge success.

Life slowly returned to normal after the "Coster Ball," with just the exception of New Year, which was celebrated extremely well by all ranks. Most of the other ranks were carrying out the instructions of the K.O.S.B.s, who are stationed at Jubbulpore. They certainly know how to welcome the New Year. (Oh, my head!)

NORTHERN COMMAND ..... INDIAN ARMY

"A" Corps Signals, Rawalpindi.

Rawalpindi.
6th January.

Arrivals and Departures.—This month will see a big change in the Unit, as we have been allotted passages for all those who are due for repatriation this year. They are leaving us during the third week of the month. Two drafts from home are expected to arrive within a few days of each other. To all those who are leaving us we wish the very best of luck and success, and we also extend a welcoming hand to those who are joining us, and hope that their tour will pass very quickly and happily. (Roll on next year!)

Lance Corporal Cooper C. has left us for the Army School of Education at Belgaum, where he is undergoing an Assistant Instructors' Course. Signalman Cade C. has joined his brother at the Wireless Experimental Section, Cherat, and in a few days' time Lance Sergeant Bowie and Corporal Parsons will be leaving us for Jubbulpore, where they are attending an "S" Course.

Proclamation Parade, 1939.—Owing to our heavy commitments in Waziristan, "A" Corps Signals were not called upon to take part in the Rawalpindi Proclamation Parade this year, although Royal Signals were well represented by 1st Indian Divisional Signals. Nevertheless, we helped to make the parade an easier one by assisting with the public address outfit, which worked without a hitch through the proceedings.

Amongst the recipients of decorations on the parade was Captain N. M. Hay, who was presented with the insignia of the M.B.E., which was awarded to him for his services during the Waziristan Operations, 1936-37.

Presentation of Miniature Trophies to the Winners.

THE TEAM AND TROPHY.

Back Row : Signalman Hamerton, Signalman Severn, Signalman O'Brien P., Corporal Fry, Signalman Richardson, Corporal Terrey, C.Q.M.S. Holness.

Front Row : Signalmen Hawkins, Bennett P., Murdoch (capt.), Mason, Homer, Butterfield.

New Year's Honours List.—A good start in 1939 was given to the following N.C.O.s, who now hold the ranks stated : C.Q.M.S.s Mills J. and Holness A., Lance Sergeant Bell T. S., Corporals Sokell H., Terrey F., Stead W. and Green H., Lance Corporals Smith F. H., Phillips R., Thomas L. and Ramsden H., U/Lance Corporals Stewart D., Trask F., Davidson A. and Cooper C.

Football.—After a great fight in the early rounds, we finally emerged victorious in the Frontier Football Tournament, which was held in Rawalpindi during Christmas week. In the first round, we drew twice with the 1st Battalion, Devonshire Regiment, but the team fought splendidly and were rewarded for their pluck.

This is the first time for a number of years that we have actually won a trophy as a Unit team, although we have been in many finals, and have met with success as a combined team with the Divisional Signals. We therefore hope that the winning vein will continue when the Murree competitions take place this year.

PEDLAR.

M.A.R. Section, Rawalpindi.

3rd January.

General.—Regimental training began in real earnest with the arrival of the 26th Battery from Ferozepore, and the 27/28th Battery from Peshawar. Day after day found us churning up the roads around Ambala and, according to theory, the invisible enemy were blown to smithereens. Cover from aircraft was easily obtained, for the country is well wooded. The cable detachments are to be congratulated on maintaining communication and laying lines in somewhat hazardous conditions. The speed at which the two Signal Offices were erected was favourably commented upon ; perhaps the friendly rivalry between Sergeant Andrews and Lance Sergeant McKenzie had something to do with it.

Lieutenant G. A. Dutton conveyed to us the thanks of O.C., 7th Medium Regiment, Royal Artillery, but they are really due to him for the way in which he had the situation at his finger tips.

Sport.—The football teams of Ambala, cut to the quick by our last two smashing victories, have applied the thumbscrew (*see* Spanish Inquisition). We succumbed to their onslaughts and lost the remaining games. Our chaps in 'Pindi can still wear their old Corps tie with impunity, because we went down with banners flying.

On Christmas Day, to the encouraging shouts of the assembled multitude, we played a team from No. 2 Company, beating them 3—2. The match can be summed up by Gladstone's famous words, " Gentlemen, the exercise was quite beneficial." To prove that the result was not a fluke, we played our opponents again, beating them by the same score. (Jenkjyn, my sleeve—haw ! haw !) The photograph shows the modest heroes of Ambala.

The Road Back.—On 21st December we made our way back to 'Pindi. Ludhiana and Amritsar were left behind, and our groans, as we passed through Lahore, were pitiful to hear. We camped during the night about fifty miles from Lahore.

With the population of Wazirabad and Jhelum choking with the dust from our chariot wheels, we entered the home stretch, arriving in 'Pindi on the afternoon of 22nd December.

By the Way.—During our meanderings in Ambala we often disturbed buck and deer ; graceful, supple creatures, who sped away with amazing agility. It was only by tying Tich Riden to a gunwheel that we could prevent him from chasing them with a bow and arrow. What's Errol Flynn got that he hasn't, anyway ?

Farewell.—Lieutenant G. A. Dutton has left us for the wild and woolly Frontier. Best of luck, sir.

Lance Sergeant McKenzie, Corporal Bevan and Lance Corporal Ramsden H. can smell the tang of the sea, for they will see the last of Mother India from the stern end of a trooper on 17th January. This popular trio will be greatly missed by the Section, and we wish them *bon voyage*. Lofty's long, genial figure, pipe in mouth, and his words of wisdom to the young soldier are our loss and another's gain.

KAY.

M.A.R. SECTION FOOTBALL TEAM.

Back Row : Signalmen Hamerton, Harcus, Pratt H., Addlesee J., Lancashire A., Lance Corporal Ramsden H.

Seated : Signalman Kelly J., Lieutenant G. A. Dutton, Signalman Francis R., Lance Sergeant McKenzie.

Front Row : Signalman Pratt I., Corporal Harris A., Signalman Wilding T.

1st Indian Divisional Signals, Rawalpindi.

December, 1938.

Christmas has once again come and gone, and we are now awaiting the Proclamation Parade, which will be held on 2nd January. Last year the heavens opened and many were the sighs of grief when the parade was cancelled. We dream that the day this year will dawn bright and sunny.

Our new mess-room was very nicely decorated, and all Junior N.C.O.s and men will, we know, give heartiest thanks to Signalmen Perkins and Combe for their efforts in making the place look so bright and cosy.

Also many thanks to Lance Corporal Lane for the many hours of hard work which he and his staff put in for our benefit. (You sure can cook some goose, Shady !)

The dinner and Christmas Day was a great success and everyone enjoyed themselves. The cartoon over the fireplace was a masterpiece, and we know that all past members of the Unit, particularly those who have left us this trooping season, will have a few good chuckles when they know it referred to " Inky " and his medal. It is impossible to reproduce the cartoon for this edition, but the following description will, we think, suffice.

In front of a good old Christmas fire, an old man is seated in a comfortable easy chair. A little girl is standing by his side, and a cat is perched on the back of the chair. The little girl asks, " Please tell me how you earned your medal, Uncle Inky ? " The reply is, " Well, my dear, it is a long, long story." The remainder of the narrative is, of course, left to the imagination. Some " grip," eh ?

It is a really good effort, and " Shady " Lane appears to be as good at cartoons as he is at cooking.

Everyone attended the Christmas dinner, when Major R. Jee, M.C., our Commanding Officer, gave us his good wishes for a very merry Christmas and a bright, happy and prosperous New Year, to which we responded. He also gave us the good news that he will be our Commanding Officer for another three years. Many cries of " Great Stuff " followed this announcement. Major Jee also spoke of the great work performed by the Unit in the past, both in barracks and in the field, and also of the good work of R.S.M. Day C. E., who will shortly be leaving us for Trimulgherry. All ranks will wish R.S.M. and Mrs. Day all the best at their new Station.

Our old trouper, " Pip " Carlton, gave us the speech of his life when he toasted the Commanding Officer and all officers of the Unit. He remarked that we were all very proud to serve under Major Jee, and hoped that we would continue our good work. Before commencing dinner we toasted the absent members and also our comrades who were serving in Waziristan during Christmas.

The B.O.R.s thank the Sergeants who undertook the duties of " Nippies " ; the service was excellent. Autograph hunters soon had the " Nippies " in a " grip " ; Miss Moody (Hoot) must have had pains in the arms by the time she had finished scrawling that well-known signature.

The day was devoted to sports, the results of which are published in our sports notes.

Congratulations. —To R.S.M. and Mrs. Day C. E. on the arrival of a daughter, Daphne Valerie, at Rawalpindi, on 1st December.

To S.S.M. Bloodworth on attaining that rank. S.S.M. Bloodworth will shortly be leaving us for Blighty, and the Unit to which he is posted will possess a fine cricketer. Their gain will be our loss.

Children's Christmas Party. —The officers of "A" Corps Signals and 1st Indian Divisional Signals gave the children their annual Christmas Party on 21st December. The arrangements were excellent and included roundabouts, camels and donkeys. After an excellent tea, the children enjoyed the sight of Father Christmas arriving on his sleigh (mechanised). Each child left the party the proud possessor of a nice present.

Sergeant Cole, Lance Corporal Green ("A" Corps Signals) and Sergeant Nuttall (1st Divisional Signals) put in some hard work towards the making of a successful party, and the result of their work was excellent.

Sergeants' Mess.

23rd December.—During the evening the Mess Christmas Draw took place, followed by a social evening. The lucky ones received some good prizes and everyone (including the unlucky ones) enjoyed a very pleasant evening and free drinks.

25th December.—On Christmas Day the Sergeants waited on the Junior N.C.O.s and men at dinner and many a sergeant's mouth watered as he served the appetising goose. The Commanding Officer, Major Jee, and all the officers were present. Toasts were drunk and, before the C.O. left the dining-hall, the Unit gave him three hearty and sincere cheers.

Lance Corporal Lane certainly produced a good Christmas spread, and we know of two Lance Sergeants who tasted more than a sample of the dinner. Thanks to the kindness of our married members, those who were single enjoyed the rest of the day in homely surroundings.

26th December.—During the morning, three interesting sports fixtures were held between "A" Corps and the Divisional Signals. They comprised hockey, football and a comic hockey match between the ladies and the Sergeants. There were some very funny sights, especially when the Sergeants attempted to show us what the well-dressed woman should wear.

In the evening, the dining members held their dinner, and all enjoyed a very pleasant evening, and later almost everyone attended the Corporals' Ball, where a very enjoyable day ended with dancing and the quenching of thirsts. Judging by the crowded bar a large number of thirsts took a long time to quench.

28th December.—A dance, held in the Sergeants' Mess, was well attended. The officers of "A" Corps Signals and 1st Divisional Signals honoured us with their presence. Bill Moody's party certainly made sure they could manage the Palais Glide. They held more rehearsals than we are getting for the Proclamation Parade.

Corporals' Mess.—Why did a certain Corporal retire from the dance early because he was covered from head to foot in red ochre ? Have you an explanation, L. B. ?

That Christmas Spirit.—How to gate crash with success. Carols by " Dingy."

Agony.—A certain B.O.R., after drinking his Christmas rum and coffee, got out of bed, put his slacks between the sheets, and then draped himself over the back of the chair. The rum must have been strong !

The Boats.—Excitement is running high again as the dates for the next two boats to the U.K. draw near. One of our comrades (no names, no Hamburgers ; sorry—Flapjacks) certainly lets us know the number of days to go when he enters the mess-room.

New Year's Day—7 a.m.—A certain B.O.R., who still has a row of houses in his eyes, informed a whole barrack room that he was going home this year ; but, of course, the 1939/40 trooping season is a long way off yet.

Kiko Club.—Past members of the Unit who inaugurated the Kiko Club, will be pleased to know that another club is to be formed for the personnel who are due home next trooper. We are hoping that once again Bill Bourton will be wearing the cap of honour as President.

Promotions.—We understand that free beer has been plentiful in the Corporals' Mess on account of the following promotions. Congratulations to the following N.C.O.s on attaining the rank and appointments stated : Lance Sergeant Ravenhall to be Sergeant ; Corporal Robson to be Lance Sergeant ; Lance Corporals Lane, Alltoft, Warhurst, Crouch and Carn to be Corporals.

Miscellaneous.—To our surprise, a tubby little fellow of this Unit entered the U.H.Q. bungalow yesterday with the Dhobi's donkey. Is the country affecting him, or was it the effects of the rum in the coffee on Christmas morning ? Why didn't you do the Lady Godiva stunt, Tubby ?

A tale recently heard. " When I was in the bantams, and the order was given for ' Tallest on the right, shortest on the left,' I was always on the right."

Evidently Signalman Johnny Cochrane cannot face the prospect of Blighty ; even the idea of a good drop of beer will not move him, so he has decided to remain in the country for another year, but still counts the days.

On the day following Boxing Day a hockey match took place —the officers and men versus the N.C.O.s. The result of this game appears in our sports notes. Our Commanding Officer, Major Jee, who turned out for the officers and men, played a very good game, and we hope to include him in the Section tournaments when they commence.

May we take this opportunity of wishing all officers and other ranks of the Corps a very bright, happy and prosperous New Year.

And so, for the present, happy days.

B. R.

1st Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Risalpur.

10th January.

General.—Christmas is over but not forgotten, and our efforts to resume normal duties and work after the holidays has put a severe strain on many of us.

We commenced our Christmas activities with a Children's Christmas Tree Party on 24th December. The kiddies and their mothers swooped down on the Mess at about 4 p.m., making " whoopee " with all the attractive " eats " laid out in readiness for them, after which they reined back and waited for Santa Claus to appear on the scene.

Oh, and what a good man he was, for all the little children had something to come, and even little Doris Cozens was not missed. After all the kiddies had been presented with their presents, Mrs. Gambier and Mrs. Gould organised a few games for them, with Mrs. Lacey doing her bit at the piano.

This was followed later in the evening by the Christmas Draw and an impromptu dance.

Farrier Staff Sergeant Maguire and Lance Sergeant Cowell are now to be regarded as our future " backs " for the hockey team —well, they did win a hockey stick each.

After opening all our parcels (?) and emptying our stockings on Christmas Day, things began to move, but not half as fast as some of the dinners. The appearance of the dining hall for the dinner was certainly a credit to the committee, who must have put some hard work into the show. The Commanding Officer and Troop Officer came along to wish the men a merry Christmas. The men sat down to a splendid dinner, after which they all made their way over to the families, where they were given a hectic reception until the early hours of Boxing Day.

On Boxing Day morning, a Treasure Hunt was held and, judging by the way some of the participants dashed about, with eager expressions on their faces, we should have thought that the treasure was something more than a few bottles . Who wants beer ?

On the evening of Boxing Day, the Sergeants' Mess held their Christmas Dinner, which was followed by a social evening. Both events were a great success.

A Pagal Gymkhana was held during the afternoon next day, in which the families and children took a great part, and the ladies' efforts in the " Fixing the Donkey's Tail " event caused much fun. This was followed by a hockey match with the

MEMBERS OF THE SERGEANTS' MESS AND OFFICERS, 1ST CAVALRY BRIGADE SIGNAL TROOP.

Back Row (*left to right*) : Lance Sergeant Bull, Lance Sergeant Paling, Sergeant Lourie, Lance Sergeant Cowell.

Front Row (*left to right*) : Sergeant Lacey, Farrier Staff Sergeant Townley, T.S.M. Gould, Captain P. B. G. Gambier, Royal Signals, Captain R. A. Conner, Royal Signals, T.Q.M.S. Cozens, Sergeant Riando.

Nowshera Signal Section, which provided an easy win for us. An All Ranks Social Evening and Dance was held later.

The festive season was brought to a grand climax on Saturday, 7th January, with the popular O.C.A. Dance, which proved a great success. Brigadier and Mrs. H. Macdonald, D.S.O., who came along, appeared to enjoy themselves very much—especially in the " Lambeth Walk."

Blue Book—Amendments.—Lance Sergeant Bale and Lance Corporal Duncan are congratulated on their appointments. We also congratulate U/Lance Corporal Egerton on obtaining a foothold on the ladder of fame.

Departures.—Corporal Hargreaves, one of the old troop, has left us for a Course at the Army Signal School, Poona. A little bird whispers that he will be staying there for a year or so. Another well-known figure in the Unit, Lance Corporal White, has also left us to attend a Foreman of Signals Course at Catterick. This is another way of getting back to the Blighty Cantonment early.

One of Jubbulpore's ex-supporters, Corporal Pike, has returned there in order to attend a " S " Course.

The members of the Sergeants' Mess sat and watched the " dicky bird " the other day, and the result is published with these notes.

Waziristan District Signals.

Dera Ismail Khan.

3rd January.

December has been a very busy month. It commenced with a Column near Kotkai as Sher Ali was making trouble. On the 9th, a detachment went out with " Wastrike " Headquarters to Jandola and formed a Signal Centre. " Wanacol " and " Razcol " were co-operating in the Operations.

" Wastrike " Signals returned to D.I. Khan after a fortnight spent in Jandola Fort, just in time to continue their Christmas celebrations.

Christmas was most enjoyable this year. On Thursday, 22nd December, the Sergeants' Mess were at home for tennis and dancing. The next day the Sergeants had their annual draw and another dance. The B.O.R.s held a smoking concert on Christmas Eve. Christmas Day opened with a B.O.R.s' Treasure Hunt, which was won by Signalman Dyson. Christmas dinner followed, and later we visited the Married Quarters for a spell of carol singing.

Our big night was Wednesday, 28th December, when the All Ranks Dance was held. Almost everybody in the Station attended. Great credit is due to the organisers.

On Thursday, 29th December, the Officers' Club arranged a Treasure Hunt for the D.I. Khan Bobbery Pack. Two B.O.R.s were in first, but found that they had missed two clues. The C.O., although not the first home, was the first to make the kill.

And now we are back at work.

Lance Corporal Carey has been posted to the Army Signal School, Poona. Lance Sergeant Bennet has re-engaged to complete twenty-one years. Signalman Durber has extended his service to complete twelve years with the Colours.

The Autumn Trade Testing Board is over, and Privates Crick and Crane, of the 2nd Battalion, Green Howards, are now Signalmen in the Corps.

U/Lance Corporal Waite J. has passed the Lower Standard Urdu test. C.Q.M.S. Pronger is now a W.O.III (S.S.M.).

Lance Corporal Crosley and Signalman Shewring are on shooting leave in the jungle somewhere near Jubbulpore. They acquired an old bull-nosed Morris, 1918 model, and set off on their 1000-mile journey and—what is more—they arrived. If they complete the round trip, nobody should ever criticise a Signals Fitter, or mention a hammer and cold chisel.

Lance Sergeant Best and the M.T. Section intercepted a consignment of scrap iron *en route* to Japan and, after weeks of work, revealed something like a pre-war T-model Ford. It is still in the experimental stage, but more will be recorded in our next notes.

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Razmak Signal Section.

N.W.F.P., India.

October, 1938.

We regret to state that No. 2321444 Lance Corporal Wyatt F. G. died from pneumonia, after having been evacuated from Active Service at Degan in the Tochi Valley during the Kharre Operations in July, 1938. Lance Corporal Wyatt will be remembered by many in the Corps in Aldershot and Waziristan. He had served in Waziristan for five years, and was due for repatriation.

Inter-Section postings are now taking place. When the ex-District postings have taken place, later in the year, the Section will hardly be recognisable. Sergeant Searle, Signalmen Read, Petrie and Hernen are looking forward to Vocational Courses this winter. Signalman Herberts returned from Blighty leave a week ago. He goes home in February, and his first act on return was to apply for a Vocational Training Course.

Sergeant Searle has set off on his journey to London, where he already has a taxi on the road. This is not an advertisement.

This year the Section combined with our H.Q. and the Medium Brigade Section, R.A. (a total roughly equivalent to a Company in the British Battalion) and won the honours at the Razmak Brigade Athletic Meeting. We understand that this is the first time in history. Unfortunately, we were only runners-up in the Hockey Championship, but we feel sure that we should have won if our H.Q. had arrived in time to assist us. We also won the Basket Ball Championship.

No. 2323881 Signalman Downing G., of this Section, has been awarded the Military Medal. For a more detailed account of his act, please refer to the account of the Operations about Kharre in this issue.

WESTERN COMMAND ..... INDIAN ARMY

"B" Corps Signals, Karachi.

Unit Headquarters.

November.

By the time that these notes are in print, the New Year will have arrived, and to us Empire builders this means a step nearer the Winkle Barge—sorry, the boat. To all members of the Corps, both past and present, we wish happy hunting during nineteen thirty-nine.

We were sorry to see three of our happy band leave us for the old country; they had been in hospital for quite a time and are now invalided. Among them was Signalman Macdonald, who, we are glad to relate, has made a marvellous recovery, and with bags of the old Blighty "duff" should be soon the chap he ever was. We hope you get to Bulford, Mac.

It seems that the "Embarkation" staff can take it, but our draft details, who were hoping to get home for Yule-tide cannot. They skipped us on two boats and now, without a word of warning, despatched a whole Battalion of the K.S.L.I., and still our chaps are logged on the Beer Bar wall. Most of them have resigned themselves to just making it in time for the Cup Final.

We did benefit in one way by the departure of the K.S.L.I., for we are now the proud possessors of a camel. Our mathematicians are getting down to the problem of finding out how many camels make a dromedary, or whether only bad tempered camels wear a hump. Anyway, who's interested in a ship of the desert. We might add it used to pull the roller on football pitches, etc., on its "on" days, when a couple of "oomphs" will do the trick.

Either the weather has become colder or the beer cheaper, judging by the colourful nasal organs one sees in the mornings. A "gripping" school can be seen round the Night Bar fire on most nights.

The threat of camps appears to be looming in the offing, judging by the erection of tents and wireless stations on the maidan.

That sturdy little Section (No. 8 Pack), which still makes the grade, goes off into the blue accompanied by their long-eared friends. One of these long-eared beasts (we believe they are called mules) with North Road handlebars for listening with, seems to be on "jankers" for all it seems to carry is sandbags. We would like to confirm this.

Arrivals.—Congratulations to our Provost Corporal, Corporal Baker, and Mrs. Baker on the birth of a daughter, Betty Georgina, who arrived on the 18th.

Nuts and Bolts.—Who smokes Abdullas, and is a Florence Lumbecos fan?

For sale. A springer spaniel, by Ghizri Village III out of Bunder Road Chowkidar ECK. Owner, a Scotsman going abroad.

Wanted. A silver-plated man-hole cover. Will exchange a cap comforter or frontier gong. Anytime after lights out.

Jews' Mail.—Brill G. 418. "What about a line? Willie 089."

Cheerio, fellow sufferers.

G. O. O.

December.

We take this opportunity of thanking all ex-"B" Corps "wallahs" who sent Christmas cards to the old crowd, particularly ex-Signalman (now Fireman) Bolton of the London Fire Brigade, and Corporal Jenkins of the Rhodesian Police. We hope you will see this, Jenk.!

Now for the Yuletide festivities. On 23rd December an All Ranks Dance was held in the mess-room. The decorations were splendid, thanks to the efforts of Signalman Sinclair and our "unobstinate" artist, Signalman Fairclough. A feature of interest were the excellent drawings of the "seven flit guns," with apologies to Walt Disney and Donald Duck.

Music was provided by the Harmony Boys, among them Signalman Page of old Jubbulpore fame. On this night they really excelled themselves, playing encore after encore, receiving only a slight respite when the Karachi girls arrived to sing a few carols. The dance ended for those who can recollect the fact sometime during the morning.

The Unit Draw provided some good fun, at least for the lucky ones, although prizes were in abundance. It was seen that the usual schools maintained their run of luck, but one veteran shareholder of the Murree Brewery, complete with shining dentures, won a box of figs?

The Unit was well represented at the Christmas dinner. A letter from the Commanding Officer, who is at Bareilly officiating as Chief Signal Officer, Eastern Command, Western (I.) District, was read by Major J. E. F. Paton, our acting C.O. After the usual greetings, the Colonel went on to say that as this was his last Christmas with us, he wished to pay tribute to the way in which "B" Corps Signals had played the game in the true *esprit de corps* manner, during the time that he had been in command. He said he had never been so happy in all his years of soldiering as when he had been with this Unit.

The Corporals' Mess dinner was held in the mess-room at 7.30 p.m. on 27th December. It was then that the decorations really looked their best with the lights and the brightly laid tables. The chief guest was Major Paton, who had kindly accepted an invitation despite his many engagements.

During the many festivities, a real battle was being fought in the billiards room daily, where the billiards tournament was taking place. Despite his handicap of 70, Signalman McNulty reached the final only to be beaten by Signalman Fulcher, who played brilliantly, giving his opponent no chance once he had forged into the lead. With 16 to win, and with McNulty 30 short of his score, Fulcher ran straight out on being left in position. He becomes the recipient of Rs. 15/- (the dark horse).

A fun fair with tea on the lawn was staged at the Unit Club on 29th December. A good crowd took part in the coconut shies, horse-racing (bets being taken by two shady fellows in horsey attire), and numerous other games. Tennis was played by some really enthusiastic amateurs. Tea with " hot dogs " was then provided to complete a happy day.

Nuts and Bolts.—Why does a gharry horse stumble on passing the Marina ?

Who has not had a decent drink for three months ?

A tip from Wilson Drage. When furniture cannot be got through the door, go to the " Oxford " and tell the coolie to pull it up through the window.

Goo.

No. 2 Company.

November.

We take this opportunity of wishing all members of the Corps, both past and present, the best of luck for 1939.

Promotions and Appointments.—Quite a number this month, which indicates that the Unit is no longer on the wrong side of Mr. Records. Congratulations to Sergeant Wellock, Lance Sergeant Jarvis L., Corporals Jordan, Edwards, Fisher, Ambury and Manning on their step upwards. Several members of the Corporals' Mess are now eagerly scanning Part I Orders hoping to see the " U " dropped from their appointment. We trust that they will have the satisfaction of seeing this occur in the very near future.

Marriages.—The following have joined the ranks of the Benedicts : Sergeant Brazier was married to Joan Ivy Wood on 2nd November. Corporal Rolls was married to Thelma Agnes Rowe on 18th November. We tender our congratulations to both of them, and wish them every success in their new venture.

Sport.—Ex-members of the Unit will, no doubt, be glad to know that we have made a name for ourselves in the football world again by winning the Karachi Garrison Football League. Some very fine games were witnessed both at home and away.

Signalman Rosbotham (centre forward) had a magnificent bag of twenty-two goals out of a total of thirty-eight, but this must not be allowed to detract credit from the remainder of the team, who were responsible for making some fine movements to enable him to score. The team defence is to be congratulated on allowing the opposing teams only to score a total of eight goals against them.

The Unit entered the " Merhab " Cup Tournament, a competition for civilian and service teams. We knocked out the R.A.F. No. 1 team, winning by two goals to nil, but were knocked out ourselves with the same score by " D " Company, R.S.F.

Questionnaire.—The favourite expression of the Pack Section, when anything goes wrong, is " Tut, tut ! " We wonder why . As no prizes are offered for the solution, we hazard a guess that there is an anti-swearing collection box in existence.

Is Jaldi Karo the name of an Indian rank ?

December.

General.—We hope everyone enjoyed their Christmas as much as we did.

The dining-hall was very tastefully decorated by Signalmen Sinclair, Derrick and Nicholson, who spared no effort in making it a success. We should also like to thank our cartoonists for the realistic " Donald Duck " and the " Seven Dwarfs."

We wish all members of the Corps, both past and present, everything they wish themselves during 1939.

Departures.—By the time that these notes are in print, we shall have lost Captain Clarke, who is returning to England. The Company are sorry to lose you, sir.

We shall also lose a large number of the Unit during January. Some have finished their tour in India and are returning to the land of snow, rain and fog. A few are " time-ex," and their tour has been something akin to the Cook's variety. To those who are entering " Civvy Street," we hope they will land the jobs they want, and to those who are soldiering on, may they like their new Stations.

We have lost six members of the Unit on posting to S.T.C. (I.) for attachment to 17/21st Lancers, Meerut. They are Signalmen Thompson R., Milne, Dixon-Brown, Friend, Wilson F. and Wilson M. We trust that they enjoy the change.

Arrivals.—We welcome back Lieutenant H. Prince from U.K. leave.

Twenty B.O.R.s are expected from Catterick during January for technical training. We wish them every success and hope that they will like their stay in India.

Congratulations.—To Signalman Barr B. on obtaining the 1st Class Certificate of Education, and to Signalmen Moseley, Clayton, Ingham, Lamb, Lovegrove, O'Malley, Prime, Robertson A. and Ross on being awarded the 2nd Class Certificate of Education.

We also tender our congratulations to the following on obtaining the trade ratings stated following their test by the Trade Board held at Jubbulpore : Signalman McNulty to I.M., Class II ; Signalman Friend to E.S., II, and Signalman Sinclair to Draughtsman, Class I.

Births.—Congratulations to Signalman and Mrs. Fairhead on the birth of a son, Edwin Arthur.

Scheme Jottings.—Which member of the Company visited the Signal Office in a Gharry ?

Which counter clerk destroyed the carbon copies of " IN " messages ?

That's all, folk.

E DOUBLE U.

Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess.

6th December.

Marriages (Concluded).—We left our readers last month all agog to hear about the nuptials of two of our members.

The first of these events, the tying-up (or should it be down ?) of Sergeant Brazier R. W. to (or by) Miss Joan Wood was carried out according to plan on Wednesday, 2nd November. The ensuing reception was given by Sergeant and Mrs. Taylor R. W. at their bungalow and was attended by the officers and their wives, and also by a full muster of the members of the Mess and their wives. After the cake had been cut and the health of the happy couple toasted with acclamation, the bride and groom left in style, in the Buck-Nicks' mechanical marvel, the " Flying Juggernaut." The party eventually adjourned to the Mess and carried on the good work there.

The arrival of the boat from Bombay bearing the bride of Sergeant-Instructor Harrison G. being delayed, the ceremony was perforce postponed until the unearthly hour of 9 a.m. on Sunday, 6th November, at St. Andrew's Church, Karachi. Your correspondent was engaged on duty and, therefore, unable to be present in person, but it is understood that the ceremony went off without a hitch (whatever that may mean). The cake was cut and the toast drunk in the Mess in the presence of a full gathering of members and their wives. Mr. and Mrs. Harrison left for Manora, where they were frequently observed during the ensuing fortnight proceeding for a pre-breakfast swim. (Oh, yeah !)

Departures.—None from the Unit this month, but we were sorry to lose the cheerful Lance Sergeant George Nichols of Waziristan District Signals (formerly of 2nd Div.), who returned to Quetta on 6th November, after completing three months with us on an Upgrading Course. Nick made himself very popular during his stay by his cheerful participation in anything that was doing. We hope to see him again some time.

We have lost some very good friends in the departure for home of the 1st Battalion, King's Shropshire Light Infantry, who embarked in H.T. " Neuralia " on 1st December after completing their eighteen years' tour abroad. During the eleven months or so that they have been our neighbours they have proved very friendly, and many are the tussles in which our respective Messes have engaged. On the night before they embarked, they turned up at full strength for a final social evening and games (?) tournament. Our best wishes go with Q.M.S. Healy, A/R.S.M. Bennett and their band of good fellows.

The Battalion is for Bordon, so something may be seen of them in the Aldershot Mess before they are many months older.

General.—Our Entertainments programme, under the able guidance of our P.M.C., C.Q.M.S. Vignaux, continues to receive good support. The miniature golf course is being formally opened this afternoon after many months of preparation, and it is hoped that it will provide many hours of enjoyment as an alternative to tennis.

Preparations are already in hand for Christmas festivities, and in our next issue we shall have something to say on this subject.

Congratulations.—To the Unit football team who successfully carried off the Garrison League, as forecast in our previous contribution. The Mess is the gainer by the presence of a large and handsome silver Cup, replicas of which were presented to the team.

To Sergeant Wellock H. on losing the " Lance " and gaining the " ackers."

To Lance Sergeant Jarvis L. on his elevation to the Seniors' Mess. To Lance Sergeant Bert Hockley on his good fortune in being posted to us from Waziristan District Signals.

7th January.

General.—At last the Christmas and New Year festivities are somewhat hazy memories of the past, and we have returned to a more normal existence.

The programme of functions to be attended was somewhat strenuous and, as far as can be ascertained, a good time was had by all, excepting those unfortunates who could not take it and succumbed to the influenza epidemic, which raised its head in our midst during the holiday. Most of the victims have now recovered. To those who are still in the grip, we offer our heartfelt wishes for a speedy recovery.

The festivities commenced on 23rd December with the Children's Tea Party and Christmas Tree. The Mess had been lavishly decorated for the occasion (under the supervision of our P.M.C., W.O. III Vignaux), and when the tree had been dressed by Mrs. Paton, wife of our C.O., assisted by Mrs. Bevan and Mrs. Hope, the general effect was enough to enthral any kiddie from two to eighty-two.

After an excellent tea, Santa Claus, admirably impersonated by our unique " Buck " Taylor, squeezed his not inconsiderable bulk down a most realistic chimney-piece to the accompaniment of terrific cheering, and proceeded to distribute the presents from the tree. Congratulations are due to the two clowns, Lance Sergeants Nichols and Connor, for the very successful manner in which they entertained the children while the tea-tables were being cleared away and the Mess was being prepared for the reception of Santa Claus.

During the same evening, the Mess Draw took place. As usual on these occasions, the fortunate few who carted off the bigger prizes considered the affair an unqualified success, while whose whose numbers came out of the bag at the wrong time had their doubts.

The Draw was made by Mrs. Bevan and Mrs. Connaghton, Sergeants Taylor and Wellock, the organisers, presiding. Altogether it was a successful evening and there were very few total blanks. By the way, we hope Captain Gray appreciated his share of the boodle.

After the Draw, almost the entire Mess attended the All Ranks Ball held in the B.O.R.s' Mess Room. We take this opportunity of congratulating Signalmen Sinclair and Fairclough on the really beautiful scheme of decoration which transformed the mess-room into a veritable " Palais-de-Danse." A really notable effort. "A really ripping show," said the Adjutant.

Christmas morning was taken up by the usual visits until noon, when all members assembled in the Mess and then proceeded by Unit bus to visit the officers in their Mess. After the customary preliminaries were concluded, all officers and senior N.C.O.s adjourned to the B.O.R.s' dining-room to assist in the serving of an excellent Christmas dinner.

Boxing Day was the occasion of our own Annual Dinner and Dance. About seventy members and guests sat down to an excellent meal, which was this year again provided by Cumper's Cafe.

Unfortunately, just as dinner reached its concluding stages, the whole proceedings were subjected to a complete " black out " in the best A.R.P. style. The spirits of the company were not damped by this *contretemps*, for candles were procured and an informal sing-song was carried on, interspersed with many a quip and jest, until sufficient hurricane lamps had been collected to justify an adjournment to the dance floor. Eventually the lights were restored, and a very successful dance continued until the small hours.

The junior N.C.O.s held their Dinner and Dance on 27th December, when the Mess turned up in force at the latter, which was held in the mess-room. This was another unqualified success.

Apart from the regular functions described above, every evening throughout the holiday period saw a large gathering in the Mess. The gramophone worked overtime, and it has been calculated that almost forty-eight square yards of shoe leather were worn away by enthusiastic dancers. It is notified for information that the waiting list is now of such dimensions that Gigolo No. 1 has decided to accept no more applicants until Christmas, 1939.

Congratulations.—To W.O. III (S.S.M.) Vignaux S. on his promotion to that rank. To Sergeants Wellock H. and Jones H. W. on exchanging their bandoliers for Sam Brownes; and to Lance Sergeants Lennon W., Bartlett G. and Mohrstadt H. on attaining senior status. Of the last three, the two first-named are due for U.K. in a few days' time, so that their stay in the Mess will be all too brief. Lance Sergeant Mohrstadt left for an " S " Course at Jubbulpore on the day before the promotion order was promulgated, so we shall see nothing more of him for six months or so. But we shall be waiting, Molly.

Arrivals.—None so far, but two boats are rapidly approaching Karachi. On the first, H.T. " Lancashire," due on 10th January, there are two new Mess members, Sergeant Green W. and Lance Sergeant McGuire, and also the family of another of our grass widowers, Sergeant H. W. Jones. We welcome them in advance (they will be established here long before this becomes print), and hope that their stay in Karachi will be happy and not too long.

So long, folk.

MIDNIGHT OIL.

Corporals' Mess.

29th December.

General.—It is many, many moons since notes were last seen from this quarter. In fact, we doubt whether there are many members here who can remember seeing any in print.

Congratulations.—To Lance Corporals Harrod, Feather, Beal, Bowman and Williamson on losing the " U." Also to Lance Corporals Donohoe and Davies J. H. (at present in the Zhob) on taking their first step up the ladder of fame.

Activities.—We have done little in the way of entertainment recently, except for the Annual Mess Dinner and Dance, held on 27th December, and which was a very successful affair. We tender our thanks to those who gave up so much of their spare time in order to make it such a success.

Incidentally, for the benefit of those ex-members who remember the " Grippers' Shield," it is announced that Corporal " Badgy " Lennon was this year's winner. He was presented with it during the course of the dinner by Major J. E. F. Paton, our officiating C.O. Well done, " Badgy "! May you find a worthy successor.

Best Wishes.—By the time these notes are in print a number of our members will have departed for the snow and frost of England. They are Corporals Bartlett, Mallett, Edwards, Manning, Lennon, Jordan and Bakes, and Lance Corporals Cox, Wileman and Donohoe. We wish them all the best of luck in their new Units or in " Civvy Street," whichever the case may be.

Arrivals and Departures.—We welcome back to the fold our old friend Corporal " Bert " Stokoe (of aerial ace fame), after attending an " E.S." Course at Jubbulpore. He has a new off-stage noise to add to his repertoire, and will be giving performances at 6 p.m. daily. All proceeds will be devoted to the Mess Social Uplift Fund.

Corporal Mohrstadt and Lance Corporal Rylatt have temporarily deserted us, the former to Jubbulpore on an " S " Course, and the latter to the R.T.C. School at Ahmednagar as an instructor. We hope that their efforts will be successful, and that we shall see their smiling faces again in the near future.

Finis.—Not intending to compete for the aforementioned " Grippers' Shield," we will now sound the " Dismiss." Cheerio, and may your beer taste like chlorinated water.

PEGASUS.

Western (I) District Signals.

Quetta.
December.

The Christmas entertainments commenced with the Sergeants' Mess Christmas Draw, to which the junior N.C.O.s were invited. This was followed by an impromptu dance, which lasted until the early hours of the next morning. During the dance there was some carol swinging (and singing).

On 23rd December an All Ranks Dance was arranged by the Unit Entertainments Committee, and a large number of visitors was invited from the Garrison. The dance was well attended and a very convivial evening ensued.

During the afternoon of 23rd December the Corporals' Room Draw was held, and prizes to the value of Rs. 600 were distributed in the form of Christmas cheer, cigars and cigarettes. It may be purely conjecture, but the somewhat soporific expressions on certain faces at the dance during the evening might be accounted for by the fact that they had been successful in the draw.

The following day the Sergeants' Mess gave a delightful tea to the officers and families and the junior N.C.O.s. Immediately after the tea C.Q.M.S. (F-of-S) Fuller gave us a cinema show. The film, a Charlie Chaplin comedy, was intended for the children, but the loudest laughs seemed to emanate from the adult members of the very appreciative audience. Later, Father Christmas, in the form of Lance Sergeant Huggins, arrived and distributed presents to the children from the Christmas tree. We trust that Mr. Williams derived full benefit from the instructions issued with his present. From the rather dubious manner in which his present was opened one might gather that he expected the worst.

After a short break, the Unit Dance Band arrived, and dancing was the order of the day. The junior N.C.O.s then proceeded on a short carol-singing expedition, during which a certain baby was very solemnly admired.

It seemed that we had only just got to bed when the N.C.O. i/c Cookhouse and his assistants arrived at our bedsides with the time-honoured rum and coffee. At about eight o'clock, men, in various stages of wakefulness, were seen wandering in the direction of the mess-room, where an excellent breakfast was served.

During the morning a large number, headed by the members of the Unit Dance Band, serenaded the families in the Married Quarters. A mascot for this had to be procured, and so a name board, which had withstood the ravages of time and weather in Quetta for twelve months, was duly hoisted and carried round in the procession.

While all this was going on the tables in the mess-room were being laid and decorated by Lance Corporal Gartery, Signalmen Fry J., Sutton and Walker R., and at 12.45 p.m. " Fall In " was sounded as a large procession marched to the mess-room to the stirring strains of the " Lambeth Walk." The dinner which followed was voted the best possible, and the credit for this is entirely due to Lance Corporal McEwen, Signalman Appleton and the Indian cooks.

During the dinner, Major E. V. F. MacSwiney, Officiating Commanding Officer, made a speech in which he said that he was leaving the Unit with many regrets on 27th December. After the usual toasts had been made and drunk, Major MacSwiney, Lieutenant P. C. Williams and Lance Corporal McEwen were chaired round the mess-room to the accompaniment of vociferous cheering. A very hearty cheer followed the toast to the Acting R.S.M., and he was chaired in a similar manner.

Members of the Unit Dance Band with Lady de Vere Crellin.

Lady Crellin with the M.C. presenting prizes.

The afternoon was spent in making ourselves comfortable after the dinner. During the evening, most of us were the guests of the families who had so kindly invited us.

A " smoker " was also organised in the Corporals' Room, and the evening passed in quite a convivial fashion.

Boxing Day dawned, we fear, rather late for the majority. For those who could face it, there was an excellent breakfast. Alcoholic remorse was the main order of the day, and many resolutions were made never to drink again. The day " flowed " away in a pleasant manner, and ended with a Games Tournament in the Corporals' Room. As is usual even at this time of the year, everyone went to bed or sleep. (In some cases the terms were not synonymous.)

On 27th December there was a football match against the Battalion team of the Lancashire Fusiliers. The game, which was keenly contested, resulted in a win for the Battalion by three goals to two.

The finals of the " Polo a la Mule " took place on 28th December, and at the close of play there was Wrestling on Mules for the I.O.R.s. This was followed by a tug-of-war between the officers and sergeants; the contest was won by the sergeants. At the close of the morning's entertainment, the prizes, consisting of a magnificent tin cup (made in the workshops) and a toy balloon, were distributed by Lady de Vere Crellin. After tiffin,

The Farrier about to lead the procession to the field.

Wrestling on Mules.

the international football match, which was played between England and the Rest of the World, resulted in a draw. The remainder of the day was spent in the Corporals' Room in another Games Tournament.

New Year's Eve was spent in time-honoured fashion, when the Old Year was ushered out in truly Scottish fashion and the New Year welcomed, everyone solemnly shaking hands with everyone else and wishing them all the best for the forthcoming year. We should like to take this opportunity of wishing all ranks of the Royal Corps of Signals, wherever they are, a bright and prosperous New Year.

Births.—Sergeant and Mrs. G. J. J. Barber are congratulated on the birth of a son, Michael Ivan, at the British Military Hospital, Quetta, on 26th December.

Condolences.—All ranks of Western (I.) District Signals offer their deepest sympathy to the relatives of the late R.S.M. Rae, a very popular attached member of our Sergeants' Mess, in their bereavement.

Famous Last Words.—" My dog won't speak to me " (sob, sob). " Turn out the fire brigade, I'm on fire." " Please don't put my photograph in THE WIRE." " Have I any enemies in the Unit ? "

Congratulations.—Quite a number of promotions have just come to our notice, and the following are accordingly congratulated on their ascent to the dizzy heights ; C.Q.M.S. Wyeth to be C.S.M. ; Sergeant Storey to be C.Q.M.S. ; Sergeants Green W. H. and Low to be W.O. III ; Lance Sergeants Penny, Waite and Nicholls to be Sergeants ; Corporals Camp and Shirley to be Lance Sergeants. We congratulate them all respectively and respectfully. To one of them we also remark " Surplus."

We end these notes with a hearty vote of thanks to the Unit Dance Band for their splendid efforts during Christmas in helping the entertainments to go with a swing.

RONKAY.

OFFICERS

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CAMBRIDGE CIRCUS
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Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess.

Obituary.—It is with deep regret that we have to announce the death, on 17th December, of R.S.M. Ray, Royal Engineers, who had been a member of this Mess for several years. Whilst cycling home from the Sergeants' Mess of the Lancashire Fusiliers he missed the path in the darkness and rode into a large unprotected hole which had been dug toreceive a tree. Death, which was instantaneous, was attributed to shock.

He was a keen Mess member, and did quite a lot of work for us in his quiet manner. He is missed very much, not only by this Mess, but also by the members of the Staff College, where he was employed.

Strength Increase.—Mrs. Barber has presented her proud husband with a son. There is no truth in the rumour that he is to be christened "Ali." Congratulations, " Spiggles " !

Congratulations also to Mr. and Mrs. Williams on the arrival of Pamela Claire.

Reminiscences.—On studying the calendar, we observe that the festive season has passed, and on glancing at the chit book think that it is a good thing.

Christmas rejoicings commenced with the Christmas Draw, which was attended by everybody with a pecuniary interest and also by lots of people who intended making friends with the

prize winners. After the Draw (we are pleased to report that the old firms did pretty well), we had a dance. Judging by the remarks subsequently heard, this event was also a success.

On the following day, we had a Children's Tea Party and Christmas Tree. Joe Huggins, despite an alcoholic throat, undertook the role and duties of Father Christmas very well. He even brought a present for Mr. Williams. Then we danced again.

At noon on Christmas Day there was a meeting in the Mess of the officers and their ladies and the members and their ladies. After a few " snifters," the male section proceeded to the Men's Mess to serve the dinners. How they got outside that dinner beats us ; they must have been in strict training for weeks.

After the usual exchange of compliments, during which our Acting R.S.M., C.S.M. Wyeth, was chaired round the room, everyone left the lads to it. The noise of champing jaws could be heard at the Railway Institute.

On Boxing Day, the Mess dinner was held. We are informed that it was an excellent meal, but at this stage of the festivities we noticed that several " tummies " were feeling the strain, and that their owners merely trifled coyly with the repast. This coyness, however, vanished during the liquid refreshment stage, which went down exceedingly well. Again we " nautched." A striking tribute to the quality of the dance was the fact that even the band enjoyed it, and they certainly worked hard.

Altogether it was a very good Christmas, and we must thank the committee for their splendid efforts. We had many visitors, some of whom have not been in this Mess for a year or more, and they all enjoyed themselves immensely. Thanks also to the band, which served us so well ; we understand they had a good time, too.

General.—Old Quetta-ites would not recognise the Mess now. Aided and abetted by C.S.M. Wyeth we have changed things round quite a good deal, spent lakhs of rupees, and acquired a new ladies' room. Now all we need is lots of ladies. Come on, you girls !

Extra Beer.—We have had so many pints of free beer. One from Jim Wyeth, one from Tiny Low, one from Dodger Green, one from Chas. Storey, one from Tubby Waite, one from Nic. Nicholls, one from Pip Penny, one from Fred Shirley, and one from Joe Camp. Tiny and Dodger were promoted to W.O. III, the remainder are just normal promotions. Congratulations to all of them.

SMUDGER.

EASTERN COMMAND ..... ***INDIAN ARMY***

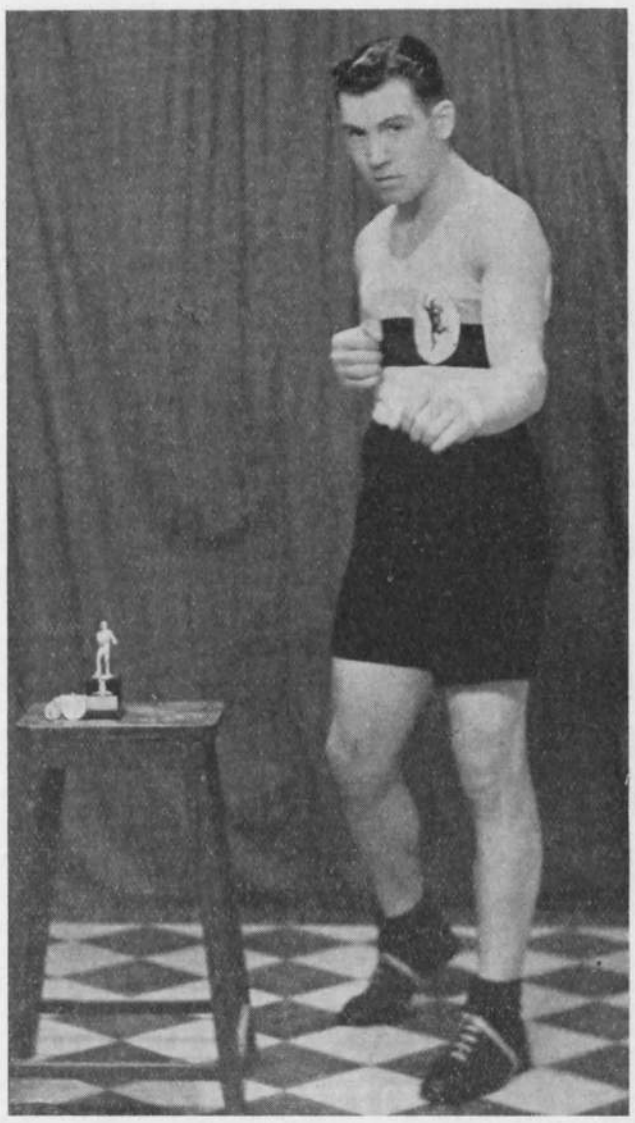
3rd Indian Divisional Signals, Meerut.

No. 1 Company.

General.—To-morrow is the first of the month, and once again it is time to bite finger nails, and look at the walls for inspiration for WIRE notes. How I wish I could write like " Barleux". Mention of this great man reminds me that he has hit the nail on the head in the November issue of the Corps magazine. He says that THE WIRE should be read right through, and a certain amount of pleasure may be obtained. I should like to endorse his remarks for, during numerous spells away from my Unit, I have always found that my copy of THE WIRE has been quickly " swiped " by men of other Units. These men have generally expressed the opinion that it is the best Regimental journal they have seen. This compliment is paid by men who have no real interest in the Corps or its activities.

Boxing.—Congratulations to Signalman Brader of this Company on his great performance in the Army and R.A.F. Boxing Championships at Lucknow. According to the newspapers, he lost the final of the light-heavyweights by the narrowest of margins. One account said that the fight was too close to provide a winner. Better luck next year, Brader !

Returned to the Fold.—R.S.M. Bew has returned to the Unit after a long leave in Blighty. Glad to have you back, sir.



Signalman Brader.

Departures.—One of our star tennis players, Lance Corporal Madder, has left for the Brigade Signal Section, Lucknow. Beware of sweet music and dreamy nights, Benji !

Entertainments.—The Sergeants' Mess have been earning the gratitude of all junior N.C.O.s by running Sunday evening socials, which have been open to all Signals N.C.O.s and their families. A variety of items is provided in order to pass a pleasant evening : flag-whist, " house," dancing, etc. As practically all those present manage to consume just a modicum of liquid refreshment, it soon becomes a cheerful party, and the show appears to be over before it has properly begun. Everyone leaves looking forward to the next time.

Medals.—So many little pieces of ribbon have recently appeared on the breasts of gallant warriors that it is impossible to mention everyone by name.

December.

Christmas.—Christmas is past, throbbing heads cease to throb, sorely tried digestions are given a rest, and good resolutions are the order of the day. Christmas in the Army cannot, at any time, be compared with the average man's Christmas at home, but those responsible for the season's festivities in this Unit have done their best to make it a real bumper event.

CHRISTMAS MORNING.

Left to right : Signalman Carey, Signalman Steward, Signalman Morris, Signalman Stubbings, Corporal Edwards, Signalman Malyon.

Paddy Fitzpatrick (ex-Rhine Signals).

The celebrations began with IT, sorry—high tea, on the 22nd. Someone asked us why the married men were not there, and a wit replied that the " pads " have high tea every day, whereas the single men get it once a year. Alas, how little they know of married life !

When all the single men had partaken of sufficient nourishment to sustain themselves throughout the rest of the year, a conjuror provided an hour's entertainment.

The guests then adjourned to the Institute to listen to the numbers called out by Corporal " Porky " Edwards ; this gentleman, as some readers know, is our celebrated " caller out " in the game of " house." In spite of frequent intervals for liquid refreshment, " Porky " performed very creditably, and appears to be deriving some benefit from his Elocution Course.

After a number of games of " house " has been completed, time was noticed to be getting along faster than usual, and so a halt was called to enable us to prepare for the All Ranks Dance.

The All Ranks Dance was a hundred per cent. success. There was little room for dancing, but under the able management of Signalman Gleeson, the M.C., everyone soon fell under the Christmas spell and enjoyed themselves, indeed many looked quite pleased when their toes were trodden on, ankles kicked, or they were knocked a few yards by the whirlwind dancers on the floor. Later in the evening, the officers arrived, and added to the colour and the gaiety of the throng.

It was Captain Hayfield's last night of freedom, and rumour whispered that, previous to the dance, his brother officers had spent some time in giving him the usual warnings, but, apparently without avail, for Captain Hayfield was married on 23rd December. The honeymoon is being spent at Agra. Congratulations to Captain and Mrs. Hayfield, and may their married life be very happy.

And now, back to the dance. During the evening, the Unit's self-styled swindler, " Porky " Edwards, collected money from all and sundry, and later, Mrs. Walton presented the proceeds as prizes. At 2 a.m. the dance finished, having been thoroughly enjoyed by all.

On the afternoon of 23rd December, " Porky " Edwards led his team on the football field against a team captained by " Baldy " Waters. Both teams were in fancy dress, one of the star turns being " Mae West " (Signalman Steward) ; a snap of this " lady " is published with these notes. Wouldn't " Mae' ' be flattered !

After the desperate struggle had continued for some time, one of the teams scored a goal, and it was then decided to carry on in order to allow the other team to score, after which the teams trooped off the field to partake of some well-earned refreshment.

The same evening as the fancy dress football match there was another dance and, this time, the Unit " Can-Takers " were the organisers. Invitations were sent to the Sergeants' Mess, and also a limited number of invitations to other Units in the Cantonment. This event was somewhat similar to that given the previous night, although somewhat more subdued, as was only natural in the case of those who have the Field Marshal's baton just beyond their grasp. Corporal " June " Knight carried out the duties of M.C., and ably kept the ladies on the floor throughout the night.

Various competitions were held. Mrs. Beadon kindly presented the prizes early in the evening, and Mrs. (Snip) Taylor presented those for the Spot Waltz and the Statue Dance just before the dance finished. (Former "A" Sectionites should note that " Snip " fell into the ranks of the married folk a short time ago.)

The dance came to an end at 2 a.m., and again the general opinion was very flattering, and we are all grateful to Bland's Carlton Rhythm Band for their co-operation in making both this dance as well as the one held the previous night such a success.

" Mae West " (Signalman Steward).

Perhaps one of the other scribes of the Unit in Unit H.Q. or No. 2 Company will tell readers about the Christmas dinner as the writer lives out and was, therefore, not present. I saw the dining hall prior to the dinner, and it was a wonderful sight and, from what I have heard, the dinner was in every way equal to the appearance of the dining hall.

Other smaller entertainments were held during Christmas. Amongst them were the Sergeants' Mess Draw, the Corporals' Mess Draw, the Indoor Games Tournament, and the Corporals' Mess match versus the men. We are afraid that space does not permit a write up of each event.

The Unit, as a whole, heartily thanks the band of workers (sounds like a sewing meeting) who made this Christmas such a great success.

Homeward Bound.—During the month we said good-bye to the following old stagers: Lance Corporal Brickles, Signalmen "Polly" Ginders, "Sam" Hotchkiss and "Swilly" Holtby. Good luck to them all!

DOUBLEYOU.

6th (Medium) Regiment, R.A., Signal Section, Muttra.

28th November.

General.—By the time these notes have appeared in print the Section will have completed Camp, for which we have been doing quite a lot of training during the last few weeks.

Christmas will also have come and gone, and we take this opportunity of wishing one and all a very prosperous New Year.

Arrivals.—We welcome Corporals Dixon and Fairweather to the fold from 3rd Indian Divisional Signals, and hope that their stay will be a happy one.

Departures.—Lance Corporal Brickles L. R. proceeded to 3rd Indian Divisional Signals, Meerut, prior to embarkation for the U.K. and "Civvy Street." We wish him all the best in his new sphere.

Congratulations.—To Signalman Savory E. on the award of the I.G.S.M.

Sport.—The Section hockey team have been doing quite well lately, and with the services of Corporal Dixon in goal, Corporal Fairweather at full-back, and Signalman Paramjit Singh in the forward line, it should make such sayings as "lost" a thing of the past.

Signalman Paramjit Singh has already made a name for himself by playing for the Regimental I.O.R.s in the Station Hockey League.

Apologies.—We apologise for the size of the notes this month, for which training is partly responsible, but next month notes will be sent in regularly and will be written by a certain individual who can "grip" the hind leg off a donkey.

December.

General.—Since our last notes we have attended Practice Camp with the 6th (Medium) Regiment, R.A., at Khanpur, near Delhi. Collecting an excellent report there, we returned to Muttra on 23rd December, just in time for the festive season. We had a very nice time at Christmas.

On Saturday, 24th December, the whole Section had a trip to Agra to see the famous Taj Mahal. On Christmas Day we had dinner with the 19th (Medium) Battery, R.A., and the usual "whoopee" followed afterwards.

On Boxing Day there was an All Ranks Dance, followed by a dinner party on the 27th, given by our Section Sergeant—Sergeant Carfrae—and Mrs. Carfrae. We certainly had our own back on the Section Sergeant, for we absolutely eat him out of house and home.

Departures.—Nil during the past month, but Corporal Fairweather will be leaving on 6th January for Jubbulpore on a Fitter Signals Course. Good luck, Fairy! Lance Corporal Floyde and Signalman Marchant are expected to leave for Meerut shortly, prior to embarkation to the U.K. on 4th February.

Sport.—Camp rather spoilt this month's sport but, whilst at Khanpur Camp, we played one game of hockey against a Company of the Welch Regiment, and were very unlucky indeed to lose 2—1.

The Other Sport.—"Bring 'em back alive" Fabian and "Jock" Ferguson are spending a fortnight's leave at Hodal, so there should be quite a "grip" in next month's notes about what they nearly got, or concerning the panther with three broken legs that got away.

Naik Teja Singh, who will, no doubt, be remembered by lots of ex-Muttraites, has gone to Jhansi on a short leave to net a few man-eating crocodiles. Why he went there is a mystery, for "Nick" swears that he saw some in our bungalow on Christmas morning.

Apologies.—To "Brick" for not seeing him off. "S."

Education.—Congratulations to Signalman Rutherford on obtaining his First Class Certificate of Education at Muttra at the last examination, to Signalman Aldridge J. on passing in Maths. and Map Reading, and to Signalman Harte C. on passing in Geography.

Query.—Who helped "Smokey" up the ladder in No. 2 Company Bungalow, Meerut?

Conclusion.—To a very weird and wonderful effort on my part.

E. DEWS.

SOUTHERN COMMAND ..... INDIAN ARMY

4th Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Trimulgherry.

9th January.

We have been working (Oo-er!). We trust that readers will accept this, our best excuse, for the absence of our notes during the last few months. There has not been a scarcity of news, because we have been busy with Trade Boards, Equitation Competitions, Unit and Brigade Camps, District Exercises and Christmas. Coming up for the third time from the last-mentioned event, we have decided to send along the following news of our recovery.

General.—Captain J. N. Barker, our C.O., together with Lance Sergeant Brennan, returned from U.K. leave in October. We welcomed their return to the Ranch just in time to take part in a two-day Brigade Exercise. We fear that the saddle must have felt very hard!

Corporal Tomkinson and Lance Corporal Lavelle left us by the same boat for home, the former to a "Voc." Course, and the latter to the Home Establishment. We were pleased to note that "Paddy" had passed in half of his "First," and that Lance Corporal Tomkinson had obtained his "Second" by leaving his "Lance" behind him. Our belated congratulations to both of them.

Mrs. Dilworth and Ernest have also gone home, leaving our T.S.M. playing with the sticks and bricks as he transforms the lines with jumps and hockey pitches.

Our Warrant Officer, Mohd Afzal, has retired to pension with the rank of Honorary Jemadar. After some months of waiting, during which the T.S.M. had his hands full, the new W.O., Sher Mohd, has joined the Unit. We look for great times ahead.

Trade Boards.—At the September Board we managed to qualify a dozen or so O.V.s as O.T.s, and a good percentage of other O.V.s passed for higher ratings. Altogether very satisfactory results.

Training.—At last our five No. 1 Sets have arrived, and, with them, eleven new ex-Boys of the 3rd Course from Jubbulpore.

We spent a hectic week packing Sets temporarily for a Brigade Exercise and training our older operators in the use of them. They have, of course, proved an invaluable asset after struggling along with three "C" Sets and V/T. We have since relinquished a "C" Set.

The 16th/5th Lancers left for Risalpur and, in their place, is the 14/20th Hussars, a mechanised Unit, from Meerut. We await our No. 9 Sets in order to keep pace with them on their long-distance "Rolls-Royce" manœuvres. We have already received a new Ford truck to carry the Set. (We hear that this "tiny" article was lost for a week at the station before it was eventually delivered to us.)

We raised our hats in farewell to our Ford "Staff" car, which we have sent away in exchange for the new truck. It has done some grand cross-country work on various manœuvres, when it bravely transported wireless sets (and Thermos flasks) in the wake of flying cavalry.

Camps.—In October, we spent a fortnight in camp at Dhundgol. We made ourselves very comfortable and enjoyed the camp, despite the fact that it was deposited amidst ploughed fields. Much hard work was done, and done well, for during this period the whole of the personnel had to be trained in the different signal tactics which the arrival of the No. 1 Sets necessitated.

There must have been something very attractive about Sergeant Page and Corporal Glover, who went out each evening and returned with a snake (more or less). The rock python, which measured 6 ft. 1¾ ins., and 7 ins. round the girth, was the prize catch, and gave us all a thrill as we watched its capture. The skin looked quite romantic as the waist-belt of an Arab sheikh at a Christmas fancy dress dance.

Unit camp provided many humorous instances, particularly the one when a detachment, acting as a Regiment, was stampeded by the "Regimental Commander's" horse. (*Cum spirito.*) In a frantic R/T speech it was reported that they had gone "—— all except my own" (*pianissimo*). The pathos and tragedy contained in these words can only be appreciated when we state that the same horse, later on, stuck in the middle of the Lane, immobile, stubborn and "unjumpable." "Too old at forty ? ?"

Brigade camp at Gudur provided many strenuous but interesting Schemes. Rest days were employed in camouflaging the camp for air protection, and also devoted to anti-gas training. The No. 1 Sets proved capable of standing up to the roughest of cross-country work, passing as much information as the Brigade requirements demanded.

One horse (NOT "Forty") had to be shot owing to a broken leg.

The Inter-Section Equitation Competition for the latter half of the year was held in November. A decided improvement in the general riding throughout the competition was noticed, and it was encouraging to see some of the last draft of ex-Boys competing.

Out of six teams, that of W/T Section's "A" came in first with 670 points out of a possible 1000. This competition includes a turn-out of the horses, saddlery and men, manege test, and jumping. Well done, "A" team ! O/S "A" was second with 666 points, and O/S "B" third with 662. The finish was very close as can be seen. Naik Mohd Lall scored the highest individual points with 193 out of 250.

During Christmas week, the Troop ran a Trained Soldiers' and Young Soldiers' Endurance Test, which was followed on 29th December by a Horse Show. The Endurance Tests comprised the following : Inspection of horses and saddlery ; Cross-country ride, reporting to judges at various points on the course ; Bivouac for one night (Trained Soldiers only) ; Inspection of horses immediately on return from ride ; One hour's grooming ; Inspection of horses after grooming ; Manege test ; Jumping (Young Soldiers) ; and Handy Hunter (Trained Soldiers).

Lance Naik Ghulam Mohd, of the Young Soldiers, was first with 391 points, whilst Naik Mohd Lall Khan topped the list of the Trained Soldiers with 496 points. This is a good test and the winners are to be commended on their performances. They received the awards of shields, surmounted with a silver horse-shoe and cross-spurs, respectively.

The Christmas Horse Show, held for both Signal Units at this Station, was handicapped by the fact that 4th Divisional Signals has so very few horses now from which to choose. Nevertheless, a very enjoyable day was spent. The results of the competitions are as follows :

OPEN JUMPING.—1, Sergeant Dilworth W. ; 2, Naik Mohd. Asghar.

HANDY HUNTER.—1, Naik Mohd. Lall Khan ; 2, Naik Mohd. Sadiq.

REMOUNTS.—1, Naik Mohd. Akram ; 2, Naik Mohd. Asghar.

BEST-TRAINED TROOP HORSE.—Winner, Naik Mohd. Lall Khan.

BEST PAIR OF PACK MULES OR DRAUGHT HORSES.—Winner, Signalman Fazal Hussain.

BEST TURNED OUT A.T. CART.—Winner, Signalman Mohd. Yusuf.

BEST TURNED OUT MOTOR CYCLE.—Winner, Signalman Mansabdar ; 2, Signalman Ramalu Reddy.

BEST TURNED OUT CHILDREN'S PONY.—Winner, Master Michael Archer.

INTER-SECTION TEAM SHOW JUMPING.—Winners, W/T Section (Naik Mohd. Sadiq, Naik Mohd. Lall, Naik Mohd. Asghar).

Christmas saw a lot of other things as well as horse shows ! The "promotion goose," which was accidentally presented to the dining members of the Mess by Mr. Swatton, was *very* tender. The Ladies' Hockey Match should have been played with rolling pins instead of sticks. The Fancy Dress Dance produced some excellent costumes, but Mrs. Jessop and Mrs. Champion as "Bill and his Donah" easily took the first prizes. Their dresses were very original, and they acted their parts with such gusto that we failed to recognise them for some time. They were at it until midnight, still doing the "Lambeth Walk."

On 27th December we went to Gandipet for a picnic and made a great day of it ; everything went without a hitch, and the kiddies finished up gloriously tired. The prize bit of the day (after a plateful of ham, chicken and salad) was, "Daddy, this is no picnic." "Why, my dear ?" "'Cos there's *nothing to eat !*"

And so on into 1939. We have returned to normal and started the year with an inspection by the Major-General of Cavalry. This followed a Brigade Scheme, which was arranged so that the M.G.C. could see the Brigade at work. He was fully satisfied with what he saw, and during the inspection of the lines greatly praised the improvement of the area since the Brigadier's inspection about six months ago.

The Troop congratulates Lance Sergeant Rhodes on his appointment, and also wishes all old Troopites a very happy New Year.

Owing to camps and manœuvres, we have been unable to play many games in any branch of sport for the last two months, but have been continuing with the Inter-Section games in order to complete the tables for the Inter-Section League. The Tabloid Sports were the last event, and the final results are given below.

	A.	B.	C.	D.	E.	F.	Total.
1. Lt/Hf. H.Q.	6	12	12	12	8	12	62
2. Rt/Hf. W/T.	12	8	8	10	12	6	56
3. Rt./Hf. O/S.	10	10	10	4	4	10	48
4. Lt/Hf. W/T.	2	4	6	8	10	8	38
5. Rt/Hf. H.Q.	8	6	2	6	6	4	32
6. Lt/Hf. O/S.	4	2	4	2	2	2	16

A—Rifle Competition. B—Hockey. C—Deck Tennis.
D—Basket Ball. E—Volley Ball. F—Tabloid Sports.

THE RANCHER, 4-BAR-C.

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OTHER STATIONS ABROAD

Egypt Signals.

No. 2 Company.

The old Maestro, S-rg--nt Sn--k, received a bright new steel nib and a large-ish bottle of a particularly posh brand of ink as a present for Christmas. He desires to take this, his first opportunity, to publicly state how touched he was by the generosity of his unknown admirers, and to express his resolution to submit next month's WIRE notes written in his own fair hand, always provided, he desires to add, that the long-awaited stationery indent arrives from the United Kingdom in time.

We have been assured by the other sub-units of Egypt Signals that they intend to describe very fully our Christmas festivities, and have, therefore, left this subject in their very capable hands.

For the benefit of those countless thousands who read these notes last month, it must be mentioned that at the conclusion of a glowing tribute to Egypt Signals by our Chief Signal Officer, Colonel Drayson, during our Christmas dinner, he announced that Egypt Signals will be divided into two Units, Egypt Command Signals and, from 1st January, 1939, Egypt Mobile Divisional Signals.

A very cordial welcome is extended to the draft who arrived in this country on Christmas Day, especially to those who, when they see these notes in print, will belong to No. 2 Squadron, Mobile Divisional Signals.

Shades of South Africa and the Crimea! After completing their eight years with the Colours, our old bedsteads have now departed to the Army Reserve and, in their place, we have some really magnificent specimens of their kind. They have sixty springs—yes, we have counted them. The brightest lad in the Company—Walter isn't blushing, it's his sun-tan—has suggested a round robin to the O.C. asking for an extra hour in bed in order that we may fully enjoy them. It is such a pleasure to live in barracks nowadays that it is getting quite the normal thing to sign on for a pontoon. These new beds have been responsible for the cancellation of the banns in a couple of cases, although we are afraid that his public would not take their Walter seriously on this point.

This Month's Fairy Story.—An Italian journalist and his editor were talking politics, as Italians will nowadays. The journalist remarked that, for hundreds of years, his country had led the world in practical disarmament. The editor, who was only a tepid Fascist, could not reconcile this information with the facts as he knew them, and desired elucidation. To his amazement, the Venus de Milo was cited, and he had to admit that, if other nations had similar examples, they had kept very quiet about them.

Puzzle.—What would *your* answer have been had the lady in the above incident been unexpectedly quoted to you in similar circumstances? All replies should be addressed to S-rg--nt Sn--k, c/o this Company, and after wading through them all we think that, for the best effort, the old Maestro will be able to find something. Yes, we are sure of it.

WALTER WINCHELL.

The Dining Hall decorated for the Christmas Dinner.

Headquarters, No. 3 Company.

General.—With the passing of yet another festive season and the advent of 1939, we are apt to casually murmur, "Well, another year gone," and dismiss the old year completely from our minds as just another one less to serve in Egypt; and yet it has been a pretty full year for the Company, with the majority of "J" and "K" Sections on service in Palestine for the greater part of the half-year, and all Sections away with their Units in the Western Desert during the September/October Emergency. We therefore appreciated the speech of the Chief Signal Officer when he visited the men's dinner on Christmas Day, in which he stated *his* appreciation, as well as that of the Units served by the Company, of the work that we had been called upon to do during the past year. May we keep up the standard during the ensuing year!

The Christmas festivities seem to have been thoroughly enjoyed by all, and we join "K" Section in expressing our thanks to Corporal Lee and his party for their excellent work

in the mess-room, and hope the draft of forty-nine other ranks which arrived at 5 p.m. on Christmas Day enjoyed their first Christmas in Egypt (and their welcome), and will settle down happily in their respective Companies.

"E" Section, No. 3 Company.

We find ourselves still in that state of calm which has succeeded the crisis of September, 1938. Life has become again the state of uneventful routine, only parades and inspections to break the peaceful tenor of life at Abbassia.

At the time of writing, the Section is up to strength, and members who had been exercising their brains on Upgrading Courses are back in the fold.

The Section moved out to the R.A. Camp at El Rebiquie (Arabic for " Place of utter desolation ") about 6th December, remaining there for fourteen days. They returned full of the usual grouses and " grips." They also had a new stock of high-power tall stories, related by Graf Hunt Von Munchauser, the temporary Section Fitter, who was here when they planned the Great Pyramid !

The Section were all in barracks for Christmas, except Signalman McEvoy, who sustained injuries at football and is still in hospital. So far we have heard no complaints, and understand that everyone had a jolly time. The local brewery have sent us a vote of thanks for services rendered, but we recovered by the 28th, only to have a relapse on New Year's Eve.

Winter has set in and, with the thermometer hovering between 60 degs. and 70 degs. in the shade, we have removed the moth balls from our sweaters and great-coats.

We were all very much perturbed by a terrific hub-bub and strange gurgles which issued from the bunk of our Section Corporal some days ago. We thought Corporal " Jock " had swallowed a wish bone and was choking, but, on investigation, found that he had taken up French. " *O la, la; mais qui, oui; cherchez la femme.*" Very useful if you have an eye for the fair sex in Cairo *mon ami, n'est ce pas ?*

Our junior Corporal will soon be nominated as candidate for Mayor of Heliopolis. Effendi Ginger Pasha has returned from his tour of the distressed areas and will be available for duty very soon.

Jews' Mail.—To Scotty, somewhere in Palestine. " How about a line ? Pip (late of Perham Down)."

To 66023 Eccles P., Belfast. " How about the griffin ? 5940 Robbie."

Before closing, there are two items of special importance. (1) A new mascot, " The Hake-Burt," concerning which more next time. (2) An interesting and happy canine event is expected shortly by Madame Flossie, the Section " pooch."

Cheerio and G.B. till next issue.

NOMAD.

"J" Section, No. 3 Company.

General.—Since our last notes, nothing has happened in the way of movements, but the air is full of rumours, and we hope to give readers some very definite news next month.

Arrivals.—We welcome Signalman Bartlam, straight from Blighty, and trust his stay will be a long and happy one.

Appointments.—None yet, but we hope to surprise you next month.

Jews' Mail.—Lewis, Blackdown. " What about a line to Ticki ? "

Our Christmas feast and entertainment were great successes. The outstanding feature was a speech made by the Chief Signal Officer, during which the writer distinctly heard tunic buttons hitting the ceiling. We hope to excel ourselves still further in the coming year.

We must crave our readers' indulgence for these brief notes, but there is only about half-an-hour left us before the post goes.

We conclude, wishing everyone a very happy and prosperous New Year.

SLAP TICK.

"K" Section, No. 3 Company.

General.—The Upgrading Courses are now over (cheers), and we are now anxiously awaiting the results. One or two men fell by the wayside, but they will be able to dust themselves down for next year. Anyway, they have our sympathy.

Arrivals.—Signalman Clarke E. from the United Kingdom, and Signalman Calderwood from No. 4 Section, Palestine Signals.

Departures.—Our Section " big chief," Sergeant Salmon, has been posted to No. 1 Company.

Appointments.—Congratulations to Lance Sergeant Trivass on his appointment to that rank.

Christmas Day.—A very happy Christmas was spent by the Section, the dinner being very well served and enjoyed by all. The decoration of the mess room was carried out by Corporal " Tansey " Lee of this Section, assisted by his gang, " Major " Leese, Buck Taylor, Robert Eccles, Fishy Salmon, Synovitus McGowan and Canon Ball Pringle. Their efforts were the best ever, and we hope that by next year " Tansey " will have studied " Interior Decoration " hard enough to soar to still greater heights.

Tragedies.—We are compelled to state that Signalman Lansom, of " K " Section, lost a game of billiards to Signalman Lapthorne. This is a bad smirch on " K " Section's good name, and must be wiped out with blood.

" Clara " King, the Section " Billy Bunter," passed out during the Christmas holidays, but we are glad to report that it was only a temporary state of coma. This is a tragedy, because " Clara " is never inebriated, or so " she " tells everyone.

Palestine Force Signals.

Headquarters.

Jerusalem.

January.

Christmas of 1938, which has passed without incident, brings us to the end of a very busy year, during which Signals in Palestine have played no mean part. The Commanding Officer, officers and other ranks tender their congratulations to No. 2323348 Signalman Heaton P., who was awarded the Military Medal for gallant and distinguished service in Palestine ; and to No. 2324136 Signalman King H., No. 2320610 Signalman McConnell-Wood F., No. 2325222 Signalman Graham G., No. 2324474 Signalman Dodman R. and No. 2324374 Signalman Bicker G. for their Mention in Despatches.

The following extract from *The Times* of 24th December is published for information :

> " Signalman Heaton was working the wireless in a very exposed position at the beginning of an action at Bureika at about 6 p.m. on 10th October, 1938. A small stone wall was put up in front of him, but this afforded very little cover. As the action developed, it was impossible to move the position of the wireless, which Signalman Heaton continued to operate with complete disregard to danger, although under fire from both sides. At one time he was sending and receiving messages while lying at full length to avoid enemy fire. All messages were got through very quickly. Signalman Heaton set a magnificent example of bravery and coolness in action."

This brings the total awards to Palestine Force Signals for the year 1938 as follows : one Military Medal ; two M.B.E.s ; seven Mentioned in Despatches ; and ten cited in General Orders.

Congratulations to the following on their promotions and appointments : W.O.s III Boon, Lockyer and Aitkin ; C.Q.M.S. Beckley ; Lance Sergeants Greenman, Walsh and Vigurs ; Corporal Yates ; and U/Lance Corporals McAdie, King, Smith (697), Lonergan, Nicholson, Wall, Neatham, Scrivener, Boozer, Cornthwaite, Chamberlain and Brader to ranks as shown.

The following have left for the United Kingdom : C.Q.M.S. Heckley, Lance Corporal Gear, Signalmen Mangall and Falkingham for discharge in the near future. All ranks wish them the

best of luck. Signalman Betley on urgent leave. Lance Sergeant Dendy on medical grounds, and family. We all hope he will soon recover.

News is to hand that Palestine is to be a three-year station with the possibility of going home without doing a further two years in Egypt. This appeals to all, especially those now embarking on a foreign tour, and means that about 100 will be changed over this year with a possibility of going home direct. So once again the Unit will see big changes.

War Office has now decided that all Signals in Palestine shall belong to Palestine Force Signals, and that reinforcements as individual Units shall cease.

Mr. Records gave many of the reinforcements a shock when he intimated that most of them will be required for a tour abroad. Others, more fortunate, having recently returned from overseas are to be returned in due course. We still wonder what people see wrong with this country. It has a lovely and agreeable climate on the whole; Jaffa oranges or grape fruit at ½d. each; plenty of sea bathing and ample opportunities for motoring (escort duty) which should appeal to those in search of travel, and far better than being penned up in a place like D.I.K. (sorry, Dick).

C.S.M. Boon has been posted to Egypt Signals on promotion. We hope he finds Cairo to his liking.

We welcome Major C. Knowles who arrived at Haifa on 29th December, from Aldershot, and hope that he will endorse the above remarks about this beautiful country. News is to hand that Major R. R. A. Darling, late of Headquarters, has made a great recovery and is back to work once again. He is not re-joining the Unit, but is taking up an appointment at Catterick Camp. We hope he likes the many changes that have taken place at Catterick since he was there last.

On Christmas morning, the Orderly Sergeant, messing staff and cooks (nearly assisted by Trevor) arrived with steaming hot rum and coffee. Shortly after breakfast Effendis Flinn and Bossons, complete in Arab robes and the dhobie's donkey, entertained all and sundry to a wild-west show. This was followed by a comic football match between the N.C.O.s and men with the Sergeant-Major as referee. The result of the game is still a profound mystery, especially as half the game was played behind the posts.

Later, everybody wended their way to the Dining hall in order to partake of a menu suitably prepared under the direction of our Messing Officer, Captain J. Vickers, ably assisted by the Messing N.C.O., Lance Sergeant Vigurs A., with the members of the Sergeants' Mess as waiters.

After the toast to "The King," the Commanding Officer read a message from the G.O.C., in which he expressed his thanks for the good work carried out by the Signals in Palestine, and one from the C.S.O., who regretted he was unable to attend owing to an attack of influenza, but thanked everyone for the excellent report from the G.O.C., and the good work done, the message ending with his appreciation, thanks and wishes to everybody for a very happy Christmas. Lance Sergeant Vigurs replied on behalf of the men, thanking the C.S.O., Officer Commanding and officers for their words of appreciation and wishes, and called for three cheers.

Our guide, Captain N. G. Newell, took parties round the old city and other places of interest, and is hoping to conduct further trips when conditions are favourable. The C.O. is hoping to be able to arrange a trip to the Dead Sea for families and other ranks in the near future.

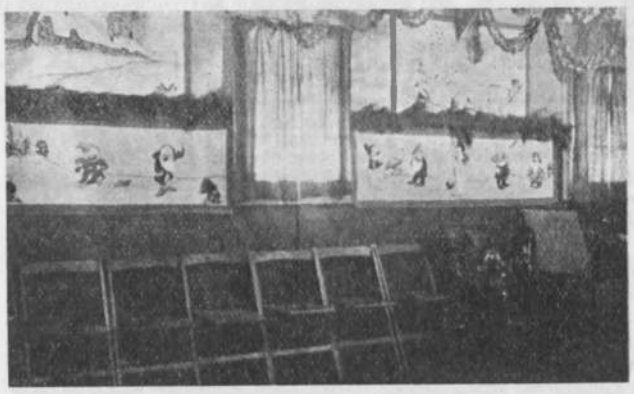
OLIM.

Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess.

Headquarters, Palestine Force Signals, Jerusalem.

9th January.

So much for 1938. We feel sure that all Mess members were very thankful when "Auld Lang Syne" brought to a close a series of functions that commenced with the kiddies' Christmas Tree Party and terminated with a "house-warming" on New Year's Eve. Many thanks are due to all the members of committees and willing helpers who more than satisfied everybody.



Wall Decorations.

Thursday, 22nd December.—A much awaited event from the children's point of view was the Christmas Tree Party. Prior to tea being served, the children were entertained by a cinematograph show and also by the mystic art of a local conjuror. Everybody by now was in a good humour, and the jellies, cakes and sundries were then attacked. Full marks are awarded to the N.A.A.F.I. for the excellent fare provided. The children then trooped from the School room to the Mess, which was tastefully decorated for the occasion, and for which much credit is due to Sergeants Clouter and Mitton.

Father Christmas then made his appearance from a little house midst snow-bound hills. Presentations to the children and their mothers followed, and, judging by the faces of the recipients on opening their parcels, it would appear that Father Christmas (none other than R.Q.M.S. Evelyn) had left no stone unturned to produce the very best from "Toyland."

A very tired assembly finally departed for their homes shortly after 6 p.m. At 8.30 p.m. the ladies turned up in full force and the merriment continued until the wee small hours.

Friday, 23rd December.—Here was a chance to swell the bar funds. Midst turkeys, chickens, liquor and cigarettes, etc., the Christmas Draw barrel went round and round. The ladies then drew out a lucky number or a blank for the Mess Christmas Draw. The highlight of the Draw, namely a 16 lb. turkey, fell to the lot of a grass widow, R.S.M. Goodwin (R.E.), but by divers means the bird eventually found its way into one of the families' oil-cookers. There were very few who did not have some kind of luck. ("Smiler" Miles has now opened up an Off-Licence as a result of his lucky numbers.)

Following the Mess Draw, dancing space was found and until 11 p.m. C.S.M. Lockyer and C.Q.M.S. Beckley poured forth the efforts of Carroll Gibbons, Henry Hall, etc., via the radiogram.

Christmas Eve.—This was normally a quiet day and many of the families and Mess members took the opportunity to attend

The Mess arranged for the Dinner.

carol singing and midnight Mass at Bethlehem. Radio listeners at home may have heard the broadcast.

Christmas Day.—In the morning the usually comic football match took place and we understand that the Q.M. excelled himself at centre scrum-half, or was it a fly goalkeeper ?

The families repaired to the home of our Commanding Officer towards lunch-time, where, after an exchange of the season's compliments, the children were the recipients of some much appreciated toys—a very kindly gesture.

The other ranks Christmas dinner was the next item in which the Mess assisted. The fare was excellent and Lyons & Co. need not look beyond the Mess for some very excellent " Nippies."

In the evening, several of the members (whose wives are to join them this month), and those not so unfortunate, accepted invitations to the homes of the families where many a cork was drawn.

Boxing Day.—At 6.30 p.m. the Mess Dinner took place, and our thanks are extended to the P.M.C., C.Q.M.S. Highams and his merry men for the excellent turn-out. The ladies once more turned up in full force after dinner, and it was also very pleasing to see so many of the officers and their ladies amongst the visitors. Dancing, Christmas games and impromptu shows contributed towards a very successful evening.

New Year's Eve.—Yet another large party assembled in the Mess to indulge in dancing, games, etc., and at midnight "Auld Lang Syne " finally brought to a close a very happy week. We congratulate the caterer on his performance when Big Ben chimed twelve. It must have been an experience.

Father Christmas also had a few surprises for the daddies, too, for we have to congratulate the following whose ranks are now as follows : W.O.s III Boon F. E., Aitken J., Lockyer F., C.Q.M.S. Beckley A., Lance Sergeants Lane A., Walsh J., Vigurs A. and Corporal Yates.

Father Christmas's House.

The following obtained their 1st Class Certificates of Education: Lance Sergeant Lane A. and Corporal Lavender R. Once more, congratulations !

W.O. III Boon F. E., following his promotion, left us for Egypt Signals, and we all wish him, Mrs. Boon and Joan a very pleasant stay midst the Pyramids. Mrs. Boon, who was a very popular guest at the Mess, will be missed by many of her dancing partners.

Several of the wives and families of Mess members will shortly arrive in this country, per S.S. " Montcalm," on 24th January, and we feel sure that every day is being counted.

Mrs. Beardmore will be interested to know that Trevor can produce a trifle (mass production) almost as well as Frascati's. (Sorry for spilling the beans, Trev. !)

FOUR X TWO.

No. 3 Section, Nablus.

There is little to record regarding the activities of this Section during the last month. Christmas has come and gone, with few of the celebrations which seem to be so indispensable in England, and the New Year came without anybody having time to get excited about it. But things are definitely getting better. We are told so every day. We are even beginning to hope that the New Year may be a little better than the last. As a matter of fact, we have, in moments of supreme optimism, expressed the view that we may leave Nablus some day. But this is more evidence of our unquenchable spirit than anything else. However, the day may dawn when all the Section will be together again, instead of having twenty men at Headquarters, and the remaining fifty-five scattered untidily all over Palestine.

Before proceeding any further, we must congratulate S.S.M. Aitken on attaining the rank of Warrant Officer Class III, and also Signalmen Smith W., Neatham T. and Brader R., on their appointments as U/Lance Corporals. Owing to the fact that wives and families of married personnel of this Section are coming out to Palestine, we shall be losing S.S.M. Aitken, whose affection for Nablus is notorious ; Sergeant Stevens, who will probably burst into tears at the very thought of leaving the Section Stores ; Corporal Barwick, who has grown old and hoary in the Signal Office ; and Signalman Davoll. We might well put on record here that Signalman Davoll's efforts to come to an understanding with the natives of the country have been touching and praiseworthy, but rather negligible. There will be further gaps in the Section's ranks later, but these are quite enough for the present.

The Section has recently been issued with some new M.T. vehicles. This occurred at a time when we were seriously considering the possibility of using camels for the transport of the No. 1 Sets. There is even a rumour that Lance Corporal Good, The Section fitter-in-chief, had undergone an unofficial Course of Instruction and attained the rating of Camel Driver Class XXX (very old and ripe). In that case he will be disappointed about the new M.T. vehicles.

CHIB.

No. 4 Section, Haifa.

January.

General.—Happy New Year, everyone. There is such an abundance of good will amongst the locals that we can spare some for those lonely folk in the cold Blighty cantonment. The past months have been just as hectic as ever ; hardly a day passes but some of the Section are out on Operations. So far we have been fortunate in dodging the bullets, although we have our quota of men in hospital.

A short while ago, we welcomed H.Q., 8th Divisional Signals, when they arrived to help us to sort things out a little. We have lent them Lance Corporal Callan as Acting Corporal and Lance Corporal McConnell-Wood. Later they took over the short-wave group, a No. 9 Set, and the D.R.L.S. to Jerusalem, leaving us a little freer to devote our attention to the out-stations. In the midst of this change over, the O.M.E.s annual inspection of M.T. vehicles and instruments took place. But we have many good tidings as he who reads shall learn.

Promotions and Appointments.—We congratulate the following on their step up : Lance Sergeants Holsey and Walsh, Corporal Westbrook, Lance Corporals Callan and Evans, and U/Lance Corporals Smith J., McConnell-Wood, Wall, King and Chamberlain. Judging by the well-thumbed Blue Books, several others are hoping.

Awards.—Various people have said kind words to Signalman Heaton P., when he was awarded the Military Medal, and we should like to tell the Corps how very pleased this Section is about his effort. I was hoping for a scoop, but he is so modest that an exclusive interview is out of the question. All that I can do is to quote a C.S.M. of the 2/R.W.K.s, to whom he is attached. " We wouldn't part with him for worlds, but he is so darned absent-minded that one day he will forget to come out with us on Operations, and then where will we be ? "

Hospital.—We hope that our invalids will soon be feeling cheerful again. At present, we have Sergeants Newton and Dendy at Cairo, Signalman Rhind at Sarafand and Signalman Rice at Haifa. Sergeant Holsey and Lance Corporal Donnelly just crept out in time to sample the turkey at Christmas.

Boats.—At long last, Signalman Fortune, of level-crossing crash fame, has caught the boat and we hope that the welding trade is booming when he finishes his "Voc." Awaiting boats are Sergeant Dendy and family, whilst Signalmen Patchell and Campion are counting the days.

Christmas.—Was a great success. We had a Christmas Party for the families, and the New Year was well and truly let in with a " Smoker."

Agony.—We regret to report that a certain " D " for Donald's " Rifter " has come to grief again. What was it this time ? All the weight on one side ?

MERCURIOUS.

19th Infantry Brigade Signal Section, Sarafand.

5th January.

We have been asked to put this Section on the map, and having been out here since 1938, thought it high time we appeared in the news.

Christmas and New Year are now mere memories, but we take this opportunity of wishing everyone at home and abroad a happy and prosperous New Year. Christmas was celebrated here in the traditional manner, and was enjoyed by everybody. We were very touched by the story told by one N.C.O. of how he had spent the last eight (or was it nine, Joe ?) Christmases abroad.

Since our formation, we have lost only one of our Section, Signalman Mangnall, who left us last month for the U.K. It is hoped that he has now settled down in civilian life. Others are expecting to leave before this trooping season is over, and boats are the chief topic of conversation now. No dates have been received yet, but quite a number have been warned that they might have to leave the country in the near future. They are all heart-broken !

There has not been as much sport as we should have liked, owing to lack of kit, etc., but we turned out quite a useful team against the Buffs this week and beat them 5—4. More victories are expected in the near future.

Congratulations are extended to our O.C., Captain C. F. Newsom on his promotion to the rank of Major, and also to Sergeant McGregor on being awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

We hope to have more news to report next month, and pass on now to some notes from our detachment at Gaza, which were received too late for last month's issue.

W. A.

GAZA DETACHMENT.

Greetings from Gaza, one of the strongholds of the 19th Infantry Brigade Signal Section. No doubt many of our friends, who are soldiering merrily on in peaceful England are wondering how their peace-time acquaintances are surviving the ordeal of Active Service.

The Gaza detachment, consisting of a cosmopolitan group of ex-India, ex-Egypt, ex-Burma, ex-Malaya and ex-Boys, under Lance Sergeant Adams, are quartered in the Government Girls' School in the centre of the entirely Arab populated town of Gaza. Unfortunately, all the girls have flown.

Shooting occurs in and around this district every night, and the operators, on several occasions, have to send from underneath the table in order to avoid the persistent and extremely unwelcome attentions of snipers. Sergeant Adams, a worried frown marring his otherwise pleasant features, methodically cleans and oils his rifle at frequent intervals, while Signalman Beavan wonders which is worse—rushing down the road to the temporary canteen for a pint of beer and risking being shot at, or remaining on an enforced temperance strike. As these notes are not meant for a wild-west magazine, we shall refrain from further mention of the Gaza front.

Personal.—Corporal Joe Cullen, No. 3 Squadron Mobile Divisional Signals. " Is it the same old route ; Wallops ; White Hart ; Junction ; next stop Vernon Dean ; and have you attempted any more Grass Hills around Vernon Dean lately ? From Fred, Grease, Chirpy and the front-seat driver of the Austin and beer wagon."

Changi Signals, Malaya. " Have not seen any startling newspaper headlines regarding your overwhelming hockey victories. Do you require the Propaganda Minister out there again ? Tando T.B.C."

" X " Troop Signals. " *Salaams* from Sergeant Adams, hoping that all your troubles are small ones and that your third and fourth visits to Palestine are not as bad as they appear."

TANDO T.B.C.

8th Divisional Signals, Palestine.

Detachment, Haifa.

11th January.

Well, we had a fine Christmas, despite the fact that work was not discontinued for the festivities. The G.O.C. was loudly applauded on his arrival at our Christmas dinner. He is very popular with the troops, and gave us a barrel of nectar, which was very much appreciated.

The New Year was also celebrated, though not with quite so much grandeur, but our Scottish fraternity were in their element.

Two of the chaps are getting very pale and worried as their " Vocs." draw near, for the boat is quite a long way off. Never mind, Jammie and Ginger, all good things—even soldiering—have to end at some time, and remember that old saying, " Time and ' Vocs.' wait for no man."

In a yard, just east of the billets, is a terrifying monster which is eyed with great respect and awe by all, having defeated Walker's, Fox's and Chippie Tower's efforts to overcome its obstinacy. Granted, it had the nerve to make a terrific explosion, which caused a big disturbance in this easily scared area. This charging engine, a " Lister," has blown the charging board every time our mechanics have started it. Any suggestions ?

The weather was and is rather inclement, but in comparison with other years, remarkably dry, a fact which is borne out by the absence of macintoshes.

Major C. Knowles has taken over the duties of O.C. from Captain Cole. It seems that we are to have Captain Cole with us for a while yet. Major Knowles came from 2nd Divisional Signals, Aldershot, and we all hope that he will have a pleasant time in this land of unrest.

Many of us are getting anxious to how long this emergency is going to last ; the flying dhobi said 1940? So far there has been no official news from the "Army Blank Telegraph System."

We have settled down now, and all of us are quite resigned to a long stay here. We can do it—needs must when the devil drives !

Jews' Mail.—Jock McGraw, Zhob, India. " Hows ' u ' Doin' wi' Mooly. Marv."

"ALLEO."

Malta Signal Section.

Command Signal Office, Sda Torre, Valletta.

9th January.

General.—The festive spirit dies hard, but we are rapidly returning to normal and getting down to the tasks which confront us during the coming year. Concerning Christmas, it is sufficient to say that all went well. With a rare contrariness, those who shone the brightest sigh most fervently, " Thank goodness that's over."

Christmas gifts were awarded to the following N.C.O.s, whom we congratulate on attaining the ranks mentioned : C.Q.M.S. Cutler E., Lance Sergeant Drake F., Corporals Luscombe T. C. and Mintram E. We also tender our congratulations to Williams H. R. V., formerly of this Section, on his promotion to W.O. III.

Courses.—Lance Corporal Ward B. attended a Command Gas Course and obtained Q.1.

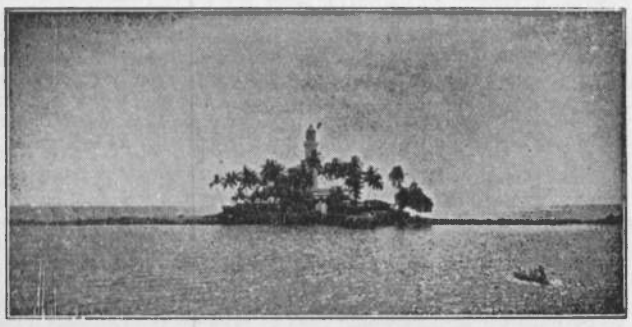
The laying of cables is forging rapidly ahead, and the Section is turning its attention to a form of maintenance to which the majority of us have hitherto been unaccustomed, and to this end two cable jointing classes have been started. The experience gained will, undoubtedly, prove of great advantage.

Casualties.—Signalmen Conroy and Spalding had the misfortune to be admitted to hospital during the holiday period. Signalman Conroy is back with us and we hope before long to see Signalman Spalding back in harness.

Officers.—Captain A. J. H. Masters has been in Italy for the last month, studying the language. Lieutenant T. de B. Miller is still in England on leave. 2nd Lieutenant W. C. Ramsey has been posted to this Section and will shortly arrive to fill the gap.

We hear that our C.S.O., Major F. H. Bury, has had his tour extended until 1940; the new communications will therefore be completed before he leaves.

SKIP.



Malaya Signal Company.

Fort Canning Detachment.

30th December.

Well, well ; here we are again, and this time with Christmas right on top of us, which makes us begin to think what will be happening in old Negri. We have tried to secure information from some of the Section as to how they propose spending their well-earned holiday, but were met by stony looks from all. Not to be put off, and by much wangling, we ascertained that everyone of the Section have their own particular arrangements.

Our renowned D.R., Mr. Soppett, is spending most of his time administrating two football sweeps (" buster " and otherwise). Lineman Harry, who is spending many sleepless nights worrying about the Christmas entertainments, is also wondering if he will be able to hold on to the barrels of beer provided. Last year he lost by one barrel, which was snatched away by our well-meaning Garrison Adjutant on the eve of tapping. The moral is, "A tap to-day, a drink to-morrow."

The not quite so immaculate Desmond, owing to the loss of the 12-inch holder and a " Tidak-apa " attitude, talks vaguely of shooting wild boar in some outlandish part of the Netherlands Indies. The writer has received an invitation to accompany him, but I am not sure that the boars feel like being shot at for Christmas.

Browne (just " Topper ") speaks of perfect moonlight nights in one of Malaya's famous chop and doss houses. Jake, ex-India, is wondering just how he is going to manage the usual Christmas fare with the regulation standard pattern of Army artificial molars, and talks of an old Indian dish that should always be prepared for such unfortunates.

Lance Corporal Bellis has nothing particular in view, but he is interestedly watching Jones and his stand for the preservation of those barrels of beer we mentioned earlier.

The rest of the Section have covered up their preparations cunningly and no amount of wangling and snooping would make them talk.

Pigeon-napping.—Since our last notes, two or three of our famous war birds eluded their captors after a stiff fight, and returned looking leaner and much wiser for their ordeal. One of them must have tried his hand at marriage for he wore a brand new ring ; but perhaps she couldn't cook.

Visits.—Major MacDonald, Royal Signals, ex-Hong Kong, dropped in at Canning to see us on his way home. Although his visit was only of a flying nature, he seemed to enjoy it. We trust that his voyage home was pleasant.

Education.—We congratulate Signalman Barrett D. J. on qualifying in Malay as a language for his Special Certificate of Education. We might add that he received the highest marks in Malaya for that language. Congratulations to Signalman Jones H. as well on passing in Maths. and Map Reading at the recent 1st Class Examination.

Things We Want to Know.—Which Sergeant in Fort Canning is in possession of a " Palmolive " wrapper ?

Night Noises.—Who was responsible for the midnight removal of Signalman Harris to the back verandah, and for what reason ?

Things We Have Heard.—" Do you speak Malay ? "
" Yes."
" Well, take this man's particulars."
" *Tahu-kah engkau behasa Inggeris ?* "
" *Ya tuan.*"
" O.K. then, what is your full name and address ? "
"Ahmad bin Bakar, Raffles College, Singapore."

Agony.—To " Larry," 2nd Indian Divisional Signals, Quetta. " What about a line ? Topper."

Postscript.—Just before closing these notes, two more of the Section repented and told me in confidence about their preparations for the Christmas holidays.

Sapper Hill (attached) is leaving for that beautiful sun-kissed jungle and snake-infested home of Sappers—Changi ! We suspect that he must have one of those much talked-of jungle princesses hidden away in some secret glade.

Harris of the " Huguenot " line fame, is spending some of his time finding bigger and better " Lines," and we hope that he will notify us of any new discovery. His further plans are strictly confidential.

We wish all members of the Corps a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

RASOOL.

Alexandra Detachment.

Christmas with us has come and gone !

One wonders what impressions their first Malayan Christmas made on the " drafties." The wetness of that impression can be vouched for, and it was not meteorological wetness either. Great justice was done to the festive occasion, and in a few cases, perhaps, the celebration was a little too full-blooded, judging from the glum expressions on Boxing Day morning. Remorse or head and tummy troubles ?

The aftermath of a well-spent Christmas (Army style) are truly awful. Do you agree, Parent ? One wonders if Brady and Co. found the cocktail as effective as a sleeping draft.

He asked for something with a kick in it and we hope that he was not disappointed. Phew! Fixed bayonets, boxing gloves, T.N.T., and cayenne pepper.

At dinner the turkey was dealt with in the approved style to the accompaniment of sundry gurglings and tinkling glasses. The process was aided and abetted by those " Nippies " for the day, the Depot Sergeants' Mess.

Our C.O. and the officers, who were early visitors, remained throughout the meal, during which many toasts were drunk and many conversations took place.

The C.S.O., accompanied by his Secretary, Lance Sergeant Jackman, and the senior Foreman-of-Signals, Sergeant-Major Flynn, also paid us a visit, rather a belated one, as their visit had been held up by the protracted visit of the G.O.C. to the Canning Messes. We pay tribute to your choice of drinks, sir, and tremble for your well being had you accepted the half-pint whiskey which that well-meaning Corporal offered you. Beer was certainly better in that case.

We shall be saying good-bye to an old member of the Unit on the 28th. We refer to Sergeant (Hookey) Walker, whose departure will be a definite loss to the Unit. His cheery face and quips (not to say yarns) will be greatly missed in the Depot Mess. Don't forget we're still here when you return, Hookey! If you can tame that tiger, bring it along, too.

During the month we have played several games of hockey and are slowly but surely building up a side which will have to be reckoned with in Singapore. Unfortunately, our star player, C.Q.M.S. Kavanagh, whom the local papers greatly praise, is leaving us shortly for Penang, but we think that even with this handicap we shall be a strong side.

Football commences next month and we hope for many successes.

For the athletics we are entering a combined side—R.A.O.C., R.A.S.C., and ourselves—and we expect to secure the trophy. Ever heard of Tim Kelly, R.A.O.C., Bulford? One of the football teams that we played on the Island in 1936/37 season and beat.

Saturday is New Year's Eve and, by all the portents, it is to be the eve of a mighty binge in this area. Malaya Signals takes this opportunity of wishing all fellow members of the Corps, Regular or T.A., Home, Colonial and Dominions, success at work and sport, and lots of good-fellowship in the coming year.

To R.S.M. Herbert greetings and all good wishes for his success with his new Unit. We shall watch your Unit's sports notes with keen expectations, sir, and we know that we shall not be disappointed.

We are expecting a draft of fifteen by the H.T. " Dilwara " on 11th January. May the fates be kind to us.

Bee in Our Bonnets.—What's all this pother about pensions?

Jews' Mail.—Signalman Hunter (5729) would like to hear from Moseley E. of Egypt Signals.

" Robbo " would like to hear from Mrs. Missen, late of Trimulgherry.

Jack Jones (318), somewhere in India. " What about it, Jack? 314 LL."

Agony.—Hell's popping where art thou? Squarehead. Believe it or not, that's a chap's nickname.

Lance Corporal Peacock. " Write now or for ever hold thy peace. 5601, McLeod."

SIGMALAY.

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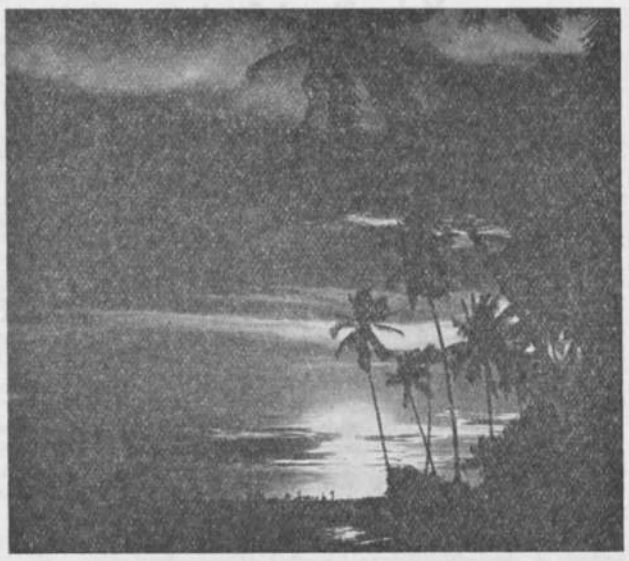

Changi Detachment.

Kitchener Barracks, Changi.

General.—Here we are again, just as the festive season is upon us. It is pleasing to note that many of our stalwarts are dieting in preparation for the good things that we are about to receive.

At this point we must tender our thanks to the 34th Company, Royal Engineers, for the magnificent spread they provided on the occasion of their hockey match with the Alexandra Signals at Changi. Alexandra were unlucky, losing by a goal, but it was a great game and we are looking forward to a battle royal with them in the near future. After the match the rival teams gathered in the canteen, where a huge feast was waiting. The " Alex." boys soon tired, and the Changi detachment, ever watchful, joined in and assisted the 34th Company to clear the tables. Many thanks are extended to Messrs. Duckworth and Ball for their wonderful efforts, and we hope they will pay us a call next week to finish off the yarn " Ducky " was telling us.

The " Gallant Gunner " almost made history at this feast when, having failed to impress Fortress R.E. with his vocal powers, decided to do something about it. He was later observed by an R.A.F. plane wandering round Changi Pier in search of the cut-out switch of the N.A.A.F.I. wireless set.

The following day was uneventful for the rest of the Section, so perhaps the seniors would care to take up the pen and tell us of the ice-water tiffin of which they partook. It is probably a long story for which time and space does not permit, but we hope that " Billy's Weekly " will take a hand and publish at least four pages when the truth comes out.

Departures.—On Monday, 5th December, we said good-bye to our O.C., Captain Stirling-Wilkinson, who left us for the United Kingdom. We are sorry that it will not be possible to attend future lectures at the School of Signals, but have no doubt that the Q.M. will supply the second issue of " Dwarfs, Seven of " to listen to the thrilling tales of Malayan wild life—geese included. The O.C. was duly towed out of the cantonment by the original Seven Dwarfs, plus the remainder of the Zulus. Lumps were released from throats, and hearty cheers completed the ceremony. The best wishes of the Section go with you, sir, and we hope that the cooler climate will be more suitable.

Tai!piece.—The scribe, having noticed the wrinkled appearance of several members of the Section, would like to draw their attention to the value of cosmetics. Beauty parlours have been opened in Changi and Miss Sweetie Pie is constantly in attendance.

SENG HUP.

THE TERRITORIALS AND SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE

The London Corps Signals; Affiliated S.R. Units; and 28th (London) Company, A.T.S.

Fulham House, Fulham High Street, S.W.6.

13th January.

General.—Our absence from print lately is regretted; please let it go at that.

Since our last appearance, much has happened. The September crisis affected us in the same way as it did all other non-Anti-Aircraft Units—and it certainly did us some good. It was a case of "it's an ill wind, etc.," and we have undoubtedly gained from the experience.

Training, both Individual and Paid Courses, has been proceeding continuously except for the Christmas break.

On Sunday, 6th November, 1938, we held our Armistice Church Parade. The total number on parade (T.A. and S.R.) was approximately 500 all ranks and, consequently there was not much room in the church for the regular worshippers.

On the evening of Armistice Day our Headquarters was thronged with dancers celebrating an anniversary which had been rather prominent in a good many people's minds during the preceding few weeks.

The next event of importance was the New Year's Eve Ball, which was a great night to be sure. A new year never had a more hearty welcome.

On Saturday, 7th January, the youngsters had their turn, when we held our Children's Christmas Party. Every now and they one sees, and perhaps reads, the birth rate statisticians pessimistic articles in our daily papers, but, really, we didn't notice anything of a shortage at Fulham House. We did, however, notice that our Headquarters grows more inadequate each year, when it comes to seating these young folks for the tea.

After tea, they were entertained by various "turns," and the proceedings were interspersed with "frolics" by the Unit Crazy Gang, bursts of community singing and musical chairs, etc. Father Christmas, who made his usual belated appearance, presented each boy and girl with a present.

As will be seen from the heading of these notes, we have a Company of the Auxiliary Territorial Service attached to us. They parade on Thursday evenings and are very keen about their training, and we hope to include some special A.T.S. notes in the future.

Congratulations to "O" Section on winning the Inter-Section Efficiency Competition with 52.09 points, and to "Q" Section on being the runners-up with 51.921 points.

We met and beat "A" Station, B.H.I. Division, Special Constabulary, in our annual shoot for the Vigers Cup by 384 to 381.

Sergeants' Mess.—We regret to report the departure from our midst of Sergeant "Bill" Sewell, P.S.I., on the termination of his tour of duty. He left in November for "A" Corps Signals, Aldershot, and has since left for foreign service. We miss him very much and, wherever he may go, we wish him good luck and a safe return to his native land.

In his stead we welcome Sergeant Robins P. A. and T/Sergeant Barker R. G. F. from "L" Company, India, and "A" Corps Signals, respectively. We sincerely hope their stay with us will be a happy one.

On 19th November we had our Annual Mess Dinner and Dance (Ladies' Night). Unfortunately, our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel C. H. Humphreys, T.D., was prevented from attending the dinner, but he and Mrs. Humphreys were able to be with us for the dance. We did, however, have the pleasure of the company of Colonel T. W. Vigers, O.B.E., M.C., T.D., our Honorary Colonel, and Major W. H. Lloyd, M.C., second-in-command, and Mrs. Lloyd with us during dinner. A/C.S.M. Davis (P.S.I.) made a very witty speech in proposing the toast of "Our Guests," and so did Sergeant Hobbs C. in proposing that to "The Ladies." Our Honorary Colonel and Mrs. Lloyd, respectively, responded in their usual able fashion. The very enjoyable dance which followed continued until midnight.

We congratulate Lance Sergeants Gardener B. P., Hill J. R., Munn A. W. and Wells L. J. on their appointment to that state of "three-stripedness," and hope they will have a long and happy time with us.

We also congratulate Lance Sergeant Catt P. on his award of the Efficiency Medal (Territorial).

EFFEMMA.

No. 3 D.R. SECTION, THE LONDON CORPS SIGNALS, BURLEY CAMP, 1938.

43rd (Wessex) Divisional Signals.

Headquarters.

The Priory, Exeter,
January.

The effects of the festive season having worn off, training has been resumed in earnest.

Departure.—Mr. L. H. Clemas, No. 1 Company, has just left us in order to take up a short service commission in the R.A.F. He takes with him the Unit's best wishes for success in his new venture.

MERCURY.

No. 1 (Plymouth) Company.

The Drill Hall, York Street, Devonport.

Since our last notes we have already travelled sufficiently into the New Year to discover that most of our New Year resolutions have already been broken !

Mr. L. H. Clemas.—The Company is very sorry to be losing 2nd Lieutenant L. H. Clemas, who has obtained a short service commission in the Equipment Branch of the R.A.F., and has already made his last official appearance in the Drill Hall, after having been with this Company for three and a half years. However, his home is in Plymouth, and we have promises of future visits during leave periods.

Physical Training Display.—On 12th January, many members of the Company attended a P.T. Display at the 5th Battalion, Devonshire Regiment, Drill Hall. The display was given by the staff of the Southern Command Gymnasium (Tidworth), and the exhibition was a very enjoyable one to watch, and certainly demonstrated the ease with which P.T. instruction can be imparted to T.A. Units.

ONECOY.

No. 2 (Southampton) Company.

Hamilton House, Southampton.

General.—A happy and prosperous New Year to all.

Consequent upon the recent trend of events, there has been considerable activity and, from a cursory glance, the writer has every reason to believe that it will continue throughout the training season with added zeal and interest. The spirit and enthusiasm exemplified recently by all concerned, and the desire to render every help, brought home to us all a feeling of great pride that we belong to the 43rd (Wessex) Divisional Signals.

All training classes and weapon training are in full swing. We hope to report the progress made in next month's notes.

Officers' Promotions.—We extend our heartiest congratulations to the following: Major A. F. S. Fane, on promotion to Lieutenant-Colonel, and also upon his selection to command the Unit. Captain E. R. Moore, upon his promotion to Major, and to whom we extend a very hearty welcome as our O.C.; and Lieutenant C. H. Howarth, on obtaining his third "pip." Good luck and best wishes to them all.

Au Revoir.—Lieutenant-Colonel (Brevet-Colonel) C. H. Walsh, D.S.O., M.C., has relinquished command of the Unit to the regret of everyone. We have always tried to do our job in the manner expected of us, and, on several occasions, have succeeded valiantly; on others, perhaps, we have not shone so brilliantly, but at all times we have worked with the knowledge that ready sympathy and kindly help and guidance were always at hand, especially during annual training, and has given us considerable encouragement in our efforts. It has also created a happy and contented atmosphere throughout the whole Unit.

We are very pleased to extend our heartiest congratulations to the Company Commander on assuming command, and hope that his experience in this capacity will be a most pleasant one.

Sergeants' Mess.—Our Sergeants' Mess at Hamilton House celebrated its first birthday, when all concerned took full advantage of the amenities provided, and every effort was made to create a "Savoy" atmosphere. During these twelve months the writer can say, without fear of contradiction, that the facilities provided have been thoroughly appreciated. Try to go one better next year, lads ! The hours put in by our esteemed friend "George" with his "hawk eye" have been very much appreciated; indeed, we wonder sometimes whether he has any home. It's no use arguing, "George"; it was a life sentence that you received.

Social Functions.—Several successful social events have taken place since the beginning of the winter season, and social evenings and whist drives have proved a great draw, providing very enjoyable evenings. Our R.Q.M.S. and P.S.I. make very efficient M.C.s, for once you are on your feet, there's no stopping.

Cupid's Bulletin.—All ranks of 43rd (Wessex) Divisional Signals who know Harold Dickinson (who doesn't know him ?) will join in our congratulations on his marriage. The Company offer their best wishes to Lance Sergeant and Mrs. Dickinson. Mrs. Dickinson has been a frequent visitor to our annual training camps and is therefore known to a good many. We hope they will enjoy long life and happiness. (Now then George; what have you to say ?)

Incidentally, Harold, George and the baby were recently featured in the local Press as a "tall story." It is understood that the Brothers Dickinson hold the aggregate height record for the T.A. Well done, the Dickinson family !

Annual Dinner.—The Annual Dinner of the Company was held in the Masonic Hall, Southampton, on Saturday evening, 10th December. Major E. R. Moore presided. Among those present were: Colonel the Lord Basing (Honorary Colonel), Lieutenant-Colonel C. H. Walsh, D.S.O., M.C., our former C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel A. F. S. Fane, Commanding Officer, Major L. G. M. Keevil (O.C., 394th Company, 48th (Hampshire) Anti-Aircraft Battery, R.E.), Captain J. Simpson (5/7th Battalion, Hampshire Regiment), Alderman F. Woolley, J.P., Captain C. H. Howarth, Captain S. E. Bridgwater, Lieutenant (Quartermaster) G. Stone, 54th Divisional Signals, Lieutenant J. Balding and Lieutenant G. A. Fleming. We were delighted to have

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with us once again our Devonian friends. Our former R.S.M., now Lieutenant (Quartermaster) G. Stone, 54th Divisional Signals, delighted the company by his presence, which was quite a surprise to us, and also our friends from H.Q. We trust that everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Following the loyal toast, the chairman proposed "Our Colonel-in-Chief, H.R.H. The Princess Royal." Major Moore especially welcomed Lieutenant-Colonel Walsh, our former C.O., and also Lieutenant-Colonel Fane, our new Commanding Officer. Major Moore gave a *resume* of the activities of the Company under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Fane, and said that they were all sorry that Lieutenant-Colonel Fane had left us, but one and all congratulated him upon his promotion. The Company was 10 per cent. over Establishment, but was llowed to recruit up to 20 per cent.

Proposing "43rd (Wessex) Divisional Signals," Lieutenant-Colonel Walsh referred to the time when he commanded the Unit. He had learned two things—*a great respect and a great affection for it.* In its new Commanding Officer, the Unit had an officer of their own, who would doubtless be given the same loyal support that he had been given in the past. The Unit would do everything it was called upon to do to the best of its ability and cheerfully, and no body of men could do more than that.

Lieutenant-Colonel Fane, in his reply, said that during his command, the Company had won the Inter-Company Efficiency Trophy for four years in succession. Not only had it done that, but it had shown loyalty, and every man had pulled his weight. "On relinquishing my command," he said, "I wish to say how very grateful I feel to you all for your loyal work, and, I am sure, the citizens of Southampton do so as well."

Lieutenant-Colonel Fane acknowledged the active help and co-operation of the employers, without which the Territorial Army would soon cease to exist, and was very grateful to them for their support during his period of command. "Camp next year," he said, "would be held from 13th-27th August, either at Weymouth or Corfe Castle, and they had been asked to take part in the Third Divisional Exercise."

Captain Howarth, proposing "Our Guests," welcomed Lord Basing and referred to the presence of members from Nos. 1 and 3 Companies from Exeter and Plymouth.

Alderman Woolley, in reply, said it was a delight to see the happy relations that existed between the C.O., officers and all ranks, and the comradeship and good followship shown towards the new C.O. The work they were doing was of vital importance, and it was also work of a highly technical character, and, in consequence, the Signals should be, as he believed it was, a great attraction to the best men available who wished to join the Territorial Army.

For many years the Company had never been below strength, and it was very necessary indeed that the Territorial Forces should have the support of employers. To-day, the public were forced to realise how much it depended for safety and protection upon His Majesty's Forces, and in this respect there was no lack of encouragement. Not only the public, but Parliament, too, had realised that the Forces of the Crown must be given the very best facilities in order to equip themselves for the job they had in hand.

Alderman Woolley promised his active support in any way that would help the Company to continue its fine progress.

The Families Annual Reunion.—Members and their families made "whoopee" and thoroughly enjoyed themselves at a New Year's Party, held in Langley Hall, Southampton, on Saturday, 7th January. Major and Mrs. Moore welcomed the company.

The hall was gaily decorated, and a huge Christmas tree, exquisitely adorned and brilliantly illuminated by nearly a hundred coloured lamps, thrilled the children.

The programme included a cinema show, games, dancing and a distribution of toys and presents. Lance Sergeant Griffiths F., who distributed the presents, made an excellent Father Christmas, whose arrival was announced by a trumpet call. The company then adjourned to the Drill Hall, where further games, etc., followed. R.Q.M.S. Green E. acted as M.C., and the function was voted a big success The arrangements were in the hands of Lieutenant G. A. Fleming, Mrs. Z. Baker, R.Q.M.S. Green E., C.S.M. Barraclough A. (P.S.I.), Sergeant Katon A. and Lance Corporal Dickinson A.

BEGBIE.

44th (Home Counties) Divisional Signals.

No. 2 Company.

Drill Hall, Gloucester Road, Brighton, 1.

General.—Notes from Brighton this month must necessarily be brief, owing to the spell of quietness following the Christmas vacation.

The usual training programme is being carried on, and a new feature is the recently-formed M.T. Squad, under the able instruction of Signalman Norman.

A dance has been arranged for Wednesday, 8th February, from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m., at the Regent Dance Hall, Brighton. We hope that all Signal personnel, temporarily staying in the town, will look us up. Tickets can be obtained from the Cinema booking office, or any Territorial Drill Hall in Brighton. A cabaret show is to be given by the Vera Garbutt School of Dancing,and a novel Signal demonstration is to be presented. Many prizes are to be given, and we are hoping that Lieutenant-Colonel A. H. Read, T.D., will present them. We trust that the function will prove a large success to enable it to become a regular annual fixture.

Re-organisation.—Many of our readers will, no doubt, be interested to learn that the 226th A.F.A. Section, stationed at Hurst, is now attached to No. 2 Company, Brighton, as "H" Section, the 227th apparently being unaffected. It is also reported that we are to become an "A.A. Signals," with a new Drill Hall. We await confirmation of these items in due course, particularly in regard to the latter.

Annual Camp.—This year we are due to take our annual training at Dibgate from 16th to 30th July. We also understand that there will be a change from the yellow waters that were supplied at Saxmundham last year to the real briny. For the benefit of our new arrivals, old-timers desire me to inform them that the camp is about three miles from Folkestone—a notable place for "notables." Another feature of this forthcoming camp is the fact that it is situated near the cliff tops, and will probably induce the officers to fit windscreens to their cars.

Arrivals.—We take this opportunity of extending a hearty welcome to the following new recruits: Signalmen Green, Burt, Hyder, Atkins, Chipp, Kells, Clarke, Norman, Bailey, Peacock (227th), Sayers ("H" Section), Banks, Smith and Virgo ("H" Section). We trust they are having a good time and will be a long time with the Company.

Re-engagements.—Congratulations to C.S.M. Trower and Sergeant Fowler R., who have signed on the dotted line for further periods.

Departures.—We regret to announce the discharges of Signalmen Parsons, Cherriman ("H" Section), Turner, Frame (227th), Cheesman, Kay, Moore V. G., Marjoram (227th) and Bird. The latter has joined a Regular Unit of the Corps, and we wish him every success in his new venture.

Sergeant French G. H. A.—By the time these notes are in print, Sergeant French, our Pay Sergeant for many years, will have left us. There are many who will be sorry to see him leave; it is a pity the present age limit prevents so many from carrying on. However, Sergeant French will, no doubt, follow the Company's activities as closely as he has done in the past. We all wish him the very best of luck.

GEORGE BEER.

48th (South Midland) Divisional Signals.

Cateswell House, Hall Green, Birmingham 28.

10th January.

Sergeants' Mess Notes.—The Children's Party was held on Saturday, 17th December, when 125 children (of all ages) sat down to tea, and were afterwards entertained by a troupe of

48th (SOUTH MIDLAND) DIVISIONAL SIGNALS

(By Courtesy of the "Motor Cycle.")

1. Fire Jump by Sergeant Goffe.
2. The Pyramid.
3. The Eleven up.
4. A spot of bother between L/Cpl. Hadnett, Sigmn. Newton and Sigmn. Fairclough (Policeman).
5. L/Cpl. Smith and his accordion.
6. Pair-work by L/Cpl. Smith and Sigmn. Darrall.

child dancers. This item was voted by all to have been a very fine show.

The arrival of Father Christmas (our old friend Ted Mulgrue) was heralded by an acclamation of beer tray gongs and trumpets as he presented each child with a toy. Sergeant Clutterbuck led the "band" with a drum. Afterwards the entire company adjourned to the Mess, in order to round off the evening with a convivial hour (or so).

A New Year's Eve Party was held in the Mess on 31st December, when a good gathering welcomed the New Year in convivial fashion. At the stroke of midnight the company performed the traditional "first footing," *via* one of the Mess windows (the regular entrance was out of bounds) and were baptised with a soda syphon. We understand that two blonde C.S.M.s, who were firm believers in the tradition of the dark man, blacked their faces for the ceremony.

The next social event will be a dance on 28th January.

Do not trust him gentle maiden! We were very sorry to note last month's contribution on behalf of our A.T.S., which appeared under the unromantic heading of "Plain Tales" and hereby invite our fair colleagues to the humble but far more respectable hospitality of this column. We could tell them a thing or two about the handsome young man with a saxophone —in confidence, of course.

D.R. Notes.—Considerable interest has been shown by a section of our D.R.s in local Reliability Trials, and it is anticipated that with a little more practice they will be making their mark in this direction. They are shortly to make their appearance on W.D. machines.

The Display Team now has a regular practice pitch at New Shipton Farm, Walmley, and with the advent of some very promising new blood, a very substantial advance on last year's show is expected.

The Officer i/c and the Display Team acknowledge and return the season's greetings to Captain Crawford, formerly i/c of the Catterick team, and now in Egypt.

Coming Events.—O.C.A. Smoking Concert, 13th January; Officers' Annual Ball, 20th January; Nos. 31 and 32 W/T Section Annual Dinner, 21st January; O.C.A. Annual Dinner, 4th February; Sergeants' T.E.W.T., 11th February; Officers' Supper to Sergeants, 17th January; Officers' T.E.W.T., 4th March; All Ranks Dinner, 1st April.

GETCHER.

51st (Highland) Divisional Signals.

Headquarters and No. 1 Company.

Aberdeen.

Awards and Promotions.—We extend our heartiest congratulations to our Commanding Officer, Brevet-Colonel E. Birnie Reid, on being awarded the most Excellent Order of the British Empire (Military Division). This is a fitting award for the yeoman service which Colonel Reid has rendered to the Unit. His keenness and enthusiasm knows no bounds. The whole Unit is delighted at the honour which has been conferred on Colonel Reid by His Majesty.

Congratulations are also extended to Brevet-Lieutenant-Colonel T. P. E. Murray and Lieutenant-Colonel D. P. Levack on their recent promotions.

It is with great regret that we lose Lieutenant-Colonel D. P. Levack, R.A.M.C. (T.), who now leaves us to command the 154th Field Ambulance. He was a member of the Signals during the war and could undertake any task from operating to acting as a Staff Officer to the C.O. He has been Medical Officer to the Unit since 28th December, 1923, and has always taken a great interest in the technical side of the Unit. While he was our M.O., we had the great honour of winning the "Millar" Cup for the cleanest camp in the Division.

We wish him all success in his new command, and hope that he will not forget his old Unit.

Children's Christmas Party.—The Children's Christmas Party, which was held on Saturday, 17th December, proved a great success. Tea was served for about 280 guests. After tea the children were handed over to R.Q.M.S. Williamson A., to be amused with games until Father Christmas arrived to distribute the presents. The R.Q.M.S. was ably assisted by the band of Mr. King and his entertainers. Of course, the real thrill of the evening (for the children) came when Father Christmas arrived with his sleigh. The part of Father Christmas was most ably undertaken by our Hon. Colonel, Colonel R. J. Nicol, O.B.E., to whom we express our warmest thanks.

Training.—The first Winter Course ended during December, and a Trade Board was held on the 15th of that month. The results obtained were very satisfactory, 17 out of 22 passing the tests.

Another Course—for Aberdeen—has already started, and it is hoped that as good results will be achieved.

Officers and N.C.O.s' lectures are also being held every Thursday evening.

Territorial Ball.—The Officers' Territorial Ball was held in the Town and County Hall, Aberdeen, on Friday, 6th January, when there was a large attendance. Prior to the Ball, the officers of this Unit and their friends, numbering almost 50, dined in the Officers' Mess. Among those present were: Colonel R. J. Nicol, O.B.E., Colonel and Mrs. E. Birnie Reid, Lieutenant-Colonel T. P. E. Murray and friends, Captain and Mrs. E. J. F. Heap, Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. D. P. Levack, Captain and Mrs. A. H. Reid, Captain J. W. Levack and friends, Captain and Mrs. R. B. Williamson, Lieutenant J. J. Donald and friends, Lieutenant B. M. Nicol and friends, 2nd Lieutenant G. N. S. Robertson and friends, and 2nd Lieutenant W. A. Biggar and friends.

Company Dances.—The Company Dances, under the direction of R.Q.M.S. Williamson, are still proving a great success. The latest was held on 13th January, at which there was a splendid attendance of officers and other ranks.

No. 2 Company.

Stirling.

Courses.—Now that the Christmas and New Year festivities have ended, Operators' Courses once again hold sway. We commenced a further 60-hour Course for operators on Thursday, 5th January and, as before, are getting a good attendance of men eager to obtain a rating or one higher.

Social.—The only social activities to report this month are in connection with the Sergeants' Mess, who held a "Smoker" on Wednesday, 28th December, and also a Christmas Party for wives and families on Saturday, 7th January. Both functions were voted a huge success and, to judge by the delight of the kiddies when receiving their toys, they at least will be hoping that the party will become an annual one.

Instructors.—Our experts in P.A.D. and M.T. (Lance Sergeant Wilkie A. and Lance Corporal McFarlan D.) returned from their Courses at Plymouth and Leith, respectively, during the month. They are simply brimming with knowledge, which we hope to use to good advantage when the training season commences.

Congratulations.—All ranks of No. 2 Company would like to tender their heartiest congratulations to our C.O., Brevet-Colonel E. Birnie Reid, on his award of the O.B.E. in the New Year's Honours List; to our second-in-command, Major T. P. E. Murray, on his promotion to Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel, and to our C.S.M., Jack Todd, on his award of the Efficiency Medal (Territorial).

TWUCO.

No. 3 Company.

Kirkcaldy.

General.—The festive season is over, and we are now settling down to the usual routine.

Just before Christmas we realised one of our ambitions, when we received an 8-cwt. wireless truck. We also received an intimation to the effect that we would be getting some No. 1 Sets to go with it. The operators will now be able to show their skill, and have snaps taken of themselves complete with head-

phones. We expect another wireless truck shortly and so we shall be able to get out and about on Schemes instead of doing them in the vicinity of the Drill Hall.

Vacancies for Courses are coming in fast and, by about February, we hope to have a good number of the Company away on Courses with various Units and Establishments.

We welcomed our new Adjutant, Captain E. J. F. Heap, to Kirkcaldy on 9th January, when he gave us a lecture on the new Unit Establishment. In view of the rapid changes taking place these days we are wondering how long it will be before he is here again telling us about the amendments to that Establishment.

Sport.—We sportingly allowed (?) the 6/7th Battalion, Black Watch to carry off the Inter-Unit Shooting Cup on New Year's Day. Just to let them see that we are still to be reckoned with, we kept their winning margin down to two points and, in addition, eight members of the Company figured in the prize winners' list of the Individual Competition. Sergeant G. T. Marshall carried off the first prize. We extend our congratulations to the Black Watch, and assure them that we shall try hard next year to retrieve our loss.

Congratulatory.—We extend our congratulations to the following: To Brevet-Colonel E. Birnie Reid, our Commanding Officer, on his award of the O.B.E. To Major T. P. E. Murray, our second-in-command, on his promotion to Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel. To C.S.M. Todd J. on the award of the Efficiency Medal. To Sergeant Mitchell J. on obtaining Q.1 on the P.T. Course at Edinburgh. To Signalman Donaldson J. on promotion to commissioned rank in the Royal Artillery. Last, but not least, to Corporal Campbell J. on the arrival of Hamish March, a future recruit.

THREECOY.

52nd (Lowland) Divisional Signals.

21, Jardine Street, Glasgow, N.W.

13th January.

Recruiting has been most successful. It is true that the international situation undoubtedly influenced many men who had previously been somewhat undecided, but, all the same, many joined during the early part of the year as a direct result of the Unit recruiting drive. The "campaign" included an "At Home" to Press representatives, articles in the newspapers, as well as an "At Home" to the general public, in order to show them something of our work. In all, 168 recruits were enlisted by the end of the "Territorial Year."

Training, this year, has been conducted on somewhat different lines in an attempt to get men on to their technical training much quicker and, except for five parades, all work was done in "civvies." Drill was carried out at week-end camps for recruits.

Owing to the great improvement in technical training and the influx of modern equipment, the scope of training for 1939 will be widened and, consequently, made more interesting, particularly at the week-end camps, which will be held for each Section. Very successful Courses were held before Christmas, and we shall have commenced further Courses by the time these notes appear in print.

A grant from the City of Glasgow Territorial Army Association and the C.O.'s Fund has made possible the improvement of the lighting and decoration of our large hall, which is one of the best rooms in the city; the alterations were completed just after the crisis. Appropriately enough, it was celebrated by an "All Ranks" Dance on 11th November, which was well attended and, if my memory of that night can be relied upon, enjoyed by all.

This year, owing to the great increase in our strength, it was not possible to hold our annual "Gathering" on one night for the whole Unit and, in consequence, it was held by Companies on three consecutive nights, with dire results to the H.Q. Staff who attended each night.

No. 1 Company's function was made the occasion to say good-bye to C.S.M. Houston, who is leaving us on account of his age. He was presented with a clock subscribed for by all ranks of the Company. In reply to a speech, C.S.M. Houston gave some sound advice to those who have just joined the Unit.

The Corporals' Mess has started, under the presidency of Corporal Wright. The committee, who have been busy, held their first dance on 13th January—a Friday—but nothing daunts our Corporals. The Sergeants, who have held several successful functions, are to hold a dance on Friday, 20th January. The committee have been very industrious, and have been making every effort to improve the Mess in every way.

The subaltern officers held a very successful dance on 25th November. The striking decorations on that occasion were carried out by a committee aided (and some will say abetted) by some captains.

The Officers' Annual Dinner will be held at Headquarters on 27th January.

During the year the C.O. has been making strenuous endeavours with the T.A.A. and the War Office in order to improve the accommodation, particularly that for the men and for training when our friends, G.H.Q. Signals, leave us for their new drill hall at Yorkhill. By the way, we hear that work has actually started at their new Headquarters; the old Riding School, which has been gutted, is almost ready for the reconstruction to commence.

Auxiliary Territorial Service.—Miss Gemmell has been appointed to command the Company of twenty-four members of the Women's Auxiliary Territorial Service, which is to be affiliated to us. She hopes to start recruiting almost immediately.

Sport.—This year we have entered a football team in the West of Scotland Amateur League. We share the use of a ground and changing rooms at the Whitecraigs Rugby Football Club's headquarters.

Camp, 1939.—It is anticipated that the Annual Camp will be at Dunbar.

G.H.Q. Signals, S.R.

21, Jardine Street, Glasgow, N.W.

13th January.

Marriage.—Our tall P.S.I., Sergeant Heasman, to Miss Elsie Reay at Hensingham, Whitehaven, on 17th December. We convey our heartiest congratulations to both of them, and welcome Mrs. Heasman to Glasgow. May their stay be a long and happy one.

Badminton.—On 16th December we played the 7th Battalion, Cameronians, in the first round of the Divisional Badminton Tournament Cup, and, after a hard struggle, passed into the second round by 5 games to 4. The team was as follows: Corporals Ewing and Gilbert (1st pair); Signalmen Graham E. and Graham H. (2nd pair); Signalman Hamilton and Sergeant Blanchard (3rd pair).

The next match is against the 6th Battalion, Cameronians, at Hamilton. We wish the team the best of luck, and hope to see them in the final.

Entertainment.—On Saturday, 24th December, a Children's Treat was held at 21, Jardine Street, at which 283 children were present. After tea, games were played until 8 p.m., and then presents were distributed to the children, who went home very happy. Special thanks are due to the ladies who assisted at the treat, and to the committee who worked so hard.

The Annual Gathering of the Unit was held on 6th January. This was a splendid show. Dancing commenced at 8 p.m. to the music of "The Tonics," but there was a lull when Colonel and Mrs. Cumming came in, followed by the Adjutant and the officers with their ladies. Then spontaneous clapping broke out, and cries of "Speech" were heard. The Colonel stepped on to the platform and gave a short speech, in which he said that the Unit had doubled its strength since the last Annual Gathering, and was now almost up to Establishment, and he thanked the ladies, as it was they who gave the men permission to join!

The R.S.M. then stepped to the "mike" and presented Sergeant Heasman with a small radio set, towards which the W.O.s and Sergeants had subscribed. Sergeant Heasman, replying for both himself and Mrs. Heasman, laid stress on the fact

that it wasn't the first time he had used the " mike." (No. 1 Company, please note !)

Refreshments were then served. Afterwards party hats and streamers were distributed, and dancing got into full swing once more. The party finally broke up at about 1.30 a.m. The entertainment was voted the " best ever," and reflected great credit on the committee. There was not a wrong note anywhere.

The Edinburgh detachment of this Unit held a Dinner at 74, Great King Street, Edinburgh, on 7th January. The following were present from Glasgow : Lieutenant-Colonel G. W. Cumming, Captain L. D. M. Patterson, R.S.M. Murray, C.S.M. McQuarry, Sergeants Williams and McDougal. After the usual toast, the health of the guests was proposed by the President, Q.M.S. Aitchison. Colonel Cumming replied for the guests and, in a short speech, traced the brief but glorious history of the detachment, which had been raised to a strength of 10 officers and 227 other ranks in the short space of seven months. This was very largely due to the efforts of Major Darby, Commanding the detachment.

The games tournament, which commenced after dinner, proved very successful from the guests' point of view as two of them won prizes. The evening was voted a huge success, and everyone is looking forward to the next.

TICH.

53rd (Welsh) Divisional Signals.

Cardiff.

14th January.

On Saturday, 17th December, over 350 parents and children were entertained to tea at the Carlton Restaurant, Cardiff. After tea, the children were taken to the Drill Hall by charabancs, which were kindly loaned by C.S.M. Forse T. for the occasion, for a delightful concert and distribution of toys.

Corporal Westacott C. A. was excellent in his role of Father Christmas, while every member of the W.O.s and N.C.O.s' Mess did his bit towards a splendid show. Lieutenant-Colonel W. G. Trice, who was present, assisted in distributing the presents to the kiddies. Other officers present included Majors V. W. Hawkins and W. R. Hawkins, Captains R. H. Copeland, A. E. Johnson, A. W. Bartholomew and W. G. Bale, Lieutenants F. C. Moon and G. B. Lloyd.

On 30th December the W.O.s and N.C.O.s held their Annual New Year's Dance. (This was a day earlier than customary owing to New Year's Day falling on a Sunday.) Over 250 attended and voted it a " thorough good show." Unfortunately, this was R.S.M. Field's last dance as R.S.M. of this Unit as he has been posted to Mobile Divisional Signals, Bulford, on promotion to his present rank.

There was a good attendance of officers, who included Colonel R. C. Seel, O.B.E., M.C., T.D. (D.C.S.O., Western Command), and Mrs. Seel, the Commanding Officer and other officers of the Unit. At midnight everyone joined in the " Grand March " and, with fancy hats, whistles, rattles, etc., the welkin fairly rang, concluding with "Auld Lang Syne."

Not to be outdone, the Canteen held an All Ranks Dance on New Year's Eve which, however, had to terminate at midnight. Over 200 attended and had a great time. Lieutenant-Colonel W. G. Trice was present ; also Major W. R. Hawkins, Captain W. G. F. Bale and Lieutenants P. Fletcher and T. D. Jones. The evening concluded with the " Grand March " and the singing of "Auld Lang Syne." It was a fine effort on the part of Captain W. G. F. Bale (Officer i/c Canteen) and C.Q.M.S. Woodyatt J., and everyone was grateful for the hard work they put in to ensure such an enjoyable evening.

Now we must come down to earth, and serious work is the order of the day. Individual training commenced on Monday, 9th January, and continues until March. The attendance up to now is satisfactory, and excellent results are anticipated.

Officers carry on their programme of lectures ; the junior officers are finding them very useful. Over the week-end, 14th/15th January, the officers are to carry out a Tactical Scheme in the Raglan neighbourhood. The object of the Scheme is to study " Defence " in the light of the 1938 organisation of the Battalion.

Lieutenant-Colonel D. A. Brown, M.C. (C.S.O., Western Command) paid us a visit recently and discussed various matters of interest. The result of the discussion has been very helpful to all of us.

The Drill Hall is again in course of alteration, and this time it is the widening and heightening of the entrance to facilitate the passage of the mechanical vehicles.

The Unit association football team, under Mr. D. G. Davies, is going great guns, and holds a prominent position in the Cardiff and District League ; they have only been beaten twice this season. They play the 40th Army Tank Battalion (7th King's Regiment) at Cardiff, on Saturday, 21st January, in the Inter-Divisional round of the Territorial Army Cup Competition, and we wish them every success.

THE LEEK.

54th (East Anglian) Divisional Signals.

No. 1 Company.

Bay Lodge, The Green, Stratford.

General.—Training at the moment is at " Stand Easy." for the powers-that-be have taken pity on our P.S.I.s by suspending drills until 24th January. The Company Office has taken on a cramped look since we " moved over a bit " in order to make room for the " Pedlar " and all his equipment which goes to make a Company Office. The augmented office will, no doubt, lead to many awkward situations since those famous words, "Are my spurs on right ? " and " Was that my dinner, or to-morrow's tea ? " will be combined with, "Am I in No. 1 or No. 3 Company ? " Nevertheless, we welcome C.S.M. Palmer, and hope he already feels at home, despite the heavy piece of furniture we keep as a pet. Let us know if it gets in the way Pedlar !

The event of the month has been the Company Dinner, which was held at Headquarters on Saturday, 17th December, when over a hundred guests enjoyed both the dinner and the after-effects. One of the main items of this event these days for many appears to be the reunion with our ex-C.S.M. Simpson J. This time we managed to get " Jock " on his feet to say those few choice words to which we all look forward. Let us see you before the next dinner, " Jock " !

Our guest of honour, Lieutenant-Colonel F. A. Manley, T.D., gave us an interesting survey of things to come. Camp this year is to be held later than usual, and will be in the last week in August and first week in September at a site familiar to many and the scene of many activities—Dibgate. Since the 4th Divisional Signals have been scattered near and far, a certain office in Whitehall has decided that this Unit shall provide the communications for the Regulars' Schemes, and this scribe, therefore, sees busy days ahead. The Commanding Officer also announced that a detachment of A.T.s has been formed and will be attached to the Unit.

If this Journal had a " Stop Press " column, the next item would certainly be found there, since it is straight from the proverbial horse's mouth. All legal and local objections have been overcome and we are permitted to state that our Headquarters at " Oakhurst," Wanstead, is something more substantial than a rumour. September seems to be a favourite month, so don't say we didn't tell you.

Christmas Day.—R.S.M. Male and C.S.M. Eason were walking along Romford Road in the direction of Headquarters for a " quiet one," when they met ex-Sergeant " Joe " Cotterell running down the road in the direction of Forest Gate.

" What, still running, Joe ! " asked the R.S.M.

" Yes, I can still run, although I am an old pensioner," Joe replied. Apparently, Joe was off to post his first pension paper to the officer i/c Records, but he changed his mind and repaired to our Sergeants' Mess for a quick Christmas drink.

Joe has take his discharge, and is now " Mine Host " at the 85th Field Regiment, R.A., T.A., next door to us. He does his weekly ten-mile run around our drill square. At present he

doesn't know whether to join the 54th Divisional Signals, T.A., or Section " E " of the Army Reserve.

Unit Rifle Club.—We are glad to report that the Club is now a flourishing concern, for members are absolutely fighting to join, and we feel sure that the standard of shooting will, as a result, be greatly increased.

At the Annual General Meeting held at Headquarters on Tuesday, 10th January, the following were elected : Chairman, Lieutenant and Quartermaster Stone ; Secretary and Treasurer, Sergeant Cook S. ; Committee : Corporal Griffiths E., Lance Corporals Thompson and Harris, Signalmen Rankin and Leo A.

The two matches held recently against the Bow Rifle Club were, unfortunately, lost, but there is no doubt that with members like " Jock " Rankin and the Leo brothers in our team the results in future should be favourable ones.

The Club is now affiliated to the Society of Miniature Rifle Clubs, and we are promised some interesting matches during the coming year. Many trophies, such as Spoons, Medals, Cups, etc., can be won. The scores put up by some of the members are most encouraging.

All details as to membership can be had from the Secretary, to whom all communications and challenges should be addressed.

COOK.

1st Anti-Aircraft Divisional Signals.

56, Regency Street, London, S.W.1.

3rd January.

The winter training season is now in full swing, and as the Unit is rapidly approaching full strength under the new Establishment, the present H.Q. is a hive of activity. Our new Company H.Q. at Brompton Road is nearing completion, and it is hoped that the present congestion will be relieved at an early date.

The recruits are trained on Monday and Thursday nights, and these drills have been marked by extreme enthusiasm on the part of both the N.C.O.s and men, with the result that their training has gone ahead very rapidly. Recruiting has been extremely good and, although there are large numbers of candidates to be approved, vacancies still exist for friends of serving members.

The high light of the month's activities was the demonstration of the Experimental Equipment, given by Brevet-Colonel G. C. Wickins, T.D., to the officers and senior N.C.O.s of the 1st Anti-Aircraft Division and other visitors. This took place on Wednesday, 30th November, and the Drill Hall was full to capacity.

The demonstration consisted of a detailed *resume*, augmented by technical films projected by the G.P.O. Film Unit, and slides illustrating phases of the Unit's activities during the recent summer camp. The principal guest was the Divisional Commander, Major-General Sir Frederick A. Pile, Bart., C.B., D.S.O., M.C., who wound up the evening with a speech in which he congratulated the lecturer and also the Unit. He concluded by saying that he considered their efforts during the recent period of the crisis played a large part in the rapid and efficient mobilisation of London's Anti-Aircraft Defences. This was very high praise indeed, and was due in no small measure to the untiring efforts of Brevet-Colonel G. C. Wickins, T.D., who relinquished the command of the Unit in November.

The Annual Dinner of the Unit took place on Saturday, 3rd December, at the H.Q., and was attended by more than 300 officers, N.C.O.s and men. Our guest of honour on this occasion was once more the Divisional Commander, Major-General Sir Frederick A. Pile, Bart., C.B., D.S.O., M.C., and we were also able to welcome Major Sir William Prescott, Bart., C.B.E. This was one of the most successful events of its kind, and, under the chairmanship of Major G. J. Morley Peel, M.B.E., T.D., the evening went with a swing. Speeches were made by the Divisional Commander and Sir William Prescott. Brevet-Colonel Wickins made his official farewell to the Unit in a most inspiring speech. Speeches were also made by Major Hemsley, C.S.M. Morss and C.Q.M.S. Forster.

The evening concluded with an entertainment in which the brightest spot was a sketch by the officers. This was written round the activities of Dr. Hart, ably impersonated by Captain Shrimpton, whose mannerisms and mimicry were lifelike.

In conclusion, mention should be made of the social activities of the Unit, which take the form of dances, and we would once more bring these to the notice of the new members of the Unit. We should like to see more members and their friends at these functions in order to encourage the social life of the Unit.

J. L. S.

16th January.

Recruiting is excellent, and very soon we shall be able to say once more that the Unit is up to full Establishment, no mean achievement when one considers that we shall have practically doubled our numbers since October, 1938.

To cope with this expansion, a new Company Headquarters is rapidly nearing completion at Brompton Road, London, S.W., and it is hoped to take this over very shortly. This will greatly relieve the inevitable congestion at Regency Street, and will considerably lighten the burden of our sorely tried Permanent Staff.

It is with great pleasure that we have to record the acceptance of the Honorary Colonelcy of the Unit by Major Sir William Prescott, Bart., C.B.E., D.L., J.P. Sir William can be assured of a most cordial and hearty welcome from all ranks. We realise that his many public appointments must make him one of the busiest of men, but we look forward to having him with us on many future occasions.

A real sense of satisfaction and pleasure will also be felt by everyone on the appointment of Lieutenant-Colonel G. C. Wickins, T.D., to be Deputy Chief Signal Officer, 1st Anti-Aircraft Corps. This is a new post under the expansion scheme, and it is a distinct honour for the Unit that our former Commanding Officer should be chosen to fill it. Our congratulations and sincere good wishes go with him, together with the hope that it may mean many years of close association with 1st A.A. Divisional Signals.

A further distinction has been accorded the Unit by the inclusion of Major A. Hemsley, T.D., in His Majesty's New Year's Honours List. He was the recipient of the M.B.E. (Military Division), and we extend to him also our very hearty congratulations.

The following officers have recently joined us : 2nd Lieutenants F. E. G. Braby, D. A. C. Griffith, S. K. Haynes, N. B. Ross, A. I. L. Ripley, R. C. Watson and G. Winstanley. We also welcome Sergeant Humphrey, who has come to us, after a long term of service in India, as an addition to the Permanent Staff. We must also congratulate Sergeant-Major Moore on his well deserved promotion, together with Sergeant-Major Price and all who recently featured in the Unit's own " Honours List."

The months of December and January represent the peak of the social season, and 1938/9 has proved one of the most successful on record. The influx of recruits has helped considerably, but there is still a lot that can be done, and we are extremely fortunate in having a very strong and capable Committee, under the chairmanship of 2nd Lieutenant Gibbs, who deserves our full support.

The high spot was the New Year's Eve Dance, which proved one of the most enjoyable affairs of its kind. Major Hemsley, M.B.E., T.D., and Mrs. Hemsley, together with a large number of officers and friends, were present, and this very happy function terminated in the small hours of 1st January, 1939.

Our Annual Christmas Party to the children of all ranks which took place on Saturday, 7th January, was a very jolly show.

Over 450 children and parents sat down to a sumptuous tea, at which the junior officers were well to the fore as wielders of the tea-pots. The party was presided over by the Commanding Officer, Major Morley Peel, M.B.E., T.D., and Mrs. Peel, who welcomed the small guests and proceeded to make the party go.

Our Honorary Colonel, Sir William Prescott, who honoured us with his presence, made a very happy and appropriate speech, to the delight of everyone.

The distribution of presents by Santa Claus and his assistants was eagerly awaited and took place amid great excitement. The spirit of revelry was further increased by the addition of some disreputable clowns and a passable imitation of Will Hay, who appeared from the direction of the Officers' Mess ?

The party concluded with an entertainment and dance for the grown-ups, both of which were carried through very ably by the indefatigable Social Secretary, Corporal Gillard.

Our next social occasion is the monthly dance on 4th February, and a special appeal is made to all new members of the Unit to come along and bring their relations and friends. We can promise them a very enjoyable time.

SPORTS NOTES

School of Signals.

Shooting.—The Unit has made a very good start in the 1938/39 Inter-Company Shooting League. On 22nd November we met "C" Company, Depot Battalion, and made a nice win of the match. Our next fixture was with "A" Company, Depot Battalion, who have usually managed in the past to get the odd point or two, but this match has been postponed and, by the time we do meet them, we hope to be in real shooting trim.

On 13th December our opponents were a team from "D" Company, Training Battalion, who, unluckily, had two members of their team absent. It was a definite win for us as we were well ahead and, had the two missing members of their team turned up, they would have had to obtain something like 102 points each out of a possible 100 in order to equalise.

On 19th January we are due to meet "E" Company, Training Battalion, and, if our bullets continue to fly as straight as they have been doing, there is little fear of the outcome.

Soccer.—For "soccer" read "tobogganing." This amendment is necessary in view of the wintry conditions usually associated with this part of the country at this time of the year. Presumably, we shall be playing postponed matches in the near future and results, if any, will be published in the next issue of the magazine.

S.O.S.

"A" Company, Depot Battalion.

In the heat of the recruiting rush we quite overlooked the fact that we won the Garrison Inter-Swimming Competition in September last. With a nucleus of swimmers from the Cadre, the School of Signals, and the remainder from our recruits, we won quite easily against the opposition provided by the remainder of the Garrison. Here are the results:

ONE LENGTH RELAY: 1st. (Team: 2nd Lieutenant Blackburn, Corporal Carr, Lance Corporal Moir (School), Signalmen Van Waardhuizen, Lenagh and Henchy.)

THREE LENGTHS RELAY: 3rd. (Team: 2nd Lieutenant Brett, 2nd Lieutenant Blackburn, Sergeant Hothersall, Signalmen Hart Miller and Lenagh).

FIVE LENGTHS RELAY: 1st. (Team: Corporal Carr, Lance Corporal Moir, Signalmen Smith S. and Van Waardhuizen).

VARIETY RACE: 2nd. (Two lengths free, Signalman Woodland; two lengths breast, Signalman Hart; two lengths free, Signalman Lenagh; two lengths back, 2nd Lieutenant Hancocke; two lengths free, 2nd Lieutenant Blackburn.)

MEDLEY RACE: 2nd. (One length, Signalman Van Waardhuizen; three lengths, Corporal Moir; five lengths, Signalman Henchy.)

DIVING: 1st. (Team: Captain Adams (School), Signalman Van Waardhuizen.)

PLUNGING: 1st. (Team: Captain Van der Goot, Sergeant Gourlay.)

The following reserves for the team deserve mention, as they worked very hard: Corporal Ballard, Signalmen Halpin, McMillar, Falla, Craven and Lloyd.

"F" Company, Training Battalion.

16th January.

Since the publication of the January magazine only one game of football has been played, namely, against Darlington Grammar School.

Darlington, who opened the score, managed to get a two-goal lead before Weeks scored a penalty for the Company. Then a mistake by the Darlington goalkeeper enabled Beattie to pass to Griffin, who placed the ball in an empty goal. Darlington scored again, and we were one goal down by half-time. In the second half, "F" Company's football improved and many a goal was narrowly missed. Jock Stewart, who scored one of his special long shots, enabled us to draw. The team comprised: Rowberry; Warren, Murray A.; Stewart, Smith A., Verlander; Beattie, Pavey, Brooks, Griffin, Marshall.

The Army Cup team is to play the R.A.O.C. at Hilsea on 21st January and, if they win, will visit Aldershot for the semi-final.

GEE DEE.

Signal Training Centre (India), Jubblepore.

Golf.—Golfing activities have been curtailed owing to the Christmas holidays, but we have some news. The second match in the series of the Victory Column, which was played on our own course on Saturday, 17th December, resulted in a win for the S.T.C. (I.) Club by three matches to two. The results were as follows: C.S.M. Ellerton-Long and Staff Sergeant Sims lost to Mr. Williamson and Mr. Jenkins, 2 down. Signalman Jones and Signalman Knight beat Mr. Dobbings and Mr. Tatt, 7 and 6. R.S.M. Nash and Sergeant Howard beat Mr. Templeton and Mr. Rozario, 6 and 5. W.O. I. Le Grys and C.Q.M.S. Jackson beat Mr. Clarke and Mr. Walton, 7 and 5. Lance Corporal Munslow and Signalman Hughes lost to Mr. Miller and Mr. Brewe, 2 and 1.

		S.T.C. (I.)	G.C.F.
Team 1.	18 holes	99	91
,, 2.	14 ,, ...	68	72
,, 3.	17 ,, ...	83	83
,, 4.	14 ,, ...	73	—
,, 5.	13 ,, ...	67	74

W.O.S AND SERGEANTS' MESS v. THE OFFICERS.—This match was played on Friday, 30th December, and comprised of matches over 18 holes. All games were keenly contested, and the afternoon's play thoroughly enjoyed by all. This was agreed upon by all concerned when we partook of a most welcome cup of tea at the Club House at the conclusion of the games.

R.S.M. Nash E. is to be complimented on returning the best card of the day, no less than 88 for the 18 holes, but fame has its penalties for the Handicap Committee have been pricking their ears up.

Major R. H. Wall lost to R.S.M. Nash E.	4 and 3
Lieutenant-Colonel W. M. Miller lost to R.Q.M.S. Taylor A...	1 up
Captain P. M. P. Hobson lost to C.S.M. Ellerton-Long	3 and 2
Major J. Hawke beat C.Q.M.S. Howard	2 and 1
Captain C. L. Ommanney lost to S.S.M. Jackson ..	1 up
Captain D. W. Burridge lost to S.S.M. Ellis J. H. ..	6 and 4

Officers, 1; W.O.s and Sergeants, 5.

Other Sports.—No other competitions have been decided during the past month, but we shall soon have some results from the Individual Athletic Meeting, which is being held next month.

1st Indian Divisional Signals, Rawalpindi.

2nd January.

General.—Quite a lot of energy has been expended this month on sport and, apart from the results that have been published in these notes, there has been the usual "scruff" games between Companies and Sections.

Hockey again leads the way in the matter of number of games played, with soccer a close second. We are glad to see that the "soccerites" have come to at last and played some matches; we were beginning to think that all interest in soccer in the Unit had died.

One or two folk have been seen disappearing over the "Blue" with a bag of golf clubs. Maybe this is a sign of a Unit Golf Club in the future, for which we shall have to start polishing up our vocabulary.

Some of us still work off our livers with a violent game of basket ball during the P.T. period, and we are very sad to notice that "Busty" Crouch takes every opportunity to appoint himself as referee. Considering the amount of food that he put away over Christmas, it naturally occurs to us that he would have welcomed a little exercise.

The boxers still wave their arms and legs each morning in preparation for the great day.

No one appears to be training for cross-country, but perhaps your humble scribe does not get up early enough to see them at it.

Cricket.—The team finished the old year on quite a cheerful note, winning against the Ordnance, and putting up a really good show against the Silver Jubilee Club. The win against the Ordnance was our first since 16th October, and in this match Signalman Gale was in grand form with both ball and bat.

On 31st December we played a strong Silver Jubilee XI and, although our score doesn't look too clever, it was made against some excellent bowling. Jagan Nath Mehta, who is still about the best spin bowler in Northern India, made the ball do some amazing things; his full analysis was 16 overs, 9 maidens, 5 wickets, 17 runs. Of that 17 runs, Gale took one beautiful six, which cleared the trees around the Club ground.

Of the Jubilee's score of 103, fifty were made by B. R. Talwar, another well-known Northern India player, who seemed to have all the luck. Signalman Maskery had him tied up in knots all the time, but, somehow, his wicket refused to fall. For a slow bowler against good batsmen, Maskery's analysis of 12 overs, 3 maidens, 5 wickets, 26 runs, deserves a "mention."

Here are the results of the last matches to be played.:

1st Indian Divisional Signals, 94 for 6 (Captain C. D. Gardiner 41 not out, Lance Sergeant Moody 15) v. 5th Field Regiment, R.A., 157 (Lance Corporal Cox 4 for 35). 1st Indian Divisional Signals 76 (Gale 16) v. 1st Battalion, Royal Ulster Rifles, 149 (Lance Corporal Cox 6 for 49). 1st Indian Divisional Signals 96 (Major Watts 44, Adcock 23) v. 1st Battalion, Devonshire Regiment, 132 for 5. 1st Indian Divisional Signals, 148 (Gale 68, Dawson 27) v. I.A.O.C., 112 (Gale 4 for 13). 1st Indian Divisional Signals, 69 (Gale 21) v. Silver Jubilee C.C., 103 (Maskery 5 for 26, Gale 4 for 11).

Here are the averages to date:

	Inngs.	Times Not Out.	Highest Score.	Total Runs.	Avge.
Signalman Gale	19	0	68	349	18.3
S.S.M. Bloodworth	7	0	44	79	11.2
Signalman Ellis	6	0	34	66	11
Signalman Dawson	17	1	56	173	10.1
Lance Sergeant Moody	11	1	27	95	9.5
Signalman Pauley	17	1	24	150	9.4
Signalman Adcock	13	0	23	121	9.3
Signalman Cox J.	6	1	22	42	8.4
Lance Sergeant Chamberlain	6	2	18	32	8
Lance Corporal Donaghy	6	0	22	46	7.6
Signalman Maskery	12	3	24	67	7.4
Signalman Davies	17	1	14	122	7.2

BOWLING.

	Overs.	Maidens.	Runs.	Wkts.	Avge.
S.S.M. Bloodworth	73	13	278	30	9.2
Signalman Maskery	87	22	251	25	10
Lance Corporal Cox F.	35.2	5	121	11	11
Signalman Davies	155	28	434	36	12
Signalman Gale	94	16	389	32	12.1
Signalman James	62	8	281	21	13.3

Both S.S.M. Bloodworth and Signalman Maskery are going home this month. We very much hope to get a couple of good spin bowlers in their place.

Hockey.—There is a Hockey League in the Station now and the Unit stands a very good chance of winning it. Up to now we have played three matches, of which two have been won and one drawn. The team are playing very well together, and it is so long ago that they lost a match of any kind that they are ready to face the Indian "Olympic" team, if necessary. Here are the results up to 31st December: v. Northcom H.Q., 4—1; B.O.R.s v. 1st Indian Divisional Signals I.O.R.s, 3—1; v. H.Q., R.A., 3—0 (League); v. 81st Battery, R.A., 1—1 (League); v. 5th Field Regiment, R.A., 1—0 (League).

Annual Christmas matches: Signalmen v. Corporals, 2—1; 1st Indian Divisional Signals v. "A" Corps Signals, 1—1; Officers and Signalmen v. N.C.O.s, 4—0.

Soccer.—The Unit entered for the Frontier Cup Competition, and have also entered for the Frontier League. In the Cup we reached the final, only to lose to "A" Corps Signals. This result wasn't so bad, considering that the team had only played together during the Cup matches, whereas "A" Corps team is almost the same as last year. In the League we have only played one game. The results to 31st December are as follows:

FRONTIER CUP.

v. Gymkhana Star	Won	3—0
v. Ordnance	Won	3—0
v. Greengage F.C.	Won	2—0
v. "A" Corps Signals (Final)	Lost	0—2

FRONTIER LEAGUE.

v. 64th Battery, R.A.	Drawn	0—0

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS MATCH.

v. "A" Corps Signals	Drawn	0—0

Tennis.—The B.O.R.s Tennis Club are running a tennis ladder. Details should be available for next month's notes.

Final.—All the best for 1939, and happy hunting at all games.

AUSTIN.

"B" Corps Signals, Karachi.

November.

As usual, my forecast published in last month's WIRE proved correct. The Unit football team, who covered themselves in glory, simply walked away with the Garrison League.

A game was arranged with the runners-up, "D" Company, Royal Scots Fusiliers, and though they had been the only team to beat us in the League, we turned the tables and emerged the winners after a keen and exciting game by two goals to nil. The two nettings were supplied by Sergeants Smith and Rosbotham, and were it not for the excellent performance of the Scots custodian, we might have—well, two was enough.

After the game, the Brigade Commander, Brigadier J. R. Hartwell, D.S.O., complimented the two teams and presented the Cups and medals. The league table ended as follows:

	P.	W.	D.	L.	Goals. F.	A.	Points
"B" Corps Signals	11	8	2	1	38	8	18
"D" Company, R.S.F.	11	6	3	2	25	11	15
"H.Q." Company, R.S.F.	11	5	5	1	18	10	15
"C" Company, R.S.F.	11	6	3	2	32	21	15
"D" Squadron, R.A.F.	11	6	2	3	18	14	14
"B" Squadron, R.A.F.	11	6	0	5	23	23	12
"B" Company, R.S.F.	11	4	3	4	17	21	11
13th Heavy Battery, R.A.	11	4	2	5	21	22	10
"A" Company, R.S.F.	11	2	5	4	17	15	9
"C" Squadron, R.A.F.	11	3	1	7	17	21	7
"A" Squadron, R.A.F.	11	1	2	8	9	33	4
R.A.M.C.	11	0	2	9	7	43	2

December.

Football.—Another Cup has come our way. The Unit was entered for the Fazal Ellahi Cup, a trophy presented by the R.A.F. contractor at Drigh Road. The competition was made more attractive by the entry of two Naval teams, from H.M.S. "Norfolk" and H.M.S. "Manchester," which were in port at the time.

In the first round we met the Royal Artillery from Hyderabad, and the first half produced some first-class football. In the second half, after the Unit had accrued a lead of two goals to one, the Gunners seemed to slacken off and three goals obtained. Goals in this game came from Rosbotham (3), Jarvis (1) and Smith (1).

The second round found us in opposition to the 1st Battalion, Royal Scots Fusiliers, a very hard nut to crack at any time. It might be added that all these games were played on the R.A.F. ground, which is indeed the finest in the vicinity.

The game with the Fusiliers produced one of the finest seen at Drigh Road for a long time. The Scots forwards, playing in their irresistible style, kept our defence on their toes in the first half, but, due to the fine play and clever positioning by

"B" CORPS SIGNALS, KARACHI.

Standing (left to right) : Lance Corporal Twiddy, Signalman Massey, Lance Sergeant Jarvis, Lance Corporal Evans G., Signalmen Menhenick, McNulty, Done.

Sitting : Sergeant Smith, Lance Corporal Hallworth, R.S.M. Bevan, Major J. E. F. Paton, C.S.M. Coombes, Lance Sergeant Connor (Capt.), Signalman Rosbotham.

Front : Signalmen Spall and Symond.

Another photograph of the football team and their trophies.

Conner, and clean kicking by Spall and Menhenick, our goal remained intact. A good goal by Jarvis after the Scots had headed in clinched matters.

Play became very keen at this stage and both sides were all out for the winning goal. A penalty was awarded to us for an infringement on Rosbotham, when about to shoot, and Jarvis made no mistake with the spot kick. The Scots were unlucky in the closing stages, when they had the misfortune to see the ball deflected into the goal by a defender with the goalkeeper helpless. A really fine exhibition of goalkeeping was witnessed by both custodians on this day which considerably lessened the scores on both sides. The game ended with us as the winners by three goals to one.

H.M.S. "Norfolk," having beaten the R.A.F. and their brethren of H.M.S. "Manchester," were therefore qualified to meet us in the final. The game with the Fusiliers had extended us somewhat, and as the Navy were still dark horses as far as we were concerned, this game had all the appearances of being a needle match. This was not the case, however.

Rosbotham was early in the fray with a good goal, to be followed up with an individual effort by Jarvis. The game was not uninteresting, and many thrills were provided; the sailors were very plucky triers. Rosbotham had another in the bag before half-time, and made his total four early in the second half, after Smith had hit the bar.

A solitary netting came the way of the senior service late in the game, when they were awarded a spotkick for a foul on their centre-forward. The game ended with "B" Corps Signals the winners by five goals to one, thus making really sure of the Cup that was later presented to us, together with miniature Cups for the players of both teams.

v. R.A., Hyderabad .. .. Won 5—2
(Rosbotham 3, Jarvis 1, Smith 1)

v. 1st Battalion, R.S.F. .. .. Won 3—1
(Jarvis 2, own goal 1)

v. H.M.S. "Norfolk" .. .. Won 5—1
(Rosbotham 4, Jarvis 1)

Egypt Signals.

Football.—The Corps football team did exceedingly well this year in reaching the final of the Roberts Hughes Challenge Cup. This is the first time since 1929 and, needless to say, everyone was keyed up with excitement on the final day.

The first round was against the R.A.F., Aboukir, which we won to the tune of 4—1. We then met the 6th Battalion, Royal Tank Corps, and again won 2—0. It was in the next round, against the R.A.F., Ismailia, which we won 5—2, that the excitement became tense, and no spectator who was present will ever forget the struggle against the 7th Hussars in the semi-final, when we just scraped home 3—2, after extra time.

Then came the final. We played against the R.A.F., Heliopolis, with more spirit (and supporters) than has ever before been seen in Egypt Signals. The Air Force, who started shakily, were a goal down in the first ten minutes, and we thought that having drawn first blood our team would go on scoring, as they were playing great football, but the R.A.F. suddenly swooped down and scored. Just before half-time the Air Force scored again, and it was most disheartening for our team to be losing at the interval.

Soon after resuming, the R.A.F. attacked strongly, but our outside left put in a shot that caused the Air Force goalkeeper some concern, but we could not get that little bit of luck that helps to win most matches. Playing with more confidence, the airmen put in another goal and our team was slightly disorganised for a while, but we still kept trying and, on several occasions, we very nearly scored.

However, the R.A.F. crashed home their fourth goal, and we knew it was all over. The game ended: R.A.F., 4; Egypt Signals, 1. Naturally we were all disappointed, but this was the first time in nine years that we were in the final, and it would have been great to take the Cup back to barracks. Nevertheless, it was a very good show on the part of our team, who appeared to have a good hold of the Cup when the beer came round in the dressing room, which must have been some consolation to them.

The team was as follows: Searle; Whitbread, Brown; Hendry, Scaife, Teal; Lawrence, Kyle, McLoughlin, Dick and Gant.

EGYPT SIGNALS.
RUNNERS-UP: ROBERTS HUGHES FOOTBALL CUP, 1938.

***Back Row** (left to right)*: Signalman Collie (Assistant Secretary), Sergeant Dunn, Signalman Warren (Selection Committee), Signalman Valinder, Lance Corporal Buckman, Signalman Brown, Signalman Searle, Signalman Whitbread, Signalman McLoughlin, Signalman McGowan, Corporal Gant, Lance Corporal Bothamley (Trainer), Lance Sergeant Williams (Selection Committee), R.Q.M.S. Hobbs (Vice-President).

Front Row: Signalman Lawrence, Signalman Mason, Signalman Shore, Signalman Kyle, Major Bailey (C.O.), Signalman Scaife, Signalman Hendry, Lance Sergeant Teal, Lance Corporal Dick.

THE WIRE

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Editorial Notes.

Royal Signals Corps Dinner.—With the approval of Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, C.I., G.C.V.O., G.B.E., our Colonel-in-Chief, the annual dinner of the Royal Signals Dinner Club will be held on Friday, 26th May, at the Junior United Service Club, Charles Street, London, S.W.1, at 7.30 p.m. for 8 p.m. Tickets may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, c/o Chief Signal Officer, London District, Horse Guards, London, S.W.1, and NOT from Mr. S. Garland, c/o Lloyds Bank, Ltd., as in previous years.

Dinner notices, with the usual application form and bankers order for tickets, will be sent to all members and Messes at an early date.

Emigration to the Dominions—The Fairbridge Farm School.—The Fairbridge Farm School is a Society which exists for the purpose of promoting the settlement, within the Oversea Dominions, of children of both sexes, born in the United Kingdom, especially such as have suffered by reason of the Great War through the loss of one or both parents, and to establish farm schools in the Oversea Dominions in which such children shall be maintained and educated until they are fitted to earn their own livelihood.

For the information of serving and "ex-Service" Warrant Officers, N.C.O.s and men of Royal Signals, it is hereby notified that the Central Committee of Signals Association, who have a small fund at their disposal for this purpose, are interesting themselves in the movement and invite applications from parents or guardians who wish to consider the practicability of nominating a child to the School in question as a potential trainee, for subsequent settlement in the Dominions.

All children should be between the ages of 6 and 12 years of age on the date of nomination.

Further information will be supplied on application to The General Secretary, Signals Association, 95, Belgrave Road, London, S.W.1.

Situation Wanted.—The widow of a recently deceased Senior N.C.O. of the Corps is desirous of securing employment with an officer's family as nursery governess, or in any other capacity for which she may be considered suitable. Before marriage, the applicant was in similar employment with an officer of Royal Signals stationed in India, and can produce the highest references as to her capabilities and qualifications. Age 38. Brief hospital nursing training, and ten years' experience as nursery governess. For further information apply to The General Secretary, Signals Association, 95, Belgrave Road, London, S.W.1

Sports Clothing and other Articles in Corps Colours.—The following articles are held in stock at this Office, and can be supplied by return of post at the prices quoted :

BLAZERS : BARATHEA—In Corps colours	from	47/6
SWEATERS : White woollen with Corps colours neck and cuff	from	12/6
JUMPERS : White woollen with Corps colours at neck (sleeveless)	each	12/6
SCARVES : Woollen, Corps colours	each	7/6
SILK SQUARES : Corps colours	each	10/6
TIES : Silk, double-ended, Corps colours ..	each	2/6 and 3/9
CORPS RIBBON : ½ inch, for Christmas cards and decoration purposes	per yard	6d.
CAR BADGES : In chromium plate, with Corps colours, in enamel	each	15/6

Postage extra. Cash with order.

Compilation of "Wire" Contributions.—The attention of all Unit Correspondents is kindly invited to the notes drawn up for their guidance on page 133. We suggest that these notes be cut out and retained for reference.

Bound Volumes of "The Wire" for 1938.—All readers, Units, Messes, etc., requiring bound volumes of the WIRE for 1938 are asked to submit their orders early, as only a limited number will be available for distribution. NO ROYAL SIGNALS MESS LIBRARY IS COMPLETE WITHOUT THESE VOLUMES. Price 8s. per copy, post free (at home or abroad).

THE EDITOR.

Signals Association Notes.

ABERDEEN AND DISTRICT BRANCH.

A new branch of Signals Association has recently been formed at Aberdeen, under the chairmanship of Colonel R. J. Nicol, O.B.E., Hon. Colonel of 51st (Highland) Divisional Signals (T.A.), Fonthill Barracks, Aberdeen.

Since their inaugural meeting, on 20th January, considerable progress has been made and fifty-one members have been enrolled to date.

An Entertainments Committee, under the leadership of Lieutenant (Quartermaster) J. Hillman, Royal Signals, is already in active operation and has arranged for a Smoking Concert to be held at Fonthill Barracks on Friday, 3rd March. The concert will be preceded by a general meeting of the Branch Committee, and it is hoped that many new members will be enrolled on that occasion.

It is known that many ex-Royal Signals and ex-R.E. Signal Service personnel are resident in the Aberdeen area, and the Branch Committee would be glad to receive the names and addresses of all past members of the Corps who are interested in the local movement.

The Committee extend cordial felicitations to all Branches of the Association at home and overseas and invite members staying in, or passing through, Aberdeen on any occasion to communicate with the Hon. Branch Secretary, Mr. C. F. Andrews, M.B.E. (Telephone: Aberdeen 8292 or Aberdeen 5903.)

ALDERSHOT, FARNBOROUGH AND DISTRICT BRANCH.

A new branch of Royal Signals Old Comrades' Association has also been formed at Aldershot, under the patronage of Major-General Sir M. G. E. Bowman Manifold, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., and the chairmanship of Colonel R. M. Powell, D.S.O.

An inaugural meeting was held at the Imperial Hotel, Aldershot, on 25th January, and was well attended. Colonel R. M. Powell occupied the chair and, after having explained the objects of the meeting, remarked that although ex-Service members of all ranks who were eligible for membership were no longer actively associated with the Corps, they would always consider themselves "Signals" and still "part and parcel" of the Corps in which they had been privileged to serve. It was, he added, a time when all ex-Service members of the Corps should be, and desired to be, more than ever before in close touch with their serving comrades.

Colonel Powell informed the meeting that he had approached Major-General Sir Bowman Manifold with reference to the new branch formation and stated that the latter had expressed his willingness to officiate as Patron, and to assist the Branch Committee to the utmost of his ability.

The meeting expressed its appreciation and passed a vote of thanks to General Sir Bowman Manifold for his co-operation and interest.

The following were formally elected to serve on the Committee: Chairman: Colonel R. M. Powell, D.S.O.; Vice-Chairman: Mr. A. Muntzer; Hon. Treasurer: Captain W. S. Wasey, Royal Signals; Hon. Secretary: Mr. C. H. Tolley; Executive Committee members: Messrs. T. Evans and G. H. Beatty. Entertainments Committee—President: Mr. R. Keevil; Members: Messrs. G. Ruffle and P. G. Brunt.

It was decided that a further meeting should be called on a date approximately one month ahead and arrangements were made accordingly.

The Branch Committee invite all Royal Signals Old Comrades residing in the Aldershot and Farnborough area, who are not already enrolled as members, to communicate with the Hon. Branch Secretary, Mr. C. H. Tolley, "Kildrum," 81, Coronation Road, Manor Park, Aldershot.

BIRMINGHAM BRANCH.

Saturday, 4th February, saw the largest gathering of Old Comrades of this Branch since its resurrection some years ago. The occasion was the Annual Dinner, held in the Drill Hall Stratford Road, Hall Green. The untiring efforts of Colonel J. W. Danielsen, D.S.O., T.D., Major H. Bartlett, and the Committee, resulted in the record attendance of 300, and the decision to hold the dinner in the spacious Drill Hall proved a wise one. The miniature range was once more pressed into service as a "long bar" and was dubbed *Cafe Anglais* (English beer—and how?). Messrs. Graham & Co. transformed the Drill Hall with snowy linen and glittering cutlery and glass, and the silver trophies from the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes, 48th Divisional Signals, completed a very pleasing spectacle. Nor must we forget to mention the considerable work performed by the staff of the 48th Divisional Signals in arranging the tables and giving the place a special clean up.

Space does not permit us to record the names of all the distinguished visitors in attendance, but almost every Commanding Officer of the 48th Divisional Signals from pre-war days up to Lieutenant-Colonel P. H. Jones, M.C., T.D., of to-day, was present. Telegrams were received from the Bournemouth Branch, and Mr. W. Butler, the General Secretary, to wish us a happy evening, and another from Colonel M. E. Holdsworth, T.D., expressing similar sentiments. The guests came from near and far, one party travelling from Tunbridge Wells.

The Bournville Silver Band, under the direction of Mr. I. Perrin, played during the excellent dinner. The following toasts were proposed: "H.M. The King," by the Chairman, Colonel J. W. Danielsen, D.S.O., T.D.; "The Princess Royal," by Major H. Bartlett (Branch Secretary); a "Silent Toast," by Mr. A. E. Wilby; the "Royal Signals and R.E. Signals Association," by Colonel J. Fraser Lister, C.M.G. The last-mentioned toast was replied to by Colonel Danielsen, who, in the course of his speech, thanked Major Bartlett and the Committee for their hard work, and expressed the gratitude of the Branch to Lieutenant-Colonel Jones, who kindly allowed us the use of the Drill Hall.

Colonel Danielsen then paid tribute to the work done for the Branch by Colonel W. Martineau, M.C., T.D., and, on their behalf, presented him with an inscribed silver salver to mark their appreciation of his services as Chairman during the past three years. Colonel Martineau, in reply, expressed his great pleasure at the remarkable growth of the Branch which, he said, was due entirely to hard work and refusal to admit defeat on the part of the present Chairman and Committee.

We must not forget the guests themselves, who turned up in such gratifying numbers, for without their loyal support nothing could be achieved.

Another name that comes to my mind as I write is that of Brigadier O. D. Smallwood, T.D., D.L., who was, many years ago, a Despatch Rider with the R.E. Signals.

There was no specially organised entertainment after the dinner, but the guests proceeded to the important business of talking over old times and celebrating long-past events with good honest beer. All the old famous songs were sung with an enthusiasm that would not have been improved by any organisation. Many good stories were told, but that, as the Quartermaster said when he put the rum back into stores, is for another day.

BOURNEMOUTH AND DISTRICT BRANCH.

There was a happy gathering of members of the Bournemouth and District Branch at the Annual Dinner, held at the Gervis Hall, Bournemouth, on Saturday, January 28th.

The Branch was formed exactly a year ago with only a dozen members, and to-day their ranks have increased to eighty-three,

thanks to the organising work of the Branch Committee, and not least to the spirit of good fellowship that animates the whole movement.

Major J. C. Bray, O.B.E., who is the Chairman and Hon. Treasurer of the Branch, presided, and guests included the Mayor (Alderman I. W. Dickinson), Colonel A. C. Sykes, D.S.O., O.B.E., Lieutenant-Colonel A. W. Malim, T.D., Lieutenant-Colonel Douglas Matheson, D.S.O., M.C., Major Hughes, Mr. A. Wright, Mr. Cole, Mr. W. Butler (General Secretary, London), and Mr. Smith.

At the start the company stood to salute " absent friends."

The chairman announced that a telegram of respectful greetings had been despatched to the Princess Royal, C.I., G.C.V.O., G.B.E., the Colonel-in-Chief, and the following reply was received :

" Please express to members of Bournemouth and District Branch my sincere thanks for the loyal greetings. I wish one and all a very happy evening.—Mary, Colonel-in-Chief."

The loyal toast was proposed by Captain C. H. Howarth, the Vice-Chairman ; and the toast of " The Princess Royal " by Mr. G. Cresswell.

Before proceeding with the toast list, the Chairman informed the assembly that he had a pleasant duty to perform, and asked Mr. Rouse, the Hon. Branch Secretary, to accept a small gift from the Branch members as a token of their esteem and affection. " This Branch was started by your initiative," said Major Bray, " and it is entirely due to you that we are in such a satisfactory condition today."

Mr. Rouse thanked the Chairman and all members of the Branch for the kindly thought which prompted their offering, and said he had acted without any thought of reward or remuneration. He greatly appreciated their spontaneous expression of good will and affection and would always be ready to do all he could towards the achievement of their aims and objects.

The Chairman then proposed the toast of " Royal Signals." " We all have the welfare of the Corps at heart," he said. He referred to " our old friends, the ' Sappers,' " and the old Telegraph Battalion, and said there was a marked difference between the Signal Companies at the time when he joined from their counterparts to-day.

" When I joined them," he went on, " the strength of all the Signal personnel was, roughly, 250—six officers with a Field Unit and six with the Post Office Telegraphs." He supposed he was one of the last left who worked on the old cable wagon. The improvements in present-day equipment were so marked as to be beyond belief to those of the old Telegraph Battalion.

Major Bray referred, in passing, to the recent promotion of Major-General H. C. B. Wemyss, now Director of Mobilization, and also to Major-General E. A. Osborne, now Commander of the 44th (Home Counties) Division (T.A.). There were some present that evening, he added, who were privileged to serve under both these officers when they were 2nd Lieutenants.

" I think the Corps of Signals offers the finest opportunity for young fellows in the country to-day," the chairman went on. " Why they should be short of recruits, I can't imagine."

Colonel Sykes, replying to the toast, said he had been in the Army twenty-eight years. He was only two years old when Major Bray joined. The Corps started under the wing of the Royal Engineers. This year, for the first time, the strength of the Warrant Officers, N.C.O.s and men had slightly passed the strength of the mother corps.

Mr. H. G. Giles gave the toast of " The Association." He mentioned that they were formed a year ago with a dozen members, and to-day they had eighty-three. What was more, they were still rolling in. He paid a deserved tribute to the work of Major Bray and Mr. Rouse for the help and guidance they had given to the Branch.

Mr. Butler congratulated Bournemouth on the splendid progress they had made. He indicated some of the objects of the Association—to build up Branch organisation, to provide

R. SIGNALS CAR MART

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AND MANY OTHERS

MR. C. P. GLENNIE, A DIRECTOR OF THE FIRM IS A SERVING MEMBER OF LONDON CORPS SIGNALS (T.A.)

MAYOR AMONG THE OLD COMRADES.

Photograph by courtesy of the "Bournemouth Daily Echo."

This group photograph was taken at the dinner of the Royal Signals Old Comrades' Association, at the Gervis Hall, Bournemouth, on Saturday, January 28th. In the back row is the Mayor (Ald. I. W. Dickinson), and on his left are Major J. C. Bray, O.B.E. (chairman), Col. A. C. Sykes, D.S.O., O.B.E., Lt.-Col. Douglas Matheson, D.S.O., M.C. Lt.-Col. A. W. Malim and Mr. W. Butler (General Secretary).

an employment bureau, a benevolent fund and publications. Branches were formed for the purpose of keeping alive the spirit of comradeship that sprang up during service days.

He said that during last year they spent £436 18s. 0d. in grants, etc., and 445 members were placed in employment. In the previous year they placed 635. There were branches of the Association now at Aldershot, Birmingham, Exeter, Chester, Portsmouth, Southampton, Salisbury, Westminster, York and Aberdeen.

The toast of " Our Guests " was proposed by Mr. Wright.

The Mayor, responding, spoke of the value of Associations like theirs in stimulating an interest in communal life.

After the speeches there was an entertainment to which the following contributed : Messrs. Stan Williams, " Jock Davie," Frank Sparry, Bennett and Casteldini. They were thanked for their services.

EMPLOYMENTS.

Situations found during the preceding month with the co-operation of the National Association for the Employment of Regular Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen :

1	Ex-Signalman, Nottingham	Postman
2	Ex-Signalman, Nottingham	Labourer
3	Ex-Signalman, Nottingham	Fitter Electrician
4	Ex-Signalman, Yorkshire	Labourer
5	Ex-N.C.O., Devonport	Labourer
6	Ex-Signalman, Chester	Labourer
7	Ex-Signalman, Chatham	Postman
8	Ex-Driver, Chatham	Postman
9	Ex-Signalman, Stoke-on-Trent	Postman
10	Ex-N.C.O., Stoke-on-Trent	Postman
11	Ex-Signalman, Portsmouth	Postman
12	Ex-Signalman, Portsmouth	Postman
13	Ex-N.C.O., Essex	Postman
14	Ex-Signalman, Brighton	Postman

15	Ex-Signalman, Taunton	Labourer
16	Ex-N.C.O., Sunderland	Clerk
17	Ex-Signalman, Shrewsbury	Postman
18	Ex-Signalman, Yorkshire	Postman
19	Ex-Signalman, Portsmouth	Excavator
20	Ex-Signalman, Chatham	Postman
21	Ex-N.C.O., Chatham	Postman
22	Ex-N.C.O., Chatham	Labourer
23	Ex-Signalman, Chatham	Postman
24	Ex-Signalman, Hull	Lineman
25	Ex-Signalman, Portsmouth	Watchman
26	Ex-Signalman, Liverpool	Labourer
27	Ex-Signalman, Liverpool	Storekeeper
28	Ex-Signalman, Newcastle-on-Tyne	M.T. Driver
29	Ex-Signalman, Newcastle-on-Tyne	Postman
30	Ex-N.C.O., London	Electrician
31	Ex-Signalman, London	Batman
32	Ex-Signalman, London	Messenger
33	Ex-Signalman, London	Porter
34	Ex-Signalman, London	Labourer
35	Ex-Signalman, London	Porter
36	Ex-Signalman, London	Packer
37	Ex-Signalman, London	Postman
38	Ex-Signalman, London	Postman
39	Ex-N.C.O., London	Warder
40	Ex-Signalman, London	Labourer
41	Ex-Signalman, London	Labourer
42	Ex-Signalman, Devonport	Labourer
43	Ex-Signalman, Devonport	Labourer
44	Ex-Signalman, Carlisle	Telephonist
45	Ex-Signalman, Hull	Telephonist
46	Ex-N.C.O., Chatham	Wireless Operator
47	W.O., Aldershot	Lieutenant (Quartermaster) (T.A.)
48	W.O., Catterick	Lieutenant (Quartermaster) (T.A.)

General Secretary.

Benevolent Fund Notes.

The Administrator gratefully acknowledges receipt of the following :

Cash Subscriptions from :
3rd Indian Divisional Signals.
Officers' Mess, S.T.C., Catterick Camp.
C.Q.M.S. Mills J.
Royal Signals, Mons Barracks, Amateur Dramatic Society.

Gift of Clothing from :
Colonel O. P. Edgcumbe, M.C.

APPEALS dealt with :

1	Ex-Signalman, Bournemouth	Grant	£2	10	0
2	Widow of Ex-N.C.O., Nottingham	Grant	£5	0	0
3	Ex-Driver, Surrey	Grant	£2	0	0
4	Ex-Signalman, London	Grant	£2	5	0
5	Ex-N.C.O., Torquay	Grant	£4	0	0
6	Signalman, Aldershot	Loan	£4	0	0
7	Ex-N.C.O., Ireland	Grant	£5	0	0
8	Ex-Signalman, Surrey	Grant	£3	0	0
9	Ex-N.C.O., Portsmouth	Grant	£1	0	0
10	Ex-Signalman, Somerset	Loan	£3	0	0

(Signed) T. H. L. Spaight, Lieutenant-Colonel,
Administrator, Signals Association Benevolent Fund.

Corps Promotion Roster.

Subsequent Amendments.

[The figures in the last column indicate the pages in the " Corps Promotion Roster " (published in April, 1938), on which the respective names may be found. This information cannot, of course, be given in the case of Lance Corporals appointed since that date.]

Promoted Warrant Officer, Class II (C.S.M.).

2306780	C.Q.M.S. Hall H. F.	2/10/38	18

Promoted Warrant Officer, Class III.

2313750	C.Q.M.S. Knox G. R.	1/10/38	19
2313903	C.Q.M.S. Jackson J.	1/10/38	19
2309312	C.Q.M.S. Thomas R. H. P.	1/10/38	21
1417130	C.Q.M.S. Vignaux S. G.	1/10/38	21
2308517	C.Q.M.S. Pronger W. G.	1/10/38	21
2309802	Sergeant Green W. H.	1/10/38	22
2312069	Sergeant Swatton J. M.	1/10/38	22
2312799	Sergeant Marchant E. A. T.	1/10/38	23
2314244	Sergeant Low G. A.	1/10/38	23
2306854	Sergeant Ellis J. H.	1/10/38	23
2309322	Sergeant Andrews E. V.	1/10/38	23
2313923	Sergeant Cook T. M.	1/10/38	23
2309826	Sergeant Macdonnell D. A.	1/10/38	23
2310539	Sergeant Bloodworth H. V.	1/10/38	23

Promoted C.Q.M.S.

2309109	Sergeant Pickering E.	1/10/38	22
2314487	Sergeant Mills J.	1/10/38	22
2308715	Sergeant Ring H.	1/10/38	22
2314360	Sergeant Wilmot H. D.	1/10/38	22
2314176	Sergeant Holness A. H.	1/10/38	22
2306829	Sergeant Storey C. E.	1/10/38	23

Promoted Sergeant.

2314834	L/Sergeant Simm M.	1/10/38	40
2310890	L/Sergeant Weir R.	1/10/38	40
2317275	L/Sergeant Norman B.	1/10/38	40
2314155	L/Sergeant Hawkes W. M.	1/10/38	40
2316092	L/Sergeant Ravenhall E. A.	1/10/38	40
2313714	L/Sergeant McDowall G. V.	1/10/38	40
2313525	L/Sergeant Smith E. A.	1/10/38	40
2316220	L/Sergeant Saunders T. P.	1/10/38	40
2312806	L/Sergeant Hibbit W.	1/10/38	41
2316758	L/Sergeant Jones H. W.	1/10/38	41
2922514	L/Sergeant Scott A.	1/10/38	41
2317185	L/Sergeant Crow L. E.	1/10/38	41
2306630	L/Sergeant Varley J. S.	1/10/38	41
4339706	L/Sergeant Pendegast R.	1/10/38	41
2315586	L/Sergeant Penny A. J.	1/10/38	41
2316158	L/Sergeant Birkett F. J.	2/10/38	41
2316471	L/Sergeant Clackett W. G.	2/10/38	41
2317044	L/Sergeant Nicholls G. R.	13/10/38	41
2309070	L/Sergeant Webber F. G. W.	15/10/38	41
2309514	L/Sergeant Waite N. P.	19/10/38	41
2310560	L/Sergeant Gibbons E.	22/10/38	41
2316515	L/Sergeant Patching F. L.	26/10/38	42
2306790	L/Sergeant Walker E. R.	26/11/38	38
2314236	L/Sergeant Hart R. C.	28/11/38	40

Appointed Lance Sergeant.

2318206	Corporal Lennon W. T. H.	30/9/38	50
2318528	Corporal Shirley F. B.	1/10/38	50
2317172	Corporal Farnden T. H. G.	1/10/38	50
2309973	Corporal Jones E. R.	1/10/38	50
2558760	Corporal Fearnley C. F.	1/10/38	50
2319817	Corporal Bow S. G.	1/10/38	50
2316780	Corporal Trivass P. G.	1/10/38	51
2316938	Corporal McAuliffe J.	1/10/38	51
2318550	Corporal Robson J.	1/10/38	51
2316012	Corporal Craggs T. R.	1/10/38	51
2317833	Corporal Froggart A. W.	1/10/38	51
2316408	Corporal Adkins J. F.	1/10/38	51
7876075	Corporal Bryan H. G.	1/10/38	51
2316833	Corporal Hicks N. C.	1/10/38	51
2318862	Corporal Bartlett G.	2/10/38	51
2201233	Corporal Ransom C. F.	7/10/38	51
2317006	Corporal Simmonds M. M.	10/10/38	51
2318772	Corporal Bale E. E.	13/10/38	51
2315573	Corporal Bell T. S.	14/10/38	51
2318191	Corporal Clark F. H.	17/10/38	51
2316229	Corporal Wilson N.	17/10/38	51
2314363	Corporal Camp J. R.	17/10/38	51
2318142	Corporal Smith F. A.	17/10/38	51
2315127	Corporal Grafton J. E.	19/10/38	51
2319925	Corporal Jennings F. A.	22/10/38	52
761700	Corporal Drake F. A.	23/10/38	52
2312172	Corporal Walsh J.	25/10/38	52
2317079	Corporal Vigurs A. A.	26/10/38	52
2310775	Corporal Whenman S. G.	1/11/38	44

2315411	Corporal Bishop J. W.	1/11/38	44
2312772	Corporal Baddeley J.	1/11/38	13
2314284	Corporal Davies M. W.	7/11/38	46
2315410	Corporal Driver J. R.	7/11/38	49
2319678	Corporal Jones N.	26/11/38	49
2317229	Corporal Mohrstadt H. G. F.	28/11/38	49
2559582	Corporal Back S. W.	29/11/38	13

Promoted Corporal.

2563516	L/Corporal Ricketts T. F.	1/10/38	71
2323141	L/Corporal Balsom S. J.	1/10/38	71
2322240	L/Corporal Lane C. H.	1/10/38	71
2321350	L/Corporal Baldock L. W.	1/10/38	71
2322208	L/Corporal Lipscomb E. A. W.	1/10/38	71
2319013	L/Corporal Brooke H.	1/10/38	71
2322375	L/Corporal Alltoft L. W.	1/10/38	71
2321614	L/Corporal Sokell H.	1/10/38	71
2323448	L/Corporal Stead W.	1/10/38	72
1850582	L/Corporal Balfe T. J.	2/10/38	72
2321412	L/Corporal Warhurst J. A.	2/10/38	72
1422432	L/Corporal Bull J. R. H.	4/10/38	72
2319515	L/Corporal Gorman J. T.	6/10/38	72
2321459	L/Corporal Brickles L. R.	6/10/38	72
2321739	L/Corporal Sergeant J. E.	7/10/38	72
5047117	L/Corporal Keeling A.	7/10/38	72
2321314	L/Corporal Crouch C. G.	10/10/38	69
2318144	L/Corporal Bevan K.	15/10/38	72
2323683	L/Corporal Grainger H.	17/10/38	72
726718	L/Corporal Hodge W. R. G.	17/10/38	72
2321482	L/Corporal Davies D.	17/10/38	72
2319877	L/Corporal Moseley E. L.	17/10/38	72
2322357	L/Corporal Adam W. A.	18/10/38	72
2319941	L/Corporal Strutt E. A.	18/10/38	72
2321645	L/Corporal Evans E.	19/10/38	72
6907952	L/Corporal Cheesman W.	20/10/38	72
804053	L/Corporal Duggan J.	22/10/38	72
2322250	L/Corporal Carlyon R.	22/10/38	72
2022101	L/Corporal Husband E.	23/10/38	72
2321790	L/Corporal King A.	23/10/38	73
2320527	L/Corporal Chapman H. M.	25/10/38	73
2320048	L/Corporal Fraser H. A.	30/10/38	73
2320005	L/Corporal Percival S.	1/11/38	68
2320702	L/Corporal McCready W.	1/11/38	73
2314328	L/Corporal Yates J. T.	1/11/38	73
2322316	L/Corporal Green H.	1/11/38	73
2320256	L/Corporal Jordan J. M.	1/11/38	73
2317767	L/Corporal Carn E. A.	1/11/38	73
2318241	L/Corporal Knox D.	2/11/38	73
2322365	L/Corporal Greaves F.	7/11/38	73
2322093	L/Corporal O'Hara A.	7/11/38	73
2320229	L/Corporal Thorpe F.	11/11/38	73
2567866	L/Corporal Belton T. G.	11/11/38	73
2323556	L/Corporal Copsey H. E.	15/11/38	73
4191190	L/Corporal Williams O. J.	15/11/38	73
2324309	L/Corporal Hatcher R. A.	20/11/38	73
2323380	L/Corporal Lea L. S.	26/11/38	73
2323084	L/Corporal Pullinger C. A.	28/11/38	73
2322008	L/Corporal Terrey F. A. L.	28/11/38	73
2323319	L/Corporal Bell J.	29/11/38	73

Appointed Lance Corporal.

2317826	Signalman Shaw I.	21/6/38
2320678	Signalman Abbiss J.	21/6/38
2320573	Signalman Waite F.	21/6/38
2323700	Signalman Craig D.	21/6/38
1068470	Signalman Jones F.	21/6/38
2321084	Signalman Beech J.	21/6/38
2316209	Signalman Gear E.	21/6/38
2323449	Signalman Scott W.	21/6/38
2321880	Signalman Riggs F.	21/6/38
2318391	Signalman Garton E.	25/6/38
2322193	Signalman Adam H.	29/6/38
2323099	Signalman Richardson N.	29/6/38
2320557	Signalman Roberts W.	29/6/38
2323230	Signalman Maddison W.	1/7/38
2320526	Signalman Strong C.	1/7/38
2320768	Signalman Whitelaw E.	1/7/38
2321674	Signalman Smyth R.	1/7/38
2321884	Signalman O'Callaghan J.	1/7/38
2567135	Signalman Carter E.	1/7/38
2322335	Signalman Peck F.	1/7/38
2323045	Signalman Salisbury R.	1/7/38
2323295	Signalman Smith J.	1/7/38

Discharged.

230775	R.Q.M.S. Goodman L.	13/1/39	5
2306529	C.S.M. Woodcock N.	18/1/39	18
2311591	C.S.M. Oakes F.	23/1/39	8
*3902752	C.Q.M.S. Powles A.	23/1/39	90
*2311061	Sergeant French W.	21/12/38	93
2308488	Sergeant Cotterell W.	3/1/39	22
6909744	Sergeant Alexander A.	19/1/39	40
2318144	Corporal Bevan K.	3/1/39	72
5880738	Corporal Wright F.	16/1/39	52

Transferred to the Army Reserve.

2320912	Corporal Gosnold W.	28/12/38	52
2320169	Corporal Mills J.	8/1/39	60
2321070	Corporal Welbourne B.	13/1/39	60
2321303	Corporal Kime W.	14/1/39	59
2318913	Corporal Price J.	31/1/39	68
2320947	L/Corporal Ewer C.	3/12/38	69
2321322	L/Corporal Wright W.	8/12/38	79
2321145	L/Corporal Milligan W.	12/12/38	71
2320917	L/Corporal Hearl W.	22/12/38	67
2321135	L/Corporal Henrick G.	5/12/38	
6607720	L/Corporal Davison E.	3/1/39	
2321181	L/Corporal Tagg B.	4/1/39	77
2320998	L/Corporal Dix H.	7/1/39	70

* Special Roster.

Plain Tales.

All Boys Together.—If there were not three hundred present at the Annual Dinner of the Birmingham Branch, R.E. and R.Signals O.C.A. at the Drill Hall, Hall Green on 4th February, then the number short of that would not have made a decent fatigue party. Of course it would have been easier to say that there were nearly three hundred people and let it go at that. But no. I'll do it my own way. See ?

Sometimes I wish I had taken a course of journalism so that I could tell you all about shows like this. I am sorry I can't give you a nominal roll of those present, for I know that some of you old stagers would have spent a pleasant hour reading it. Can't you imagine dear old General Hick-Totters saying, " Cor, chase me up a gum-tree. Here's old Whatsisname still alive and going to dinners and things." Yes folks. We had with us at this grand dinner, eye-witnesses and actual participants in battles famous in history almost back to Bannockburn. Read about it under Association notes.

Correspondence.—Dear Barleux, You ought to be the President of a Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Infinitives, for your campaign against those who split these inoffensive things commands the admiration of the Split Pea Joiners Company, of which I have the honour to be Secretary. It was, therefore, with some astonishment, a little amusement, four sneers and a mocking laugh that our Committee noted your very palpable " split " in the February WIRE, page 53, column 2, line 4, under the last heading. I am asked by the Company to bring the matter to your notice and to request that you will favour us with your orders for any kind of restoration work. Good excuses, lies, alibis etc, cut to any size.

We often read Plain Tales, and one of our members recalls that he had a good laugh at something you wrote in 1926.

Yours faithfully, Angus Gorble.

P.S. I forgot to mention that our Treasurer indulged in a pitying smile.

Dear Sir, Reference your letter of 9th inst, for which I am not in the least grateful. Please convey to your lousy Committee my appreciation of their zeal in combing my contribution for blobs. It was not even a printer's error, but a cruel piece of premeditated work.

Kindly split the following and return correctly joined, to my Head Office. Swan & Hove, Brighton & Dwyer, Gin & Flowers, Hearts & Men, Edgar & It, N.C.O.s & Chips, Eggs and Allowances. If you find you have any Pay left over please don't bother to send it. Yours, with whatever respect you consider due to you, Barleux. (Clapham).

Our Dumb Friends.—I have told you so many unlikely stories on this page that I can hardly expect you to believe this one which happens to be true. A sweet young thing was dancing with one of the C.S.M.s at a Sergeants' Mess dance.

"Aren't you Colonel Blank ? " she enquired with a ravishing glance.

" Gosh. No, my dear, and never likely to be," replied the amused W.O.

" Oh. But you must be," persisted the girl. " Your name is on the invitation card."

" Let's have a look at your card," he demanded, suddenly remembering that he was a big noise on the Committee.

" There you are," said the girl, producing the card with a triumphant flourish. " By kind permission of Colonel Blank, M.C., and if you're not the M.C. who is ? "

You Tell Me.—Write and let me know your troubles, and by the seven pillows of Morpheus, I'll sort them out for you.

Q. I would like your advice about the feeding of my children. Should there be a preponderance of Vitamins A or D in their food or would you suggest an increase in proteins provided the balance recommended by the doctor is not upset. Or could they just eat ?

A. Yes. Very definitely. Or rather—wait a bit. No.

Q. My Piano accordion, for which I paid £2.11.6 seems to be rusty inside. When I want to play Roses of Picardy it sounds like a train in a tunnel. What should I do with it ?

A. Sorry. My wife says I'm not to tell you.

Q. My husband is hardly ever at home, but when he is, he throws me all over the room and jumps on his dinner. Can it be that his love grows cold ?

A. Take it easy sister. He's just a great big boy. Try going to the Garrison dances and returning at 2 a.m. This should bring things to a head. And then some.

Q. You remember when you saw my Quarters last week, you said " Blimey " and several other things ? Well I'm worried because I am due to vacate next month. If I offer the Q.M. a large Players do you think I can get away with it ?

A. Boy. If I were you I'd go to-morrow. At night.

Demented Postman Tears Tram in Halves.—Ukann Larfe passed his hand through his glistening black hair with a weary smile. " Where shall we go to-night dear ? " he said wiping his greasy hands on Hermione's evening frock. " Listen sweetie-pie," said his wife, quietly tearing a piece out of his shirt front with a powerful hand. " If you don't learn some manners, we ain't goin' no place. See ? "

" Well you're not wearing that frock to Lady Wippleticks party are you ? "

" No dear. And you're not wearing that suit to-night either," she replied. Ukann Larfe backed nervously but it was a waste of time. Even we could have told the big boob that.

Hermione placed one ham-like fist against his chest and with the other grasped his waistband. There was a dreadful tearing sound and a whimper of protest as the front of a hitherto quite good pair of evening trousers sailed across the room. There was a sharp knock on the door and a voice called, "Are you blokes ready ? "

Another competition next month. Don't miss it.

Uncle Alf. What has the heading to do with this ?

Me. I don't know and I don't care.

BARLEUX.

Correspondence.

The Editor, THE WIRE.

DEAR SIR,—May I crave a little space in the Corps Magazine to convey my salutation and best wishes to those of my Old Comrades who are still believed to be serving with Royal Signals in India and elsewhere.

During my sojourn in that country, I was privileged to serve under Colonel Torrey, Major Morse, Captain Durnan, Captain Duke, M.C., Major Warden, Captain Humphreys, Major Capel and others.

I should like particularly to obtain news of Sergeant Reynolds, R.E., Sergeant Spencer, R.A., Sergeant Holland, R.W.K., Sergeant Harpin, D.C.M., Sergeant Amey, D.C.M., Sergeant Rendell, Corporal Garrity and Corporal Oakes.

I enclose a photograph which may remind the above of some happy days.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) P. J. GREENWAY, ex-Lance Corporal,
Now Member of the Bournemouth Branch Royal Signals
Old Comrades' Association.

104 Charminster Road,
Bournemouth.

Ex-Lance Corporal P. J. Greenway.

Photograph by courtesy of Rawood Ltd.

THE ASSOCIATION OF R.E. DESPATCH RIDERS NINTH ANNUAL DINNER.
SATURDAY, 21st JANUARY, 1939.

Sailing.

By CAPTAIN R. T. HARMER, late Royal Engineers.

To those who have never tried sailing in small boats, let me assure them that it is nothing like as dull as it looks. That procession of boats following each other round a series of marks is a yacht race, but that calm with which they are surrounded is only an illusion which would be completely shattered if the conversation on board were audible. Nor do the illustrated papers, with their pictures of the Royal Yacht Squadron Lawn at Cowes and those parties on board palatial steam yachts, give any more accurate an impression of what sailing is really like. Sailing is a sport which can be made to suit a great many different tastes; from the peaceful, fine-weather cruise, where time is no object, to the strenuous International race, where seconds are of vital importance. It is a sport where dust is unknown and petrol fumes unnecessary and where nature still has the last word. In fact, the ideal recreation from this over-civilised land.

I started my interest in boats, at an early age, on the pond in the grounds of Girton College, Cambridge. From there I passed, via the stages of canvas canoes, to a canvas half-deck sailing boat, built to a horrible design in my spare time while at the "Shop." Fortunately, the war cut her trials short and by the end of it the canvas had rotted, so that I could start again with a clean sheet. I then came to live near Norwich, so that the Broads were the obvious place. Sailing on the Broads calls forth a great deal of scorn from those hardy deep-sea mariners who hate the sight of land, but had they been trained in those restricted waters they would probably have made their passages in quicker time. This may not be so important to round-the-world sailors, but it makes a lot of difference to racing of any sort. It is a fact that many of the most successful helmsmen of the younger generation have been trained on the Broads, where faults are easier to see and correct than in open waters. But after a few summers I wanted more room and determined to sail on the sea.

This is the problem which confronts all beginners in the same way: where and how to start. Yachting has developed very rapidly during the last few years and in every harbour round the coast there is some sort of fleet; most of these are either local classes of half-deck racing boats or small cruisers of every sort of design. The first thing to decide is whether to cruise or race. Time is a most important point in reaching a decision: one can race regularly every week-end or make an extended cruise lasting several weeks or months. The former tends to become monotonous and the latter is impracticable for many people.

Without the benefit of this excellent advice I did the obvious thing. There is no regular sea racing at Lowestoft, the only possible harbour for a yacht, so I bought a cruising yacht of antique vintage. This started a new series of problems: tides and navigation; unsuitable weather and sea-sickness; suitable anchorages and, I am sorry to confess it, the laws of salvage. Navigation is a fascinating study. To get from one point to another along the coasts is not that easy, carefree business that one might expect. A glance at any Pilot Guide will almost convince the beginner that the dangers are so numerous that it is hardly worth putting to sea at all. And it is the elation of defying the elements and overcoming these dangers which is half the fun of making a passage. From my training on the Broads I thought that sailing was a suitable occupation from after breakfast to tea time, but I soon found that Providence decreed otherwise. Tides run in the direction in which you wish to go for limited periods and a foul tide adds hours to the passage. The day's sail had to start when the tide dictated, which was usually about 4 a.m., and, if the wind was unkind, the time of arrival in port was hours late. Then there were days on end when no progress was possible, owing to head winds. This complicated planning a cruise very considerably, as a passage might take a matter of hours or even of weeks. But all this convinced me that there are three golden rules for cruising Never start without two competent helmsmen who can take alternate watches; never try to make an inflexible time table; and, most important of all, if you want to make a long passage, keep on going if conditions are favourable until you get there.

"Catherine" at Hanko, Oslo Fjord, 1935.

Perhaps the greatest charms of cruising are the unfrequented anchorages away from all civilisation. They can be found anywhere from the mud banks of the Thames to the Lochs on the West Coast of Scotland, where nature is at peace and your only companions are the birds. There is no sound more attractive than the bubbling of a flood tide over a mud bank or a sight so peaceful as a sunset over a deserted shore. The dinner of tinned soup, fried steak and tinned fruit has tasted better than any meal in a London restaurant, and it is a pleasure to sit in the cockpit drying the plates. That last pipe before turning in and a really sound sleep—disturbed ever so little by that grating sound from the anchor chain as the boat swings to the change of the tide. There are those long days of sailing with a light fair wind, when everything is at peace and nothing seems to matter; and those anxious moments when the wind suddenly freshens, something goes wrong, and you find yourself in a battle against the elements, culminating in that feeling of elation when you make port safely and ride quietly to anchor with the wind whistling through the rigging.

To anyone who has once fallen to the fascination of cruising there is no turning back, but limited time is a considerable obstacle. I found that cruising, however delightful, was not possible in a short week-end lasting from Saturday afternoon to Sunday night. For those living in London, conditions are rather different, as it is possible to get by train to any place on the coast from Harwich to Torquay on Saturday and return from anywhere else on Sunday evening. In places such as Norwich, returning on Sunday evening by train is almost impossible.

No one has ever been run over on the branch lines near the East Coast on a Sunday evening, although some have bumped their heads walking into the back of a train. Week-end cruising, therefore, resolved itself into keeping the boat at some convenient place, and, except for high days and holidays, going for day sails.

After a summer's cruise, I got the boat back into Harwich in August where she broke her anchor chain in a gale and blew out to sea. She was found about ten miles out by a trawler, who towed her back to Harwich. There I had the long and tedious business of clearing her from the salvage officials before taking her round to Brightlingsea to sell her.

With my enthusiasm for cruising temporarily damped I was anxious to get back to racing, where rigid time tables are possible. I had been fortunate in meeting Mr. G. F. Mitchell, the Commodore of the Royal Corinthian Yacht Club, who very kindly took me on as regular crew on his 12-metre " Noresca." A 12-metre is a yacht of some 34 tons, about 60 ft. overall length, built to a formula which should give a 12-metre waterline, actually several feet longer. She carries about 2,000 square feet of sail on a mast 90 ft. high. The normal racing crew is the owner, who usually steers, the skipper and three paid hands and two or three amateurs. This is the order of their importance. As a rule the owner lives on another yacht, leaving the 12-metre to the crew and the amateurs. This may, perhaps, sound a needless expense, until I mention that on racing days breakfast has to be finished by 8 a.m., and all personal belongings stored in suitcases on the cabin floor. In my early days of racing on the Broads a friend had said that racing resolved itself into three distinct phases : the start, the " shemozzle " and the alllocation of blame. I soon found that in a 12-metre this was inaccurate.

The crew were sufficient to do most of the necessary work and the amateurs were regarded as ullage until they could show that they were worthy of some consideration and could pull on a rope. And pulling on a rope on a 12-metre means the last ounce from a slippery and uneasy deck at a considerable angle of heel. Having gained a little knowledge from my previous errors, I was able to appreciate how the boat was handled and with Captain Ned Heard, who had a great deal of publicity last autumn as Skipper of " Endeavour I " on her return trip from America, the speed and efficiency of a well-trained crew were a pleasure to see. Every manœuvre was carried out as a pre-arranged drill, and in time I was allowed to play my part, although I must admit that my standing was never higher than that of the cook, who was regarded as the least efficient member of the crew. An ordinary race was about 28 miles, usually twice round a triangular course. After a hectic time before the start, we settled down to a long beat to windward with little for the crew to do except to adjust the sheets to the last inch ; to lie along the windward deck with an occasional flicker of spray, watching the curve of the sails and the position of the others, ready to jump to the mainsheet and pull it in a few inches and then watch the other boat slowly dropping astern. Round the mark and a dead run, setting the spinnaker with a rush, and what a pull it is to get the head 70 feet up the mast ! Up jib ! and down spinnaker ! and we come round the next mark with miles of mainsheet to pull in to get the sail trimmed. Clear up the mess, get up to windward and DON'T TALK, and away we go for the second round.

Twelve-metre seasons passed all too quickly. The evening train to the regatta, falling aboard in the middle of the night and two or three strenuous days' racing. Meals were never allowed during the race, so that with breakfast at 7.15 a.m., lunch at 4 p.m. was a meal worth waiting for ! With the added attraction that the 12-metre class races round the coast, and also at Havre and Deauville, so that no two regattas are in the same place.

All good things come to an end, and Mr. Mitchell sold " Noresca, so I had to look out for new pastures. I had been joined on " Noresca " by Chris Boardman, who had already made his name on the Broads as a helmsman, as the other amateur crew. After two seasons cruising on the West Coast of Scotland, that yachtsman's paradise if only they would learn what a warm day is, he bought a one-design at Burnham-on-Crouch. I crewed him whenever I could and we usually managed to win and, under the eye of the Commodore, we were soon in

" Lalage."

the 6-metre class. A 6-metre is roughly half the length of a 12-metre ; a half-deck boat with no cabin, carrying a racing crew of four originally, but of five in recent years.

Our first season's experience in " 6 "s were the British and American Cup races on the Solent in 1932. The English team of four boats was supposed to be organised from Cowes, but, unfortunately, they only had one " 6 " racing that year. Three boats from Burnham and one from the Clyde came down for the trial races on the understanding that the Burnham boats were available for any Solent helmsman and crews if required. At the last moment the three Burnham boats and the Clyde boat were selected, but the Solent declined to produce any crews. As a result, we had to race with scratch crews as best we could. To add to our troubles, the Americans had brought over a new outsize spinnaker, known as a bell tent, which we had not previously used. Ours were ordered and arrived on the morning of the first race. I was in the Commodore's boat. The others were the skipper from Burnham and a paid hand from the Solent. We had never crewed together before and in the first race we did nothing right and never got the new spinnaker set at all. It never did set without a large knot in each corner and then it looked like a haystack cover. The other Burnham boats fared equally badly, and only the Clyde boat could attack our opponents. I need hardly add that the Americans won the four races with the greatest of ease.

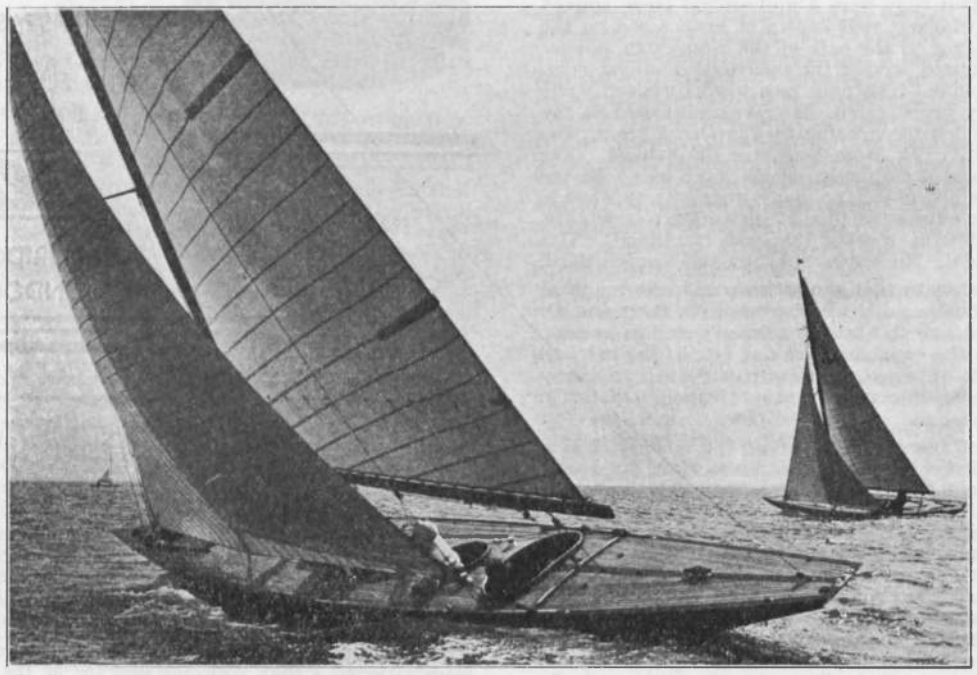
We went back to Burnham feeling that something had to be done about it. The best we had been able to do was to put up a show which would disgrace a junior's race, and we knew we could do better. In 1933, therefore, under the Commodore's watchful eye, we formed a syndicate with Chris Boardman as

helmsman, had the best of the Burnham " 6 "s re-rigged by Uffa Fox, and started serious training for the Scandinavian Gold Cup races, to be held at Hanko on the Oslo Fjord at the end of June. This is generally regarded as the Blue Riband of 6-metre racing and the 6-metre class in Scandinavia is considered the best racing class. The conditions of the races are that one boat only from each country can enter and that the crews must be amateurs only. The first boat to win three times is the winner, but any boat which does not win in the first three days cannot take any further part.

We started off in high hopes from Newcastle, with our boat on deck, and spent a strenuous crossing to Oslo polishing her bottom. After a week spent in tuning up we were ready to start racing against our five competitors, and it gave us a thrill to see the Union Jack stitched into our sail to assist the spectators, of whom there were a large number, to distinguish one boat from another. At the end of three races, Sweden had won the first, we had won the second and Norway the third. We managed to win one more race, but Sweden won the series and the cup. We had done much better than we expected and had learnt a lot. Our boat was not quite fast enough, our winches and other mechanical gadgets were poor and our crewing wanted polishing up.

1934 was a blank year, as the rest of the crew went to America in " Endeavour I." As I had some work to do, I had to stay behind. In 1935, Charles Leaf, who was one of the syndicate, ordered a new 6-metre " Catherine," to be based on our previous experience. Interest in the class at Burnham had increased considerably, and we had some keen preliminary racing before being chosen to go to Oslo again as the English representative for the Scandinavian Gold Cup. The new boat, by Charles Nicholson, the designer of the " Endeavours," was not altogether to our liking, but we had done all we could to improve the gear, though many particulars had been left to the designer. Crews in the class had been increased to five, so we set out with five amateurs and a paid hand to look after the boat. The results were disappointing. " Catherine " had proved herself to be an excellent heavy weather boat, but in the light airs we had she was no match for her competitors.

I dropped out of the syndicate then and the others ordered a new boat, " Lalage," in 1936, from Nicholson, to be designed for the Olympic Sailing Races at Kiel, which were being held in August. I remained technical advisor for " gadgets," some of my efforts having proved successful previously. The deck plan and all fittings were designed by the syndicate and every detail was thoroughly debated. I went down to Gosport in the early spring to find a 6-metre designed for really efficient handling. Crewing difficulties arose in the early races and I soon found myself back in my old position, in time for the nine eliminating races. Three other boats competed, each with an experienced amateur crew, but by winning the first three races we were well on the way to being chosen for Kiel. After we had been selected we settled down to some really serious crewing. The old pretence that we were doing this for amusement was given up and each member of the crew had his number and written instructions for all manœuvres. We raced on Saturdays and practised on Sundays until the middle of June, when " Lalage " went up to the Clyde for another series of British-American cup team races, which we regarded as a trial run. I went up for the eliminating races, when we had the satisfaction of winning our first race against our eleven Scottish competitors. Unfortunately, I had to leave " Lalage " after she had been selected for the team, my place being taken by a paid hand, but I derived considerable satisfaction in seeing in the papers that she was the most successful of the British team. The Americans won again, although not by any means so easily as they had in 1932.



" Lalage."

" Lalage " was then shipped to Kiel, where we joined her about a week before the first race. There were twelve nations represented and a series of seven races was arranged. The winner was to be the boat which scored the highest number of points, a win counting 12, a second 11, and so on. The races were sailed in Kiel Bay and the organisation was largely in the hands of the German Navy. Everything was worked out to the last detail. All shipping was stopped during the races, a considerable matter, as it blocked the Kiel Canal and sightseers in steamers or yachts were carefully kept from getting in our way. We were allotted a tug to tow us out to the start, a distance of about eight miles, but, should she fail, any naval boat would stop and give us a tow. Books of instructions, printed in several languages, were issued to all competitors. Races started at 10.30 a.m., but we had to be ready to tow out by 9 a.m., which meant getting on board soon after 8 a.m.

The races were keenly contested, but were marred by an unforeseen defect in the system of scoring. It paid very much better to get your rival disqualified, when she lost all her points for the day, than merely to beat her, when she scored only one point less. Norway and Sweden, always deadly rivals, had a collision the first day and the Norwegian boat was disqualified. By coming in second and third in the first two days we were first, equal with Sweden in points. The third race was not a sailing race, but illustrated that true sporting spirit which is so apt to mar International events. Suffice it to say that the Swedish, German, Dutch and Polish boats were disqualified, and we only just managed to keep out of it. This made the Swiss boat, originally a Swedish light-weather crack, our most dangerous rival, and we devoted a lot of attention to her, with success when there was a good breeze, but not in light weather. In the meantime, Norway had been doing well and in the last race we were only just beaten by Norway with the Swiss boat well down the list.

This put us first equal with Norway and Switzerland and a final was arranged for the following day. In the meantime, there had been a lot of discussion on shore. The Swiss crew never talked to the others, who mixed freely between the battles and rumour stated that they were a professional crew, trained by their helmsman, who was well known in France and on the Riviera. When this got to the ears of the Norwegian skipper he immediately protested, giving the overworked sailing committee still more trouble. The final race was postponed while the matter was fully investigated. We were awakened in the early hours of the following morning by the Dutch team, who had heard the result. The Swiss boat was disqualified. The points were rearranged accordingly, which gave us 67 to the Norwegian's 66. We had heard too many rumours and went to sleep again, declining our Dutch friends' invitation to celebrate, but after another day of waiting this was confirmed. This gave us the Gold Medal. Norway was second and Sweden third.

It was most unfortunate that the series was spoilt by these protests. The best boats and the best crews were there and we owed our success as much to Chris Broadman's skill in keeping out of trouble as to the capabilities of our boat. But we had been able to compete on equal terms with our rivals in a way that had not been possible in any other British 6-metre in recent years.

To those who want International racing, the 6-metre class is in a class by itself; but, where every detail is so vital, the would-be owner must be prepared to write out as many blank cheques as are required. "Lalage's" sails cost over £400, in addition to the cost of shipping her from one place to another, upkeep, etc., and the enormously heavy depreciation, a second-hand "6" being worth little more than a third of her cost of £1,200. Nevertheless, new "6"s are built every year and many of them aspire to International honours. In other International classes the cost is in proportion, with national classes somewhat cheaper, and one-designs a quarter the price. One-design racing has a lot to recommend it, in that all the boats are theoretically equal and success or failure depends only on the helmsman and crew.

Perhaps the most important development in racing in recent years has been in ocean racing. Here boats of widely different designs can meet on terms of comparative equality in long races of several hundred miles. So many extra considerations have to be taken into account that the chance of winning does not depend only on the actual sailing. A few years ago, when the Fastnet Race, a distance of some 600 miles, was first started it was very much discouraged by the class racing experts. They considered that, if really bad weather conditions were encountered, there would be a heavy casualty list and that the risks were not justified. Time has shown, however, that the well-found, well-handled yacht of suitable size can stand any normal summer conditions and the sport has continued to flourish. This year there are numerous events in the Channel, the North Sea and the Baltic, which cater for all possible tastes. And in these classes a yacht can be as suitable for cruising as for racing, which does not apply to ordinary racing yachts.

To those who have never tried it: "Go for a sail." If you like it, keep on going until you know something about it, and then launch out on your own. There is no retiring age, no limit to your scope and no restrictions due to politics or civilisation!

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Toc H.

Its Background and Its Aims.—Toc H was born during the Great War in Talbot House, Poperinghe, a small town about seven miles west of Ypres. It was a unique club, or rest house, founded by an Army Chaplain, the Rev. P. B. Clayton, in December, 1915. The name Talbot House, so named to commemorate a young officer of the Rifle Brigade killed in July, 1915, was shortened by general Army usage into "Toc H."

Field-Marshal the Earl of Cavan has written of it: "I can say from experience that Welcome met me at the door, Happiness lived within, and the Peace that passeth understanding could be found by those who sought it, in the Upper Room."

The House developed a fine and happy spirit of comradeship and service, while inspiration and fresh courage came from the Chapel or Upper Room (the old loft at the top of the House), and the personality of its Padre who used it as a way to reconcile man with God and man with man.

Following the War, many of those who had known and appreciated Talbot House came to miss its happy spirit of friendship and warmth of welcome and sought for something in civil life of the same kind, where they could forget the pre-War and post-War prejudices and divisions. As a result in 1920 Toc H was reborn. Though started by ex-Service men they realised that were it confined to such it would fade away, as they would fade away. Thus it opened its doors to young men of sixteen years and upwards so that to-day the average age of its membership the world over is probably in the late twenties, and the percentage of ex-Service members decreases year by year. Apart from its Houses, as a rule it has no permanent quarters but is divided into Branches and Groups and is in no sense a Service Club. On the other hand personal service of every description for the welfare of others, both individual and corporate, is required of its members who are pledged to endeavour to deal with the problems of life in the spirit of simple Christianity. Toc H has no material advan-

tages to offer to its membership and in no sense is it a secret society. Its meetings are open to all comers who are always welcome.

Toc H endeavours to contribute in the following ways, among others, to the enrichment of the life of the community in general :

By surmounting barriers of denomination, class, and party interests, it brings men of all different types together in active work towards a common goal. It is not a society for the furthering of any one set of opinions, but endeavours, with a great measure of success, to prove that men can differ widely on many things and can yet live and work together happily and to their mutual advantage.

By re-asserting the truth that neither a man's life nor his value to society consists in the abundance of his possessions, and affirming that the worth of the individual to the community should be estimated by character rather than by possessions, by being and doing rather than by merely having.

By developing a body of public opinion free from prejudice so that party contests would no longer be fought on a basis of personalities and prejudices, but would be debated on a basis of principles and issues.

By developing the initiative of the individual in all his relationships and stimulating freedom of expression in his thinking, thus encouraging every man to make his contribution to the common life in a spirit of self-sacrifice rather than of self-glorification.

Toc H and the Services.—In order to dispel any possible misunderstanding it would be, perhaps, well to quote a letter, issued by the Army Council in February, 1930, reading as follows :

" It has been represented to the Army Council by Field-Marshal Viscount Plumer and the Reverend P. B. Clayton, in an interview which took place on the 29th January, 1930, between the above-mentioned and the Chief of the Imperial General Staff and the Adjutant General to the Forces, that an impression has got abroad that officers and men of the Army are, by reason of their profession, cut off from active membership of Toc H. It may be as well, therefore, to state here, quite distinctly, that there is nothing either in the obligations of an Army career or the membership of Toc H which are antagonistic. Quite the reverse. Toc H was born of the Army in War, and there is no reason why officers and men should not exercise, should they so desire, full membership in peace as they did during the War. Nor is there any more reason why an officer who is a member of Toc H should not meet a private soldier who is also a member of Toc H in the course of their activities in connection with the fellowship, than there is that he should not play football, cricket, or any other game that is, as is well known, played by officers and other ranks in their ordinary everyday regimental life.

" The Army Council feel that it would be unfortunate indeed if the present ignorance of the aims and objects of Toc H were perpetuated by its parent, the British Army, and wish it to be understood that, for their part, they desire once and for all to state that there is nothing in the constitution of either to prevent officers and other ranks of the Army from becoming members of Toc H. Those members of Toc H who joined that fellowship when at school—as so many do—may carry on their membership throughout their Army career, and others may join without any misgivings.

" It will be kind of you if you will cause the contents of this letter to be made known, in such manner as seems best to you, to all Os.C. Units in your Command."

The following extracts from a talk given recently by a senior officer at a meeting of Toc H Service members is as good a way as any of explaining what Toc H is out to do and does, and its relationship with the Services :

" There is still a great deal of misunderstanding of the purpose of Toc H in the Army as elsewhere. This is due partly to the difficulty of explaining it, and there is no doubt that we are very bad at the business ourselves ; it is a matter we should remedy. I have been asked why it was necessary to form yet another society, when there were so many others doing precisely the same work ; whether Toc H was not a Secret Society and whether it didn't consist of community singing, back slapping, and lamp lighting of sorts. I will only say briefly that Toc H is not just a body of people that meet to spend cheerful evenings and help its members with grants, excellent as that is, nor is it a Secret Society, for the greater the publicity and number of visitors, the better we are pleased. Nor is it an exclusive group within a group, setting up divisions and antagonisms.

" Toc H is a way of living ; the way of friendliness and helpfulness ; of forgetfulness of self, as opposed to self seeking ; of giving instead of getting. To quote His Majesty's message to a recent Toc H Festival : ' I am confident that in the coming year you will spare no effort to cultivate among your fellows the spirit of mutual understanding and voluntary service, which it is the aim of Toc H to apply to the urgent problems of the day.'

" I believe it is only necessary to say that, to realise the crying need for such a leavening in the world to-day ; and this brings me to the crux of the matter—THE INDIVIDUAL. As I see it, this is the great problem of modern life. We live and work and play in great masses and there is an inevitable tendency for the individual to be lost in the crowd and there to be subjected to every kind of influence in the shape of newspapers, wireless, and cinemas. Moreover, the discoveries of science have raised the standard of living and increased demands of all kinds ; unfortunately they have also in many cases emphasised differences, created jealousies and discontent. We need to get back to a recognition of what Lord Baldwin calls ' the essential dignity of the individual human soul,' and to see men as ends and no longer as means. There is a great deal of loneliness among us to-day, and want of friendship. There is also a need for an opportunity to express good nature. Numbers of men and women are looking for a purpose in life, an opportunity of self expression that will satisfy. The answer can only come in service, all other satisfactions will run like sand out of one's hand ; but service in which self is forgotten, service to the community, friendship to the individual, these are ways to lasting happiness. It is these demands which Toc H exists to fill. We do not set out to make everyone around us members of Toc H, our attempt is to help men to becomes themselves. The Toc H spirit is that of friendliness and the desire to help, and within the organisation the opportunity for service will be found and the way to go about it learned. It is whole men that are needed to-day ; Toc H has always helped to develop and satisfy the mental and spiritual sides of men's make up and I was very glad to see recently that attention is being paid to the physical side ; for a whole man must be healthy, sane, and spiritually minded. Toc H, too, makes men think and express themselves ; for unless men think for themselves they will become mere units.

" I have tried to explain what it is, as I see it, that Toc H exists for ; and now I want to return to the Army for a bit. In the light of what I have just said, is Toc H desirable among individuals in the Army ? Is it good that there should be a leavening of men of high ideals, friendly outlook, and the desire to be of service ? I have heard it said that such men are to be found in the Service anyhow, and that Toc H is unnecessary. The first part of that statement is fortunately true, but the second part is a fallacy, for without some centre a unity with others of like spirit and the encouragement and help that Toc H provides, the ideals and feelings will remain undeveloped and ineffective. I should not be here to-night did I not feel, and had I not felt for many years, that Toc H is of the greatest benefit to the Army. It helps to provide men with a whole and satisfying life, to give them an absorbing interest outside their daily work, to teach them to forget themselves and instead to help others. In the Army we live very close together, in large numbers, and there is a large proportion of very young men. It is not always easy to encourage the individual to feel that, in the Army too, men are not merely means, but matter in themselves. The Toc H man will be on the look-out to lend a hand to some of those who seem unhappy, out of place, and discontented, there is his chance of showing friendliness. He himself will accept all hardship and misfortune cheerfully and will give himself wholeheartedly to his work, this because he is a whole man and can do no other than put every ounce into it. Wherever he goes he will have the community of men of like mind, in many of the places he visits, and he will be given the opportunity of serving the community and learning about them and making friends. The better a man understands Toc H the better he will be at his job. In my mind the Army and Toc H are admirably matched, both are world wide, both deal with men.

" So I think it is very clear that Toc H is a very real help to us. Now what should be the special part that Army Toc H can play, clearly we cannot do all that civilian members can, but we

have our own task, and that is to bring encouragement and help to Toc H men all over the world, to show the Toc H spirit of friendliness, of giving instead of getting, wherever we go. In distant places it is not always easy to keep the interest alive and the spirit bright, we can refresh them, remind them of the underlying ideals, give them news of doings at home, and renew their determination.

" To Army members I would say this : unless Toc. H is to be regarded as just another Society, you must make it your business to show that there is something quite distinctive about it. This you will do by the way you go about your daily life. Don't make special efforts to rope in other people, but let them see that you have something they lack, something desirable. That something will be happiness.

" If there should be any here who are hesitating as to joining Toc H I would suggest that the first thing is really to understand it, then make up your mind as a private individual, deciding what you can and what you cannot do, remembering always that your first loyalty is to your Service. If you then feel you can give enough to justify your joining, do so, but avoid, like the plague, situations in which you feel unnatural. Remember, too, that the really important thing from the Toc H point of view is the right spirit rather than the performance of specific jobs.

" I believe we have now reached a stage in which in most large towns, in many smaller ones, and in villages in Great Britain and throughout the Empire it is Toc H to which people naturally turn for help and man power in all sorts of needs. If this is to continue to spread and be the leavening it should be, we must have enthusiasm and thought and study and, above all, practice."

In conclusion, although Toc H Units are not as a rule allowed in stations or barracks, Toc H Headquarters will be very glad to put those interested into touch with the local Unit nearest to their station and to give every possible information. Enquiries should be made of : The Secretaries for the Services, " H.Q." Toc H, 47, Francis Street, London, S.W.1.

P. A. S.

[Readers may like to know that General Sir C. H. Harington, G.C.B., G.B.E., D.S.O., D.C.L., the President of the Association, is also the military representative in the Councils of Toc H.—ED.]

Signal Unit, Glasgow University O.T.C.

Headquarters, University Avenue, Glasgow, W.2.

13th February.

The recent increase to the volume of our stores set us the problem of either dispensing with our P.S.I. or finding him a new office. Until now, we have had an office-store, or store-office, according to circumstances, but we now find ourselves with : Stores, full, 1 ; P.S.I.s, homeless or officeless, 1 ; Desks, P.S.I.'s, for the use of in office, 1.

Now if we got rid of the P.S.I. we were still going to have " Desks, 1 " lying idle in H.Q., and since it is against all principles and practices to have anything idle in H.Q., we had to find a use for the desk.

Since it would be a flagrant breach of Army discipline to have anyone but a P.S.I. use a " Desk, P.S.I.'s, for the use of in office," and furthermore to have him use it anywhere else but in an office, we have been compelled : (1) to keep our P.S.I., (2) to find an office for him. The first we accomplished by promising the second, and the second by transferring the " Desks, P.S.I.'s, for the use of in office," into the one-time " Officers' Room—sometime Lecture Room."

I usually seek the quiet, retired life, but I simply must be in H.Q. when the officers want to have a conference, our P.S.I. wants to do some important official work, and the Infantry Unit want to have a lecture, all at the same time.

Although we have managed to keep our P.S.I., we have lost three valuable Officer Cadets this month : Sergeant Rutherford leaves shortly for India, Lance Corporal Buchanan T. for Portsmouth, and Lance Corporal Rennie W. M. O. starts his duties as an officer in the S.R. in the near future. We wish them the best of luck in their new activities, and thank them for the valuable services they have rendered to the Unit in the past.

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We extend our congratulations to Corporal Buchanan R. A. on his promotion to that rank.

Through the efforts of our C.S.M., operating parades have now been arranged for three days a week, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 12 noon. With this extra practice, and indeed the only practice during this term, some of the slower operators are making rapid progress.

The evening of the 17th will see the heavy boot discarded for the glace slipper ; the warlike skirl of the pipes will be replaced by the rhythmic beat of tom-toms, to which the members of the O.T.C. and their fair companions will dance.

If the sale of tickets can be quoted as an authority, the attendance at the dance should be a good one.

STONE AGE.

Golf.

The Royal Signals Annual Golf Meeting will be held at the Berkshire Club, near Ascot, on Wednesday and Thursday, 19th and 20th April, 1939.

FIRST DAY.—Royal Signals Championship and Royal Signals Handicap, both events played concurrently over 36 holes.

SECOND DAY.—18 holes Bogey Singles in the morning, and 18 holes Bogey Foursomes in the afternoon. Both events off handicap.

All events, except the Royal Signals Championship, are open to serving and retired Royal Signals officers of the Regular and Territorial Armies and the Supplementary Reserve.

Post entries will be accepted, but it would be of assistance if those intending to compete would notify Major H. S. Lewis Barclay, 4th Divisional Signals, Canterbury.

H. S. LEWIS BARCLAY, Major, Royal Signals,
Captain of Royal Signals Golf.

HOME STATIONS

SIGNAL TRAINING CENTRE NOTES

School of Signals.

16th February.

The old dread at the thought of the early-morning dip in cold water has at last been banished, and the addition of hot water geysers in all annexes is heartily welcomed by all. One bright lad, who was told that the Unit was being equipped with geysers, said, " I'm buying myself out, I only joined up to get rid of one old ' geyser.' " We are next introducing a new " Schoolex " shaving cream. No razor, no soap, no water, no brush, no shave, no nothing.

We have said good-bye to No. 36 "Q" Course, and extended the welcome hand to No. 39. No. 90 T.A. Signalling Course disperses on Saturday, 18th February. No. 126 R.S.I. Course assembles on 28th February, and then our troubles will begin in earnest. As our new clerk remarked, " This School would be the ideal place, if it wasn't for these confounded Courses."

Whilst on the subject of clerks, Who hoisted himself up the flag-pole in place of the flag ? On his return to terra-firma he was heard to remark, "Ah, yes, but that was a mistake." Our friend Signalman Todd then had to perform a monkey-up-the-stick act to retrieve the rope. Bravo, Toddy, but I don't think the whitewash improved the khaki.

Another bright chappie has just submitted an application to be " granted permission to have a provisional driving licence in order that I may have experience of traffic accidents." Stout fella !

We are about to suffer a great loss owing to the departure of " Square Four " Soapy Hudson (Lance Sergeant) on Wednesday, 15th February, on his posting to "A" Corps Signals. Their gain is our loss. Men of "A" Corps, beware ! That 1,000 c.c. B.M.W. is on its way, complete with " Soapy " and city-de-luxe incinerator. Yes, our public gripper No. 1 has left the " grip tin " for the next-in-line who, we think, is Signalman Hallett R. When Bob isn't " gripping," he is " holding."

Another departure, on Monday, 20th February, is Signalman Mackinnon, who leaves us for "A" Corps Signals, Aldershot. We wish you all the best in your new home, Mac. !

We extend a welcome hand to Signalmen Barrett, Brown, Hassett and Corporal Newton, our new Draughtsman. We hope that they will find life quiet and happy here.

We are glad to announce that Lance Corporal Hodgson is back from hospital, and is at present enjoying a month's leave.

Things We Want to Know.—Who went around the Company in search of a box of " volts " ?

Same chappie asked the Draughtsman for a box of " straight lines " !

Jews' Mail.—To " Fudge," Training Battalion. " Did I hear a furtive clink from the ' Hammer and Sickle' " ?

To " Cookie," " F " Company, Training Battalion. " Come down and fetch that ' can ' back."

POOPDECK, S.O.S.

"A" Company, Depot Battalion.

14th February.

Once again a new scribe takes up the reins which have been so well handled in the past by Lance Corporal McLeod. The position of a reporter for the WIRE calls for much hard work. Now that I am having my first taste of writing these notes, I can quite see how my late partner obtained that worried look each month when the notes were due.

With the new system in force, and 5th Divisional Signals taking the greater part of our recruits, we are still unable to start many Squads at odd week intervals. The latest additions to the Square are : No. 2 Squad on 9th January, Lance Sergeant Theobald (2nd Battalion, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment) ; No. 3 Squad on 23rd January, Corporal Balderstone G. (2nd Battalion, Lancashire Fusiliers) ; No. 4 Squad on 23rd January, Sergeant James (Lincolnshire Regiment) ; No. 5 Squad on 6th February, Corporal Carr (Royal Corps of Signals).

We trust that all these new Squads will enjoy their eleven weeks of training, which means so much to them in future.

Recruits—Increase in Weight.—The following Squads finished their recruit training with increased weights as shown :

16th January :

	Average Weight.		Highest Individual Weight.	
No. 42 Squad	9.1	lbs.	Driver(I.C.) Simpson H.	19 lbs.
,, 43 ,,	8.6	,,	Signalman Dixon J. ..	15 ,,
,, 44 ,,	7.5	,,	Driver (I.C.) Ashley N.	14 ,,
,, 45 ,,	8.22	,,	Signalman Templeton W.	19 ,,

30th January :

No. 46 Squad	6.6	lbs.	Signalman Humphreys..	13 lbs.

There have been many arrivals and departures, and we wish all concerned a happy stay at their new stations.

The following are soon to leave us for service overseas: Lance Sergeants Pike, Chidgey and Voice, Corporals McGuigan and Edmunds and Signalman Ryan. All have our best wishes for a *bon voyage* and a happy sojourn in their new country.

Corporals' Mess.—There has been much activity in the Mess in the way of indoor games tournaments and smokers. There is not much first-hand information to hand about these events, but we hope to be well informed by the time the next notes are due.

THREES.

Sergeants' Mess, Depot Battalion.

This month we have said good-bye to our famous " gun man," Armourer Staff-Sergeant Hallett (my word, that seems a lot of rank, Bill), who has at last obtained his heart's delight, for he has been posted to other climes. A smoker to him and all our other departing N.C.O.s was held in the Mess, and a very enjoyable evening was spent by all. Like Jonah, after many temptations, he is leaving us a single man. We have our doubts about our third bachelor, who also sails soon, and propose to keep an eye on the local papers for a while. He is well known to the Gas and Musketry Staff. We all hope that Corporal MacGuigan will keep an eye on him as far as Meerut at least.

To Jonah (India). " What price two hard-boiled eggs ? "

C.Q.M.S. Watmore, who returned from hospital, was greeted with a warning for Egypt and twenty-eight days' leave. We are convinced that his stay in hospital must have done him a world of good, as his speed in moving round the lines has increased tremendously. We hear that he is seriously thinking of challenging Sydney Wooderson in the near future.

Arrivals.—We welcome Armourer-Sergeant Wray in relief of Armourer Staff-Sergeant Hallett, and hope that his stay in Catterick may be a happy one. The first three years is always the worst !

Special Note.—
Now that I have plenty of time,
Allow me once more to burst into rhyme—
And offer a toast, although only in water,
To Captain and Mrs. Goodeve-Docker on the birth of a daughter.

THREES.

Headquarters, Training Battalion.

15th February.

During the past month we said farewell to Mr. R. R. Ricketts, our Bandmaster, who has retired after thirteen years' service.

Before leaving the S.T.C., Mr. Ricketts conducted the Band in the Officers' Mess. After the port has been handed round, he came into the dining room, and the Commandant proposed the toast " Mr. Ricketts," which was drunk to the strains of " For he's a jolly good fellow."

The Commandant then thanked him on behalf of all members of the Corps for his past services and made the following presentations to him : a signed portrait of H.R.H. The Princess Royal, our Colonel-in-Chief, together with a letter of appreciation from the Lady-in-Waiting ; a cheque ; . and a framed photograph of the Band in a case which had been made in the Carpenters' Shop.

Mr. Ricketts, in an extremely good speech, thanked the donors for their gifts, and said how sorry he was to leave the Band after being with it so long. He also recommended to us the new Bandmaster, Mr. Hibbert. Mr. Hibbert than took over the Band and conducted the after-dinner music.

Later in the evening, Mr. Ricketts was taken home to the accompaniment of further cheers and another " For he's a jolly good fellow." We join in wishing Mr. Ricketts the best of happiness and luck in his new life, and also welcome Mr. Hibbert, hoping that his stay with us will be long and pleasant.

Sport in the Battalion has again been curtailed by the Catterick summer (?) weather. Very few games have taken place since the latter part of December, but we are hoping to get up to date with our fixtures very soon now.

Captain J. D. L. Morris, Officer i/c Workshops.

"D" Company, Training Battalion.

February.

Under the spreading Chestnut Tree
Ack Pip Beer doth stand,
With sheets of paper on his knee
And microphone in his hand.

With this signature tune your spitfire and up-to-the-minute scandal-monger comes to you by the courtesy of Murdoch and Askey's famous cleansing fluid "Askeytoff " (will take it off). Once again we halt the busy traffic of Vimy Lines in order to bring to you, etc. etc.

We congratulate Lieutenant-Colonel R. Sutton-Pratt, O.B.E., on being appointed to that rank for the tenure of his appointment as British Military Attache at Stockholm. If you read this, sir, we should like you to know that we follow your career with the greatest of interest.

Our next big news item is the discharge of C.S.M. " Bill " Holmes. Sergeant-Major Holmes had completed about twenty-five years' service when he left us for " Half-Civvy Street." He is now the Lieutenant (Quartermaster) to a Royal Signals Territorial Unit in Liverpool. For a quarter of a century he has served the Colours and, during that time, made many friends. There are many N.C.O.s in the Corps who were in his Squads in the Depot Battalion, and he is known in many parts of the Empire. We wish him health and happiness for the future, and his name will go down in the annals of " Doncoy " as a splendid S.M.

Signalman Breslow was transferred to the " Civvy Street Light Infantry " on compassionate grounds, and we wish him all the best for the future. Prematurely transferred to the Army Reserve, Signalman Jones I. A. followed the road taken by Breslow. In view of the fact that there are so many Joneses in the Corps, this one happens to be the one who played the part of the heroine in a play produced at Vimy Lines Canteen about 2½ years ago.

Calling all " Blue Book " fiends ! Congratulations to Sergeant Frey and Corporal Harrod (formerly 5th Divisional Signals) on their promotion to the ranks stated.

Ding, dong, ding, dong ! Wedding bells were ringing at Bradford, Yorkshire, on 28th January, for Corporal Yeadon and Miss Edith May Burdett. Ding, dong ! Signalman Bartlett G. has proceeded on furlough for the purpose of getting married. He had not yet returned, so we are unable to give readers any details of the wedding. Health, wealth and happiness to both of them.

We welcome Lance Sergeant Morton from 3rd Divisional Signals ; Lance Sergeant " Tiny " Moore from Mobile Divisional Signals ; Corporal Ashford from India ; and Lance Corporal Horstead from 2nd Divisional Signals. May their stay with our happy throng be a happy one.

It will be difficult to give all the names of our departures this month, but we have said good-bye to twenty-one Linemen, Group " E," who left us in order to complete their training with 1st A.A. Brigade Signals, and also to seven Clerks who have joined 2nd Divisional Signals to be initiated into the Honourable Society of Black Coaters. Nark it, mate ! Shut up, Sheshil !

A troopship was leaving Bombay—sorry, this one is going in the opposite direction, and the following passengers are on board : Sergeant Ashford, Lance Sergeant Routledge, Corporals Dicks R. and Yeadon. Bon voyage !

Now we take our roving microphone over to the Concert Hall to hear the Variety. First of all we should like to burst forth into some verse, provided by one of our " E.S." recruits. He calls his poem " Wreck We 'Em," or " Unwept, Unhonoured and Unsung."

BEGONE D . . . D SPURS.

Begone darned spurs,
Begone you loathsome trapping !
No more I'll hear your steely clank
Around my ankles flapping.

What fiendish ingenuity,
Designed your hateful nicks,
And little curves and crannies where
The red rust sticks.

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The sword of Damocles that hung
Above his trembling mop—
Had nothing on the pair of spurs
That fouled my locker top.

On many a night before a " Kit,"
My fingers were covered in blood ;
And what reward did I receive ?
They made me " basha da spud."

But now, the gods be praised for this,
To Hades you've gone, by heck ;
And Quarter Blokes will cuss and cuss,
You're just another thing to check.

Well, playmates, we think Signalman Abbott W. deserves a big hand for this effort. He has certainly voiced our thoughts in this poem. Thanks, Wally !

Now we come to our great feature, " Mr. Munchin Wants to Know " ; but this month, for a change, we are going to ask him a question. Here he comes with his old cart weighed down with Army books and forms, fullerphones and other rubbish.

" Mr. Munchin, as A.R.P. has been in the news so much recently, will you give us your opinion of the Spanish situation ? "

"Anything to owblige. That's me orl owver, chums. It's like this 'ere. Franco is really licked. He's wasted all this time, and he has not got the chief thing. You see, the Spanish Government have a paper signed by Alfonso saying that Spain belongs to them. If they give this paper to Franco, Hitler and " Musso " will start to kick up a row. " Neville " and his umbrella will do a bit more touring and, eventually, Anthony Eden will be called in to declare war on Hitler, " Musso " and Franco. I'm no Lloyd George, but that's how it will work."

" Thank you, Mr. Munchin. You are a great help to us, and we appreciate it."

We have only time for one stop with the roving microphone, and this time the Outdoor Broadcasting Department decides to take a hand. Two N.C.O.s are standing at the notice board reading Orders and behind them is a recruit. One of the N.C.O.s turns to his Mess friend.

N.C.O. : " I don't know, Jim, the recruits these days are not what they were like when I joined up."

Recruit : " That's it ; they were not so particular then.

N.C.O. : ! ! !

Lastly, we come to our Puzzle Corner. Which person asked for a file to file away the window frame because the piece of glass was too big ? No prizes are offered for correct or incorrect answers. Send your solutions to " Phil Munchin, Broadcasting Mansions, Radio Catterique," and mark them in the top left-hand corner " Milk Waggon."

ACK PIP BEER.

"E" Company, Training Battalion.

7th February.

A hearty welcome is extended to Major W. H. N. Dent, M.B.E., Royal Signals, who has assumed command of the Company.

Social.—About ninety members of the Company took advantage of the organised outing to Leeds on Saturday, 21st January. A start was made at 10 a.m. and, proceeding by road, we reached our destination well in time to witness the thrilling Cup match between Leeds and Huddersfield. Despite grey skies and weather that tried to damp our spirits, all had a jolly time. Thanks are due to Corporal Burton, who worked so hard to make this trip such a success.

Sport.—As usual at this time of the year, the Catterick climate has played havoc with our sports grounds, and has somewhat curtailed our activities, but we have managed to get in a few Inter-Squad games of football. There are also some real netball enthusiasts and, recently, we have formed an Inter-Squad Competition.

In connection with our recreational training and on account of the climatic conditions prevailing, we have also done quite a lot of hiking. It is a jolly and happy pastime and marching along the Yorkshire country lanes to the sound of lusty singing voices (shades of No. 73 Squad) is most exhilarating.

Quite a good number are concentrating on indoor games, and there are a few aspirants for the Army Billiards Championship. We also hear of one bungalow where the occupants have formed a regular chess club.

Just as we go to press, we have played " D " Company at football in the Garrison Cup, beating them 4—2 (Lance Corporal Craig J. performed the hat trick).

Arrivals.—The Company has been strengthened by the arrival of Sergeant Scott A. and Lance Sergeant Thomas P. from India. We trust their stay with us will be a happy one.

Departures.—Sergeant Waight T. has left us to join 5th A.A. Divisional Signals (T.A.), Reading. Signalman Smith A. W. to G.T.C., Handsworth, Birmingham, on a Vocational Training Course. Signalmen Birtles N., Cheney G. and Bland L. have proceeded to " Civvy Street " on transfer to the Army Reserve. We wish them all the best of luck in their new activities.

Promotions and Appointments.—Hearty congratulations to Sergeant Scott A., Lance Sergeant Thomas P., Corporals Baker H. W. and Lavelle W. There are quite a number of others who are closely watching the " Blue Book," too.

Extensions.—Congratulations to Lance Corporal King E. F., who has decided that a little drop more won't do him any harm, and has signed on the dotted line to complete twelve years with the colours.

Marriages.—Signalman Henry D. (of crooner fame) was married to Miss Ivy Summers, at Darlington, on 2nd January. Both of them have our very best wishes for the future.

Drafts.—Two notable personalities leave us on 9th February for service in the far-flung outposts of the Empire. They are Lance Sergeant Routledge and Corporal Dicks J., who are due for a sojourn with 1st Indian Divisional Signals, Rawalpindi. We wish them bon voyage and all the best for the future.

Others standing by for sunnier climes are Lance Sergeant Jones J. for No. 2 Wireless Company, Sarafand ; Lance Sergeant Smith E. for Palestine Force Signals ; and Signalmen Allison L., Labrum W., Sigley F. and Gill J. depart for Malaya on 14th February.

Fairy Story.—There was once a Catterick WIRE correspondent who, when writing his notes, didn't mention the weather !

H. W. B.

"F" (Boys) Company Training Battalion.

February.

General.—Your humble chronicler, a new one, is entrusted with the responsibility of providing " ex-rats " with news of our little home-from-home.

Normal routine has completely cured that " after-leave " feeling, and everybody is broke again. The education examinations, due to take place in the near future, are causing much anxious delving into far-off school day memories ; indeed, one sorely afflicted youth spends his leisure hours monotonously repeating extracts from Shakespeare and the " Razzle."

First a gentle hint, and then a definite threat, of a kit inspection during this month has caused much raising of eyebrows, spilling of ink on indent forms, and frenzied searching through musty kit-bags.

Stevenson and Grainger nearly came to blows during an argument concerning the ingredients of rissoles. Stevenson was certain that they contained horseflesh, while Grainger insisted that a dead rat was the main ingredient. The argument was the nearest thing to a civil war when Foster produced a cat's skin straight from the cookhouse dust bin. Stevenson won on points when he started off, " Now, a bloke down our way . . ."

Now that the " Keeper of the Rhumkorff " has departed for sunnier climes, the customary electrical treatment has been replaced by large doses of P.T.

Only by a superhuman effort can we bring our emotions under control in order to record the regrettable fact that since the Blood Tub is not available there will be no Company boxing this Spring. However, opportunities have been given to volunteers for special boxing training with a view to meeting opponents elsewhere and, believe it or leave it, some of our husky, brawny, muscular he-men actually jumped at the prospect of another blood spatter.

From within the four walls of our stately abode we can see, through the sparkling windows of O.S.6, millions of the unsung heroes of "Civvy Street"—the working men. Like a swarm of happy bees they trip and dance at their labour of carrying hod and mortar board. I wonder if the correspondent knows his Shakespeare?

For so work the honey-bees,
Creatures that by rule of nature teach,
The act of order to a peopled kingdom.

Are their sportive exploits the outcome of sheer joy? No! They are busily building a new haven of rest for us, and the speed at which it is progressing would do credit to a mushroom.

N.B.—What is snow, anyway?

Farewell.—At this junction a more serious note must creep into my recordings. C.S.M. Johnson G. F., who has been with the Company for three years, has left. During his stay with us, C.S.M. Johnson took a paternal interest in all the Company's activities. Wherever the Company went, the tattoo, or to sporting events all over the country, he was present. Any boy in trouble (we all are in turn) would find a ready and just listener in the C.S.M., whether the trouble was domestic or otherwise. We are indebted to him for more things than space will permit our mentioning and everyone was genuinely sorry to see him go.

A letter he has written to the Boys' Club since his departure has more than convinced us that, contrary to the belief of most civilians, Sergeant-Majors can be human, very human. The Company thanks you, sir, for everything you did, and we wish you the success you deserve in your new job.

Promotions and Appointments.—The following Boys assume the rank of Lance Corporal Boy with effect from 28th January: Holness A. E., Murray R., Smith R. and Stewart J. J. Nice going, Boys—sorry, Corporals! Lance Corporal Boy Smith A. G. was promoted Corporal Boy on the same day. How many steps on your ladder, Algie?

Departures.—Space must be devoted to the following Signalmen who have left us during the past month: Ex-Corporal Boy Verlander L., who was mentioned in the last issue of the WIRE. Ex-Lance Corporal Boy Hopkins, a cross-country runner of no mean repute, and an excellent tradesman. Show them the way home, "Oppy"! Ex-Boy Rowberry, who was the Company's cleverest goal-keeper and most efficient storeman. He will undoubtedly prove valuable to 1st Divisional Signals. All the very best, "Razzy," and get that hair cut.

Things We Want to Know.—What does Le Hardy mean by "The frequencies must be in residence"?

When will Smith P. A. get some mail?

Who missed two penalties in one match?

Hebrews' Letter Service.—To 490, 1st Div. "What price the blues?"

To Howard, Hong-Kong. "Catterick has not moved, Willie."

A. JAY.

Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess
Training Battalion.

February.

General.—Since writing our last notes, several changes have taken place in the Mess, including a spot of "Spring Cleaning."

A hearty welcome is accorded to C.Q.M.S. Mills (from India), also to Lance Sergeants (Tiny) Moore and Morton (from England). May their stay with us be a pleasant one.

Entertainments.—Arrangements are in full swing, but at the moment there is nothing to report. The programme of future events has already been drawn up.

Departures.—Some of the old hands have left us, including the quick move of C.S.M. Holmes W. (The full story will be found under "D" Company notes.)

A Farewell Party.—On the night of Friday, 3rd February, a Smoking Concert was held in the Mess as a farewell to the following members: Mr. Ricketts, our ex-Bandmaster, C.S.M. Johnson G., Sergeants Waight, Ashford, Onyett, Barlow, Hawkes, Lance Sergeants Smith F., Routledge, Jones J. and Fearnley.

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Mr. Ricketts, so well known to nearly all members of the Corps, has retired, but we shall always remember what he has done for our Band.

C.S.M. Johnson is also retiring, but not from actual service, as he is taking up an appointment as Lieutenant Quartermaster in the T.A. at Reading. With him goes Sergeant Waight (our Orderly-Room Sergeant) as R.S.M. (P.S.I.).

The remainder are for overseas—India, Egypt and Sarafand—indeed, some of them are going out for their second and third tours. When considered, it is wonderful how the same people are continually caught. The only reason we can think of is that really good men are required for these jobs, and they have been specially selected. How does that sound, Bill? Don't forget that landmark at the Monkey Temple that we were speaking about. Lance Sergeant Fearnley is keeping very quiet, as he hasn't been allotted a passage yet, but he's still anxious. Keep it dark, Charlie; we won't tell anybody.

To make it a jolly evening, a civilian concert party came along from Darlington and, judging by the remarks of the Mess members, everybody thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The concert party were very good, the comedian so absorbed everybody's interest that Geordie Booth (our smiling caterer) was almost in tears at the small orders he was receiving. There was only time for laughing!

S.S.M. Pack is still trying to fathom out where the illusionist got the bowl of goldfish from, and S.S.M. Kelly tears up all the daily papers in the Mess hoping that one day he will re-open one and find it in one piece again. Then there are the ten-shilling notes that Mr. Arthur Griffiths keeps burning in sealed envelopes; rather an expensive pastime!

Commencing about 8 p.m., the party went along merrily until 10 p.m., when the R.S.M. made a farewell speech, saying some very kind things about Mr. Ricketts and the hard work he had put in to make the Band as we know it to-day. The help given by Mrs. Ricketts was not forgotten. A small presentation from the members was made to Mr. and Mrs. Ricketts.

The R.S.M.'s reference to the drum and fife band in Bedford (longer ago than we care to remember) brought blushes to the faces of more than one of those present. R.S.M. Donaghy, with us for the evening from 5th Divisional Signals, blushed the rosiest. Far from being a musician himself, our R.S.M. told us he only moved his fingers up and down on top of the flute, and blew over the top of the instrument. Swindle!

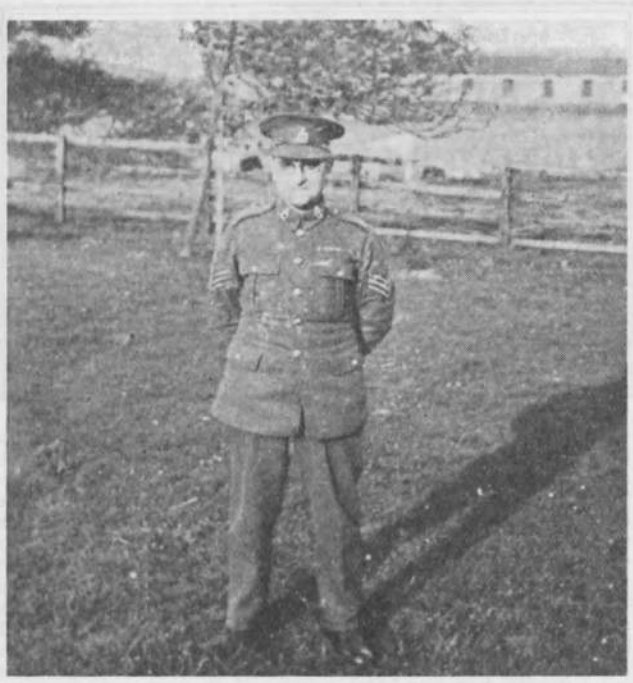
After saying farewell to Mr. Ricketts, we welcomed Mr. Hibbert, the new bandmaster, and hope his stay with us will be a long and enjoyable one.

Mr. Ricketts, in a very nice speech, told us how happy he had been with the Corps, and how sorry he was to leave it, but he knew he could not hand over to a better man than Mr. Hibbert.

C.S.M. Johnson then said his piece, telling us how very glad he was to leave the Service. Maybe I've got a bit mixed up here somewhere. He has been C.S.M. of "F" (Boys) Company for nearly three years, and is going to a good job at Reading.

After all these speeches, refreshments were served, the Hamburgers disappearing as if by magic. We believe Sergeant Cosstick kept his end up well in this respect. (Youth will be served!)

The concert party then continued to do their stuff, the ventriloquist was very popular, and we still remember the comedian who



MESS PERSONALITIES.
Sergeant N. E. Frey, "D" Company.

kept all of us in good spirits. By this time Geordie Booth was returning to his old natural, smiling, joking, generous self.

After a happy evening, the party broke up at about 11.30 p.m. Thanks are due to S.S.M. Pack (P.M.C.) and the Entertainments Committee for the arrangements and smooth running of the show.

LOFTY.

ALDERSHOT NEWS

"A" Corps Signals.

Unit Headquarter Company.

Arrivals.—We extend a hearty welcome to our new O.C., Major G. K. Thursby-Pelham, M.C., and hope he will enjoy his stay here. We also welcome Corporal Trevethan P. from Catterick.

Departures.—No. 1 Company is now in the competent hands of our former O.C., Major J. H. Cameron-Webb. Sergeant Harris has gone with him in order to help the "strays." Major Gwillim and Lance Sergeant Rankin have left us for Malaya.

Promotions.—We are sorry to say that there are only very few of these. We have to congratulate Sergeant Bartley on losing the "L."

Indian Mail.—"Sorry to have missed the boat, Tommy A. Where's Spalding?"

Jews' Mail.—W.S.C.B. "Don't know the address, or run out of stamps? Gos."

"What about it, Banana Legs? The lads from 'The Heroes' would like a line. Busty."

RITE.

No. 1 Company.

February.

We must apologise for the absence of our notes last month but yours truly was enjoying a spot of leave.

We are more than half way through the most difficult part of the year, when leave, drafts, I.T., etc., hit us so hard, but still the high standard of this Company is being maintained, despite the fact that we are very short of officers, N.C.O.s and men.

Our best wishes go with Major Spencer, who has proceeded to Catterick, and also to Lieutenant Stonestreet, who has gone to India.

Congratulations to the following on their promotion or appointment: Sergeant Hodge, Lance Sergeants Rankin, Back and Dallimore, and U/Lance Corporals Edwards, Lloyd and Cocks. Also to all the persons who have obtained higher ratings during the last two months; there are about 60 per cent. of them, including forty Recruit Linemen.

Departures.—Signalman Francis (Wobbles) to Bovington Camp. Signalmen Lee H. and Shinn to Vocational Training Courses.

Arrivals.—About twenty smart young soldiers from Catterick to undergo recruit training.

Howlers.—Q. "How would you let a piece of cable in a line without interrupting communication?"

A. "I would take a bite out of one side, and then do the same to the other side." (Hungry blighters!)

Q. "You have reason to believe that the condenser in a D.III 'Tele' is 'dis.' Could you use the D.III?"

A. "Yes, I would wrap the condenser in tin-foil, and it then would be quite O.K."

Q. "What is 'Local Action'?"

Q. instead of A. "Do you mean Local A.R.P. Schemes?"

No. 3 Company.

General.—At present the Company is commanded by Lieutenant A. G. Paris with Sergeant Watts as A/C.S.M. We lose the former on 16th February with great regret. He is a cheerful officer to work under, and a better would be hard to find. Truly Malaya can congratulate itself on a golf player with a handicap of generous faults, and a rugger player of the fearless type, as well as an officer who meets all trouble with a smile. The only time a cloud was seen on his face was when he was picked to play golf for the Army as the powers-that-be ordained that the boat should sail on the 16th. It is a big disappointment, sir, but we suggest that on the night of the 15th you proceed to Southampton and, with a hand drill obtained from the Unit Fitters' Shop on a "108," bore a three-sixteenth-inch hole just above the rugger—or is it lubber—line! If that doesn't do the trick, sir, square the captain with a casual.

Our A/C.S.M. is due to embark for Palestine on 8th March, and so Sergeant Sewell steps into the breech. This N.C.O. is due for Egypt about 13th April, so that another successor will have to be found. Rumour whispers that a live Sergeant-Major, in the person of C.S.M. Leath, will arrive soon. When he sees his Company of sometimes six and sometimes two on the Commanding Officer's Saturday morning Drill Parade—well! The Parade State is so easy, sir. Thank goodness we have a stalwart in the Unit in the portly form of Lance Sergeant Goldberg, for if ever there was an Oasis in the desert, he is all of them. Increasing difficulties there might be, but all are smoothed away when pay day arrives. "You drew your pay the night before" (with apologies to a well-known advertisement) might well apply to "Our Jack."

Promotion.—We have to congratulate Sergeant Watts. This promotion was the only one to come through to this Company. (One thing, you are allowed more heavy baggage without the "L," Charlie.)

Departures.—Sergeant Simpson W. R. leaves us on 23rd February for a Vocational Training Course. After eight months of strenuous work as A/C.Q.M.S. he might find his new surroundings more to his genial disposition. Listen, Bill! We shall send on Vouchers and queries for action. You can take the Bedding Book with you for reading material.

Signalman Throup, our willing office clerk, will have to turn to Sergeant Sewell for information, as that worthy has taken up the reins relinquished by Sergeant Simpson and Sergeant Watts. Good luck, Bill!

Arrivals.—Signalmen Bray, Baldock and Gosling from 4th Divisional Signals, Canterbury, in January. Lance Sergeants

McKenzie and Lennon, Lance Corporals Hagan and Ramsden, Signalmen Bancroft, Baker, Combe, Dickens and Stevenson have arrived from overseas, and are at present enjoying a month's rest after the voyage in one of Bibby's " liners."

Marriages.—Congratulations to Signalman Butchers, who married Alice Jessica Spooner at Aldershot in December; and Signalman Openshaw, who took Edith May Watson as his half-section at Aldershot in October last year. The first ten years are the hardest; after that it's a matter of waiting for the jubilees to roll along, and the youngsters to grow up and work while the " Ole man sits tight." Rosy dreams!

Postings.—Lance Sergeant Hadland as P.S.I. to Air Formation Signals, S.R., Leeds, on 19th January.

Finis.—So Sergeant " Busty " Millin requires a lorry to take him to work, eh? What's up; Malaya too hot for you? If you have time to spare, try rolling the golf course in preparation for our O.C., Lieutenant A. G. Paris.

To Sergeant Dunn. " Save a bed for me, Paddy. I've sold the ' Cambridge Flier,' but Joyce is still riding. Rumour whispers that another Artillery Section is required for Brighton this year. Charlie."

HORSEY, HORSEY.

Horsey, horsey, as surmised,
We are all mechanised;
The starters grind, the engines roar,
" Hairies " have gone for evermore.

The Army's in a hurry,
We're always in a flurry,
Just see us tearing up the road;
We're always meeting trouble,
We're always at the double,
And we always have a very heavy load.

The Farriers are going,
The Fitter's trade is growing,
The Cost Accountant's job is getting hot;
We always think of tyres,
Of Klaxon horns and wires,
And the A.B.5 is troubling us a lot.

DODO.

1st Divisional Signals.

15th February.

General.—Individual training still pursues the even tenor of its way, and our harassed Operators and Linemen on the Up-grading Courses are looking forward eagerly to collective training, which will be a welcome respite from the monotony of the Lecture Room.

Replacements from overseas are very slow, and the " building up " of Sections will be a difficult task in view of the numerous calls on the Unit for service overseas. It is hoped that the Officer i/c Records will now give us a rest from " Provisional Warnings," until the next " trooper "; indeed many are now taking a deep breath once again, in the hope that they will not be required for overseas until next year.

We extend a hearty welcome to Captain E. Blake, and hope that his stay with the Unit will be both a long and happy one.

Cricket enthusiasts in the Div. are looking forward to a good season, and have every reason to believe that a strong side will take the field.

Arrivals and Departures.—Lance Corporal (Lofty) Copinger was transferred to the Army Reserve on 23rd January and is now in employment at Woolwich. Signalman McVicar was discharged on 18th January, after a stay of twelve years with the Unit, and is now employed at an engineering works at Dagenham. Lance Sergeant (Jack) Dendy, who was invalided home from Palestine Force Signals, is in Netley Hospital. He rejoins the Unit after a stay of 2½ years with " Palforce." We trust that he will make a speedy recovery, and hope to see him again on collective training.

Congratulatory.—We congratulate our new W.O.III, S.S.M. Hoy C., on serving eighteen years " without being found out." He has been awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal with gratuity.

Marriages.—Malaya and China readers will be interested to learn that Lance Corporal Powell has succumbed to the wiles of the fair sex. He was married to Miss Phyllis May Watts on 9th January.

Driver (I.C.) Wright, who decided that he could not " soldier alone," put himself " on the spot " on 26th December, when he was married to Miss Mary Fagan, at Saltley, Birmingham.

Finis.—We hope to pass out another Squad of Recruit Operator Signals on 27th February, when our No. 2 Squad will be tested for O.S., BIII ratings. We advise them to discover the identity of the " driver " of the " wave train " before they take this test. We would also point out that " S.O.B." is not a procedure signal.

Sport.—An interesting soccer match was played between a team representing the Recruit Operators (assisted by Lance Sergeant Cooper and Corporal Robertson) and the " Rest of the Unit." The Recruits, playing with great dash and enthusiasm, rather startled the " Rest," and proved worthy winners as the 2—0 result indicates. Signalman Lowe R., who proved a tower of defence for the Recruits, was ably assisted by Lance Sergeants Cooper, Willis and Raitt. The return game will be played on 15th March, when we hope to obtain our revenge.

2nd Divisional Signals.

No. 1 Company.

Extension of Service.—Rumour whispers that one of this Company's Fitters has taken the dreaded plunge and extended his service to complete twelve of the best with the Colours. What we want to know is, what is it that makes so many of our budding " Kitcheners " throw in the towel after a short term of eight years' service. Replies should be addressed to Colonel Blimp, c/o The " Sensational News," Newfoundland, who will no doubt answer as and when he thinks fit. The carbon copy should be kept for future guidance. Good luck to you, Len, and may the next four be as rosy as you anticipate. Maybe we shall see you with the " rooty gong " one of these days.

Promotions.—Congratulations are extended to Lance Corporal Brooks on managing to dispense with the " U " and qualifying for the little " Blue Book." Also a pat on the back for U/Lance Corporals Sheridan, Davis and Briant for helping to swell the Drill and Duties Course, which has just started.

Marriages.—George Stowers and " Blanco " White are especially asked to note that Bill Brooks has at long last taken the plunge and entered into that state so commonly called the " Ration Stand Queue." Any old bikes, shopping bags, or accumulators for sale?

Sports.—It is generally agreed that those in search of entertainment can find it any afternoon by visiting the football pitch when the Inter-Section games are in progress. We understand that these games were organised with a view to spotting talent for the Unit teams, but it appears that what discoveries are made would do more credit to " Carrol Levis " than the Unit football team.

Arrivals.—These are too many to mention individually, but to all of them we tender the big hand of good fellowship, and hope that one and all will find us all they would like us to be.

To Captain Paterson, who has recently joined this Company, we express the hope that his stay with us will be both prolonged and happy.

Departures.—As usual, we have had our fair share. Some have left us for those lands where the sun is what it should be, and others have left us for " Civvy Street." May they all be happy and contented in their new surroundings.

TASH.

No. 2 Company.

February.

It was a sudden shock plus a hint from a personage of importance that resulted in the following masterpiece being created. We are not going to apologise for the shortness of these notes, as possibly some readers will say that they are not short enough.

The main furlough period is nearly over, in fact it will be over when our Company Clerk (Mr. Static) returns to-night. We have missed his hungry look and sixth sense in the pursuit of a fag.

Lance Sergeant Cuthbertson, late of the Near East, Middle East and Ewshot, signed on the dotted line to qualify for a pension and a trip to the Near East. For the information of his friends, " Vices, hand, four " is his only vice now.

Congratulations.—To Sergeant McMillan D. on being awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. To Lance Sergeant Cuthbertson, Lance Corporal Staton and U/Lance Corporal Meese on their step up. To Signalman Sharkey on the arrival of a daughter. To Signalman and Mrs. Hunter and Signalman and Mrs. Taylor, who tied the knot during Christmas. Our best wishes and congratulations. To the A/C.Q.M.S. for " holding the baby." To the cartoonist of " B " Corps Signals, Karachi, for the only thing the writer has laughed at this month.

Arrivals.—From India: Sergeant Weeks and family (we haven't seen him yet); Lance Corporals Purkiss and Hopwood; Signalmen Spurs, Maskery, Hopkins and Buckman. Signalman Read from Canterbury. Twelve recruit D.R.s from the Depot Battalion, Catterick. A welcome to all; we are glad to see them.

Departures.—Lieutenant Deakin to " Onecoy "; Corporal Carrison to V.T.C.; and Signalmen Swan and Tarves to India. Our best wishes to all of them; we are sorry they had to go.

Tailboard.—To Tommy and Mrs. Grieg. " The address is still 19, Rawlinson Quarters."

RIKA.

No. 3 Company.

News.—Corporal Snell has signed on the dotted line to complete twenty-one years (and he growls about the modern Army !)

Upgrading.—Congratulations to the following on passing the test for Despatch Rider, D.III: Signalmen Hall A., Hall J., Anderson T., Jones R., Muir C., Ord L., Pollard G., Rose F., Sanchi L. and Wright F.

Drill Course.—Upgrading Courses are usually blamed for frowns and worried looks, but the " I.T." folk are happy-looking compared with the Junior N.C.O.s' Drill Course. The new drill has apparently got them down. Instead of " Right Turn ".—One Stop Two, it is now One Stop—and a glass of " Horlicks."

Departures.—Major Boyd has departed for Catterick. The Company wish him the best of luck at his new station. Signalman Watson J. left for India on 9th February. Signalmen Simms and Gardiner leave for Malaya on 16th February. Lance Corporal Filmer departs on 8th March for that famous land of " milk and honey." (Records certainly does pick them out.) Sergeant Cooley will also be present at the same time and place. Only ten days at sea. A health trip !

Arrivals.—Sergeant Cole and Signalman Stubbley from India on 7th February.

On 19th January a son arrived at Aldershot for Corporal Morris.

Help Wanted.—All ex-members of " K " Section will be glad to know that Signalman Wright T. has at last been roped. He married Miss Ellen Butcher, at Battersea, on 25th December, 1938.

Jews' Corner.—Clarke, Singapore. " Don't kill all those tigers ! "

Tando, Jews' land. " Keep the yarns within reason. Shark Fisher."

Smith 026. " 'Ave a 'art. Drop me a rope. Taff."

1st Anti-Aircraft Brigade Signals, Blackdown.

North Frith Barracks, Blackdown.

12th February.

General.—Apologies are again tendered for the absence of our notes last month. This will, I think, be my last effort in this direction for Anti-Aircraft Brigade Signals as my departure for No. 2 W/T Company, Sarafand, is timed for 13th April.

The Unit is in the midst of individual training, and we also have a Squad of twenty-one Lineman Recruits under instruction with a view to attaining the Class III standard in that trade.

Practice for the Powell Miniature Rifle Cup is in full swing, and the shoot takes place during February. It is hoped that the Unit will retain this trophy for the fifth year in succession, and for the sixth time since its inception.

Promotions.—Rather belated, but here they are. To the ranks and appointments shown, and on the dates stated: Sergeant J. McD. Glass (4th October, 1938), Lance Sergeants Cottingham A. M. and Milligan (1st October, 1938) and Lance Corporal Tinkler J. E. (17th October, 1938); Sergeant lent A. V. (25th October, 1938) and Corporal Hodge (17th October, 1938). The last two named are now with Hong Kong Signal Company. We hope the little extra helped in the right direction.

Arrivals.—Captain A. H. Clarke has arrived from India and is at present on a well-earned leave; Signalman Raynor from the Training Battalion; Signalman Naven from Mauritius Signal Section; Lance Corporal Sweeney, Signalmen Anderson, Fry and Perkins from India. Twenty-one recruits from the Training Battalion and seventeen Linemen and Drivers (I.C.) from the Depot Battalion. They are all welcome.

Departures.—Corporal Boughen, Lance Corporals Merriman and Cave to Government Vocational Training Centres to prepare for civilian life; C.Q.M.S. Tucker to 5th Divisional Signals; Signalman Barrett to the School of Signals; and Driver (I.C.) Widdows to 3rd Divisional Signals, Bulford. We wish them all the best of luck.

Service Overseas.—Signalmen Gummer, Barton and Dickens departed on 12th January for service with Gibraltar Signal Section; Lieutenant E. W. Townsend proceeded to Malaya Signal Company on 16th February; Lance Sergeant Cottingham A. M. and Signalman Raynor proceed to Palestine Force Signals on 8th March.

To complete the drafts for this year the following are due to depart on or about dates stated: To No. 2 W/T Company, Sarafand, on 13th April; Captain F. S. Whiteway-Wilkinson and Sergeant Glass J. M.; to Egypt Signals on 13th April: Corporal Howard N., Lance Corporal Austin and Signalman Spearing; to Gibraltar Signal Section on 13th April: Signalman Murray; to Malta Signal Section on 13th April: Signalman Roffey A. Thus ends another trooping season. Some of you will have the luck next trooper, so keep smiling.

Marriages.—Congratulations to Corporal Howard N. on taking the bold step when he married Miss Pansy Florence Shaw at Aldershot on 10th December, 1938.

Jews' Mail.—Tubby K., Jock C. and Joe C., Quetta. " How about it ? Preston."

JAY EM GEE.

4th Divisional Signals, Canterbury.

No. 2 Company.

General.—The Company has now settled down to routine with batches of recruits arriving every fortnight. The recruits seem to like Canterbury, and with very good reason. The weather has been exceptionally good with little or no rain, so that games are rarely interfered with. The city is near and full of historical (and other) interest.

Arrivals.—Fate has blessed us with the following: Lance Sergeant Shirley and Lance Corporal Clarke from India, and W.O.II Pinhorn from Guildford. The writer, who has worked under him, was taught a lot, and still remembers his unique method of " correcting, marking and preparation." Well done, sir !

It was with deep regret that we said farewell to our C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel H. A. J. Parsons, M.C., on 14th February. His departure will be felt by all ranks, and if we only say, " The very best of luck, and thank you," he will know us well enough to understand just what we mean.

Major J. C. MacDonald is our new C.O., and we extend a hearty welcome to him. We sincerely hope that his stay here will be a happy one, and that in due course he will leave us as reluctantly as our former C.O. We shall then know that we have done our job.

Events.—" O ii U." Lance Corporal Dale A. went and got himself married. Oh, Daisy; why? What will happen to your " Pathfinder's Badge " now?

Things We Should Like to Know.—How " Shoey " got his name.

What " Vic "' discovered in a certain corner.

How I was inveigled into writing these notes.

In Conclusion.—The brevity of these notes is due to the fact that the writer is trying to read Morse at four words a minute, or so a certain N.C.O. says (it's nearer twenty), and also because I have just returned from a dance at which I met Desdemona.

Farewell, playmates!

BIG HEARTED.

No. 3 Company.

General.—The Company is now settling down to the general routine of T.B. days, but what are those loud commands of " Once through the alphabet—Squad . . ." that we hear daily? There are eight Squads on training, four of which are under the administration of No. 3 Company. They are: No. 2 Squad (Corporal Thorpe), No. 6 Squad (Lance Corporal Pickles), No. 7 Squad (Lance Corporal Salisbury), and No. 8 Squad (Lance Corporal Leach).

Arrivals.—We welcome to the fold W.O.III Collins H., ex-49th Divisional Signals (T.A.), *via* No. 2 Company, and also C.S.M. Quick P., from India. The Company will not see very much of the latter as he is booked for the Q.M.'s office. Lance Corporal Leach, who also arrived from India, had a short sojourn in the office, but is now Instructor to No. 8 Squad. Do you think you will be able to stick it, Ginger?

To all the recruits (too numerous to mention by name) we extend a welcoming hand, and hope their stay in Canterbury will be a pleasant one.

Matrimony.—To the ranks of the Sturry Road Brigade we now admit Lance Corporal George H. (the one and only), who was led to the slaughter (sorry, altar) on Saturday, 11th February, by Miss Doris Jeffries, at Tenterden. Full details will have to be held up until George's moral support (Lance Corporal Pickles) has been interviewed. You've got something to tick about now, George!

Blue Books Out.—Our congratulations to Corporals Froud and Howcroft on obtaining the extra cash, and to U/Lance Corporal Foster on getting his first foot on the ladder. We are still awaiting the drinks, but they may come along in due course. Here's hoping.

SLIM.

5th Divisional Signals, Catterick Camp.

16th February.

General.—The Unit has settled down in its new role as a Depot Battalion, and we now have a steady input of recruits. Each day the Square is a hive of activity, with Squads at various stages of their training; some are just starting and are dressed in " civvies," and those who are just finishing look very smart in their marching order.

With the exception of a few vehicles, all the Unit M.T. has been returned to the Chief Ordnance Officer, Chilwell. This has left our large garage almost empty, but it has proved a godsend to the Chief Drill Instructor during bad weather, as there is nearly enough room there for all the Squads to drill in.

Owing to the snow, thaw, and heavy rains, all sports grounds, including the hard hockey grounds, have been out-of-bounds, so that games have been somewhat curtailed.

Arrivals.—We extend a hearty welcome to the following, who have joined the Unit since our last notes were published: C.S.M. Lombard W. and Corporal Dixon from overseas; Sergeant Sherriffs from Fort George, Scotland; and to all the Drill Instructors from the Depot Battalion, Royal Signals, and other Units.

Departures.—We regret to report the departure of Sergeant Nicholson, who has left us to continue his caterer's duties in " Civvy Street," and wish him all the best for the future.

Corporal Woods, of the Royal Scots Fusiliers, who has returned to his Battalion, also has our best wishes. We shall miss his smiling face, and hope he will find his hat and gloves in Edinburgh

Promotions and Appointments.—Congratulations to Sergeant Perkins H., Corporals Fill W. and Justice J., on promotion to their respective ranks. Also to Lance Corporals Dobing J., Fenton J., Tovell H. and Miller S. on their appointments.

Northern Ireland District Signal Company, Belfast.

General.—It is rather late to wish you all a happy New Year, but as the chap who won the Irish Sweep said, " Better late than never."

Things have certainly happened in these opening months of 1939. Old hands away, new hands arriving, installation of new wireless sets, swotting up for trade ratings, and making car drivers out of anyone we can lay our hands on, to say nothing of the initiation of new arrivals into the mysteries of a coal fatigue.

It is queer how friendly a fellow becomes after a coal duty. One finds that a new arrival will have very little to say for himself before a coal issue, and usually gives us the impression that we have a semi-recluse in our midst, but after humping sixty or seventy tubs of coal up miles of stairs, we find that he is human after all. We have often wondered where N.C.O.s obtained their knowledge of the English language. Now we know.

The installation of No. 9 Sets at all Detachment out-stations has been received with great gusto, especially as the R/T results are so good. One fertile brain suggested that this will be a much easier way of getting in touch with his best girl, and at the same time save him a stamp.

Departures and Arrivals.—To India: Lance Sergeants Maguire, Barron and Oliver, Corporal Ogden, Lance Corporal Roy, Signalmen Davidson, Humphreys, Cox A. and Morrice. To Sarafand: Signalman Scoffin. From the Training Battalion, Catterick: Signalmen Belcher, Griffiths, Jewitt, Maxwell, Outhwaite, Pink and Bowen. From 2nd Divisional Signals, Aldershot: Signalmen Brooks and Valentine.

Corporal Thomson has left the fold for " Civvy Street " to battle his way amongst the dungarees or top hats, we don't quite know which. However, we all wish him the best of luck for the future. Signalmen Hobson and " Lofty " Hunt also have gone to seek pastures new.

Brains.—Corporal Ashworth, having passed the Foreman-of-Signals Course, has gone to Cambridge to show the " Dons " a thing or two.

Increases to Establishment.—To Signalman and Mrs. Clarke, Armagh, a son. Nice work, Nobby!

To Signalman McCulloch, Ballykinler, a wife. Here's a happy future to you both.

Latest Goon Faux Pas.—" I thought the coal scuttle was no good so I threw it into the dustbin." We wonder if the new one he pays for will suit him!

BIG HEARTED ARTHUR.

LONDONDERRY SECTION.

Owing to the Christmas rush and our usual scribe being on leave, the Detachment found it impossible to make its usual contribution last month, and we therefore tender our apologies.

January was a month of movements and activities for the Maiden City. Signalman Goodsir left us for " East of Suez "; the lure of the East was too strong for him. All the best, Charlie! Corporal Grey returned from leave to be greeted by a threatened O.M.E.'s inspection, which took place in due course, and was passed with the usual flying colours (we hope).

Signalman Lamb, who also departed from the fold, is reported to be looking after Belfast, and we hope he will soon settle down at H.Q. Pat, the famous cat, doesn't seem to miss you much, Paddy! Signalman Buckley arrived to swell our ranks early this month and, later, we had the pleasure of writing " Welcome " over the door for Signalmen Brooks and Robinson.

The No. 9 Sets have arrived and are awaiting installation. They look all right, and the " Goons " are straining at the leash to play with the pretty coloured knobs. Is there any chance of getting it painted all black; we would like a Set in a few months' time.

REVILO.

INDIAN·SIGNAL·CORPS

Signal Training Centre (India), Jubbulpore.

General.—We welcome Major G. H. Plummer, M.C., Major and Mrs. C. M. F. White, and all the other ranks who have arrived during the last few days.

Amongst the departures we have Lieutenant-Colonel W. M. Miller, M.C., Major R. H. Wall, Captain W. D. Weir (on leave), C.Q.M.S. and Mrs. Pickering, S.S.M. and Mrs. Ellis, S.S.M. and Mrs. Cook, Sergeant and Mrs. Page. In passing, the whole Unit would like to take the opportunity of thanking Sergeant Page for the amount of work he has done on behalf of the B.O.R.s' entertainment. He is a first-class organiser of entertainments. We wish all those who have left the best of luck at their new stations.

At the Nerbudda Vale Hunt "Point-to-Point" Meeting last month, Signals did very well in obtaining four firsts out of the five events held. The races were held over some very good hunting country with many banks, ditches, etc., and the crowd received many unexpected thrills. The following are the successful riders: Captain A. M. W. Whistler, Royal Signals, on "Cherry" (Light-weight); Mrs. A. M. W. Whistler on Miss Mitchell's "Hitler" (Ladies); Major M. T. L. Newington, I.A., on "Talab" (Heavy-weight); Sergeant Farlow R., Royal Signals, on "Gigalo" (W.O.s, N.C.O.s and I.C.O.s' Race).

Trophies.—We publish with these notes a photograph of the trophy presented to the Warrant Officers and Sergeants of the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals by the Warrant Officers and Sergeants, Signal Training Centre (I.). This trophy is similar to the one presented to the Australian Signals last year by the members of the Mess.

The Trophy presented to the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess.

NORTHERN COMMAND ..... INDIAN ARMY

"A" Corps Signals, Rawalpindi.

8th February.

Departures.—The most noteworthy departure of the month is that of Lieutenant-Colonel C. H. H. Vulliamy, D.S.O., who left us on the expiry of his tenure of command, after commanding the Unit over a very arduous period of four years, during which time he had the task of exercising his great skill and knowledge of signal work in leading the Unit through three Frontier Operations: Mohmand, 1935; Khaisora, 1936; and Waziristan, 1937. All ranks who have served under him will agree that it was a great pleasure to serve under an officer who possessed such a high degree of technical knowledge, and we are all sorry to lose him. We feel sure that all ex-members of the Unit will join us in wishing Lieut.-Colonel Vulliamy every happiness and success in his new appointment at home.

We have also lost Major A. J. Hannah, who has been officiating as Commanding Officer for the past year, and send him our best wishes on his reversion to the Home Establishment after many years in India.

C.S.M. Cooper J. leaves very shortly for Quetta on posting. His new Unit will gain a very useful hockey back and a good tennis player. C.S.M. Lydamore A. and C.S.M. Betts H. left for the United Kingdom, pending discharge, and we trust that they will both find civilian life to their liking. Corporal Stead W. has been posted to the Army Signal School, Poona. Lance Corporal Morgan W. and Signalman Hughes E. E. have proceeded to Army Headquarters, Wireless Section, New Delhi, and Signalman Longhurst A. has left us for Risalpur.

Congratulations.—To Lance Corporal Morgan W. on being paid for his "yard of tripe," and to U/Lance Corporals Parsonage B. and Ireland A. on their appointments. To Signalmen Hamerton W. and Cunningham D. on passing the test for O/S, Class I, and E/S, Class II, respectively, at a recent Trade Board. To Sergeants Washburn and Butcher A. on being awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

Arrivals.—S.S.M. Jackson J. from Jubbulpore and Signalman Beard L. from Risalpur. Two drafts have joined us from the U.K., and six men were posted to us from "B" Corps Signals. To all of them we tender a hearty welcome.

Potential Departures.—Signalmen Robinson L., Kelly J., Littleford J., Beardmore D., Bowling C. and Bunn A. are amongst the thirty-odd linemen who were found surplus to the Indian establishment, and they are leaving us in March. Their repatriation was quite unexpected, and none were more surprised than the men concerned when they were informed of their good fortune. They certainly found no objections to being sent home.

PEDLAR.

Waziristan District Signals.

Bannu Signal Section.

9th January.

We wish everyone the happiest of New Years, and trust that your festive season passed as happily as ours. Happy "daze!"

At the beginning of December the Section was sadly depleted in numbers as nearly everyone was out on minor Operations but, happily, we were all able to assemble at Bannu by 24th

Members of the Section.

December, and to enjoy our Christmas dinner in great style. The ducks were in splendid condition, and our heartiest congratulations are due to Signalman Rogers, who worked unceasingly in the good cause. Bravo, Buttercup Joe !

A Darts and Billiards Tournament, supervised by Signalmen Bates and Stevens (Hiram), proved a huge success. The darts event was won by Signalmen Brown and Farquharson. (Guess I'll have to get some more practice in, Topper.) The billiards will be decided later.

A visit to our married " pads " also helped to improve matters considerably, and a hearty vote of thanks is tendered to Sergeant and Mrs. Freeman and Sergeant and Mrs. Brooke. (" Eh, lad ; some beer tha ast.") A very enjoyable evening !

We regret the loss of an old favourite, Lance Corporal Satchwell A., who leaves us for the U.K. *thora peachi*. The best wishes of the Section go with him and good luck on the long, long trail. The first three weeks are the worst, Satchy !

Last, but not least, Signalman (Budli) Ray (ex-Wana), who is invalided home, tenders his *salaams* to men of that Section, and ours go with him. Have you ordered your fur coat yet, Budli ? We hear the temperature in Blighty is zero.

To G. Watts (George), Egypt Signals. " Remember our last meeting ? Here's to 1940 ! Jonnie."

All for now, folk !

WILJON.

Kohat District Signals, Kohat.

The Christmas Festivities.—Our readers will forgive us if we fail to rhapsodise over the sight of hungry men eating their way through Christmas fare, but the accompanying photographs will explain the Christmas dinner better than words. We are told on good authority that one individual went to the C.S.M. and complained that the self-appointed waiters (good luck to them) had tried to serve him with the same course *three* times. What a shame to think that all this good food was wasted upon that man.

Complaints or no complaints, everyone enjoyed the good things from the early morning " Rum and Cawfee " to the " Last One " at night.

We extend our heartiest thanks to Messrs. McIntyre, Burge and Co. for the excellent way in which the dinner was prepared and for the abundance of good food.

Christmas is never complete without the Children's Party and we are sure that the children would be annoyed if we failed to say that those, of both sexes, under the age of ninety, thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Two of the older children (?)—they both have families—shocked the camel wallah by demanding to be taken for a ride ; but, unfortunately, the camel wallah had never been to America and does not read the Sunday papers.

The high spot of the evening was the arrival of the " Santa Claus Express," driven by Santa himself—at least, that was the idea. It appears that the Army is not the only institution to become thoroughly mechanised, for gaily decorated "Austins " make very good sleighs, especially if " Chippy " Eames has his way about it. Our thanks are due to the hard work put in by the following for their very effective work on the car : Sergeant Smith, Lance Corporal Pask and Signalman Eames.

Unfortunately, shortly after the " Express " had left the Sergeants' Mess, Father Christmas met with a mishap on his journey, and there was a crash. Fortunately, no one was hurt, but the children were most interested to note that under the tinsel and crepe of the body was the familiar " service paint" of an "Austin." Willing helpers evacuated the " Express " to the garage, where it was discovered that only the wooden framework had been broken. We have since wondered whether the whole-hearted cheer which accompanied Father Christmas on his way had the effect of frightening his " chauffeur."

In the midst of all the gaiety of the festive season, we were sorry to hear that " Swerver " (little Joey) was dead. It appears that this great hearted little pal had accompanied a number of the boys to the pictures, and, on the return journey, was run over by a car. He struggled to his feet and followed the lads a little way, but it was only his great heart that kept him going, and, we regret to say, he died a few minutes later. He was universally liked by all, and the antics that he played were never malicious.

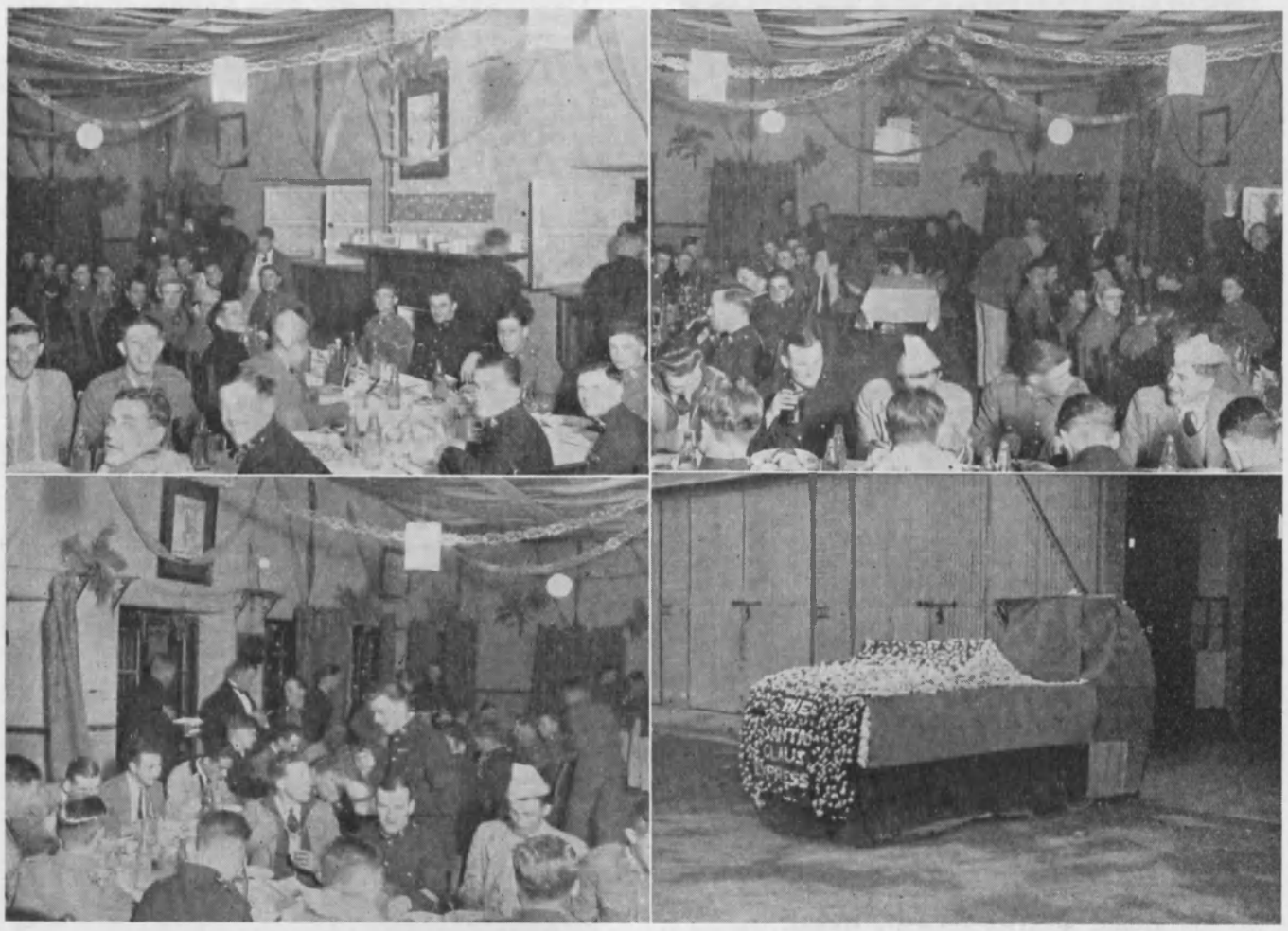
He was buried under the tree at the rear of "A" Section Bungalow, the tree which he had often climbed in order to give the tree rats a chance to poke fun at his efforts to catch them. He was only a dog, and not an extremely good bred dog at that, but he had endeared himself to the whole of the Unit and we are very sorry to report his death. A photograph of " Joey," taken shortly before his death, is published with these notes.

The Unit has been both lucky and unlucky in its sporting activities, for the concluding rounds of the Shining Club Tournament found Kohat District Signals the winners with the team proudly carrying away the " Shah's " trophy. A full report of the game appears in the sports news.

The I.O.R.s of the Unit, assisted by several B.O.R.s in strategic positions, found their way to the semi-final of the District Tournament, but lost, after a very good game, to the 1/13th F.F.R. We congratulate the winners, and hope that with a little more practice and patience we shall win this Tournament next time.

Joey.

KOHAT DISTRICT SIGNALS, KOHAT.



The Christmas Festivities and "Santa Claus Express"

The following are congratulated on their promotion or appointment: Sergeant Saunders, Lance Sergeants Froggatt and Bow, Corporal Bevan (all now in U.K.), Sergeants Birkett and Clackett and Lance Corporal Howard. We begin to hope that things may happen in the near future.

By the time that this is read, and perhaps criticised, the Unit will have lost the best part of its older members, and will have had an opportunity of meeting the new draft. We wish all those who are leaving us the best of luck, and to those who are arriving we wish all the best during their stay in India.

Colds and influenza seem to be the order of the day. The proportion of red noses has risen, but as the amount of beer consumed remains about the same, we are reluctantly forced to the conclusion that most of the Unit must be completely inoculated against the onslaught of the colder weather.

In the hope that our old friends will not forget us during 1939, we wish all old comrades the very best and good-bye.

JACKO.

WESTERN COMMAND ..... INDIAN ARMY

"B" Corps Signals, Karachi.

No. 2 Company.

27th January.

General.—This month we have lost a large number of the Company to the U.K., as well as postings to various Units in the North. Had we not received some replacements from Catterick, we should have been a very depleted Unit.

By the time these notes are in print, we shall have commenced individual training and, perhaps, lost some more stalwarts of the Company on posting. We also expect to receive the remainder of our replacements from the U.K.

Arrivals.—Lieutenant M. Stonestreet, from the U.K., and thirty-two other ranks. We hope they will all enjoy their stay in Karachi.

Departures.—Captain J. R. Beeton, on leave to the U.K. The Company wish you a good time, sir.
Best wishes to all those who have left us.

Agony.—Lawson (W.A.G.), Peshdist. "How about a line? Doughie."

E DOUBLE U.

"B" Corps Signals Rugby Notes, 1938-39.—It will probably astonish readers to hear that "B" Corps plays rugby at all as, in the past, we have hidden our light under a bushel, but we have done so ever since our arrival here in 1935.

For the benefit of non-Karachi-ites, we must explain that there is no pitch of lush green grass available, but an expanse of fairly hard sand, so arranged that the prevailing wind blows along it and the setting sun blinds those playing into the wind. As it is just inside the sandhills marking the sea-shore, it is kept soft by the tide rising under it and flooding it at high tides. During the low tides it is of wonderful hardness, and is so impregnated with salt that it is quite antiseptic.

Rugby is played by ourselves, the R.A.F. (from Drigh Road, seven miles away), Karachi Gymkhana, and the British Battalion if it fields a team. This year, unfortunately, the "Gym." have rarely fielded a side, neither have the Infantry Battalion.

A perusal of results to date may make the reader wonder why we bother to publish them, but it should be known that there are not many players in the Unit. The players are divided roughly into the following categories: (a) Those the Unit know, but are sent away on long Courses. (b) Those who also play football, and on whom the football team has a prior claim. (c) The rest of us. However, we make up in enthusiasm for what we lack in numbers.

As a result of the season's fixtures to date, we claim to be the most frequent, if not the best, losers in the Corps! Here are the results to date:

		For			Against			
Date.	Opponents.	G.	T.	Pts.	G.	T.	Pts.	Rslt.
13/ 8/38	R.A.F. Depot ..	–	–	–	2	1	13	L.
19/ 8/38	R.A.F. Depot ..	–	–	–	3 (1P)	1	16	L.
2/ 9/38	R.A.F. Depot ..	1 (P)	–	4	5	2	31	L.
16/ 9/38	R.A.F. (A) ..	–	–	–	1	2	11	L.
24/10/38	"C" Sqn., R.A.F.	–	1	3	1	3	14	L.
27/10/38	"A" Sqn., R.A.F.	1	–	5	–	4	12	L.
31/10/38	"D" Sqn., R.A.F.	–	2	6	2 (P)	–	6	D.
2/11/38	"C" Sqn., R.A.F.	–	–	–	3	1	18	L.
5/11/38	Karachi Gym. ..	–	1	3	1	–	5	L.
14/11/38	"A" Sqn., R.A.F.	–	–	–	1	1	8	L.
25/11/38	"B" and "D" Sqns., R.A.F. ..	–	–	–	5	1	28	L.
28/11/38	"C" Sqn., R.A.F.	–	–	–	–	3	9	L.
19/12/38	"A" Sqn., R.A.F.	–	1	3	–	–	–	W.
23/12/38	"C" Sqn., R.A.F.	–	–	–	2	1	13	L.
28/12/38	R.A.F. Depot (B)	1 (P)	–	3	–	–	–	W.
2/ 1/39	"B" and "D" Sqns., R.A.F. ..	1 (P)	–	3	–	1	3	D.

This season will see the loss of many stalwarts of the rugger team. Corporal Atkin has gone already, whilst Lance Sergeant Lennon, Corporal Edwards, Signalmen Lennon, Burke, McNulty and Attrill are to go this month needless to say just before the local tournament in February.

PEDULJI SAIKALJI.

Corporals' Mess.

General.—It is hoped that your nervous systems have recovered from the shock of seeing notes from us last month, but whether you are in a fit state or not, the second instalment is about to be inflicted upon you.

Congratulations.—Mr. Records is now working overtime with regard to this Unit and, according to form, a new Blue Book will be needed before long. Promotion being so rife, we tender our congratulations to our ex-members, Lance Sergeants Bartlett, Lennon and Mohrstadt (the first two are now on their way to the U.K., and the latter is at present at Jubbulpore) on pulling their new ranks. Also to Corporals Carlyon, Duggan, Evans E. and Grainger on obtaining that second stripe.

Arrivals.—A hearty welcome is extended to Corporal Winter and Lance Corporal Murray, who arrived here per H.T. "Lancashire" on 10th January; and to Lance Corporals Smith and Ridley, who landed from H.T. "Dorsetshire" on 14th January. It is hoped that their stay in this Unit will be pleasant, and that the Karachi ozone does not get them down as it has in the case of one member of the Mess who is complaining that he had got the "screws."

Interlude.—A certain Junior N.C.O. entered the Mess in a tearing hurry, yelling his head off for the bearer. After a slight interval, the bearer arrived, and was ordered to fetch a "Bunty Bar" and bags of "Jilo"! Incidentally, our bearer, Rabbit by name, is a great lad at spending other people's money, especially at promotion time. Everyone who enters the Mess is asked what they are going to drink, with a reminder that the promoted Corporal Sahib will pay!

PEGASUS

SOUTHERN COMMAND ..... INDIAN ARMY

4th Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop.

10th February.

We have been visited by the C.S.O. (Colonel G. L. G. Pollard, M.B.E.), who said good-bye to all ranks prior to his departure. He was given a good send-off at the station. During his visit a keenly-contested hockey match was played between the ex-Boys (ably led by Captain J. M. C. Hoblyn, assisted by Lance Sergeant Brennan) and the "Rest" (captained by Captain J. N. Barker). The struggle ended in a draw, which is as it should be.

The Troop has also been inspected by the Brigadier, 4th Cavalry Brigade; by the D.A.D.O.S., Deccan District; and by the D.A.D.V.S., Deccan District. In each case the report has been very good. Despite the fact that for the last six weeks the Troop has been engaged in some hard manœuvres, the condition and the care of the horses was especially commented upon.

The early days of the month saw us out on a District Exercise to the south-west of Hyderabad. The first night was spent in an assembly position, where a big bonfire and camp yarns filled the bill. During the remaining days the Troop was working at top pressure, sometimes partly mechanised, at other times on horse, with the No. 1 Sets earning a splendid reputation. It was unfortunate that Lance Sergeant Hylands and a beautiful new Ford van were captured, but the enemy did not know that he had safely delivered important messages and a No. 1 Set. The news that Lance Sergeant Brennan and a "C" Set detachment had suffered a temporary two-hour "capture" by a Supply Officer of a neutral baggage convoy was the cause for many grumbles and much doubt. Later, this "C" Set did some excellent work with the 7th Light Cavalry.

The first leave and furlough parties have gone and, in addition, we have sent a detachment with four No. 1 Sets, under the command of Lance Sergeant Hylands, to Rajnand Gaon on special duty.

A party also leaves for Poona this month, to take part in the Poona-Ahmednagar Brigade manœuvres. This leaves the Troop at its barest minimum, and in the strange position of having more than twice as many horses as there are men.

Postings.—Sergeant Wagg W. T. is posted to "A" Corps Signals, Rawalpindi. His stay with the horses has been very brief. In his place we welcome Lance Sergeant Grafton from 3rd Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Meerut.

Deaths.—We regret to report the death of T.Q.M.H. Abdul Aziz, of this Troop, who died on 14th January.

The End.—"Forty" is to have a new name, "Cocker," and one day will have a brass tablet fixed in his stall. What a brazen memorial for *such* a horse!

OTHER STATIONS ABROAD

Palestine Force Signals.

Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess.

Headquarters, Palestine Force Signals, Jerusalem.

11th February.

The tailpiece of our previous effort referred to the S.S. " Montcalm " scheduled to appear at Haifa on or about 24th January. Many thanks, " Monty," for the cargo now safely installed in the surrounds of Talavera, and a hearty welcome to Mesdames Hulme, Beardmore, Lane, Vigurs, Weller, Mitton, Yates, McAdie, Lomax, and children thereof.

Once again Mrs. Steward, wife of our Commanding Officer, had the pleasure of greeting them to Palestine in the precincts of the Mess, where the families were once more re-united, and where they partook of an excellent meal. News has filtered through that there are yet some more families to join us in the very near future.

We are now permitted to say that 75 per cent. of the reinforcements who set foot in this country way back in December, 1938, will be saying good-bye to the Mess sometime in March. We take this opportunity, on behalf of those not so fortunate to be going home with them, of wishing them good-bye and tendering our best wishes for a good voyage. Good hunting to you all at your new stations.

A " smoker " was recently held on the occasion of R.S.M. Goodwin's (R.E.) departure for higher circles. Congratulations, sir, on attaining commissioned rank, and always remember that there will be " one " behind the bar for you at any time that you feel inclined to go slumming.

With the departure of R.S.M. Kingman (Haifa) to the U.K. comes the news that R.S.M. Newman and family are due to join us from No. 2 W/T Company at an early date. We wish them a good voyage, and a hearty welcome awaits them.

The Wednesday night "At Home " in the Mess is still as popular as ever, and Tommy certainly excels himself as chief whip in the " Tombolo stakes," but the ladies will never forgive him for misplacing *soixante neuf* at his initial effort.

Married members and their families recently took advantage of an organised Unit outing to the Dead Sea. Although the weather conditions for February in this part of the globe were normal, it was rather too chilly to enjoy bathing. A few stalwarts braved the elements, and emerged duly pickled. The Dead Sea is renowned for its salt. Jericho—both old and new—were visited, and much interest was derived therefrom. We understand that Bethlehem is to be the next adventure.

Reference to " Who's Who " this month reveals that Lance Sergeant Turner (Sarafand) attained substantive rank. Congratulations, and a promise from H.Q. that all empties will be returned by D.R.L.S. the next day.

Soccer fans of Force Signals, both past and present, will be delighted to know that the Corps in Palestine has disposed of the 2nd Battalion, K.O.R. Regiment, in the second round of the " Chancellor " Cup to the tune of 5—0. Congratulations ! Our opponents in round three are to be the winners of the match R.A.F. v. Force H.Q., but more about this in our next notes, when a detailed report on both ties, and soccer in general, will be forthcoming.

FOUR BY TWO.

No. 4 Section, Haifa.

Promotions.—This is always an interesting topic, so we will start off with the latest amendments to the list. To be Acting Corporals with Pay : Corporals Spearman and Callan, Lance Corporals Smith J., McKay and McConnell-Wood. In addition, U/Lance Corporals Wall, King and Chamberlain have started the upward trend. We congratulate one and all !

Leave.—This seems to be the next most important item. Lance Corporal Smith, Signalmen Roman, Purvis, Betley and Thompson have left us for some rather belated leave in "Blighty." We feel that it will be all the more enjoyable for the waiting.

Pay.—Pay must always come well up the roll of essentials, so it is not surprising to see many of the Section busily swotting up for the next Trade Board. These days we compete with Correspondence Schools throughout the world : " Send us 10 cents for a body like mine " ; " They laughed when I sat down to play " ; " Once I was overlooked, NOW look me over " ; etc. Our slogan is : " Once I was just ' B 3,' but ' B 4 ' long I'll ' B B2.' You can ' B 1 2 ' ! "

Arrivals.—We welcome Mrs. Spearman and family. It is to be hoped that the curfews and other restrictions will not unduly spoil her stay with us.

Also some fat cheques for our sporting fraternity. One Scotsman is said to have pocketed a cool hundred. The event was naturally celebrated.

Fan Mail.—Bill Fill, 5th Div. " Bob was down for Singapore. Now Malta. Really Bulford (?). John."

No. 6 Section.

8th February.

Greetings from the Southern Area war zone. Here we are again—" 1939 Crusaders " in the Holy Land.

Requests have been repeatedly forthcoming from England as to what we actually do out here, and how we occupy our spare time (we like that !). It would be difficult to give a description of the various duties which have to be performed as they are so numerous and varied, but the following may help to enlighten those who wonder just what their husbands, friends, and sweethearts are really doing.

Linemen and D.R.s have little opportunity of actual employment at their trades. We would like to be able to write of blood-spattered D.R.s with " P " messages clenched between their teeth, rough riding across the desert sand dunes, but, unfortunately, or perhaps fortunately, they are kept penned up in Sarafand.

Communication is in most cases by wireless. The rebels simply refuse to allow a telegraph line to remain in use for more than a few days. Sets have been installed at all outposts, and sets accompany all road and rail traffic. Operators are employed in railway trucks, motor cars, and also on foot whenever a column goes into the hills. Communication on the whole is quite satisfactory, and all sets have proved to be very reliable. A new set, the Marconi Pack Set, lately taken into general use, is not too popular with the operators, as they have to supply their own power from a hand generator, and it is rather difficult turning a handle with the left hand whilst " sending " with the right, but we are getting used to the newly manufactured Morse. Incidentally, operators have been called upon to man so many sets that Infantry operators have been called in to lend a helping hand ; their assistance is greatly appreciated.

Certa Cito.—Signalman Kidd is to be congratulated on his conduct during a recent ambush in a notorious gully on the Gaza-Beersheba road. Whilst everybody else took to cover and replied to the rebels' fire, he remained perched in an open wireless truck, sending out the " S.O.S." Good show, Skipper !

Leave (during these hectic times, too).—Sergeant Adams (Roscorti Bill) recently found time to nip across the border into Egypt and spend a fortnight's leave in his beloved Cairo (eighteen years in the Army, of which 14½ has been spent abroad, and STILL he has not been through the Suez).

Time Marches On.—Signalmen Cribb and Barker, their faces radiating beams of happiness, recently boarded the S.S. " Montcalm," bound for " Blighty." We wish them luck.

Sergeant Adams from Gaza to Sarafand, and relieved by Sergeant Ross, who was accompanied by Signalman (Smiler)

Parkin. They were greeted with a hail of bullets on arrival at Gaza.

Corporal Holt and Freddie Lathbury have left for Nablus, and three "long term" men—Sergeant Stevens, Corporal Barwick and Signalman Davoll—have taken their places here.

Promotions.—Congratulations to Sergeant Turner on losing his "Lance," and also to Lance Corporal Kitson on being paid for his stripe.

TANDO (T.B.C.).

8th Divisional Signals, Haifa.

11th February.

There is not a great deal of news for this month's issue of the WIRE.

R.S.M. Kingman and Sergeant Norcup will soon be leaving us for that land of mist, rain and cold, namely, Blighty. We shall be very sorry to see them go, and hope that they will get "cushy" jobs in their new sphere of activities.

We are a very smart Unit now, for an electric iron has been purchased for us, and now there is a continual rush to the Armoury for the creasing of trousers and tunics. It is a wondrous sight to see one of the gentle lorry drivers meticulously creasing the back of his tunic, or running a loving finger down the knife-like edge of his slacks. We must not forget to mention the smartness of the "civvies." We are thinking of commencing knitting classes for the more serious-minded lads, but we fear that the suggestion would only cause a disinterested lift of the eyebrows. Such are the lads nowadays!

Yesterday, on our way to dinner, we met two of the lads *en route* to the Signal Office and, in the course of our *salaams* enquired as to the date when they expected to float home. Such a torrent of delightful profanity greeted our delicate ears that we have since wondered if there was anything wrong with our question. While on the subject, there is a curious atmosphere of tension in the air whenever boats are suggested in the presence of either Signalmen Richardson or Jameson.

We have had the great privilege of wearing plain clothes, conferred upon us with all due ceremony. When this was posted in Orders, the tailor rubbed his hands on his best trousers in gleeful anticipation of the "ackers" that would be his in the near future from all the orders he was going to get for "civvies."

Things We Want to Know.—How did a certain "Gunfire Wallah" get his milk issue from the M.O.?

Where did Lang get his slacks and cap?

Which bright chap can safely alter the adage, "Stone walls do not a convent make," or something like that?

Hockey.—A few matches have been played. Although not too successful in the first round, we have great hopes of making a better show in the second. Here are the results of three of the second round matches: v. Maccabi, Haifa, lost, 1—2; v. R.A.S.C., Haifa, drawn, 1—1; v. R.W.K., Haifa, lost, 0—4.

We were at a disadvantage in the match with the R.W.K., owing to two of our star players not being available; Captain Cole, one of them, was in hospital. This is the usual team: Signalman Scott; Major Westropp, Mr. Lyall; Signalman McLeod, Lance Corporal Poole, Signalman Jackson; Signalman Halford, Major Knowles, Captain Cole, Signalman Allgood and Signalman Clements. Other players are: Captain Evans, the D.A.P.M., Mr. Denny, Signalmen Quinn and Ainsworth.

Jews' Mail.—Rose, Palestine. "How's Megan? Reply Doc., Haifa."

Bill Sykes, 'Shot. "Now, when I was in 'A' Corps! Jacko."

Stowers, 5th Div. "Have stamps gone up, or are they still 1½d.?"

ALLEO.

"X" Troop Cavalry Signals, Haifa.

1st February.

General.—Despite the heavy rains and "local thunderstorms" we have maintained communication to the satisfaction of the powers-that-be, no one wants to change their present station, and everything in the garden is lovely. Out-stations at Nablus and Jerusalem are keeping up the good work, and the local "ghillie" attached to the "terrors of the terrorists" at Jebel Kannan, when not on duty, assumes the exalted appointment of "Cinema operators, assistant, for the ill-use (or abuse) of—one."

Personnel.—Signalman Hart has succeeded in finding his way back to the land of "Save your Money." Whether or not it was at his own request, we cannot say, but the manœuvre season is in full swing round about Cairo just now!

We are surprised to learn that our "Stan," of Sussex fame, has applied to return to the land and, regardless of expense, he hopes to go both ways by civilian packet. What are you going to sacrifice in order to get the money, Stan? Is it to be milk bars instead of the usual?

Casualties.—On 17th January, at Jerusalem, Signalman Watson sustained slight concussion to the head (not "brain," because the lads say he hadn't any at the time). The mishap was due to a Lewis gun complying with the laws of gravity. The Lewis gun has been put in for exchange! Members of the Troop wish Angus a speedy return to insanity, he's better that way.

Congratulations.—To our ex-O.C., Captain A. B. De Lisle, now with 2nd Divisional Signals, for being selected to play for the Corps hockey team at Aldershot.

To "Dolly" on taking his foot off the key!

Sport.—Not much sport these days, owing to inclement weather and the exigencies of the service. However, we had two representatives in a shooting match between the Jewish Hunters' Society, Haifa, and the H.Q., 11th Hussars (P.A.O.). The Society won the match, but it was not because of our chaps, was it Claude?

Heard in the Offing.—Sergeant (NOT Signals), as a shot from the sentry breaks the stillness of the night: "Signals again, I suppose." (Collapse of the Sergeant on discovering that it was his own kith and kin.) We could quote further instances of similar happenings, but we have no desire to rub it in.

From our Fitter: "I'll give these terminals a good clean-up and apply some *hermatite* to keep them O.K." Making certain of a permanent joint, Jock?

Jews' Mail.—"We didn't want to hear from you, anyway. Chas."

What We Want to Know.—Why this sudden craze for pipes? Does it make you feel at home?

Why has the U.S.S.R. representative in Haifa extended his activities to the local Bedouin?

Addendum.—May we remind potential pilots that they can apply to this Troop for their "A," "B" or "C" Licences. We train 'em hourly and take off daily.

It's Driving Me Crazy.—Our Office Boy-cum-Clerk-cum-Storeman has removed his body to Cairo for a fortnight's respite. He says it is for fraternal reasons, but we are inclined to suspect otherwise. In his absence, the duties of O.C., Troop Sergeant, Office Clerk, Office Boy, Storeman and Operator No. 1 devolve upon your truly. Of course, duty is duty, and, being a modest young fellah, definitely refuse all decorations for Devotion to Duty. I shan't be able to wear them anyway, because at the present rate of progress I shall be accommodated in the local asylum.

These complex duties are getting me down. As an example, take this letter to Q.M. Paleface Gerrodeum:

"Ref. your X112 despatch to this office from after duty Friday has received stores as stated through failing to comply when this man has completed his M.T. spares dated 19th inst. not yet reported. A.F. G1045 is forwarded for your perusal and compliance."

(Signed) W/T Storeman on duty for Signalman i/c.

Well, what more can you expect?

Obituary.—The writer's, if these notes appear in print. Who said, " No such luck ? "

Has anyone got an Aspro, please ?

E. C. L.

Hong Kong Signal Company.

General.—Having recovered from the 1938-39 festivities, the Unit is now busily smartening up its drill in readiness for the G.O.C.'s inspection next month.

On 28th January, Lieutenant P. D. Gracey assumed command of the Operating and D.R. Section, *vice* Lieutenant F. P. Rickard.

Just before the " Dilwara " left for the U.K., a Farewell and Welcome Dinner was held at the C.B.S. and Whitfield Barracks.

Arrivals.—We extend a hearty welcome to all members of the new draft.

Departures.—The departure of the " Dilwara " for the U.K. with many useful members of the Unit, has meant more work for our various sports committees. Many of the departures were conspicuous in the Unit's activities, and we wish them *bon voyage*. (Yes, even Agony !)

Congratulations.—To S.S.M. Knox on attaining that rank, and also to S.S.M. Knox and Sergeant Morgan on receiving the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal after eighteen years' service.

Call of the Yid.—Henderson 092. " Write before I return U.K. Ned."

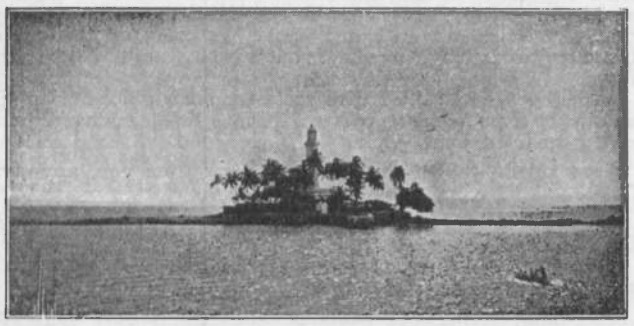
'5109. " How about a line, please ? Pat."

Graham 222, Egypt. " Ow abart it ? 220 Wilkins."

5th Divisional Signals. " How about a line, someone ? Blakeney."

Signals, Tientsin. " Ya ! Ya ! To all grippers. Harry."

B.V.P.



Malaya Signal Company.

Fort Canning Detachment.

6th February.

Now that Christmas is over and the Detachment is just recovering from the usual hangover, we are all looking forward to the next one, which really does not seem so far away when one remembers that old saying " Roll on Christmas, let's have some nuts." Another reason for Christmas not seeming so far away is that most of us at Canning might be spending next Christmas in Blighty.

The Detachment seems to have enjoyed themselves at Christmas, but as one of them put it, the after effects are not so hot. The barrel of beer we spoke about in our last notes was safely preserved, but owing to a leak (thanks to " Blind Pugh ") which it sprung three days before the ceremonial tapping, it was not only half empty but beautifully flat. This was a sad blow, coming as it did right on top of the local G.A.'s refusal to let us have our Christmas Draw, but like true supporters of the Corps we got over all this and managed to have a really good time.

The concert, which was held in the dining hall, proved to be a huge success, and it was here that Lineman Harry was officially presented with his stripe, measuring 2 feet by 4 inches. Members of the Section gave various turns, and Signalman Harris, who sang unusually well, was given two encores, which means the stage for him on his retirement from the Army. Other songs were given by Signalman Soppett and Lance Corporal Jones, Lance Corporal Bellis giving good support from the audience. Our pigeoneer gave a good performance by singing " Diddlem, Doddlem, Day," but was somewhat hampered by his well-known moustache. He has since joined his own Unit prior to returning home " time-expired."

Wings Over Canning.—We are glad to say that the Signals air power is at last recovering from the terrific blow that was struck only a few months ago. More and more birds are returning from their enforced holiday and, together with their brothers and sisters, are rapidly filling the hangar.

Congratulations.—To U/Lance Corporal Jones H. on his appointment.

Arrivals.—Our well-known D.R. Section has been strengthened by the arrival of Signalman Marsden D. We hope that our rules of the road will not confuse him too much.

The Office Staff and Barrett now have an understudy in Signalman Stuart G., who is quickly getting to know the intricacies of the well-known " Barrett " office system.

Things We Want to Know.—From ex-No. 1 Company Clerk, 1st Div. " Does the typewriter still bore holes in the sheets when typing ? "

Having reached the writer's cramp stage, we propose to close these notes to the sound of the guitars and soft voices coming from the palm-fringed beach just below my window.

RASOOL.

Alexandra Detachment.

From malodorous Malaya, greetings ! News of the past month is quite unexciting, and mainly concerns recent additions to strength and a few departures.

The following have arrived, per the " Dilwara ": C.S.M. Harvey, C.Q.M.S. Lawrenson, Sergeant Taylor W., Corporals Thompson, Howland and Hollingshead, Lance Corporals Wood, Stoner and Penman, and Signalmen Healey, Camp, Johnston, Walker, Blackman, Marsdon, Stuart, Fawcett, Wilks, Barrell, Conboy, Slavin, Wild, Pleavin and Moir. A few were sent to Changi and the remainder detained at Alexandra.

On Saturday, we saw off (in kindly spirit) three old members of the Unit, namely, Lance Sergeant (Hookey) Walker, who leaves us to return to employment under the Colonial Government at Kuala Lumpur, Lance Corporal Lambert and Signalman Ellison. The last two, judging by their services here, will prove an asset to any Unit to which they may be posted. We wish them all the best of luck and a good station at home, and to Lance Sergeant Walker especially, all success in his new sphere of activity. Do be careful, Hookey Boy, when spinning your usual repertoire of yarns in the clubs at Kuala Lumpur ; there may be some one present who really knows something of the genus-tiger. You may be invited not to shoot one, and then what will you do ? Will it be " all in," Hookey ? Ellison is a good wireless man if anybody should be looking for one.

If the welcome in their new Units is anything like the send-off they got from here, then they have something to look forward to.

Sergeant (Buck) Taylor, who has just been overhauled at the General Hospital, is looking ten years younger already. Have the Insurance Company reduced your premium yet, Buck ?

Some of the September draft are now employed as either W/T Operators or Exchange Operators. The remainder, together with the new draft, are still under training in readiness for certain Combined Operations in the not too distant future. All we want now are the No. 9 Sets and some transport to convert into O.B. Vans, and then we shall be quite formidable rivals to the B.B.C.

Be it known, too, that we shall bid a tearless farewell to that relic of the dark ages—the C. Mk. 1. To one just out from home, these Sets are very " bow and arrowy " ; it is a wonder how they have stuck it so long.

Congratulations.—To Lance Sergeant McAuliffe on his appointment to that rank. What about a game of Euchre, Mac. ? Is it an expensive game to learn ?

Sport.—Hockey has almost faded out, and football rapidly succeeds it in popularity. We are getting together (but rather slowly, owing to the shortage of grounds a really good football team, and as both the R.A.S.C. and R.A.O.C. have gotten themselves good teams also, we foresee many interesting local " Derbies " in this area.

Last week we beat " D " Company of the Loyals 6—0, and we have not yet found our best team. Please watch our sports notes in the future !

We welcome Lieutenant P. G. Curry, who has gone to Changi temporarily, and eventually proceeds to Penang. May your stay with the Unit be a pleasant one, sir !

Football.—Here are some results : 14th January, v. Roya' Signals Asiatics, won 7—1 (Parent 3, Pierce 2, Laing and O'Mara). 20th January, v. R.E., Tanglin, drawn 1—1 (Duckworth). 25th January, v. " D " Company, Loyals, won 6—0 (Duckworth 4, Laing and Parent). 28th January, v. R.A.S.C., won 4—3 (Pleavin, Wild, Laing and Slavin). 31st January, v. R.A.O.C., won 5—1 (Duckworth 3, Penman 2). 4th February, v. 35th Company, R.E., won 5—0 (Duckworth 2, Parent 2, Funnell 1).

Hockey.—Hockey has finished up well on the credit side. A very useful team is in pickle for next season, and we are now embarked upon a quest for trophies, and foilers will have to play very hard.

SIGNALAY.

Changi Detachment.

General.—Once again the plaintive call of Changi Section is heard on the air. However, things are settling down now that the festive season is over.

The Christmas arrangements were excellent, and thanks are again due to the old " 41 " for the good things provided. The dining hall was tastefully decorated, and great credit is due to the Messing N.C.O. and his staff for the hard work they put in during the period.

The Christmas period passed very satisfactorily and, with the coming of the New Year, we once again put our shoulders to the wheel. The monthly " kit " has again passed over, and it is with pleasure that we see the Gigolos of the Section gradually acquiring that deep and lovely tan that the grass-skirted maidens usually fall for.

Arrivals.—We welcome Lieutenant P. G. Curry to the jungles of Changi as our O.C. Detachment. May you find the Changi air to your liking, sir !

We also welcome Corporal Hollingshead, Lance Corporals Wood and Stoner, and Signalman Fawcett from England, and Signalmen Hunter and Westmaas from "Alex," *via* the " Mossy Bus." These last arrivals bring our strength up to a double hockey team. We extend the hand of welcome to all of them and hope their stay in Changi will be a pleasant one.

Departures.—By the time these notes appear in print, Lance Corporal Lambert should be well on his way to Southampton. (The cynics say Palestine, Tich !). This brings to a close about three and a half years of pioneering and sunbathing around the palm-fringed shores of this wonder isle of ours.

At this point may we linger a little in order to describe the little " Jewel " who will be arriving in Blighty. The Singapore Press could, no doubt, give a better description, but it will, perhaps, suffice to say that he is a wonderful all-rounder and has even excelled himself as a yachtsman whilst serving in this station. The best wishes go with you, Tich, and here's hoping you return some day.

Our second departure was Signalman Burgess (our blonde Venus), who left us on Inter-Unit posting at the beginning of the month. It is with deep regret that we record this, and it is to be hoped that he will visit us in the near future.

Congratulations.—To Signalman Garner on reaching the semi-final of the Changi Area Billiards Tournament. He was beaten by 53 by Sapper Fry, R.E., who later won the Malaya Command Championship. Try again next year, Tam ; the odds are good.

To our " Toots " on his return from Tanglin Hospital. Do they issue chewing gum in hospital, Donald ?

To C.Q.M.S. Nix on his return to duty. Here's hoping that the shoulder is O.K., " Q " !

Sport.—It is rather hard to record that we lost the three hockey matches played this month, but a great effort is to be made in our return match with the 32nd Heavy Battery next week. Next month's notes should be in a lighter vein.

Tennis seems to be gaining in popularity amongst our new arrivals, and it is rumoured that Lance Corporal (Chippy) Wood is coaching the boys for something really big.

The Section now rejoices to the music of Corporal Hollingshead's violin ; it is indeed a pleasure to " wake up and live " to the tune of that name. (Sez you !)

Agony.—Will Corporal Spence C. A. G., somewhere in India, send a few lines to a jungle wallah in Changi ?

SENG HUP.

Malta Signal Section.

Command Signal Office, Valletta.

6th February.

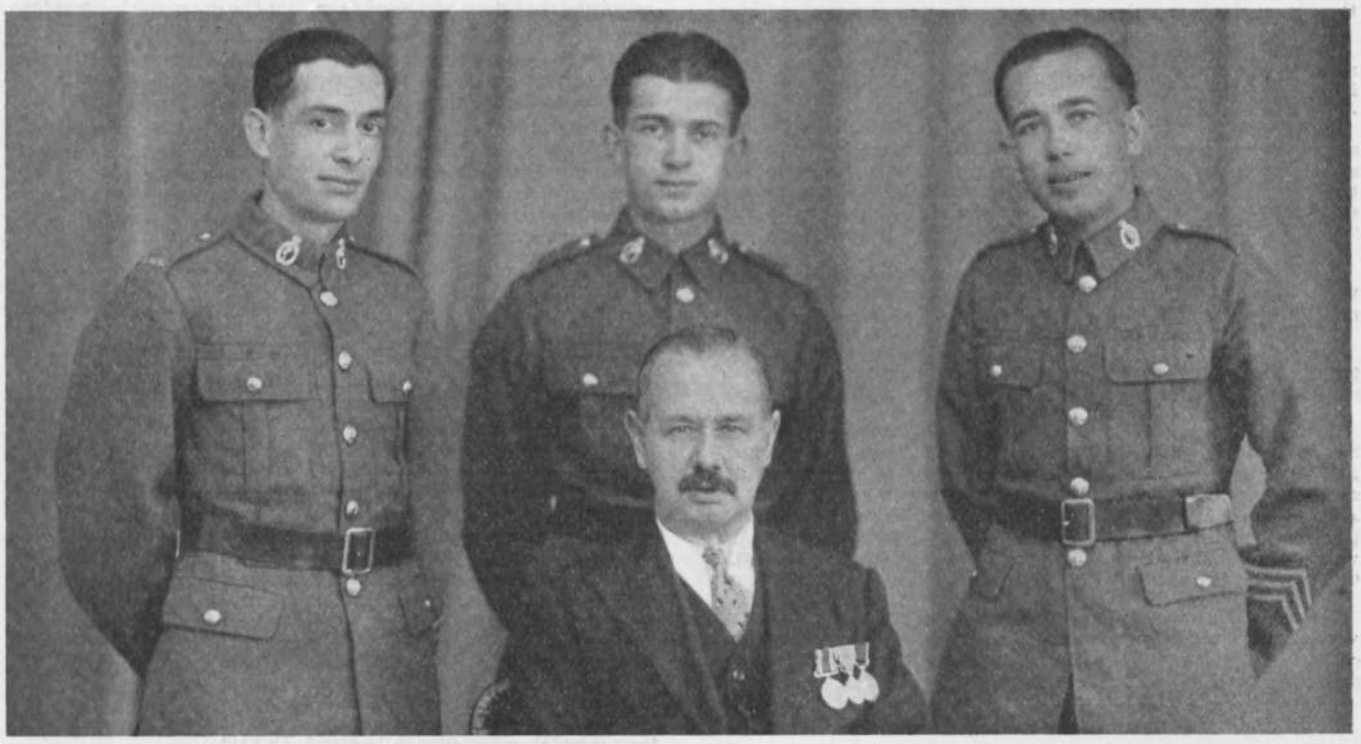
General.—With the trooping season now well advanced we are still awaiting the anticipated reliefs and replacements, whom we shall have no difficulty in usefully employing.

2nd Lieutenant W. C. Ramsay, Royal Signals, joined us on 22nd January, and we trust he will find Malta to his liking, and that his stay will be a happy one. We have already seen 2nd Lieutenant Ramsay as a soccer player and hope our rock-hard grounds have not damped his enthusiasm. " Oh, my pore 'ole feet ! "

Promotions.—Congratulations are extended to Corporal Beard R. J., who now sports the insignia of full rank, discarding the " Lance." Here we have another soccer player who has proved a hard worker in the Command Small Units' games.

Signalman Silver C. W. has left us for six weeks' furlough in England, and we hope he will thoroughly enjoy his well-earned holiday.

MALTA SIGNAL SECTION.



Mr. P. C. Smith and his three sons.

The photograph appearing with these notes is of Mr. P. C. Smith, our Fortress Exchange Superviser, and his three sons. We think this is a record for the Corps, and we think that a short resumé of their services will be of interest to readers.

Mr. P. C. Smith, who enlisted in the South Wales Borderers in June, 1899, transferred to the Royal Engineers as an Instrument Repairer in September, 1899. He served in Malta from April, 1900 to 1909, and from 1910 until he was discharged to pension in 1920. He has been employed with the Malta Signal Section from the date of his discharge, and has forty years' service to his credit.

Signalman Smith H. (Instrument Mechanic, A.II), on the left of the photograph, enlisted as a boy on 30th June, 1923, and has served in Malta since December, 1928. He reverts to the Home Establishment this trooping season.

Signalman Smith G. R. (Lineman, C.III), in the centre, who enlisted in October, 1937, is at present in Malta on furlough from 1st A.A. Brigade Signals.

Signalman Smith A. W. (Instrument Mechanic, A.II), who enlisted as a boy on 3rd August, 1928, has served with Malta Signal Section since 1935.

Their combined service amounts to over seventy-one years.

Work.—With the rapid progress of cable development, more overhead routes are disappearing daily as cables are taken into use. Some say we are preparing a holiday station for our successors, but whether this opinion is true or not remains for the future to decide.

New instruments pour in upon us and if the influx of these stores is maintained we shall probably burst with pride.

Stop Press.—The goats are losing, for Valletta is now out of bounds to them !

Personal.—To Porky of the Edwards Clan (India). " Ginger the ' Bearded Naik ' offers apologies and promises. Time will tell ! "

SKIP.

Shanghai Signal Section.

30th January.

General.—Shanghai is in the grip of winter, and it is desired to give assistance to poor and destitute Signalmen. In this respect a small (in fact, very small) fund has been started. All donations will be thankfully received, as it is our wish that as much bottled nourishment as possible may be issued to the most needy. Thank you !

If it were not for fear of being accused of copying Egypt Signals' notes we should liked to have said a few words on the subject of " Gripping." However, as they got in first, the subject must be left alone, although the writer has been " gripped " lately almost to the point of strangulation by our Nos. 1, 2 and 3.

Promotions.—Yes, we even get them in Shanghai ! Congratulations to W.O.III Macdonnell on his promotion to that rank, and also on being " back-dated " to 1st October, 1938. This has entailed his posting to another Unit, and he has now proceeded to join Egypt Signals, where he will be " stung " for another two years. Our best wishes go with him and his wife, and we hope the different climate will suit both of them.

Agony.—Joe Lightbody, Bovington. " How about dropping a line, c/o Army Post Office No. 1 ? ' Fairy ' Wright."

Condolences.—We think they are due to our late comrades " Tiny " and " Mac," and the thought occurs to us that, perhaps, life isn't so good nowadays. How long will it be before you two are back again ?

Sports.—Many in the Section still take their places in the Area Details teams for hockey, soccer, and rugby. But wait a minute, for we have found talent in our midst ! It has been discovered that Signalmen Taylor and Dixon are really red-hot tiddlywink and ludo players, in fact they are cleaning up all the local Cups and Shields (with " Brasso ") in just as easy a way as being warned for a tour abroad. Just to think that they never told us !

Training.—Although we have not as much scope for upgrading our personnel as exists in many other Units, it might be noted that three of the "locals" will shortly be sitting for higher trade ratings. We hope to publish favourable results in our next notes.

One person is taking his examination for the 1st Class Education in March. Hope you get it, John; it might mean promotion for you!

Conclusion.—Let go! You'll choke me.

PANSHINE.

Tientsin Signal Section.

24th January.

General.—Since our last notes, the personnel of this Unit has undergone the usual changes attendant on the trooping season. Lance Sergeant Hall and Lance Corporal Verlander (both of whom are good all rounders in different senses of the word), Signalmen Songhurst (the linguist), Harrop, Keene, Bloom and Hopcraft have all gone home and, we hope, are happily settled in their respective stations.

Corporals Melly and Wathen, Lance Corporal Venner, Signalmen Watson, Frazer, Jamie and Halstead have joined the Section. They have painted Tientsin the usual red, and can be regarded as old campaigners.

Christmas.—Christmas passed as most Christmases do, with the usual parties and the usual heads the morning after. We had a visit from Brigadier Hopwood (the Area Commander) and his staff, which was very welcome but a little sad, as it was the last Christmas which the Brigadier will spend out here. Ex-members of the Junior Staff Mess will be interested to hear that the Old Grey Mare was burnt in traditional style. Full choral honours and an assembly of about one hundred people made it a conspicuous event.

Far and Near.—Recent excavations in Peking were conducted with a view to obtaining more information about the now famous "Peking Man," who lived thousands of years ago. The Peking detachment will be glad to be of assistance should they require any information about the "Peking Woman."

We learn from the newspapers that the export trade of Hong Kong has fallen tremendously during the last few months. Possibly this explains why there always seems to be a shortage of dots at that place.

With reference to Changi Detachment's notes of November last, we have recently had a film here named "Booloo" which gave us new ideas on short-wave communication. To think that we didn't know a short-wave transmitter worked on 150 kcs.!

China, land of mystery and romance, was unmasked the other day, when the cook produced rabbit stew. Somebody discovered that it had had black fur!

Congratulatory.—Heartiest congratulations to Corporals Wathen, Melly and Copsey, and also to Lance Corporal (Molly) Morgan on attaining those ranks. It just shows that old soldiers never die, but sooner or later get the promotion beer in. More power to their elbows.

Congratulations to Sergeant Gresham H. and Signalman Brewster F. on obtaining their First Class Certificate of Education.

Stooge.—"Tich" officially denies the rumour that the Mess waiter was violently smitten upon the brow for wishing him a "Melly Klistmas."

Agony.—To Jim (Aldershot). "Why does George need a tonic? Molly."

Dick (Egypt). "Your turn, I wrote three years ago. Ron."

Thanks.—The Section wishes to thank all those Units at home and abroad who sent us Christmas greetings. We heartily reciprocate all their sentiments.

RONUK.

Compilation of "Wire" Contributions.

It is noted with satisfaction that the uniformly high standard of contribution submitted for publication by their predecessors is being maintained by present Unit Correspondents, but as the latter are obviously not yet entirely *au fait* with general "lay-out" requirements, we republish the following suggestions for future guidance:

1. Show name of Unit, full address and date of writing, at the head of Notes.
2. Write Sports Notes on separate sheets, and not interspersed among other items.
3. Type all Notes with an open space between the lines. This allows room for editing the copy, and facilitates the printer's work.
4. When Notes are duplicated, the top (and most legible) set should be forwarded for use. Faint and blurred sheets often have to be retyped in fairness to the compositor.
5. Use simple language and write concisely. Involved and incomprehensible sentences should be avoided.
6. Be careful in the spelling of names, whether of persons or places—particularly if they are of foreign origin.
7. Avoid all unnecessary use of quotation signs (" ") and other punctuation marks.
8. Set out Sporting details in a methodical manner.
9. Notes and Articles written in biblical parody cannot be accepted for publication, and should NOT be submitted.
10. The use of *nom-de-plumes* is permissible, but all contributions should be endorsed with the full number, rank, and name of the contributor, not necessarily for publication, but as an indication of good faith only.
11. No notice is taken of anonymous contributions. Contributions should preferably be endorsed by an Officer of the Unit.
12. **"Copy" should be despatched in time to reach the Editor by the 16th of the month. "Copy" received after that date will normally be held over for insertion in the following month's publication.**
13. Photographic illustrations, cartoons, and humorous sketches are particularly desirable, but as blockmaking is a highly technical process, the following points should be strictly observed:
    - (*a*) Photographs for reproduction should be clear in every detail, free from heavy shadows, and adaptable for enlargement or reduction as circumstances necessitate.
    - (*b*) Prints only are required—not negatives—and indifferent pictures should not be submitted.
    - (*c*) Avoid the use of clips or pins for fastening photographs to contributions. The resultant mutilation frequently renders the picture unfit for blockmaking purposes.
    - (*d*) Diagrams, cartoons, and sketches must be drawn in Indian ink on good quality paper.
    - (*e*) Coloured ink drawings cannot be utilised.
    - (*f*) All "lettering," "captions," etc., should be printed legibly, and in proportion to the size of the drawing.
14. In order to obtain uniformity of style throughout the magazine, all abbreviations should be studiously avoided, and when reference is made to dates, correspondents should place the figure before the month, and spell the latter out in full.

It would greatly facilitate the work of this office, and the printing staff, if contributors would very kindly note the above hints when preparing Notes for publication.

THE EDITOR.

THE TERRITORIALS AND SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE

The London Corps Signals; Affiliated S.R. Units; and 28th (London) Company, A.T.S.

Fulham House, Fulham High Street, London, S.W.6.

15th February.

General.—There is nothing very exciting to report this month. Training continues on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Sunday of each week, and will do so until Easter.

Recruits are still arriving in good numbers, and the queue from the door of the Attestation Room is a common sight these days.

On 16th and 17th January we held a Practice Embodiment Scheme for T.A. and S.R. We gather that it was successful, and enabled the staff to determine what to do in order to perfect the scheme.

The Drill Hall was transformed into a "Ring" on 14th January, on the occasion of the Inter-Company boxing match. We were treated to an evening of really good and exciting boxing, under the very able refereeship of Captain L. M. Joseph, T.D., Royal Signals. No. 1 Company was the winner.

On Saturday, 28th January, we held our annual prize-giving at which the Unit concert party, "The Morse Maulers," rendered their premier performance before a large and distinguished gathering. According to all reports, and particularly that of Major W. H. Lloyd, M.C., our officiating Commanding Officer, the show was a really good one. During the interval Major-General E. A. Osborne, D.S.O., Commander 44th (H.C.) Division, T.A., and Representative Colonel Commandant, Royal Corps of Signals, presented the prizes and complimented the Unit on its strength and efficiency.

Officers.—We have to congratulate Major S. A. W. Philcox on his promotion to that rank.

Sergeants' Mess.—On Saturday, 21st January, we held a "Stag Party." This function was a new departure, and proved most successful. We should like to take this opportunity of informing those who did not accept our invitation that they missed a really bumper evening. However, we are hoping to hold another later on, so don't forget next time.

We had hoped that the result of the "Murphy" Snooker Competition would have been known by now, but the 47th Divisional Signals O.C.A. managed to tie with us, so that we have to play it off again on 22nd February.

A.T.S.—Each Thursday evening we hear the sound of words of command being given by a member of the gentler sex. The lady is Mrs. J. Best, Deputy Company Commander of the Auxiliary Territorial Service, taking her—does one call them privates, ladies or girls—in P.T. We are afraid our Drill Hall floor doesn't do their frocks or costumes much good. A mere man, Sergeant Bugden, one of our young married Sergeants, then takes them for a spell of foot drill. How musical their "numbering" sounds, and "what a pretty foot they drill." Their marching is certainly on the speedy side. The Sergeant then takes these privates, ladies or whatever their official designation is, away on a lecture, the subject of which is a secret between himself and his listeners.

EFFEMMA.

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43rd (Wessex) Divisional Signals.

Headquarters.

The Priory, Exeter.

16th February.

Editorial.—As the lighter evenings approach, keenness to participate in out-of-doors training becomes evident. Some really solid training has been carried out by a large number during the winter months, but we want to see even greater numbers taking a livelier interest and a more active part in the various classes.

We are all extremely sorry to learn that our Adjutant has had his period of sick leave extended. He has our sympathy, and we hope the enforced rest will ultimately prove of lasting benefit.

The last of our Company Annual Dinners has just taken place for the 1938-39 period. It was a good show, and a report will be found in notes from that Company. In my view, the chief item of news announced at the function was that the long-awaited arrival of the new Drill Hall for the Devonport Company is gradually but definitely becoming a matter of months. We learn that the site has been purchased, and that plans are prepared for both buildings on the common site—that of the Divisional R.A.S.C. and ours. It should not take long once the builders get their picks and shovels into action. Progress is certainly hampered when there is a lack of essential accommodation, both for training and recreation.

In Lighter Vein.—We welcome the return of "Begbie" to the fold, at least, for last month. His sudden awakening, after so long a rest, was really refreshing. Our surmise that he had become permanently dry-docked was incorrect, but we must not say too much, or give him too hearty a welcome, lest the surfeit of greetings proves too great a strain, only to be followed by a relapse.

Q. 1 : "What has become of 'Begbie's' half-brother 'Threecoy'? We know he still esists, but we fear the worst. Is it true that the A.T.S. has purloined his typewriter and the appurtenances thereof?"

A. 1 : . .

Q. 2 : " What is the real significance behind the appellation ' Operating Rooms,' firmly affixed to a locked door at a certain temporary H.Q. ? "

A. 2 : . . . !

MERCURY.

No. 1 (Plymouth) Company.

The Drill Hall, York Street, Devonport.

Annual Dinner.—The event of the month has been the Annual Dinner, at which popular event the Company paraded in excellent strength. The dinner was the sixteenth of its series and the eleventh to be held in the present Drill Hall. The Company was very pleased to have among its guests the Lord Mayor of Plymouth (Councillor G. S. Scoble), this being the first occasion on which the Chief Magistrate of the City has been able to be present.

After the loyal toasts were drunk, the Company Commander (Major W. J. L. Cornelius) proposed the health of the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel A. F. S. Fane, who, he explained, was unfortunately unable to be present, as he was attending a Course, which made it impossible for him to get away.

Major Cornelius spoke of the steady progress in all branches of training, and mentioned that social activities still remained limited, owing to the existing Drill Hall accommodation. New buildings were promised, but the waiting became very irksome when it was realised that greater progress was being held up for lack of modern quarters and space for both training and recreation.

Turning to the question of Establishment, the Major stated that this was in the region of 160 all ranks, and that the present strength was 116. There still remained a shortage of Operators, Motor Transport Drivers, Despatch Riders, and Electricians. " I have often tried to visualise the T.A. completely up to Establishment and with an excellent reserve," he continued. " Such is possible now."

" The opportunity is at hand, and for the youth of Plymouth there is now a splendid chance to join with us in doing a man's job in making our country safe."

This toast was followed by that of " The Permanent Staff," proposed by Lieutenant G. K. S. Edwards. He spoke of the value of the permanent staff to a Territorial Unit, saying that they formed the link between the Regulars and Territorials. He referred with regret to the illness of the Adjutant, Major C. W. Knight, and knew that the whole Company would wish him a speedy return to health.

Referring to the excellent work of the Company's P.S.I., A/C.S.M. Scott H. J., he said, " I am sure I am voicing the feelings of the Company when I say we appreciate the way he has put his heart into the work of the Company. He has not only given most excellent value in his own work, but has been most willing in lending a hand in every other aspect of the Company's life."

The toast was replied to by R.S.M. Sibley, who referred to the many activities which the permanent staff were called upon to perform.

Lieutenant P. W. Shaw then proposed the health of the guests, saying how gratified the Company was to be able to welcome the Lord Mayor, the first holder of the office to honour them with his presence at the annual dinner. He said he hoped the precedent would be followed by his successors in that office.

The Lord Mayor, in his reply, spoke of the satisfaction of public service, saying that you might get plenty of kicks, but it was something to be able to look back upon some work of public service in which you had put your heart and feel that you had left it a step farther on from where you had found it.

" We are slow starters, but we get there," said His Worship, referring to the recent appeal for National Service. " The best way to avoid international trouble," he continued later, "was to let those living under other forms of government see that our reaction would be 100 per cent. British. We stand as a bulwark for home, democracy and freedom. That freedom and democracy is something worth preserving, judging by events in other parts of the world to-day. Think of it ; for, if we forget, it may be the last of it."

C.S.M. Gibbings F. J. then proposed " Nos. 2 and 3 Companies," and the toast was in turn replied to by Lieutenant H. W. Fenwick (on behalf of No. 3 Company) and by R.Q.M.S. Green (for No. 2 Company).

The dinner concluded with the presentation of the Company Cups and prizes by the Lord Mayor.

Among the guests were Brevet-Colonel G. C. Wycisk (5th Devons), Lieutenant-Colonel A. C. Rolston (Devon and Cornwall (Fortress) R.E., T.A.), Lieutenant-Colonel W. A. Lister (129th Field Ambulance, R.A.M.C., T.A.), Major J. C. Tozer, Major D. Hopkyns, the Head Postmaster at Plymouth, Dr. V. Curtain (the Company M.O.) and Mr. W. J. Cornelius.

Regrets for unavoidable absence were received from a host of guests, among whom the following " locals " sent cheery greetings for a successful evening : Major J. W. Western, O.B.E., T.D. Lieutenant (Quartermaster) G. E. Stone, and Mr. H. W. Boulger.

General.—Training proceeds apace, and all ranks are now awaiting the lighter evenings, which will make out-of-doors training possible.

ONECOY.

44th (Home Counties) Divisional Signals.

Headquarters.

Stamford Brook Lodge, Ravenscourt Park, London, W.6.

15th February.

General.—Our rather battered, ancient and most inadequate H.Q. at last appears to be on the list for re-building. When " Der Tag " will be, no one seems to know, though everyone is equally certain that it is due.

Annual Training, as in 1936, will be at Dibgate this year, and we are to take part in two Staff Exercises, one in each week. The recent eruption in the even tenor in the existence of 4th Divisional Signals has raised a difficulty in locating our Easter Training, and no decision has yet been reached.

In January we had a practice " Black Out," and were inspected by the Divisional P.A.D. Officer. In spite of the difficulties attendant upon defending such a peculiar structure as our H.Q., everyone seemed satisfied.

With great regret we have said farewell to Captain H. L. Lewis, our Adjutant for the past two years, and who is now at the Staff College, Camberley. He is succeeded by Captain H. O. Pargeter, 1st A.A. Brigade Signals. We hope his stay with us will be a long and happy one.

Sergeants' Mess.—The Sergeants' Children's Party in December once again brought to light the golden hearts that beat beneath those savage exteriors. I wonder where they learn how to hold a baby when it wants to be sick ?

The New Year's Eve Dance, a well attended and happy function, again gave ample evidence of the W.O.s and Sergeants' ability to make people enjoy themselves.

Unit Children's Party.—Some show ! Concentrated happiness in every child, demonstrated by noise, and amplified by the diabolical ingenuity of the man responsible for giving each child a ten h.p. rattle. A clever and amusing dancing show was given after the fun and games, based on the theme, " Snow Whites, 1 " and " Dwarfs, small, brown, bearded, 7," followed by a very lively circus. It was all our own work, and under the direction of a most " angelic " ringmaster. We are indebted to the A.T.S. for their assistance on this occasion, when they performed a job of work that considerably lessened the many troubles that we have to contend with at these functions.

Unit Dinner.—This event was held in January. We were treated to an excellently organised affair, that was well attended by out-lying Sections. The Brighton attendance in particular was most gratifying. In the unavoidable absence of the Colonel, through illness, the chair was taken by Major Rand, who, according to custom, summarised the Unit's work during the past year, and afterwards presented the Regimental prizes. Later, we were entertained to something new and very interesting in concert parties.

" K " Section Dance.—This was the first effort of this kind on the part of a single Section, and was an enormous success. Every available ticket was sold, and a crowded, jolly, successful evening resulted.

D.R.s.—The Despatch Riders M.C.C. held its first Trial at Bagshot Heath in January, with the following results : 1, Signalman Treadgold, 65 points ; 2, Lance Corporal Pratt, 62 points ; 3, Signalman Holloway, 32 points. The purpose of the

Trial was to select a team to compete in events organised by the Territorial Army M.C.C.

Rifle Club.—The latest competitions have closed with results as follows: Handicap Shoot: 1, Signalman Tilcock; 2, Signalman Rogers. Spoon Shoot: 1, Lance Corporal Harding; 2, Lance Corporal Nutting; 3, Lieutenant S. J. Williams. Bell Medal: Lance Corporal Nutting.

JOSIE JUNR.

No. 2 Company.

Drill Hall, Gloucester Road, Brighton.

February.

Territorial Boxing Championships.—The Sussex Group Finals of the Championships were staged at the Drill Hall, Horsham, on Saturday, 21st January, and a very pleasant and entertaining evening was provided. There were five entries from this Company, and Corporal Ripley and Signalman Heath were the two successful contestants who qualified to go to London on the 18th for the Divisional Finals.

The building of this year's team was fraught with considerable difficulties. Our bantam-weight, Signalman Jenkins, had the misfortune to injure one of his eyes, and our heavy-weight, Signalman Blair, was away on business and, in addition, their training was limited owing to the training speed up; so you see our difficulty in raising a full team. In next month's issue we hope to say that our two boys are the Divisional champions.

LIGHT-WEIGHTS (SEMI-FINAL).—Signalman Learey, No. 2 Company, 44th Divisional Signals, v. Private Casey, 4th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment. Casey, an experienced boxer and a T.A. finalist, met with rather an unexpected and very stubborn resistance. It was an excellent fight throughout, and Learey showed plenty of pluck and hitting power, but it was Casey's left leads and excellent defence that gained him a narrow points verdict.

WELTER-WEIGHTS (SEMI-FINALS).—Corporal Ripley, No. 2 Company, 44th Divisional Signals, v. Gunner Reed 57th (Home Counties) Field Regiment, R.A. This was Ripley's first fight at the welter-weight limit, and he christened it with a splendid k.o. in the second round. He was easily the better and more experienced boxer. Round one opened with Ripley scoring with some beautiful left leads to the face which caused his opponent to cover up. Reed was on the defensive throughout the round.

The second round started with Ripley dealing out some terrific punishment, and the referee did right to stop the fight in Ripley's favour towards the end of the second round in order to save Reed further unnecessary punishment.

WELTER-WEIGHTS (FINAL).—In this fight Corporal Ripley met Private Clarke, 4th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment. Ripley again showed that experience tells and, although Clark opened up with a left to the body, he received in exchange a series of lefts and rights that put him in a bad way. In the second round, Ripley had his man down for counts of six and eight before the referee stopped the fight in favour of Ripley.

MIDDLE-WEIGHTS (SEMI-FINALS).—Signalman Heath, No. 2 Company, 44th Divisional Signals, v. Sapper White, R.E. Heath opened the first round by carrying the fight to his opponent. White was no match for Heath, who easily took the round. In the second round, Heath started to deal out punishment and, with a left to the head and right to the body, put his man down for the count.

MIDDLE-WEIGHTS (FINAL).—Signalman Heath, No. 2 Company, 44th Divisional Signals, v. Private Walker, 4th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment. The first round opened with some very lively fighting. Heath, with his tiger-like stance, seemed to worry his opponent, but, towards the end of the round, Walker began to open up. In round two, Walker, fresh from his rest, landed a straight left to the head. Heath, countering Walker's right, sailed in with a two fisted attack, which had his man on the defensive. This was Heath's round.

In the final round, both men began cautiously. Walker, who was the first to open up, landed a hard right to the body. This seemed to arouse Heath, who, driving his opponent against he ropes, dealt out some heavy punishment. The round and he fight ended in favour of Heath.

LIGHT HEAVY-WEIGHTS (FINAL).—Signaller Virgo v. Private Holman, 4th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment. This was a one-sided affair, Virgo being no match for the more experienced Holman. The end came in the second round when Holman landed a beautiful left to the chin which put Virgo down for the count.

HEAVY-WEIGHTS (FINAL).—Signaller Hull v. Lance Corporal Rumble, 4th Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment. This fight is best recorded as a fiasco. A straight right to the chin put Hull down for the count in the first minute of the opening round.

GEORGE BEER.

48th (South Midland) Divisional Signals.

Cateswell House, Hall Green, Birmingham.

February.

Training.—The training season is coming into its stride, and Courses for Linemen and Operators are at present in progress. There is also an imposing array of new recruits to be seen in the Drill Hall on two evenings during the week. A Week-end Exercise for senior N.C.O.s took place on 11th/12th February, and is referred to further on.

A Matter of Law.—We have been deeply gratified to note that our D.C.S.O. and former Commanding Officer, Colonel M. E. Holdsworth, has received the distinction of an appointment as Recorder of Lichfield. Colonel Holdsworth entered the legal profession in 1922, when he was called to the Bar, after gaining his M.A. Degree and LL.B. at Christ College, Cambridge. Those who have had experience of his quick wit and sense of justice would find it hard to think of anyone more fitted for this exacting position.

Boxing.—We are pleased to note that members of the Unit Boxing Club have been in evidence at the Territorial Army ("A" Area) boxing competitions. In the light-weight class, Signalman Tomkinson defeated his rival on points, whilst Lance Corporal Wheeler was similarly successful among the welter-weights. Signalman Bond was unlucky in being outpointed by Private Riddell (7th Battalion, R.W.R.) in the feather-weight contest.

Sergeants' Mess Notes.—Another successful Carnival Dance, which took place at the Drill Hall on 25th January, attracted a full house. A mark of popularity of these Mess functions is indicated by the fact that, more or less, the same crowd of patrons consistently support them, many of them travelling from outlying districts to do so. No less than three special buses are required to convey them home afterwards. The Commanding Officer, Major E. A. James and Major F. E. B. Jones, and their ladies, were present at this function.

Senior N.C.O.s' T.E.W.T.—This year the Exercise was held in the Cannock Chase Area, under the command of Major E. A. James, with whom was also Major F. E. B. Jones. The party, numbering over thirty, was taken out in the Unit trucks and lorries to the rendezvous at Four Oaks Station, at which point the first part of the Exercise, which was a map reading test in reaching the second rendezvous at Shenston by devious set routes, commenced. Then followed a map setting practice from a vantage point on a hill, which gave rise to somewhat animated discussions as to whether a given landmark was or was not what it ought to have been.

After this, the party was taken to the "George," where an excellent tea awaited them, and which was followed by a very interesting lecture by Major James on the Battle of Le Cateau.

After supper, the rest of the evening was spent convivially round the "Joanna" in the Ball Room, and at which an ample supply of liquid refreshment probably accounted in some cases for the pronounced lack of appetite for breakfast the next morning.

The Exercises set for Sunday were also based on route finding both in the vehicles and on foot. The latter proved to be a searching test of our physical fitness in these mechanised days. One syndicate that included several C.S.M.s and C.Q.M.S.s, who had stopped to admire the scenery, were picked up in the Austin, whose unerring homing instinct took it straight to the final rendezvous at Rugeley about half-an-hour before the rest of the party, who had been taken to see a war-time military

cemetery situated on the " Chase." Altogether a very instructive as well as enjoyable week-end.

Despatch Riders' Notes.—A number of D.R.s continue to " show the flag " in the local Club Trial events, and the D.R. Club has now joined the Midland group of the A.M.C.A. Signalman Johnson was successful in gaining the Novices' Cup in the Smethwick M.C.C. Trial.

Signalmen Darrall, Johnson and Gunn took part as a team in the Colmore Trial on 4th February, Darrall and Gunn riding W.D. Norton machines. Johnson, who rode his own Triumph, came within six marks of a second class award. Out of eight or nine Army teams, the " 48th " were placed third, thereby stealing a march on the representatives of " 3rd Div." A very creditable performance. On 26th February, the D.R.s will support the first of a series of T.A. Trials—this one is being organised by 49th Divisional Signals.

GETCHER.

Nos. 31 and 32 Wireless Sections, G.H.Q. Signals, Coventry.

" Melford," Warwick Road, Coventry.

14th February.

Apologies.—We apologise for the absence of our notes in the last two issues of the WIRE. This was partly due to the scribe taking his month's leave, and to partial disorganisation caused by the move of these Headquarters to the new site at " Melford," Warwick Road, and also to the subsequent rush of work which invariably crops up when one can least do with it.

Moves.—On 9th January it was decided that the Headquarters of these two Sections should be moved to the new site at " Melford," Warwick Road, Coventry. Although we are installed here no structural alterations have yet been carried out, and, consequently, training has to be done in odd rooms and corners, a fact which tends to dampen our enthusiasm somewhat. However, we hope to have the builders with us in the near future, and the whole of the work finished by the end of annual training. We shall then get down to some serious soldiering (?).

We are also glad to say that the first " essential " was installed on the first night of our occupation. Various improvements have been made since, and it is pleasant to say that everything is flourishing. Of course it's good beer—and good drinkers, too. So what ?

Competition in darts is very keen at present, and we believe that the social committee propose putting up a Challenge Cup for individual champions. The standard of play is improving each day, and it is thought that the climax will be the winning of the *News of the World* Cup next year (we hope). We have had one or two challenges but, unfortunately, owing to lack of accommodation, have had to postpone them.

Congratulations.—Hearty congratulations to Signalman Riley W. on being selected to play for the Warwickshire county rugby team, in the semi-final of the County Championships, against Cheshire, on Saturday, 4th February, at Coundon Road. On his present form (barring accidents) we see nothing to stop him from playing in the finals against Somerset, providing he takes care of himself on Saturday evenings.

Courses.—Captain J. E. Rodgers and 2nd Lieutenant N. E. Thomas attended a M.T. Course at Aston, Birmingham, in January, and passed " Qualified to Instruct."

Promotions and Appointments.—Congratulations to the following on attaining a step nearer to the proverbial baton : Corporal Wale to A/Lance Sergeant ; Lance Corporal Johnson to Corporal ; Lance Corporal Powell to Corporal ; Lance Corporal Bell to Corporal ; and Signalmen Wilkinson, Elliott and Fish to Lance Corporal.

Enlistments.—We extend a welcoming hand to the following and hope they will soon get acquainted with Professors " Morse and Procedure " : Signalmen Saunders, Watkins, Williams J., Dale and Lowe.

Social.—The first annual dinner of these two Sections was held at the King's Head Hotel, Coventry, on Saturday, 21st January. The function was a huge success and well attended. The following

WHATEVER YOUR RANK

You're Dressed in the Best at MONTAGUE BURTONS

For clothes of quality and character, distinguished in style, reliable in wear, you cannot possibly do better than call at Montague Burton's

4-guinea value Suit to measure for 45/-

BURTON

CATTERICK CAMP ... 3 HILDYARD ROW
ALDERSHOT ... 60-62a UNION STREET (Corner of Wellington Street)
ALDERSHOT ... 48-50a UNION STREET
LONDON, W.C.1 118-132 NEW OXFORD STREET (Corner of Tottenham Court Road)

were among the distinguished guests : Brigadier G. G. Rawson, O.B.E., M.C., A.D.C. (War Office), Colonel A. C. Sykes, D.S.O., M.C. (C.S.O., Southern Command), Lieutenant-Colonel H. P. Gardham, Suffolk Regiment (General Staff Officer, 48th (S.M.) Division), Lieutenant-Colonel P. H. Jones, M.C., T.D. (Commanding 48th (S.M.) Divisional Signals), Major H. Bartlett (Adjutant, 48th (S.M.) Divisional Signals), Major F. A. W. Braine (Commanding No. 4 Company, Air Formation Signals). A very enjoyable time was had by all.

After partaking of a generous and appetising meal, a short " call to the bar " took place, to enable the staff to rearrange the chairs and tables, giving free access to the waitresses when bringing in the " breath of life." This done, Ralph Willcox and his " Boys " proceeded to hold sway for the rest of the evening. We must offer our thanks and appreciation to this merry and talented little party for a very enjoyable and pleasant evening.

Our artist has recorded his impressions of some of the principal guests and members.

Efficiency Cups.—Corporal Wale D. was awarded the Cup for the most efficient man in the Section. Corporal Howe received the Cup for the best recruit. We congratulate these two N.C.O.s on maintaining a very high standard of keenness and efficiency. May they so continue.

G.E.C.O.

49th (West Riding) Divisional Signals.

Gibraltar Barracks, Leeds, 2.

February.

Business with a very BIG " B " has started in this Unit, for Individual Training is in progress with eleven Squads, who are taking up different trades and ratings. Even the Workshop staff have dug out their overalls.

Beginning.—The best policy is to begin at the beginning, so they teach us at school, and we must go back a month.

SHADES OF 1914-18! SITTING BETWEEN TWO REAL LIVE K.S.Ms AND TELLING THEM BEDTIME STORIES

WE HAD SOUP FISH ROAST & PUD
(JUST ORDINARY FARE IN ARMIES NOWADAYS)
AND NOT A SOUL WITH SWELLED HEAD

CAPT J. RODGERS, THE HOST TO WHOM WE GIVE THANKS FOR A GR-RAND NIGHT (IF HE HAD SAT STILL WE WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DRAW MORE)

BRIGADIER C.G. RAWSON O.B.E. M.C. AND

LIEUT COL. P.H. JONES M.C. T.D. WERE AMONG THE GUEST)

MR W. ORME &
CAPT H.C HANNAM CLARK OF THE GENERAL ELECTRIC Co LISTENING TO HUNGARIAN RHAPSODY

EFFICIENCY CUPS

RECRUITS CUPS

TUMBLERS GLASSES

AND BERT WILCOX

AND SO TO BED.

Our Artist's impressions at the First Annual Dinner of Nos. 31 and 32 Wireless Sections, G.H.Q. Signals, Coventry.

The first item of interest in the New Year was the Children's Christmas Tree Party on the 7th, which was thoroughly enjoyed. The committee are to be congratulated on a very successful and well organised party, which included a conjuring show and the evergreen " Punch and Judy," followed by the distribution of presents.

On Thursday, 12th January, five representatives of this Unit went to Halifax to take part in the preliminary rounds of the Northern Command T.A. Boxing Championships. Of the five contestants, two obtained byes into the semi-finals, and two won their fights to go into the semi-finals. Only one lost, incidentally to a much heavier and brawnier opponent, but he put up an excellent show.

The finals of the Northern Command T.A. Boxing Championships were held at Gibraltar Barracks this year on Thursday, 2nd February. A great deal of work was entailed in getting the Drill Hall ready for this show, and much credit is due to Lieutenant A. C. A. Stedman of this Unit, who was the Secretary, for the excellent organisation, and to the Permanent Staff and assistants, who got the hall ready.

Of the four entrants from this Unit in the finals, Signalman Mart (middle) won his fight after a very fine performance, knocking his man out in the second round, while Signalmen Thornton (light-heavy), Hearne (feather) and Butler (bantam) won medals for runners-up. Good show !

On Friday, 13th January, the annual All Ranks Ball was held at Gibraltar Barracks, and what a crowd ! The dance, which began at 8.15 p.m., finished at about 1.30 a.m., the last person left at 2.30 a.m. It was a fine entertainment, and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Needless to say the " Chestnut Tree " sprouted a few more branches and the pavement of the " Lambeth Walk " is now considerably lower than the kerb, But who cares ? Let's eat, drink and be merry, for to-morrow we may belong to one of the " no-fight " jobs.

A stir was created when the announcement in the National Service Handbook about the jobs which " couldn't be touched " was published. Strange to say, so strong is the *esprit de corps* in this Unit that some members are thinking of changing their civilian trades (we hope !) in order to make certain of remaining with the Unit. (Paragraph from this month's fairy story.)

On Friday, 20th January, the Sergeants' Mess Annual Ball was held, and once again a very enjoyable entertainment was had by all. (This time there was no " Grand March Lancers.")

On Saturday, 21st January, we said goodbye to our A/R.S.M. Collins H., who, owing to his promotion to W.O.III, has now taken up his duties with the Regular Forces at Canterbury. Good luck, sir, and happy days in your new job !

Which brings us to a happy occasion for congratulations and a welcome to our new A/R.S.M., Isaac R. R., M.B.E., late of Jubbulpore, India, who assumed the duties of R.S.M. on 23rd January. May your stay be a long and pleasant one, sir, and all good wishes from the Unit.

On Friday, 27th January, the last of the festive season dances was held, namely, the Old Comrades' Association Dance. The hall was crowded, and again, my previous remarks go for this one, too.

Old Comrades' Association Dinner.—The Annual Dinner, held at Gibraltar Barracks on Monday, 6th February, was voted a huge success. This was the first occasion on which the Old Comrades of Leeds and District Branch had held an Annual Dinner, and great credit is due to Captain Parry (chairman) and Mr. A. Pearson (secretary).

We were honoured with the presence of the Lord Mayor of Leeds, who, during the course of the evening, gave a very witty speech. Also present were Colonel W. Boyle, O.B.E., T.D., Major H. Richardson, T.D., Captain C. C. Danby, Royal Signals, and Lieutenant and Quartermaster F. E. Tebbs, M.B.E., D.C.M.

Gas Training.—During January the Unit underwent gas training. The Police Mobile Gas Chamber was kindly loaned for this purpose and each Company, after gas drill, passed through the chamber and, finally, were " treated " to a hearty "sniff " of the main gases, which were stored in specimen jars.

M.T. Driving Instruction.—Another intensive " drive " during the past month has been the training of selected Operators as Drivers. The first two periods were spent on the Square, when a lecture was given by the officer in charge on the " Highway Code " and another on " I.C. Engines." The last two periods have been spent on the open road on the outskirts of Leeds. On Sunday, 12th February, passing-out tests will be taken.

Individual Training.—Training has started in a big way. So here's hoping success for all " contestants " in the trade tests, and may they live long with lots of dots and dashes.

The Motor Cycle Trial, organised by 49th Divisional Signals, takes place on Sunday, 26th February, round the Buxton-Matlock area, and we hope to have the news and results in next month's notes.

Arrivals.—We welcome Lance Sergeant Cummings C. E. from 5th Divisional Signals, Catterick. Happy days, Charlie, and we hope you will like it here.

Departures (Pending).—C.S.M. Benson is moving to fresher fields (or mud hill) on appointment as P.S.I. to the newly-formed A.A. Signal Unit, whose present location is undecided.

4 AND 9.

Air Formation Signals, S.R.

Gibraltar Barracks, Leeds, 2.

14th February.

New Arrivals.—We welcome the new officers and recruits who have recently joined the Unit as a result of the recruiting campaign, which has been in full swing for the past few months. We feel sure that most of them will soon find their latest venture a most interesting and profitable one. It is hoped that the pristine keenness which has marked the early stages of their military career will continue, and that they will one and all be present to receive their medals in twelve years' time.

Departure.—It is with sincere regret that we record the departure of a most popular member of the Unit, Lieutenant H. Pickard, who has left Leeds for a business appointment in London. We shall miss this genial officer, but are consoled by the fact that he is still on the strength at Leeds, and will attend at Headquarters when his limited time permits. We wish him all success in his new civilian enterprise.

Entertainments.—On 13th January the All Ranks Dance proved a most successful venture, and an enjoyable evening was provided for all those who attended. We should like to express our appreciation of the decorative art of our old friend Mr. H. Theobald, who transformed a rather bleak drill hall into a very cosy dance room.

A week later, the Sergeants' Mess had their dance, and once again the M.C.s provided a programme that was enjoyed by young and old alike.

The newly-formed No. 5 Group Signal Company, at Bradford, held their Smoking Concert on 15th December. This was a great success, owing to the efforts of the promoters, C.S.M. Hartley & Co., Corporal Lenton and his " Harmonisers," whilst vocal items were rendered by Syl. Moran and M. Keenan. Towards the close, Major R. S. Smith made a speech, which was listened to with great interest.

Individual Training.—Individual training is now in full swing. The Teleprinter Schools at Leeds G.P.O. and Gibraltar Barracks have produced good results, and some of the recruits are already fairly proficient teleprinter operators.

The remaining trades commenced their training period on 15th February, and the N.C.O.s' Drill Course commenced on the same date.

Courses.—Majors R. S. Smith and Gardiner have recently spent a few days at the R.A.F. School of Army Co-operation at Old Sarum, near Salisbury. We hope they enjoyed their stay in the Sunny South.

Thirteen young officers of the Unit are at present on a special Course at the S.T.C., Catterick Camp, the duration of which is from 30th January until 18th February. We hope they will have absorbed much military learning in that bleak station, and will enjoy the keen, fresh air of the Yorkshire moors. We expect great things from them on their return.

Promotions.—We have quite a number this month, too numerous to mention individually. Nevertheless, our congratulations are none the less sincere. The Permanent Staff are in the limelight, and we congratulate A/R.S.M. Chadney V. on attaining that rank. We understand that it is not possible to send pints by telephone, but someone has just whispered that he will stand proxy !

Permanent Staff.—Lance Sergeant Hadland C. arrived from "A" Corps Signals on 19th February for duty with No. 5 Group Signal Company, at Bradford. We extend our welcome to him and hope that his tour of duty will be most pleasant. We have heard rumours that he is working on an extremely rare " claim," as his cheery morning greeting of " How about my 4s. 8d. ? " has lapsed with payment.

Jews' Mail.—C.S.M. Curtis B. sends his congratulations to W.O. III (Taff) Kelly at the Training Battalion on his promotion. How about a large " Younger's," Taff ?

A. F. S.

51st (Highland) Divisional Signals.

No. 1 Company.

Fonthill Barracks, Aberdeen.

February.

Training.—With the commencement of Company drills the Unit is once more getting down to work. Although only one night a week is devoted at present to training, various Courses and other activities contrive to keep the interest of all up to standard. On Mondays, a Promotion Class, which is being held for Junior N.C.O.s, is proving quite an attraction. A series of very interesting lectures are being held for officers and N.C.O.s on a variety of subjects, such as " Frontier Warfare," "Air Co-operation," " Maintenance of M.T." and " Instruments."

Arrivals.—It is with great pleasure that we record the arrival of Lance Sergeant Bell to take over the duties of P.S.I. to No. 1 Company, and we sincerely hope his stay with the Unit will be a long and happy one.

Entertainments.—The last Company dance of the season was held in the Drill Hall on Friday, 10th February. A supper, consisting of beef steak pie and vegetables, was served during the interval, and all voted the function a great success.

ONECOY.

Sergeants' Mess (Aberdeen).—While we have not had any Mess dances this season, we have been quite busy socially running Smokers' and Ladies' Nights.

Our last Ladies' Night took place on Saturday, 28th January, and there was a good attendance of members and their ladies. A very interesting programme was drawn up by R.Q.M.S. Williamson, and everybody was sorry when the clock " called time."

On 8th February we held a Games Tournament between the Officers and Sergeants. This was run on the points system, and the end of a very pleasant and strenuous (?) evening arrived with the score sheet: Officers, 16; Sergeants, 16. Colonel E. B. Reid, O.B.E., presented prizes for the Knock-out Table Tennis Competition to Sergeant Rennie, Captain E. J. F. Heap, Sergeants Reid and Beattie, while a grand cheer greeted our Secretary (Sergeant Pettifer) when he nobly accepted the " Booby." It is sincerely hoped that this tournament will be the forerunner of many more.

52nd (Lowland) Divisional Signals.

February.

February is a little month, but so far as the 52nd Divisional Signals is concerned, it seems to be even smaller than it actually is, and, consequently, there is really not very much in the way of news. As regards training, it is a fairly busy month, as will clearly be indicated by looking at the attendance roll or at the blisters on the officers' hands. Much work has been done by all ranks, and the classes seem to be better attended. Whether the improvement is due to the crisis in September, to the crisis that may, or may not be, or to the crisis that might arise should the never-present Signalman quite accidentally meet his Company Sergeant-Major in a quiet street, is hard to say, but one thing is certain—a record has been established, for on one night one hundred and thirty-two men reported for their various Courses of Instruction.

Other records, too, have been established, such as recruiting (the Unit is now about 15 per cent. over strength, so hurry up and bring along your friends before it is too late), and the driving-in of a jumper " in one " by O.C., No. 3 Company. Also, something is being done about our mud patch, which is a great move in the right direction, and many new vehicles are arriving with No. 9 Sets. It also appears that we now have a steam road-roller on which to practice our driving.

On the social side, we have to report a very well attended and most satisfactory annual Mess Dinner, which the writer understands was attended by every officer, if not in the British Army, at least in the Lowland Signals.

We were not without honours this month, as one of our latest acquisitions, Sergeant Dadswell, has received the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

Signals here have suffered a loss in the transfer of Major J. C. Anderson who, like so many old Infantry regiments, has now gone all anti-aircraft. His services to us have been appreciable, and we wish him the best of luck in his new role. It is understood in the Mess that Captain Buchanan, who went to the Reserve of Officers some years ago, has been induced to join us again, and a little bird whispered that it is quite on the cards that he will command No. 1 Company.

While on the subject of officers, we would like to congratulate Lieutenant D. C. Lindsay on his promotion.

In conclusion, we would like to announce the latest piece of news that has just come in : "A P.S.I. has just had a SUNDAY off."

G.H.Q. Signals, S.R.

21, Jardine Street, Glasgow, N.W.

11th February.

General.—The annual weapon training period commenced on 17th January, and our sharpshooters are improving with practice ; indeed, some very good shots have been discovered. As we are entering a team in the 52nd Divisional Miniature Range Competition, this is a good sign.

A Linemen's Course, Classes CIII to CII, is also in full swing, and hopes are rising for an increase in pay next camp.

Entertainments.—The annual Officers' Mess Dinner was held on 27th January, and Lieutenant-Colonel F. N. Westbury, C.B., O.B.E., Honorary Colonel of the Unit, was present. The guests included Major-General J. S. Drew, C.B., D.S.O., M.C., G.O.C. Lowland Area ; Brigadier N. R. Campbell, C.B.E., M.C., Commander 157th Infantry Brigade (T.A.) ; Lieutenant-Colonel C. Wheeler, C.S.O. Scottish Command ; and Mr. J. Scholes, Postmaster Surveyor, Glasgow.

The Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess held another of their winter dances during the month. There was a very good attendance, and though we are far removed from London, the " Lambeth Walk " goes down well. A rumour is in circulation to the effect that the Pipe Major intends to set the music of the " Walk " for his Pipers, but we hope it can't be done.

Sports.—Our badminton team is still going strong, and have now reached the semi-final at the expense of the 6th Cameronians, whom we beat 8—1. The next match is against the 80th Field Regiment, and this will be the best team our men have had to meet up to now. The winner of this match should have no difficulty in the final. Once again we wish our team all the luck, and hope to see them win.

TICH.

53rd (Welsh) Divisional Signals.

14th February.

In spite of discharges, the Unit is still 5 per cent. above normal Establishment, and the next month or two will, doubtless, see the full 20 per cent. The recruits are getting down to their training with such keenness that by camp time they should be a valuable factor in the Unit.

Individual training is proceeding satisfactorily and there is reason to believe that results will exceed expectations.

The Officers attended a Week-end Exercise at Raglan, from 11th-12th February, where they studied the new Establishment of a Divisional Signals. Lieutenant-Colonel W. G. Trice conducted the Exercise, with Major V. W. Hawkins, Major W. R. Hawkins and Captain R. H. Copeland (Adjutant) as the Directing Staff. Considerable benefit and enjoyment was derived from this event. We were delighted to see Lieutenant-Colonel D. A. Brown, M.C., and Colonel R. C. Seel, O.B.E., M.C., T.D. The valuable help, which is always forthcoming from them, is much appreciated. Major J. G. Frere, D.S.O., M.C., G.S.O.2, 53rd (Welsh) Division, also attended, thus giving us another angle from which to tackle our problems.

The W.O.s and N.C.O.s held their social evening on 4th February. The wives and lady friends attended, and everyone indulged in amusing games and a sing-song; an impromptu dance was also included in the programme.

The end-of-the-season social will be held on 4th March.

Preparations are being made for the W.O.s and N.C.O.s' St. David's Day Dance on 1st March. C.S.M. Forse T. is the directing genius.

In the Territorial Army Cup Competition (Association Football), the Unit was drawn against the 40th Army Tank Battalion; the match was played on the Barracks Field, Cardiff, on 21st January. From the kick-off it was apparent that we were faced with a particularly good side. The ground was very heavy and treacherous but, in spite of this, a good standard of play was maintained. Half time came with the score 2—1 in favour of the Tank Battalion. Early in the second half, the Unit team drew level and remained so until almost the end of the game, when the visitors gained the winning goal from a penalty kick. The final score was 4—3. We wish our opponents every success in the competition.

Lieutenant-Colonel W. G. Trice, an interested spectator at the match, was pleased with the fine display given by both sides.

Congratulations.—To Lieutenant-Colonel M. Peel, T.D., 1st A.A. Divisional Signals, on his promotion to that rank. Lieutenant-Colonel Peel is a regular attendant at Park Street, and we all wish him every success.

To Mr. B. H. Davies also on being gazetted 2nd Lieutenant in the Unit. It is certain that his association with us will be a happy one.

The officers entertained the W.O.s and N.C.O.s' Mess on Wednesday, 8th February, at a Games Tournament. Both sides were so well matched that a draw resulted. During the evening, C.S.M. Forse T. made a presentation to R.S.M. Field C. E., who is leaving us on promotion to R.S.M. with Mobile Divisional Signals. His successor, A/R.S.M. Griffith C., was also given an official welcome to the Unit.

THE LEEK.

54th (East Anglian) Divisional Signals.

No. 1 Company.

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

February.

General.—Since our last notes, things have been happening around Stratford way and the Company has been subjected to somewhat drastic changes in preparation for Annual Training, 1939, which takes place at Dibgate from 27th August to 9th September. Once again we shall be working with our blood brothers—the Regulars—comprising three Infantry Brigade Sections and three Artillery Brigade Sections.

No. 2 Company are providing the R.A. Brigade Sections, but as No. 3 Company has been disbanded and is now in the process of being reformed, the three Infantry Brigade Sections are being made up practically entirely from No. 1 Company personnel.

The following officers have been lent to No. 3 Company for the training season: Captain Wright, Captain Jarvis and 2nd Lieutenant Piers. The following go to No. 2 Company on "temporary loan": Captain Gentry, Lieutenants Galbraith and MacDonald. The senior N.C.O.s concerned in this temporary transfer are Sergeants Messenger and Langworthy to "J" Section, Sergeants McCall and Evans to "K" Section, and Sergeants Cook and Reed to "L" Section. This leaves No. 1 Company with one C.S.M., one "Quarter Bloke," one Company clerk and a couple of Cable Sections to enjoy a holiday (?) camp. The scribe, who is included in this temporary transfer, is rather worried as to whether or not these notes should be headed No. 3 Company. Perhaps he will wait until the "temporary" becomes "permanent."

The Essex Young Soldiers' Boxing Competition was held at these Headquarters on 21st January and, although the Unit was unsuccessful in the attempt to regain the trophy, we must, nevertheless, congratulate those members of the Unit who participated. Who will blame us if we single out the members of No. 1 Company. Our first "hero of the month" must be Signalman Booker, who commenced the evening by weighing in as a welter-weight and then, because no middle-weight was available, fought in that class. With the help of a bye in the first series, and a few straight lefts in the second series, he reached the final, and then decided, in the second round, that he had seen enough of the ring and promptly finished the fight with a "couple out of the bag."

Our second hero is Signalman Fenton V., who, although unsuccessful, won the admiration of all by a very plucky performance. His motto appeared to be: "I'm dead, but won't lie down."

A word of praise is also due to the P.S.I. of No. 2 Company, C.S.M. Hitchin E., on his efforts to get together a complete team, and one that would be as fit as any that entered the ring. Raising a team in the "Terriers" and one in the Regulars are two different things entirely, and we feel that "Chippy" should be well satisfied with his efforts. Well done, "Chippy," and better luck next year.

Sergeants' Mess.—We extend a hearty welcome to Sergeant Lovell S. C., formerly Royal Signals (Regular Army), and hope that his stay will be long and pleasant. Only twelve training seasons for an Efficiency Medal, Stan.! He is our civilian "I.M.T.," and has joined the Unit as part of his engagement in the rank of Sergeant. We are pleased to have him, and hope he will like us.

Congratulations also to Stan. Lovell on his marriage (Karachi and Rawalpindi papers please copy). May all his troubles be the proverbial ones.

Scots' Mail.—Nobby, School of Signals. "O.K., Chief! Yes, just as usual. See you at Wembley when Chelsea play there."

Reggy Pink, Catterick. "Haven't found that three-halfpenny stamp yet, but living in hopes. Far too busy here these days."

Sergeants' Mess Dart Club.—The Club is progressing strongly and hereby challenges any London Territorial Sergeants' Mess team to a match on our "mud heap." Good beer here, too.

ONECOY.

Bedford Detachment.

The Drill Hall, Ashburnham Road, Bedford.

14th February.

Training.—Paid Evening Classes are held on Wednesdays and Thursdays. The attendance has been very good, and it is to be hoped that some good Operators will be produced at the end of the training. Owing to the dark evenings, very little can be done by the Linemen, although they should be much wiser after a series of lectures on instruments.

Changes.—The 234th Signal Section has now become "H" Signal Section of the 43rd Divisional Signals. We have had lectures on the employment of "H" Section with an Anti-Tank Regiment, and we are now awaiting the elusive No. 1 Sets. If they are not forthcoming shortly, our P.S.I. and Sergeant Thurley will be going bald. (The questions that have been asked!)

Sport.—A Darts Tournament is in progress, but as the preliminaries take so long to play off, the name of the winner will have to be published at a later date.

Agony.—Instructor: "Did you change the cells in the telephone?"

Lineman: "No; they did not require changing, as I got a severe shock when I moistened my fingers, placed them on the terminals, and turned the generator handle."

The Instructor still wonders why he ever lectures at all.

BEDFORDION.

The London Divisional Signals
(City of London Signals).

Signal House, 20, Atkins Road, Clapham Park, S.W.12.

17th February.

London-Exeter Trial.—A total of nineteen official Army teams were entered in the Motor Cycle Club's London-Exeter Trial and of these, three came from the City of London Signals. The teams were composed of (*a*) 2nd Lieutenant W. Darkin, Signalmen Putt G. F. and Bilham G. L.; (*b*) C.S.M. Angell E. J., Lance Corporal Barry W. A. and Signalman Clements D. E. L.; and (*c*) Lance Sergeant Willson E. F., Signalmen Dennis C. J. and Overton A. E. At 9.30 p.m. on Friday, 6th January, the party left Signal House for the start at Virginia Water.

The first representative of the City of London Signals started at 11.33 p.m., and the run to Exeter will be remembered by the ice on the road at the start and the steady rain all the way down. Lance Sergeant Dixon and Lance Corporal Collins (with a wireless truck), who met the teams just outside the first time check at Shaftesbury, produced the welcome hot drinks with which everyone had provided himself. After filling up with petrol, the party proceeded to the breakfast control at Exeter, and the only eventful moment was when Signalman Overton decided it was past his bedtime and just grazed a stationary car.

After a large wash and a small breakfast at Exeter, the serious part of the Trial began. The first hill, which proved to be the most difficult of the Trial, caused nearly all members to foot, the slimy rocks taking them unawares. And so, in conditions of intermittent rain and dense mist on the moors, to the finish at Bournemouth, the remaining obstacles not proving very difficult. Between the last hill and the finish, C.S.M. Angell and Signalman Overton had a silent argument about the meaning of a direction sign, with the result that they both finished the argument over the hedge. Overton here completed the sleep which he started the previous night and, in consequence, the Section Officer spent three hours in removing him from Bovington Military Hospital. The run back to London seemed the longest part of the whole journey as the teams had been on the road for twenty-seven hours and had travelled over 500 miles.

Of the three City of London Signals teams, A and B teams finished the course intact, and team B was placed fourth out of the total of thirty-two motor-cycle teams entered. The number of individual awards won were: Premier, 6; Second Class, 1; Third Class, 1. C.S.M. Angell and Signalman Putt also gained the special "Sims Hill" Award.

It is gratifying to record that the winners of the Team Award, the 235th A.A. Battery, R.A. (T.A.) were the only other T.A. team competing and to them the City of London Signals teams offer their hearty congratulations. It is also gratifying to note that the first four teams were all Army teams.

Map Reading Trial.—On Sunday, 15th January, a Map Reading Trial was held for recruits at Latimer, Bucks. There were two classes, the first for recruits who have joined since Camp in 1937, and the second for recruits who had joined since Camp in 1938. The first class was won by Signalman Bilham G. L., and the second class by Signalman Hurrey K. S.

It had originally been intended to cover two circuits of the sixteen-mile course, which was practically all over open country; but, owing to the heavy rain on the days immediately preceding the Trial, the sixteen miles were so arduous and the rivers so swollen that the second circuit was cut out. Out of a total of fifteen starters, only six managed to cover the whole course, six missed the last watersplash, and the remaining three had mechanical trouble caused by the difficult conditions.

Sergeants' Mess Annual Dinner.—The Annual Dinner of the Sergeants' Mess was held at Headquarters on Saturday, 4th February, when a record number of 250 attended.

The guest of honour on this occasion was Major-General C. F. Liardet, C.B., D.S.O., T.D., General Officer Commanding the London Division. He was accompanied by Mrs. Liardet, who is the Senior Commandant of the London Division Auxiliary Territorial Service.

C.S.M. Peddlesden S. proposed the toast of the "Ladies and Guests," and Major-General Liardet proposed the toast of "The City of London Signals." From his speech we learned that the official publication, "A Short History of the Corps," from which all ranks acquire the knowledge required for the 3rd Class Certificate of Education, requires considerable amendment. He said that although the Corps came into its own after that unfortunate period of tribal warfare that went on from 1914 to 1918, it started long before that, and he said the first Signal Officer was Noah, who carried out a perfectly ordinary signal procedure when he sent out the dove from the Ark.

He also gave us his assurance that he did not believe that the interpretation of *Certa Cito* was "It is quicker to send a postcard," and told us that in any future war he would rely on us to transmit the news of the victories won by his troops to enable him to write home about them.

Reverting to the serious side of business, he said things in Europe were not too comfortable. For a long time the Territorial Army had been subjected to cold indifference, but it had at last come into its own. They were wanted badly, and were an enormous asset to the country. They would have to work harder than ever before, because they might be wanted a great deal more at any moment. Great responsibility rested on them, and he regarded the City of London Signals as one of the most efficient Units with which he came into contact.

Lieutenant-Colonel A. C. C. Willway (Commanding Officer of the City of London Signals) replying, said there had been disappointments for him since he took over command four years ago, but there was one thing that he had never expected—the development of the soul of the Unit. He knew that the soul was sound. Mechanical efficiency was a matter of training, but morale in war and enthusiasm in peace time could not be created artifically. Practically the whole personnel of the Unit had changed in the fifteen years he had known it, but the soul had gone on. That soul lived in the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes.

After the dinner, the Drill Hall was quickly cleared, and dancing was carried on till 1 a.m. to the music of the New Barnstormers' Dance Band.

Obituary.—It is with deep regret that we have to record the death of Mrs. E. G. Buttle, wife of Sergeant Buttle W. H., at Signal House, on 26th January, after a long and trying illness. The funeral and interment took place at Streatham Cemetery.

C.O.L.S.

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 104.

The subscription is only 2/- per annum.

Ask your Unit Representative for further details.

SPORTS NOTES

School of Signals.

Soccer.—The weather has not been agreeable to soccer and, during the last month, we have only played one game. This was against " H " Company, R.A.S.C., in the Company League. We had a three-goal lead at one time but, unfortunately, the match developed into a rough scramble, and we lost 4—3. Although excuses are not generally accepted, we were handicapped by having to play only nine men in the second half, and, no doubt, this had some bearing on the result.

The School team are rather inexperienced at present, and will miss the steadying influence of Signalman Todd in the defence, since he has had to finish playing for the season because of an injury. We hope to show improved form when the team settles down again.

The scorers in the R.A.S.C. match were Lance Corporal Kerr (2) and Signalman Craig.

Shooting.—Results for matches during January are :

School, 750 ; " F " Company, 737.
School, 761 ; " E " Company, 715.

Hockey.—Owing to grounds being out-of-bounds, we have not played since 10th December, when we played against the R.A.F., Catterick. The result was a draw of one goal each.

2nd Divisional Signals.

Cross-country Running.—The Unit held its Inter-Company run on Wednesday, 15th February, over a course of 6½ miles. No. 1 Company won the team trophy for the first time with a score of 34 points. S.S.M. Shardlow was the first man home, followed by Lance Corporal Jones and Signalman Hopkins. Result (9 to run, 6 to count) :

1.	No. 1 Company :	1, 2, 5, 6, 9, 11	34 points.
2.	,, 3 ,,	4, 7, 8, 10, 13, 14 . .	56 ,,
3.	,, 2 ,,	3, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 . .	93 ,,

Major G. W. Odell, Royal Signals, presented the Cup and team medals to the winning team and silver Cups to the first three individuals.

Here are the placings of the first twelve :

			Mins.	Secs.
1.	S.S.M. Shardlow . .	No. 1 Company . .	39	37
2.	Lance Corporal Jones	,, 1 ,, . .	39	55
3.	Signalman Hopkins	,, 2 ,, . .	41	54
4.	,, Ramsbotham	,, 3 ,, . .	42	20
5.	,, Pitman . .	,, 1 ,, . .	43	28
6.	,, Coleman	,, 1 ,, . .	44	32
7.	,, Payne . .	,, 3 ,, . .	44	37
8.	,, McDonough	,, 3 ,, . .	45	47
9.	,, Middlemiss	,, 1 ,, . .	45	56
10.	Lieutenant D. A. Dickson	,, 3 ,, . .	46	14
11.	Signalman Flackton	,, 1 ,, . .	46	50
12.	,, Tait . .	,, 1 ,, . .	50	6

We would like to welcome Signalman Hopkins to the fold and, at the same time, congratulate him on getting second place (silver medal) in the Aldershot Command Harriers Handicap event, run over nine miles, on 4th February. Along with S.S.M. Shardlow, he is likely to become a regular member of the Command team. Lance Corporal Jones, who has put up some good performances this season, is leaving us shortly for Palestine.

Signal Training Centre (India), Jubbulpore.

Football.—Saturday evening, 28th January, found "A" Company playing the 2nd Battalion, King's Own Scottish Borderers in the final of the " Porter " Cup. This competition is open to the Battalion teams of the British Units in the Brigade.

The K.O.S.B.s broke away very early and scored almost before the Signals realised that they were on the pitch, but after this jolt they pulled themselves together and got down to some very good football, Hepworth equalising about ten minutes before half-time. After the equaliser, both sides played their hardest to gain the lead, but at full time there was still no change. Extra time was played, during which a penalty was awarded against the Signals. Although Lance Corporal Holder saved the actual kick, the opposing forward scored from the rebound. It was an extremely hard game, and both teams are to be congratulated on their display of football and sportsmanship. Result : 2nd Battalion, K.O.S.B., 2 ; S.T.C. (I.), 1.

Athletics.—The S.T.C. (I.) Individual Athletics were held last week-end, and, although there were no records broken, all the events were keenly contested, both British and Indian ranks competing against each other. There was loud cheers when Signalman Sohan Singh was awarded the " Victor Ludorum " Championship Cup. The following is a list of the successful competitors :

100 YARDS.—1, Boy Tara Singh ; 2, Signalman Knight ; 3, Signalman Hepworth.

220 YARDS.—1, Lance Sergeant Collett ; 2, Signalman Knight ; 3, Signalman Hepworth.

440 YARDS.—1, Lieutenant Barnes ; 2, Boy Jagmohan Singh ; 3, Lance Sergeant Collett.

880 YARDS.—1, Lieutenant Barnes ; 2, Boy Anthony ; 3, Signalman Pearce.

ONE MILE.—1, Boy Anthony ; 2, Signalman Gajjan Singh ; 3, Signalman Bhagwant Singh.

THREE MILES.—1, Signalman Gajjan Singh ; 2, Signalman Shangan Singh ; 3, Signalman Prem Singh.

120 YARDS HURDLES.—1, Naik Adalat Khan ; 2, Naik Govind Sami ; 3, Boy Anthony.

HIGH JUMP.—1, Signalman Seriven (5 ft. 5 ins.) ; 2, Naik Govind Singh (5 ft. 5 ins.) ; 3, Signalman Pretam Singh (5 ft.).

LONG JUMP.—1, Boy Tara Singh (19 ft. 2 ins.) ; 2, Signalman Bateman (19 ft. ½ in.) ; 3, Boy Jagmohan Singh (18 ft. 9¼ ins.).

PUTTING THE WEIGHT.—1, Signalman Seriven (32 ft. 4 ins.) ; 2, Signalman Bateman (31 ft. 9 ins.) ; 3, Signalman Sohan Singh (31 ft. 4 ins.).

POLE VAULT.—1, Boy Jagmohan Singh (8 ft. 8 ins.) ; 2, Signalman Terumalai (8ft. 7 ins.) ; 3, Lance Corporal Holder (8 ft. 2 ins.).

JAVELIN.—1, Signalman Bateman (142 ft. 6 ins.) ; 2, Signalman Sohan Singh (123 ft. 6 ins.) ; 3, Signalman Seriven (115 ft. 3 ins.).

HAMMER.—1, Signalman Houghton (83 ft.) ; 2, Signalman Chanchal Singh (80 ft. 6 ins.) ; 3, Signalman Sohan Singh (72 ft. 5 ins.).

DISCUS.—1, Signalman Sohan Singh (87 ft. 2 ins.) ; 2, Signalman Chanchal Singh (84 ft. 6 ins.) ; 3, Signalman McGregor (82 ft. 11 ins.).

Golf.—The intensive period for golf competitions is now drawing near and we are soon to discover who are our real champions. We shall be holding two competitions per month for the next six months, which include one major competition and the usual monthly competition.

We played the G.C.F. last month in the series of matches for the Victory Column and won the match by three matches to two. We are playing another match in this series this month, and have great hopes of winning this one also.

Our membership is growing in numbers every week as new members join and old members come back, and soon we shall have as many players as there were in the Club two or three years ago, when there was quite a considerable number.

Stop Press.—The second match of the series with the G.C.F. was halved.

Kohat District Signals, Kohat.

Football.—The final between Shining "A" Club and Kohat District Signals in the Shining Football Tournament is now history. Our captain, having lost the toss once again (he's never won it since " Hobby " left us), faced the sun and a cross wind. Play was not up to standard during the first half, and the hard ground (an Indian city's special turf) made the ball hard to control. Our opponents, who found our defence rocking, took the lead with an unsavable shot from thirty yards. The Signals now settled down, but half-time found us still in arrears.

After the breather, our team got together and, in a short time, drew level and then took the lead. Both goals were scored by Cook, our outside left. Our defence now settled down to the task of keeping them out and, although our opponents shuffled and re-shuffled their attack, it was to no avail as our defence gave nothing away. And so, for the first time, the Shining "A" Cup found its way home to a worthy winner. The game was fast, but the cleanest seen for many years on Kohat City's ground, and there were no injuries.

The semi-final of the District Football Tournament, between the I.O.R.s, Kohat District Signals, and 1/13th Frontier Force Rifles, was won by the 1/13th Frontier Force Rifles after ten minutes each way extra time had been played.

The game opened up with the I.O.R.s playing very well and at half time the score stood at 0—0. After the interval the first goal, which was scored by the 1/13th Frontier Force Rifles from a goal-mouth scramble, only served to put new life into the I.O.R.s and, after many attempts, it came as no surprise when Signalman Kelly scored the equalising goal from a very well placed free kick by Lance Naik Vidia Parkash. The play was very even after this and one shot by Signalman Kelly, from thirty-five yards, deserved a better fate. The final whistle went and the score stood at 1—1.

Ten minutes each way extra time was played, but, unfortunately, Lance Naik Vidia Parkash was injured and, thus handicapped, we lost during the extra time by 3—1.

The game was very clean and played in true sporting spirit. We congratulate the team. Bruce and Gurditta Mall at back played heroically, whilst the half-back line of Kali Dass, Seatter and Jaimal Singh was on top of its form. The forwards were also good, Vidia Parkash, Kelly and Gaggan Singh displaying good combination and were unlucky many times not to find the net. The left-wing pair, Bishan Singh and Mohd Arshad, tried very hard indeed.

A great game, and we congratulate the winners.

Hong Kong Signal Company.

Football.—Our team has been strengthened by the arrival of Corporals Bundy, Brakenberry and Husband, and next season should see us creeping higher up the Civilian League. As already mentioned, we entered the League last September, and finished the season third from the top in the Third Division.

Hockey.—Yes, our hockey team also has a few gaps to fill. Unfortunately we have lost Sergeant Morgan, Lance Corporal Stanford and Signalman Smith L., all of whom played for the Small Units. Lance Corporals Wright and Veitch, who were two very handy players to have around, have also left us.

Many readers will be interested to know that Lance Corporal Dove has been placed in the Army team.

LATEST HOCKEY RESULTS (LEAGUE MATCHES).

v. 30th R.A.	Won	11—1
v. H.Q., Rajputana Rifles (The Champions)	Lost	0—2
v. 2nd (M.) Battery, R.A.	Won	3—1
v. 9th A.A. Battery, R.A.	Won	2—1
v. 7th A.A. Battery, R.A.	Won	7—0
v. " D " Company, Royal Scots	Won	3—0
v. " B " Company, Kumaon Rifles	Won	2—1

Rugby.—Lieutenant R. E. Crawford received his Inter-Port colours at rugby in the game *versus* Malaya.

Cricket.—Captain A. B. Whatman is now playing in the Army team. Lance Corporal Stanford, our captain, has left us for the U.K., and we wish him the best of luck and hope that he obtains as good games in Blighty as he did in Hong Kong.

B. V. P.

Malta Signal Section.

Football has been well to the fore, the Section providing players for " Staff and Departments," " Combined Small Units," and also playing as a Section.

League engagements have not been particularly successful, but we did get an excellent press on the occasion of our defeating a much higher placed side—David and Goliath !

Hockey fans have been well catered for, and the following results are to hand :

v. H.M.S. " Hyperion "	Won	2—1
v. R.A.S.C.	Drawn	2—2
v. H.M.S. " St. Angelo "	Drawn	2—2
v. H.M.S. " St. Angelo "	Lost	1—2
v. Details, Suffolk Regiment	Drawn	2—2
v. 16th Company, R.E.	Lost	1—4
v. H.M.S. " Vulcan "	Lost	1—2
v. H.M.S. " Imogen "	Won	2—1
v. R.I.F. Details	Won	4—2
v. R.A.M.C.	Lost	0—3
v. H.Q., R.A.F.	Won	2—1
v. H.M.S. " Ivanhoe "	Lost	1—2
v. H.M.S. " Vulcan "	Drawn	1—1
v. 16th Company, R.E.	Drawn	1—1
v. H.M.S. " St. Angelo "	Won	4—3
v. H.Q., R.A.F.	Won	1—0

Played 16, won 6, lost 5, drawn 5. Points : for 27 ; against 29.

SKIP.

Tientsin Signal Section.

Despite two bad lapses, the Staff and Departments football team is playing quite well this season, and although competition for the Second Division Championship is very keen, they still have a fighting chance of winning it for the third year in succession.

The hockey team, which consists mostly of members from this Section, are putting up a very good show in the local league, and will give a very good account of themselves. Detailed results of their matches will be found further on.

The following members of the Section are regular playing members of the Staff and Departments football team : Corporal Melly, Lance Corporal Murphy, Signalmen McDonald, Welchman, and Watson. Sergeant Gresham and Signalman Little have played several games.

Here are the results of our matches in the Second Division League and Cup :

12th November.	v. " H.Q." Coy., 1st D.L.I.	Won	3—1
20th ,,	v. " B " Coy., 1st D.L.I.	Won	6—0
27th ,,	v. " D " Coy., 1st D.L.I.	Won	2—1
4th December.	v. " C " Coy., 1st D.L.I.	Won	3—0
11th ,,	v. Italian Navy	Lost	1—4
21st ,,	v. French Army	Drawn	1—1
8th January.	v. " H.Q." Coy., 1st D.L.I.	Lost	1—3
22nd ,,	v. " B " Coy., 1st D.L.I.	Won	4—0

First round, Capstan Cup, v. " D " Coy., 1st D.L.I., won 2—0.

Hockey League.—Lieutenant Thomson, Sergeant Gresham, Corporal Melly, Lance Corporals Murphy and Morgan, Signalmen Watson, McDonald, Welchman and Halstead are all regular playing members of the team. Results :

v. " C " Company, 1st D.L.I.	Lost	2—0
v. Tientsin Hockey Club	Won	5—1
v. " B " Company, 1st D.L.I.	Won	5—0
v. " D " Company, 1st D.L.I.	Won	1—0

MAJOR-GENERAL H. C. B. WEMYSS, D.S.O., M.C.

THE WIRE

THE CORPS MAGAZINE OF THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

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Editorial Notes.

Major-General H. C. B. Wemyss, D.S.O., M.C., Director of Mobilization. With this issue of the magazine we present our readers with a loose leaf supplementary photograph of Major-General H. C. B. Wemyss, D.S.O., M.C., and, on behalf of all ranks of the Corps convey our sincere congratulations on his recent promotion as Major-General, Director of Mobilization.

Major-General Wemyss was commissioned in the Royal Engineers in 1910 and did his first tour of Regimental Duty with the 2nd Divisional Signal Company, R.E., at Aldershot, with which Unit he went to France in August, 1914, as 4th Guards Brigade Signal Officer. He was wounded at the end of the year, and, after leaving hospital, was posted as Staff Officer to the Commandant, Signal Training Centre, when that establishment was formed in 1915. He proceeded to Gallipoli in August, 1915, with the 9th Corps Signals, where he served until the evacuation, and shortly afterwards was appointed to command 10th Divisional Signals on the Salonika front.

In May, 1917, he accompanied that Division to Egypt as G.S.O.3 and, in September, 1917, was appointed Assistant Director of Army Signals in Egypt with the acting rank of Lieutenant-Colonel.

For his distinguished service during the War he was awarded the Distinguished Service Order in 1914 and the Military Cross in 1916, and was five times Mentioned in Despatches.

He transferred to the Corps on its formation in 1920 and, after a tour of duty as Instructor at the School of Signals, entered the Staff College in 1923; held General Staff appointments at the War Office and 46th (North Midland) Divisional Signals (T.A.); and was awarded a Brevet Lieutenant-Colonelcy on promotion to Major in 1926. On promotion to Substantive Lieutenant-Colonel in 1933, he commanded 5th Divisional Signals at Scarborough, and on promotion to Colonel in 1935 he was appointed Assistant Adjutant General at the War Office.

In 1938 he attended the Course at the Imperial Defence College, on the termination of which he was promoted Major-General at the early age of 47 and appointed Director of Mobilization.

The Royal Signals Band. During the past few months, two major events have occurred in the history of the Royal Signals which are felt to be worthy of special record. The first is the change of status of the Band from an unofficial to an official basis. The Band has now received official recognition from the War Office, a long delayed tribute to the standing of the Corps. It is interesting to note that this recognition has been obtained at a period when, for the first time, the strength of the Corps has exceeded that of its parent Corps, the Royal Engineers.

The second event is the retirement of Mr. R. R. Ricketts, our late Bandmaster. Mr. Ricketts joined the Royal Irish Regiment as a boy in 1900. He served in the Band of that Regiment, reaching the rank of Sergeant in 1910, when he went to Kneller Hall for training as a Bandmaster. After three years at Kneller Hall, he was appointed Bandmaster to the 2nd Battalion, Essex Regiment. In 1919, when with his Regiment in France, his Band won the first prize in the Band Festival for the whole of the British Army then in France. In 1925 he retired, owing to ill-health, after heat-stroke in India.

On his return to England in 1926 he was appointed Director of Music to the newly-formed Royal Signals Band. The Corps as a whole, owes him a great debt of gratitude, for he has worked hard and very tactfully in order to build up a very fine Band, starting from nothing. He was always very keen to obtain outside engagements for the Band, and to him is due the credit for many successes. His personal charm and tact brought him a tremendous number of friends in many places.

On several occasions, under his leadership, the Band has played before Royalty. The first time was at the opening of the Kelvin Hall Housing Exhibition at Glasgow by the present King and Queen. This was in 1929, when they were Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of York. Again, in 1934, the Band accompanied the Royal Signals Display Team to Belfast, where they performed before His Royal Highness The Duke of Gloucester. In 1937 he performed before His Royal Highness The Duke of Kent at the opening of the new wing to the Hospital there.

Amongst the various places visited can be numbered no fewer than twenty-three different towns, some of which have been re-visited at least six times. In 1938 Mr. Ricketts received an engagement for the Band to play at Eastbourne. This is generally regarded as the "plum" of the seaside engagements.

In January, 1939, he handed over to Mr. Hibbert.

His loss to the Royal Signals is great and, on behalf of all ranks of the Corps, we extend to him very grateful thanks, and also the best wishes for his future happiness. At the same time we welcome Mr. Hibbert and hope that his stay with us will be long and happy.

Mr. Hibbert joined the Band of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment in 1916 as a boy. In 1922 he went as a pupil to Kneller Hall, where he won the Bronze Medal as a Bandsman. In 1923 he won a Royal College of Music Scholarship, where he studied for eighteen months, and during which time he won the Princess Marie Louise Gold Medal for the British Empire Festival for Compositions, and also earned the A.R.C.M.

In 1926 he went to Kneller Hall for training as a Bandmaster, where he won the medal for the best all-round student of the year presented by the Worshipful Company of Musicians. He also gained the L.R.A.M. and the p.s.m.

In 1930 he was appointed Bandmaster to the 1st Battalion, 60th Rifles. He served with this Regiment in India and Burma until December, 1938, when he was appointed Bandmaster to the Royal Signals Band.

Mr. Ricketts was given a farewell by the officers of the Signal Training Centre (a description of which is given below, reprinted from the March issue), and also by the Warrant Officers and Sergeants of the Training Battalion, Royal Signals, of whose Mess he was an honorary member :

" During the past month we said farewell to Mr. R. R. Ricketts, our Bandmaster, who has retired after thirteen years' service.

" Before leaving the S.T.C., Mr. Ricketts conducted the Band in the Officers' Mess. After the port had been handed round, he came into the dining room, and the Commandant proposed the toast ' Mr. Ricketts,' which was drunk to the strains of ' For he's a jolly good fellow.'

" The Commandant then thanked him on behalf of all members of the Corps for his past services and made the following presentations to him : a signed portrait of H.R.H. The Princess Royal, our Colonel-in-Chief, together with a letter of appreciation from the Lady-in-Waiting ; a cheque ; and a framed photograph of the Band in a case which had been made in the Carpenters' Shop.

" Mr. Ricketts, in an extremely good speech, thanked the donors for their gifts, and said how sorry he was to leave the Band after being with it so long. He also recommended to us the new Bandmaster, Mr. Hibbert. Mr. Hibbert then took over the Band and conducted the after-dinner music.

" Later in the evening, Mr. Ricketts was taken home to the accompaniment of further cheers and another ' For he's a jolly good fellow.' We join in wishing Mr. Ricketts the best of happiness and luck in his new life, and also welcome Mr. Hibbert, hoping that his stay with us will be long and pleasant."

(See photograph on page 151.)

Signals Experimental Establishment, Woolwich.—The Signals Experimental Establishment will be "At Home" to all Regular officers of the Corps (including those on leave from abroad) on Friday, 26th May, 1939.

Officers will be able to see all experimental apparatus in the process of being designed, including new apparatus due to be sent to trials this year. Officers should arrive not later than 11 a.m. The nearest station is **Woolwich Arsenal.** A convenient train from London leaves Charing Cross at 10.28 a.m., arriving at Woolwich Arsenal at 10.54 a.m., and, if required, transport will be sent to meet this train. Return trains to London run at very frequent intervals throughout the day.

Those wishing to see all the demonstrations and apparatus should be prepared to spend the day at the S.E.E. up to 4 p.m., when Tea will be served. Luncheon can be obtained locally at two shillings per head (exclusive of wines).

Any officers desirous of attending should notify the Superintendent, Signals Experimental Establishment, Woolwich Common, London, S.E.18, at least one week beforehand, either by letter or by telephone (Woolwich 0181), stating whether they are coming by train and whether they require luncheon. Mufti should be won.

Attendance is voluntary, so no travelling expenses can be claimed. No direct personal invitations will be issued, and it is hoped that all Regular officers will take this as a personal invitation.

Corps Cricket.—The following Corps cricket fixtures have been arranged for 1939 :

8th June.	v. R.A.O.C., at Mons Barracks, Aldershot.
9th June.	v. R.E., on R.E. ground, Aldershot.
12th/13th June.	v. R.A.S.C., at Buller Barracks, Aldershot.
14th June.	v. R.M.A., at Woolwich.
16th/17th June.	v. Royal Tank Corps, at Mons Barracks, Aldershot.
19th/20th June.	v. R.A., at Mons Barracks, Aldershot.

The names of those available and desirous of playing in any of the above matches should be forwarded to Major H. S. Lewis-Barclay, 4th Divisional Signals, Canterbury.

Commission.—We tender our hearty congratulations to Lieutenant-Quartermaster J. S. Mitchell on his recent promotion, and wish him every success in his new sphere of operations.

Situation Wanted.—The widow of a recently deceased Senior N.C.O. of the Corps is desirous of securing employment with an officer's family as nursery governess, or in any other capacity for which she may be considered suitable. Before marriage, the applicant was in similar employment with an officer of Royal Signals stationed in India, and can produce the highest references as to her capabilities and qualifications. Age 38. Brief hospital nursing training, and ten years' experience as nursery governess. For further information apply to The General Secretary, Signals Association, 95, Belgrave Road, London, S.W.1

Sports Clothing and other Articles in Corps Colours.—The following articles are held in stock at this Office, and can be supplied by return of post at the prices quoted :

BLAZERS : BARATHEA—In Corps colours	from	47/6
SWEATERS : White woollen with Corps colours neck and cuff	from	12/6
JUMPERS : White woollen with Corps colours at neck (sleeveless)	each	12/6
SCARVES : Woollen, Corps colours	each	7/6
SILK SQUARES : Corps colours	each	10/6
TIES : Silk, double-ended, Corps colours ..	each	2/6 and 3/9
CORPS RIBBON : ¾ inch, for Christmas cards and decoration purposes	per yard	6d.
CAR BADGES : In chromium plate, with Corps colours, in enamel	each	15/6

Postage extra. Cash with order.

Royal Signals Corps Dinner.—With the approval of Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, C.I., G.C.V.O., G.B.E., our Colonel-in-Chief, the annual dinner of the Royal Signals Dinner Club

will be held on Friday, 26th May, at the Junior United Service Club, Charles Street, London, S.W.1, at 7.30 p.m. for 8 p.m. Tickets may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, c/o Chief Signal Officer, London District, Horse Guards, London, S.W.1, and NOT from Mr. S. Garland, c/o Lloyds Bank, Ltd., as in previous years.

Dinner notices, with the usual application form and bankers order for tickets, will be sent to all members and Messes at an early date.

The Long "Leg" of Coincidence.—The football pitch in a Liverpool park was very muddy. Suddenly the ball came sailing over from the centre and an outside forward raced for it. He skidded and as he went sprawling over the touchline his studded boot struck a spectator on the shin.

The man helped the sixteen-year-old player to his feet and laughingly remarked: "If I have to have my leg off through this you might have to help me."

That was ten years ago. In the meantime the player had become a soldier and had forgotten the playfield incident. He was reminded of it a few weeks ago—three thousand miles from Liverpool.

The soldier, a member of the Royal Corps of Signals, was leaving the R.A.F. hospital at Sarafand in Palestine when he saw a civilian, an Englishman, who had difficulty in alighting from a car. He assisted him and the civilian, a Petroleum Company employee, explained that he had an artificial right leg. Some years before, he remarked, a boy playing football in a Liverpool park had accidentally kicked him on the shin and, as a consequence, he had lost his leg. The two had met again. (Press extract.)

THE EDITOR.

Signals Association Notes.

ABERDEEN AND DISTRICT BRANCH.

A second General Meeting and Smoking Concert was held at Fonthill Barracks (in the Badminton Hall, kindly loaned by Officer Commanding 51 (Highland) Divisional Signals, T.A.) on Friday, 3rd March. Colonel R. J. Nicol, O.B.E., took the chair.

The general activities of the Association were discussed, and members not already enrolled were kindly requested to do so without delay (twenty-one new members were enrolled). The meeting was asked to state their wishes in regard to entertainments during the ensuing season, and during the general discussion some very useful suggestions were put to the meeting and carried. Given good support, the Branch should have a very successful season as a result of these suggestions.

After the meeting was over, Colonel Nicol handed over to Lieutenant and Quartermaster J. D. T. Hillman, President of the Entertainment Committee, and a jolly good evening was spent. The concert started off with a cinema show (by kind permission and co-operation of Captain R. B. Williamson). The films shown, which were of the 51st (Highland) Divisional Signals, T.A., in camp at Stonehaven, gave an excellent idea of the various activities in which post-war Territorials are engaged.

After this, a film of the presentation, by H.R.H. The Princess Royal, of a Banner for the Pipe Majors of the 51st and 52nd Divisional Signals, at the Empire Exhibition in Glasgow, was shown. An excellent film. The work of the Guard of Honour of the Lowland Signals would have done justice to any Regular Unit. (Well done, Lowland Signals!)

From this period until the end, song and story were indulged in, and the efforts of Messrs. R. D. Smith and J. Mitchell, to say nothing of the "Story-telling Bee" between the Hon. Secretary and Mr. R. D. Smith, are worthy of mention. Altogether an excellent and instructive evening.

EMPLOYMENTS.

Situations found during the preceding month with the co-operation of the National Association for the Employment of Regular Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen:

1	Ex-Signalman, Derby	Labourer
2	Ex-Signalman, Sheffield	Examiner
3	Ex-Signalman, Sheffield	Wireless Mechanic
4	Ex-Signalman, Sheffield	Fitter
5	Ex-N.C.O., Chatham	Orderly
6	Ex-Signalman, Chatham	Labourer
7	Ex-Signalman, Chatham	Labourer
8	Ex-Signalman, Chatham	Labourer
9	Ex-N.C.O., Chatham	Labourer
10	Ex-Signalman, Wolverhampton	General Worker
11	Ex-Signalman, Reading	Telephonist
12	Ex-Signalman, Manchester	Telephonist
13	Ex-Signalman, Manchester	Postman
14	Ex-Signalman, Manchester	Attendant
15	Ex-Signalman, Manchester	Postman
16	Ex-Signalman, Manchester	Telephonist
17	Ex-Signalman, Brighton	Labourer
18	Ex-Signalman, Brighton	Postman
19	Ex-Signalman, London	Telephonist
20	Ex-Signalman, London	Messenger
21	Ex-N.C.O., London	Postman
22	Ex-Signalman, London	Postman
23	Ex-Signalman, Essex	Night Watchman
24	Ex-Signalman, London	Machinist
25	Ex-Signalman, London	Storeman
26	Ex-Signalman, London	Cleaner
27	Ex-Signalman, London	Electrician
28	Ex-Signalman, Hull	Telephonist
29	Ex-Signalman, Devonport	Labourer
30	Ex-Signalman, Nottingham	Telephonist
31	Ex-Signalman, Chatham	Wireless Operator

GENERAL SECRETARY.

Benevolent Fund Notes.

The Administrator gratefully acknowledges receipt of the following:

CASH SUBSCRIPTIONS from:
3rd Indian Divisional Signals.
2nd Divisional Signals.
Sergeants' Mess (Mobile Divisional Signals, T.A.)

APPEALS dealt with:

1	Ex-Signalman, Cheshire	Grant	£2	10	0
2	Ex-Driver, Darlington	Grant	£4	0	0
3	Ex-Driver, Worcester	Grant	£2	0	0
4	Ex-Signalman, Ireland	Grant	£3	0	0
5	Ex-Signalman, Edinburgh	Grant	£2	10	0
6	Ex-N.C.O., Birmingham	Loan	£5	0	0
7	N.C.O., Aldershot	Loan	£5	0	0
8	Warrant Officer, London	Loan	£10	0	0
9	Ex-Signalman, London	Grant	£2	9	0
10	Widow of Ex-N.C.O., Kent	Grant	£1	0	0
11	Ex-Signalman, Coventry	Loan	£1	10	0

(Signed) T. H. L. SPAIGHT, Lieutenant-Colonel,
Administrator, Signals Association Benevolent Fund.

Corps Promotion Roster.

Subsequent Amendments.

[The figures in the last column indicate the pages in the "Corps Promotion Roster" (published in April, 1938), on which the respective names may be found. This information cannot, of course, be given in the case of Lance Corporals appointed since that date.]

To be Superintending Clerk.

2306535	R.S.M. Price G.	21/11/38 ..	3

Promoted Warrant Officer, Class I (R.S.M.).

2306738	C.S.M. Harrison B.	17/11/38 ..	7
2306807	C.S.M. Field C.	21/11/38 ..	7
2308519	C.S.M. Newman R.	21/12/38 ..	7
1857356	C.S.M. Brandon J.	23/12/38 ..	7

Foreman of Signals.

Promoted W.O.II Q.M.S. Foreman of Signals.

2300552	C.Q.M.S. (F-of-S) Rushworth V.	1/11/38	..	10
2313977	C.Q.M.S. (F-of-S) Hall T.	5/12/38	..	10

Promoted Warrant Officer, Class II (C.S.M.).

*1859197	C.Q.M.S. Wyeth E.	23/10/38	..	90
2311723	C.Q.M.S. Yates W.	14/12/38	..	18
2308075	C.Q.M.S. Cozens S.	21/12/38	..	18
2306803	C.Q.M.S. Archer W.	23/12/38	..	18

Promoted Warrant Officer, Class III.

2313059	C.Q.M.S. Stainer J.	1/10/38	..	22

Promoted Company Quartermaster Sergeant.

*6839672	Sergeant Shepherd D.	1/10/38	..	93
*2309747	Sergeant Howard T.	1/10/38	..	93
2312911	Sergeant Packman W.	5/12/38	..	23
2306774	Sergeant Goble F.	14/12/38	..	23
2312884	Sergeant Winter W.	14/12/38	..	23
*5608827	Sergeant Ivey J.	23/12/38	..	93
*1414078	Sergeant Parker C.	23/12/38	..	93

Promoted Sergeant.

2313972	L/Sergeant Frey N.	5/12/38	..	40
7581477	L/Sergeant Snook S.	6/12/38	..	41
2312693	L/Sergeant Watts C.	6/12/38	..	41
2316017	L/Sergeant Wolfe P.	14/12/38	..	42
2316120	L/Sergeant Chamberlain L.	14/12/38	..	42
5612346	L/Sergeant McLean G.	14/12/38	..	42
2306792	L/Sergeant Neeve F.	14/12/38	..	42
2316439	L/Sergeant Dodd G.	14/12/38	..	42
2316414	L/Sergeant Dirs H.	14/12/38	..	42
743184	L/Sergeant Perkins N.	14/12/38	..	42
2306761	L/Sergeant Turner W.	21/12/38	..	42
2560846	L/Sergeant Scrase R.	23/12/38	..	42
2312154	L/Sergeant Langham G.	31/12/38	..	42

Appointed Lance Sergeant.

2315119	Corporal Archer F.	3/12/38	..	13
2318982	Corporal Cuthbertson J.	5/12/38	..	50
2319000	Corporal Pape J.	6/12/38	..	52
2312308	Corporal Green J.	6/12/38	..	52
6393609	Corporal Voice W.	11/12/38	..	52
2320766	Corporal Rolls C.	14/12/38	..	52
2319829	Corporal Hughes H.	14/12/38	..	52
73114	Corporal Stretch G.	14/12/38	..	52
2315419	Corporal Kerr A.	14/12/38	..	52
5823043	Corporal Locke C.	14/12/38	..	52
758240	Corporal Hartard G.	14/12/38	..	52
3300251	Corporal Bain A.	14/12/38	..	52
2308889	Corporal Thomas P.	23/12/38	..	52
2318814	Corporal Currie G.	28/12/38	..	52
2317894	Corporal Woolnough W.	31/12/38	..	52

Promoted Corporal.

2320264	L/Corporal Roy J.	17/10/38	..	72
2313545	L/Corporal Robertson W.	29/11/38	..	13
2323108	L/Corporal Tyler G.	5/12/38	..	73
7341900	L/Corporal Craik I.	6/12/38	..	73
2322462	L/Corporal Folks R.	6/12/38	..	73
2317688	L/Corporal Beard R.	6/12/38	..	74
2315386	L/Corporal Addis W.	11/12/38	..	74
745775	L/Corporal White E.	14/12/38	..	74
2317305	L/Corporal Williams L.	14/12/38	..	74
2563409	L/Corporal Barlow J.	14/12/38	..	74
2322234	L/Corporal Lambert M.	14/12/38	..	74
2318300	L/Corporal Gartery E.	14/12/38	..	74
2321138	L/Corporal Baker H.	14/12/38	..	74
2323011	L/Corporal Howcroft W.	14/12/38	..	74
2318513	L/Corporal Fill W.	14/12/38	..	74
2322213	L/Corporal Turner M.	14/12/38	..	74
2321582	L/Corporal Watts J.	14/12/38	..	74
2321571	L/Corporal Harrod C.	14/12/38	..	74
2320978	L/Corporal Lavelle W.	14/12/38	..	74
2322324	L/Corporal Rylatt G.	14/12/38	..	74
2566565	L/Corporal Ridley W.	14/12/38	..	74
2320574	L/Corporal Telfer J.	14/12/38	..	74
2322409	L/Corporal Moon T.	14/12/38	..	74
774937	L/Corporal Froud F.	14/12/38	..	74
2318700	L/Corporal Lobb W.	16/12/38	..	74
2320268	L/Corporal Featonby J.	17/12/38	..	74
2322305	L/Corporal Fox T.	19/12/38	..	74
2320293	L/Corporal Denholm T.	19/12/38	..	75
2319937	L/Corporal Matthews J.	23/12/38	..	75
2319873	L/Corporal Bunny C.	25/12/38	..	75
6137700	L/Corporal Whayman M.	28/12/38	..	75
2323116	L/Corporal Rowland G.	31/12/38	..	75
4912845	L/Corporal Lea J.	31/12/38	..	75
2320865	L/Corporal Justice J.	31/12/38	..	75

Appointed Lance Corporals

2325322	Signalman White E. R.	1/7/38		
2321865	Signalman Twiddy F.	2/7/38		
2324354	Signalman Lind W.	4/7/38		
2322307	Signalman Heath J.	5/7/38		
2321461	Signalman Shuttleworth I.	6/7/38		
2324049	Signalman Buirski E.	7/7/38		
2321759	Signalman Cassidy J.	14/7/38		
2323413	Signalman Hockings N.	15/7/38		
2325107	Signalman Andrews G.	18/7/38		
2318766	Signalman Softly R.	19/7/38		
2321408	Signalman Clarke H.	20/7/38		
2324316	Signalman Williams H.	21/7/38		
2322231	Signalman Harnden C.	24/7/38		
2322156	Signalman Goodwin J.	28/7/38		
2323898	Signalman Hanson F.	29/7/38		
6734823	Signalman Walters K.	30/7/38		
4609848	Signalman Wheldon J.	30/7/38		
5721871	Signalman Smale N.	30/7/38		
2323032	Signalman Macbeth F.	1/8/38		

Discharged.

2308550	C.S.M. Holmes W.	5/2/39	..	8
2306715	C.S.M. Smith C.	7/2/39	..	7
*5609456	C.S.M. Lydamore A.	14/2/39	..	84
2306767	C.S.M. Renecle W.	15/2/39	..	8
4603777	C.S.M. Johnson C.	19/2/39	..	7
1858889	C.Q.M.S. Knight A.	23/1/39	..	18
2306781	C.Q.M.S. Beckley A.	24/2/39	..	23
2314047	Sergeant McAdie J.	4/2/39	..	24
2312139	Sergeant Broadhead H.	14/2/39	..	23
2310408	Sergeant Nicholson G.	15/2/39	..	22
1860298	Sergeant Todman A.	20/2/39	..	27
3949468	Sergeant Rees S.	25/2/39	..	32
547228	Corporal White R.	1/2/39	..	61
2318293	Corporal Davies W.	6/2/39	..	56
2322415	L/Corporal Hancox N.	9/2/39		
2317826	L/Corporal Shaw I.	12/2/39		
2316735	L/Corporal Hurley T.	20/2/39	..	78
1850344	Farrier Sergeant Long F.	2/2/39	..	13
2315906	C.Q.M.S. (F-of-S) Forrest W.	12/2/39	..	11

Transferred to the Army Reserve.

2565135	L/Corporal Walker A. E.	10/1/39	..	71
2321306	L/Corporal Copinger E.	23/1/39		
2321147	L/Corporal Hurley W.	18/1/39		
2321240	L/Corporal McCarthey J.	26/1/39		
2320997	L/Corporal Lloyd J.	31/1/39		
2321302	L/Corporal Weeks L.	10/2/39		
2321311	Corporal Rhead T.	10/2/39	..	59
2321312	L/Corporal Wood T.	10/2/39		
2322890	Corporal Atkin C.	12/2/39	..	53

* Special Roster.

Army Vocational Training.

From time to time the soldier, like the writer, finds himself thinking of the future; of the day when he will have to leave the Service and enter into civil life once again. Perhaps he is in the fortunate position of being able to do so knowing, through outside influence, that his future is assured, or, perhaps, like the well-known character in Dickens, he merely hopes that something will turn up. Many, however, find themselves viewing the future with a certain amount of pardonable anxiety, wondering just what to do for the best, and it is for the latter class that these notes are intended.

The writer found himself one of a group selected to pay a visit to the Government Training Centre at Slough. That visit

was very enlightening, and what the writer saw convinced him that there was no reason for any soldier to enter into civilian life unprepared.

Facilities exist at the centre for teaching outdoor and indoor trades. One saw houses, some in the course of construction, others completed, all built by the students themselves. The indoor trades, too numerous to come within the scope of these notes, are all enumerated in the " Guide to Civil Employment," a book which is available for study in any Company Office. There was no shortage of equipment (the latest types of machinery were in use) or of instructors.

It was very comforting to learn that the Centre had no difficulty in placing any of its students, particularly those who had received instruction in machine operating or in metal sheet working; practically the whole of these tradesmen were absorbed by the various aircraft works.

The main point to be remembered is not to be afraid to start on a small wage, for your ability will soon be recognised by the employer.

What about tools, readers may ask. First-class kits of tools are supplied at the Centre.

Perhaps a few notes of the conditions under which men work at the Centre may be of interest. The hours are from 8 a.m. to 4.30 p.m., with half-an-hour for dinner—a very satisfying meal. One has a choice of two dishes and the cost is ninepence. Work ceases at 12 o'clock on Saturdays. Quite close to the Centre is a large Social Club, which, I understand, caters for all kinds of entertainment. There is no difficulty in finding suitable accommodation for the students; a list of addresses is maintained at the Centre.

To sum up. Don't be afraid of the future. See that your name is registered at the Company Office in ample time. Before deciding what trade you would like to follow, study the " Guide to Civil Employment " and choose at least three trades. Choose them sensibly and in terms of your future bread and butter, and not with reference to where your best girl lives.

Above all, don't go on your Vocational Training Course with the idea of having a good time. If you do, you will be disappointed. Rather go on the Course with the idea that you are about to enter a new sphere of life; that you are going to put in six months of hard work, and that you intend to learn all you can. Your reward will be the confidence of your instructors and a sure job with good prospects in civilian life.

Best of luck, old comrades!

C. P.

Signal Training Centre Athletics.

16th March.

The winter athletic season in the S.T.C. may be considered to be a successful one as it has brought home to the S.T.C. three trophies that were won during the last season. They were: the North Yorkshire and South Durham Harriers League, the Catterick Garrison, and the Northern Command.

This repetition of last year's successes is all the more pleasing as it has been achieved during a period of rapid moves and quick turnover of the personnel of the S.T.C.

With these notes is given a list of the men and boys who took part in the various races and who have contributed to the successes. We sincerely hope that they will be of equal assistance to the Field Units to which they are posted. In fact, this has already been proved, as certain members of our original teams have shown their worth in their new homes.

The photograph accompanying these notes was, alas, taken in a small rainstorm with an accompanying fog. This may account for a lack of sharpness, but we hope that someone may be recognised.

The winning of the North Yorkshire and South Durham Harriers League Trophy for the third time in succession is actually a record in the history of this trophy. It has been all the more interesting this year, owing to the fact that, in the

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P. & O. " NARKUNDA " 6th March, 1939

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Yours sincerely, ... *Lieut., Royal Signals*

MR. C. P. GLENNIE, A DIRECTOR OF THE FIRM IS A SERVING MEMBER OF LONDON CORPS SIGNALS (T.A.)

Front row (left to right) : Signalmen Tempest, Lind, Turner, Geddes, Lance-Corporal Boy Smith R, Lieutenant-Colonel R. T. O. Cary, M.B.E., Capt. T. W. Boileau, Boy Collins, Signalmen Fawley, Gittins, Cast, E., Tully, and Foulsham.

Middle row (left to right) : Signalmen Furby, Carrol, Preston, Foy, Hammond F, Boy Palfre, Lance-Corporal Boy Tucker, Signalmen McGee, Hammond G, Lance-Corporal Blades, Corporal Strutt.

Top row (left to right) : Signalmen Brooklyn, Boy Gladwin, Perkins, Marlow, Signalmen Kendrick, Reed.

District nearest to us—Darlington—the Secretary is none other than ex-Corporal Broadley, who is still running, and running well. None were more pleased than the S.T.C. to see Broadley win the individual Race in the Northern Command. A decisive win and a credit to the Corps. (Ex-Corporal Broadley is now a Lance Sergeant in the 50th Divisional Signals, Darlington.)

As will be seen from the names beneath the photograph accompanying these notes, there are a number of Boys here who can still run ! Apart from these, ex-Lance Corporal Boy Hopkins G. seems to have proved his worth according to reports.

In the North-Eastern Counties Cross-country Championships this season there was only one team entered from the S.T.C., and this was composed of Boys entered for the Youths' Race. The result was good, as we took third place out of some fifteen teams. In 1936 and 1937 we won this race, and have been placed in the first four since 1934. Here's hoping ! The team in the North-Eastern Counties Race was as follows : Lance Corporal Boy Smith R., Boys Gladwin and Palfrey ; Lance Corporal Boy Holness, Boys Tucker, Marlow and Perkins.

The public address apparatus and the " outstation " wireless used for relaying the races were manned by the Boys ; the equipment came from the School of Signals and the Training Battalion.

The Boys' Junior team, which was to have taken on a team from Ampleforth, were disappointed, as the fixture was scratched at the last minute. We think that we have a really good team for next year's ventures.

For the coming season we have a variety of athletics. On 25th March we have a visit from the Achilles Club, a repetition of a similar visit two years ago. This will be a really good start for the season. Following this there will be the S.T.C. Inter-Company Sports and the Individual Sports.

This year, for the first time, we have persuaded the " Counties " and the Durham University to have our Triangular fixture here in Catterick. This will enable our budding athletes to see some of the Corps athletes in action. So buckle to, you Corps stars !

Following these events we have our " Under Sixteen " athletics, during which we hope to find our talent for years to come ; some very keen races can be seen here. Then on to the Northern Command, and, we hope, the Army and the Northern Counties, followed by the A.A.A. Junior at the White City.

A full and busy season, but one which takes place each year and leaves in its wake athletes who make their mark in due course.

We hope that Field Units will not forget that a lot of talent has come and is coming their way. Please enter this talent in the Army Boys' and Young Soldiers' events this year !

Names of Cross-country Runners.—Corporal Strutt E. A., Lance Corporal Blades T., Signalmen Hammond E., Moncur T., Foulsham R., Reed J., Turner A., Geddes I., Litton A., Barratt F., Lind A., Preston M., Brooklyn A., Wade R., Prior C., Potter, Cast E., Nutt J., Gittins T., Tully A., Furby R., Kendrick S., Wilkes I., Raynor K., Holness A., Wombell G., McGee D., Kelly A., Worsley J., Dunham C. W., Moreland G., Tempest K., Fawley W., Carroll H., Taylor A. E. D., Hazlehurst L., Foy V. H. and Smith G., Boys Marlow E., Tucker J., Gladwin W., Smith R., Collins J., Forsyth A., Hopkins G., Baines L., Palfrey A., Roberts B., Perkins G. and Keane P.

T. W. Boileau, Captain Royal Signals,
Officer i/c Athletics, S.T.C.

Plain Tales.

More Social Chat.—Births : To Mrs. R. Barlow, wife of your humble scribe, a daughter, Elizabeth Rita, on 20th February. For messages of congratulation received, many thanks.

To meet R.S.M. Frank Westwood and his charming wife a few days ago was an unexpected pleasure. They were on their way North and called in at Birmingham *en route*. They do not alter very much. Perhaps a light touch of the Finger of Time here and there but these little marks show kindly on some people. Look at Frank Shakespeare of Catterick. How many people would take him for 64 ? Look at me. What ? You'd sooner go to the pictures. Maybe you're right.

I'll bet you don't know my " Pop," Billy Barlow, who played Soccer for the Service battalion from '03 to 1910. He is nearly

Mr. R. R. Ricketts.

68 and can still run for a bus and leave his more leisurely son to catch the next one. But perhaps I am going back a bit too far for you. Bill Langham, with whom I was discussing the old boy yesterday, remembers. He said Billy was a dirty player. Tich Harvey, the tailor, said that once, so perhaps there is something in it.

[The Editor could also say Lots reminiscent of "Billy"—"Busky Peerless"—"Joe Holland"—and other denizens of St. Mary's Barracks, but refrains on general principle—live and let live—Happy days, old timer.—Editor.]

Rainy Days.—I'm afraid that is not a very brainy title. Too obvious perhaps, and yet an association of ideas always gets me. I have been reading about a man who wants to save money, but having tried all those hoary methods such as hiding half-crowns in old suits, tea-pots, tin boxes, etc., admits that he is beaten. He can never forget that he has put these half-crowns and things away and realises that he is subconsciously relying on 3/6 in the tweed sports coat, 1/- under the china dog on the mantlepiece and so forth. I am not sure if pay affairs in the Army to-day are quite the same as they used to be, but I saved my fare home from India by telling the pay bloke to cut a slice off my pay every week. So simple that I never missed it. No doubt you know all about a scheme which enables you to arrange for a fixed sum to be deducted from your pay and put into the Post Office for you. Perhaps you can't be bothered to go and see about it. On the other hand, you may be one of those super strong willed chaps who can toddle along to the G.P.O. or Mr. Lloyds' solid-looking establishment and push over the fruits of your remarkable efforts. Most of us, like the man I was reading about, envy you a lot, and often make rude remarks—but you shouldn't be reading this, anyway.

Only about one per cent. of readers are even remotely affected by advice on saving, and even they promise themselves that something must be done, probably next week. So, my good fatheads, have a good time while you are in the Army and do your worrying about six months before you are time-expired.

Trilbys on Parade.—A few days ago I read a letter written by a young man to the Editor of a London "daily." This lad says that all the talk about old soldiers makes him sick. Ex-service men give him a pain in the neck What a beastly shame! However, I think I know what is biting him even if he doesn't know himself. The newspapers make far more fuss about old soldiers than genuine old soldiers wish. I should be in grave danger of writing a serious article if I continued far with this subject. The percentage of ex-Service men who ram their war and other experiences down other people's throats is happily very small. When these chaps get together they talk about anything but war. One is more likely to hear such things as "Do you remember when we slept under a boat at Brighton in 1920?" or "You know old Bill Blether, who tore up the detention room floor at Wouldham in '07, well he——, etc." Which reminds me that Old Comrades in the Birmingham district are already talking about the Aldershot Reunion, whenever it may be. I think there will be a happy party from this area again. I would like the young letter writer to look in at one of these Reunions. It might give him a new slant on what seems to him to be a lot of hooey. I think we might convince him that these Reunions of Old Soldiers provide for them, at any rate, a wonderful experience. There is nothing quite like it in civilian life.

We shall miss Mr. R. R. Ricketts as bandmaster this year but I for one, hope that he will be able to put in an appearance at Aldershot. There are a lot of other people I want to see too. They will turn up. Will YOU be there?

Patent Applied For.—Thinking about Reunions and the vast gathering that one expects at Aldershot reminded me of an idea propounded last year by a man with a bad memory for names. He suggested that if everyone wrote his name in block letters on a small piece of paper, placed it over a lapel badge of some sort and held it in place with a piece of Cellophane from a cigarette packet, he would be spared the dreadful ordeal of wondering who the devil his dear old friend was. Any more brilliant ideas?

Credit Where Due.—A number of people have expressed their amazement at my skill in translating the Adventures of Ukann Larfe from the Extranian. It is indeed a very difficult language and I feel that it is only fair to record my gratitude to the following gentlemen for their valuable assistance: Uncle Alfred, Professor Nokes (the eminent authority on Mud), Colonel Harvey Q. Adenoid and Lord Elpas. Some of the local dialects are so difficult that nobody speaks them, and certainly no one has ever been found who could write them. Take the word "csposeknng" pronounced "——" all the letters being silent as in "——." Its actual meaning has never been discovered, and so far as I can ascertain, nobody cares. Even the Extranian Foreign Minister speaks Chinese with a marked Welsh accent, not that it matters, because no one cares about that either. A delightful country altogether. They shot the Deputy Treasurer yesterday. You must go there sometime. Send for illustrated folder. (Advt.)

Astonishing Development.—Ukann Larfe looked up at the beautiful marble and aluminium clock as it struck twelve. "Liar," he murmured gently, and threw an ink pot at it. Now read on.

CHAPTER 7500.

Inspector Faceache looked over the side of the airship and held Hermione's hand tightly. "That's Hymppoii," he said silently.

"What. Hymppoii?" asked Hermione dumbly.

Uncle Alf.: "What do you mean, 'silently—dumbly'?"

Me : " Hush. The word is pronounced ' Hu ' with the mouth shut and a finger and thumb pinching the nose."

Uncle Alf. : " Why you ——."

Me : " Nark it."

Dark threatening clouds rolled up from the West and were joined by more rolling up from the East. A clash seemed imminent, if that is what I think it means. A close observer might have seen the sinister black-robed figure of The Hooker crouching behind a boulder on the hillside outside the town. They might have noted how he followed the slow progress of the airship with smouldering eyes, his fingers twitching on the trigger of a rifle. I say " might " because in actual fact The Hooker was playing Rummy with Mademoiselle Colette on the edge of a reservoir in Staffordshire. Which just shows you how one can become led away by these serial stories.

Sports Note.—Mrs. Flickpip, who argues so much about the C.R.A. every month, fell downstairs and broke her ankle again last Thursday. Sergt. Flickpip interviewed by our special correspondent said " She is not in very much pain I'm afraid."

Look out for our Summer Fantasy or something, in May.

BARLEUX.

Direction Finding for Aircraft.

By ERIC J. YOUNG.

To the average layman, wireless direction finding must appear to be quite a simple matter. It is obvious that if a Station "A" is due north of a Station " B," then the signals received by "A" from " B " must come from the south. This is, to all intents and purposes, perfectly true with regard to transmissions on long waves, and it only remains to find a means at the receiving station of identifying the direction from which signals are being received, when the direction of the transmitter is unknown.

Most readers will have had some acquaintance with portable broadcast receivers which, when rotated, have a tendency to increase or decrease the strength of the station being received. This type of receiver has definite directional properties, and incorporates a frame aerial of the loop pattern wound around the inside of the cabinet. It could not be used for direction finding with any degree of accuracy as the variation in signal strength between maximum and minimum is not sufficiently clearly defined, although a rough idea could certainly be obtained with the aid of a compass as to the direction of the transmitter in relation to the receiver.

The directional properties of wireless waves have been known for some fifty years. Hertz demonstrated the fact in his early experiments when he showed that a loop of wire containing a small spark gap, if held in a certain position in relation to an apparatus which was radiating electro-magnetic waves, would pick up sufficient electricity to cause a spark to jump across the gap, but it was not until the Great War that any real progress was made in the field of direction finding receiving equipment. Immediately after the war D.F. became a commercial proposition and, in recent years, most passenger liners have carried D.F. apparatus of one type or another.

On ships and aircraft, it is not normally practicable to install anything but a frame aerial. On ships the frames may be fairly elaborate and built after the style of a birdcage (the outer wires comprising a capacity screen), but on aircraft and on ships of more modern design, it is usual to find the D.F. aerial to be of the small metal-shielded loop type. These frames and loops are of the rotatable type, having a handwheel for turning and a disc marked in degrees from 0 to 360 with a pointer to indicate the bearing when taken. There are numerous different types of equipment in use, being for the most part improvements on older apparatus evolved to eliminate various forms of error or generally to make the apparatus more reliable in operation. Unfortunately, it has not been possible to obtain the same degree of accuracy with this type of rotatable aerial as that obtained with the large aperiodic or Adcock type aerials.

It will be obvious to anyone who has seen the layout of a modern D.F. station on land that such an array of masts and aerials could not be erected on a ship without being unsightly and interfering with the use of derricks, etc. Some ships are, however, fitted with a modified form of Bellini-Tosi aerial, but it is doubtful whether these are more efficient in use than the small shielded loop. However, so far as ships are concerned, the wireless D.F. apparatus is normally used only as a means of checking the older methods of navigation, and the average accuracy of two degrees for this type of apparatus is considered to be sufficient for ordinary purposes.

With aircraft the problem of accuracy in regard to wireless D.F. is somewhat more acute. In the first place, the speed at which the modern air liner travels is such as to preclude the possibility of taking bearings on more than one station in order to obtain a " cut." Even if the speed is reduced to little more than stalling speed, the machine will have travelled a considerable distance between the time of taking each bearing, and the result will not be very accurate. At the same time, due to rain, fog, cloud, or other conditions which may interfere with the taking of visual observations, it is most important that the pilot of the aircraft should be able to obtain accurate information as to his position or the bearing of the machine from any particular point—such as the airport for which it is bound.

The necessity for providing aircraft with accurate bearings has brought into existence a considerable number of ground direction finding stations, known as Aeradio or Gonio Stations. Whilst the main purpose of these stations is to provide aircraft flying in their particular areas with D.F. bearings and positions when required, they invariably carry out the normal wireless communication between the ground and the aircraft, and also point-to-point wireless communication with other Aeradio and Gonio Stations.

The majority of these stations are equipped with the most modern direction finding apparatus available. They are installed at specially chosen sites free from trees, houses, or other obstructions which might affect the accuracy of any bearings taken.

The aerial systems used are usually of the Adcock Shielded " U " type, consisting of four 100-ft. masts set in the form of a square at points north, south, east and west of the D.F. station building. These masts actually form the aerial system, the north and south masts act as one aerial, whilst the east and west masts act as the second. It will be obvious that it is impracticable to rotate aerials of this type, and the feeders are, therefore, brought into the station where they are connected to a Radio-Goniometer.

The Radio-Goniometer is an instrument which, when suitably connected to an external aerial system and a special type of wireless receiver, is able to provide the same results as would normally be obtained by rotating the aerial system itself. The instrument contains a pair of field coils, set at right angles one to the other, and a search coil which is rotatable. These coils are contained in a special screened case, the spindle of the search coil projecting through the top and having fixed to it a knob and two pointers. The pointers are at right angles to each other ; one is marked " Sense," the other merely has a hair line at the extremity. A circular scale around the top bears markings in degrees from 0 to 360.

It is beyond the scope of this short article to go into the whole theory of the Radio-Goniometer and it will suffice to show that, assuming the north and south aerial to be connected to field coil " A," and the east and west aerial connected to field coil " B," an incoming signal will induce currents in those coils of different strengths according to the direction from which the signal is being received. If the search coil be now rotated, maximum signals will be heard in the receiver (to which this coil is coupled) when the search coil lies in correct relationship with the two field coils—at the point where there is a maximum magnetic field. Similarly, when the search coil is at right angles to the point of maxiumu magnetic field, minimum signals will be heard.

It is the practice when taking a bearing to work at all times on the " minima." The reason being, that whereas difficulty is experienced in observing the exact point at which a signal is received at maximum strength, it is possible so to tune the D.F. receiver by various coupling methods that, at the minimum point, the received signal dies out completely over possibly only

one degree on the Goniometer scale, and this provides a very definite bearing.

In addition to the aerial system already mentioned, it is usual to employ a vertical aerial, which is suspended from a triatic stretched across between two of the masts. The purpose of this vertical aerial is to provide for " Cardioid " reception. By the suitable use of this aerial it is possible to obtain definite information as to the rough direction of the transmitter from the D.F. station. With the ordinary or " Figure of Eight " reception, it is not possible to decide when taking a bearing whether the signal being received is from one particular quarter, or from the exactly opposite quarter, due to the fact that a correct minimum is obtainable at opposite sides of the scale. By first utilising the " Cardioid " method when taking a bearing, it is possible for the operator to note the correct quarter, and he then proceeds to observe the " minima " at that side of the scale.

The use of long-wave direction finding equipment in the tropics is subject to considerable interference from atmospherics. Aircraft, being limited by consideration of weight, are only able to utilise low power transmitting apparatus and, consequently, the signals transmitted by the aircraft are weak in comparison to the strength of the atmospherics. The result is that when an attempt is made to obtain a bearing on the signals being transmitted by the aircraft, and the search coil of the Goniometer is rotated in order to obtain a minimum, the signal becomes inaudible over a large number of degrees on the scale and only atmospherics are heard. Under these circumstances it is usual to take what is known as a " Swing Bearing " ; that is to say, the operator notes the number where the signal dies out, continues rotating the pointer and notes the number where the signal again becomes audible. A point midway between the two numbers is then assumed to be the correct bearing. Such a bearing is always open to error and, under these circumstances, the operator would advise the aircraft that the bearing was doubtful.

Whilst atmospherics interfere seriously with long wave direction finding, this does not mean that the machines are likely to be out of communication with the ground. It is usual for long distance machines to carry short-wave equipment in addition to the ordinary long-wave apparatus, and this enables the aircraft to communicate over distances which would be quite impossible on long waves.

Research has been proceeding apace in the last few years in relation to short-wave direction finding. The main disadvantages have been the uncertainty of performance of the short-waves at various distances, reflected rays and scattered radiation which produce indefinite " minima " with a liability to error due to abnormal polarisation and scattering on account of the signal not arriving at the receiving aerials on the great circle path from the transmitter. Much work has been done and special apparatus designed to reduce much of the disadvantages attached to this type of direction finding, and some apparatus is now available commercially.

To complete this article, let us imagine ourselves in the operating room at an imaginary D.F. station and observe how a bearing is taken, the position of the aircraft obtained and how the aircraft is looked after generally.

Firstly, we take our place behind the operator, who is sitting in front of an elaborate multivalve D.F. receiver with head-phones tight on his ears. We hear a jumble of dots and dashes and realise that it is a message from an aeroplane in flight. The operator taps out a few remarks in reply on a transmitting key, which is connected by remote control to a powerful transmitter at another station a little distance away (the transmitting station is kept apart from the D.F. station, so that it will not interfere in any way with the taking of bearings). In a few minutes, we hear the plane again, and this time he is asking for his position.

The operator asks him to send the special signal for this pur pose, and, as the dots and dashes come through, turns to the Radio-Goniometer situated at the left side of the receiver. With his right hand he presses the switch for Cardioid reception and rotates the knob of the Goniometer quite rapidly with the left hand. He has noted the quarter in which the machine is flying. Now he lets the switch spring back into the " Figure 8 " reception position and turns his full attention to the Goniometer, turning the knob rapidly until the minimum is approached, then more slowly. He now adjusts the zero clearing device to get a sharper minimum, and turns the knob slowly backwards and forwards between two or three degrees until he is quite positive of the bearing. He now notes both time and bearing in his log book and taps out a quick O.K. to the plane.

The plane stops sending and, immediately, a powerful signal is heard coming through. This is station " B " giving the bearing of the machine as taken at his station and he is followed by station " C " giving similar information from that point. The operator has noted all this in his logbook and, scribbling the figures on a piece of paper, goes over to the Gnomonic chart. On the chart are marked our station and also stations " B " and " C." Around each station is drawn a circle which is marked off in degrees from 0 to 360, and from the centre of each circle a thin string is attached having at the free end a leaden weight. The operator takes each string in turn, stretching it over the number representing the bearing of the machine from each respective station. They all cross at one point on the chart and this represents the position of the aeroplane. The operator reads this position off in terms of latitude and longitude, jots down the figures on a piece of paper and, going over to the transmitting key, taps out the information to the plane He writes down the results in the log book and looking over his shoulder at the times, we are able to observe that the whole operation from start to finish has taken only two minutes.

Presentation to the Brigade of Guards.

An interesting event took place on 10th March at Pirbright Camp to commemorate the departure of the 4th Guards Brigade Signal Section of the 4th Guards Brigade from the 2nd Division.

Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. R. Neale, who was accompanied by Major G. W. Odell (a former Brigade Signal Officer of the 4th Guards Brigade), made a presentation of a clock, suitably inscribed, together with a list of the subscribing officers, to Brigadier J. A. C. Whitaker, Commander 7th Guards Brigade, and his Brigade Major, Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Lloyd, Grenadier Guards.

The Brigadier, who expressed his pleasure and thanks for the presentation, stated that he intended to write to all the officers who had subscribed.

The clock was presented to the officers of the 4th Guards Brigade by the following officers of the 2nd Divisional Signals, Royal Signals :

Rank during Command.	Present Rank.	Name.	Date.
Lieutenant	Major-General	H. C. B. Wemyss, D.S.O., M.C.	1914
Lieutenant	Colonel	L. G. Phillips, C.B.E., M.C.	1914-15
Captain	Colonel	J. A. S. Tillard, O.B.E., M.C.	1922
	Lieutenant-Colonel	R. H. R. Neale.	
Lieutenant	Major	G. W. Odell	1923-24
Lieutenant	Major	H. E. Rance	1925-27
Lieutenant	Captain	H. R. V. Cooke	1928-31
Lieutenant	Captain	G. B. Bell	1933-34
Lieutenant	Captain	L. D. M. Patterson ..	1935
Lieutenant	Lieutenant	P. G. Curry	1936-37
Lieutenant	Lieutenant	M. H. N. Travers ..	1938

The clock bore the following inscription :

PRESENTED BY BRIGADE SIGNAL OFFICERS,
4TH GUARDS BRIGADE.
1914—1938.

THE SECTION WAS FORMED IN 1912 AND COMMANDED UNTIL 1914 BY LIEUTENANT HON. L. E. NEEDHAM, GRENADIER GUARDS.

THE SECTION WITH ITS BRIGADE JOINED THE GUARDS DIVISION IN 1915 FOR THE REST OF THE WAR.

THE SECTION WAS NAMED " J " SECTION IN 1922.

OFFICERS AND N.C.O.s 2nd SIGNAL COMPANY, R.E., ALDERSHOT, 1914

Back row : 2nd Corporal Clifford, F., 2nd Corporal Sweeting, J., Lance Corporal Ferrand, F., Lance Corporal Finch, 2nd Corporal Etheridge, A., Lance Corporal Dickenson, A.

Third row : Lance Corporal McVeigh, M., Corporal Newman, E., Corporal Atkins, A., Corporal Urwin, J., Corporal Terry, G., Corporal Thompson, F., 2nd Corporal Andrews, C.

Second row : Sergeant Sharp, C., Sergeant Rockall, R., Sergeant Scott, W., Sergeant Craig, F., Sergeant Walshaw, G., Sergeant Campbell, J., Corporal Foster, E.

Front row : Sergeant Eldridge, J., C.Q.M.S. Glover, J., Lieutenant G. E. Sampson, Capt. A. B. Cunningham, Lieutenant H. C. B. Wemyss, Lieutenant E. N. Evelegh, C.S.M. Wright, Sergeant Smith, T.

Golf.

The Royal Signals Annual Golf Meeting will be held at the Berkshire Club, near Ascot, on Wednesday and Thursday, 19th and 20th April, 1939.

FIRST DAY.—Royal Signals Championship and Royal Signals Handicap, both events played concurrently over 36 holes.

SECOND DAY.—18 holes Bogey Singles in the morning, and 18 holes Bogey Foursomes in the afternoon. Both events off handicap.

All events, except the Royal Signals Championship, are open to serving and retired Royal Signals officers of the Regular and Territorial Armies and the Supplementary Reserve.

Post entries will be accepted, but it would be of assistance if those intending to compete would notify Major H. S. Lewis Barclay, 4th Divisional Signals, Canterbury.

H. S. LEWIS BARCLAY, Major, Royal Signals,
Captain of Royal Signals Golf.

Signals in Tanganyika.

By C.Q.M.S. (F-OF-S) CATT C. W.

(Fifth Instalment.)

A short while before the international situation became acute, Signals had been asked if, in the event of any emergency arising, a Set could be maintained by African ranks if it were installed by the O.C. or F-of-S. The reply was, " Yes, if the No. 11 Set was used," and no real thought was given to the fact that an emergency might arise in the very near future.

The day on which the O.C. was due in Tabora on his return from Dar-es-Salaam brought great activity to the Signals in Tabora. During the early afternoon the F-of-S received instructions to the effect that a plane would arrive that evening to convey him and a complete W/T Detachment of four men, the Set and accessories to the Administrative Headquarters considered to be of strategic importance during a crisis. Everything was ready in the lorry for a move by road or rail, so it meant a hasty repacking in order to make loads suitable for conveyance by air. When confronted by a complete detachment, however, the pilot remarked that he had not brought a troop-

2nd SIGNAL COMPANY, R.E. WATER POLO TEAM

Runners-up 1912-13, Winners 1913-14 Inter-Unit League, Aldershot

Captain A. B. Cunningham, C.S.M. Wright, Pioneer Wensley, Pioneer Barnes, Mr. Giles, Sergeant Scott.
Driver Dellor, Lieutenant H. C. B. Wemyss, Pioneer Wright, Lance Corporal Dickinson, Driver Rowlands.

carrier, and observed that his load could not exceed 750 lbs. including himself. We found that the complete detachment weighed 1,230 lbs., so that drastic reductions were necessary. All that could be got into the plane were the F-of-S, the Native N.C.O., the Set, field charging plant (the only charging equipment the Section had at the time), two 6-volt 40/50 A.H. batteries, two blankets apiece, and toilet requisites.

The O.C. arrived that night to learn the turn of events.

Tabora was left just before 9 a.m. the next morning, with hopes of reaching the destination by 11 a.m. Unfortunately, it was the pilot's first flight over the Territory (he normally operated over Kenya), and as maps are not all that could be desired, the destination was missed and it was necessary to go almost halfway back towards Tabora in order to obtain correct bearings, and the destination was reached at 2.30 p.m.

On arrival it was found that the Administrative Officer was the one who had been at Loliondo during the first wireless reconnaissance the previous year, and he and his wife did all possible to make the F-of-S comfortable, insisting that he stayed with them " for the duration." The plane had to return to Dar-es-Salaam right away, and the Set was erected in the District H.Q. Office, but no communication was established until 8.30 a.m. the next day, when an Imperial Airways station was contacted. The O.C. despatched the remaining men and stores by rail and road the same morning on which the F-of-S departed, and they arrived at midnight the following day, having been on the move the whole time. Two complete days, " all out," for what could have been a two-hour plane trip !

On the Tuesday, two days after arriving, the F-of-S was asked if he was prepared to leave the Set with the Askari. He decided to stick to the original decision and again " Yes " was the reply. The result was that a plane arrived the next morning to take him to where the majority of the 1st Battalion, K.A.R. were assembling. The plane took fifty minutes for a journey which takes eight hours in a good car. It was then learned that the wireless lorry with a T.R.4 Set installed had been despatched by the O.C. from Tabora early on Tuesday morning, and the authorities anticipated its arrival on Wednesday evening, issuing instructions that the F-of-S was to await its arrival. Three days later orders were received to move to Dar-es-Salaam by road if the lorry was in a suitable condition. The F-of-S could do no more than report that the lorry had not yet arrived. That same day an Askari arrived with the news that the lorry had broken down 180 miles away. H.Q. was informed and instructions received to proceed in a Transport Corps lorry and

(*Continued on page* 192)

Corps News—Officers.

Extracts from "The London Gazette."

[War Office, 3/1/39]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Captain J. W. Gordon relinquishes the appointment of Adjutant, 5/12/38.

Major C. R. H. Firth to be Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel, 1/1/39.

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE—ROYAL SIGNALS.

2nd Lieutenant E. A. Mayne from Regular Reserve of Officers to be 2nd Lieutenant, 4/1/39, with seniority 15/1/37.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

51st (H.) Divisional Signals. Major T. P. E. Murray to be Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel, 1/1/39.

44th (H.C.) Divisional Signals. Captain W. Gilbert to be Brevet Major, 1/1/39.

[War Office, 6/1/39]

REGULAR ARMY—COMMANDS AND STAFF.

Captain H. V. Ewbank, Royal Signals, to be Staff Captain, War Office, 1/1/39.

ROYAL SIGNALS.

Captain J. W. Gordon is seconded whilst employed as Instructor, R.M.A., 17/12/38.

MEMORANDA.

Major R. H. R. Steward, Royal Signals, is granted the local rank of Lieutenant-Colonel whilst employed as O.C. Signals, Palestine, 7/1/39.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

1st A.A. Divisional Signals. Major Sir William Prescott, Bt., C.B.E., D.L., J.P., to be Hon. Colonel, 4/1/39. F. E. G. Brady to be 2nd Lieutenant, 24/12/38.

[War Office, 10/1/39]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Major R. C. Woodbridge is restored to establishment, 11/1/39.

S.T.C.

Major R. C. Woodbridge relinquishes the appointment of Brigade Major, 11/1/39.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

43rd (W.) Divisional Signals. Captain F. H. Reeks resigns his commission, 20/12/38.

[War Office, 13/1/39]

REGULAR ARMY—COMMANDS AND STAFF.

Captain C. G. Moore, Royal Signals, to be G.S.O.3, War Office, 2/1/39.

ROYAL SIGNALS.

Major W. H. N. Dent, M.B.E., from half-pay to be Major, 14/1/39, with precedence next below Major A. B. Bushby.

R.S.M. Noonan M. J. to be Lieutenant (Quartermaster), 23/12/38.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

London Corps Signals. Captain S. A. W. Philcox to be Major, 2/12/38.

Mobile Divisional Signals. Major L. F. Messel to be Lieutenant-Colonel, 12/12/38. Captain J. S. Judd to be Major, 12/12/38. Captain Hon. S. A. Maxwell from T.A. Reserve to be Captain with seniority as in the T.A., 7/12/38.

1st A.A. Divisional Signals. J. B. W. Freemantle to be Lieutenant (Quartermaster), 14/1/39.

[War Office, 17/1/39]

REGULAR ARMY—COMMANDS AND STAFF.

Major N. H. Edes, Royal Signals, from G.S.O.3, War Office, to be Brigade Major, 3rd Infantry Brigade, 2/1/39.

Major R. Sutton-Pratt, Royal Signals, to be Military Attache, G.S.O.2, Stockholm, and granted the local rank of Lieutenant-Colonel whilst so employed, 14/1/39.

ROYAL SIGNALS.

Captain C. G. Moore is seconded for service on the Staff, 2/1/39.

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE—ROYAL SIGNALS.

The undermentioned 2nd Lieutenants to be Lieutenants:

C. Ferguson, 7/12/38.

W. J. F. Clarke, 21/12/38.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

North Midland Corps Signals. Captain R. J. de C. Barber to be Major, 12/12/38.

53rd (W.) Divisional Signals. B. H. Davies to be 2nd Lieutenant, 18/1/39.

[War Office, 20/1/39]

REGULAR ARMY—COMMANDS AND STAFF.

Major C. K. Thursby-Pelham, M.C., vacates appointment as D.A.A.G., War Office, 21/1/39.

ROYAL SIGNALS.

The undermentioned are restored to establishment, 21/1/39:

Major C. K. Thursby-Pelham, M.C., Captain A. J. Keddie.

ESTABLISHMENTS—S.T.C.

Major R. W. Morgan to be Brigade Major, 11/1/39.

Captain A. J. Keddie relinquishes the appointment of Staff Captain, 21/1/39.

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE—ROYAL SIGNALS.

The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants, 21/1/39:

E. Speechley, F. S. Lauderdale, J. W. Barrett, G. Bennett, G. K. Hall, D. G. Pocock.

[War Office, 24/1/39]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Captain G. Mellor to be Adjutant, *vice* Captain P. R. Hyde, 21/1/39.

[War Office, 27/1/39]

REGULAR ARMY.

Colonel H. C. B. Wemyss, D.S.O., M.C., to be Major-General, 9/1/39, with seniority, 7/1/38.

Major-General H. C. B. Wemyss, D.S.O., M.C., to be Director of Mobilization, War Office, 9/1/39.

MEMORANDA.

Major (local Lieutenant-Colonel) W. A. Dimoline, M.C., from Royal Signals, to be Lieutenant-Colonel on the employed list and to command the N. Rhodesia R., 8/11/38.

ROYAL SIGNALS.

The undermentioned University Candidates to be 2nd Lieutenants, 28/1/39, with seniority 26/8/37:

2nd Lieutenant B. G. Mabey from Gen. List, T.A.

2nd Lieutenant H. A. C. James, from Gen. List, T.A.

The undermentioned Gentlemen Cadets from the R.M.A. to be 2nd Lieutenants, 26/1/39:

B. C. Pigg, H. Clive, D. C. G. Auchmuty, R. T. Harris, T. S. Foster, J. H. Collins, I. H. A. Illingworth, T.B. McVicker.

2nd Lieutenant J. Swallow, from North Midland Corps Signals, T.A., to be 2nd Lieutenant, 28/1/39.

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE—ROYAL SIGNALS.

K. L. Parker to be 2nd Lieutenant, 28/1/39.

H. J. C. Maclean to be 2nd Lieutenant, 28/1/39.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

44th (H.C.) Divisional Signals. Captain H. O. Pargeter, Royal Signals, to be Adjutant, 21/1/39.

1st A.A. Divisional Signals. D. McMillan to be 2nd Lieutenant, 28/1/39. R. Peel to be 2nd Lieutenant, 28/1/39. S. E. Anson to be 2nd Lieutenant, 28/1/39.

2nd A.A. Divisional Signals. Captain D. White, Royal Signals, to be Adjutant, 2/1/39.

3rd A.A. Divisional Signals. Captain F. H. Pellew, Royal Signals, to be Adjutant, 2/1/39.

4th A.A. Divisional Signals. Captain C. P. S. Denholm-Young, Royal Signals, to be Adjutant, 2/1/39.

[War Office, 31/1/39]

REGULAR ARMY—COMMANDS AND STAFF.

Major M. S. Wheatley to be D.A.A.G., War Office, 21/1/39.

ROYAL SIGNALS.

The undermentioned Lieutenants to be Captains, 29/1/39:

E. C. Nicholls, C. H. Stoneley, D. J. Goldsmith, A. J. Hamilton, G. M. de M. Blum, M. A. Lloyd.

The undermentioned 2nd Lieutenants to be Lieutenants:

D. A. Dickson, J. E. Anderson, O. B. G. Shoubridge, A. F. Freeman, J. H. St. G. Hamersley, W. C. Ramsay, N. D. Shaw.

ESTABLISHMENTS—S.T.C.

Captain E. L. L. Vulliamy to be Staff Captain, 21/1/39.

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Lieutenant-Colonel and Brevet-Colonel A. S. Angwin, D.S.O., M.C., T.D., having attained the age limit, relinquishes the appointment of D/C.S.O. for S.R. duties and ceases to belong to the S.R., 11/12/38.

Lieutenant-Colonel and Brevet-Colonel M. F. Allan, from Regular Reserve of Officers, to be Lieutenant-Colonel and Brevet Colonel and D/C.S.O. for S.R. duties, 11/12/38.

W. N. Bronner to be 2nd Lieutenant, 1/2/39.

Territorial Army—Royal Signals.

London Divisional Signals. 2nd Lieutenant D. J. Macbeth to be Lieutenant, 1/1/39.

52nd (L.) Divisional Signals. 2nd Lieutenant D. C. Lindsay to be Lieutenant, 30/10/38.

[War Office, 3/2/39]

Regular Army—Commands and Staff.

Major and Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel R. F. H. Nalder relinquishes the appointment of G.S.O.2, War Office, 4/2/39.

Royal Signals.

Major and Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel R. F. H. Nalder is restored to the establishment, 4/2/39.

Major R. W. Morgan is seconded whilst holding the appointment of B.M., S.T.C., 11/1/39.

Captain F. C. Seely is seconded for service with the T.A., 16/1/39.

Establishments.

Major W. Scott relinquishes the appointment of 2nd Mil. Member, R.E. and Signals Board, 4/2/39.

Territorial Army—Royal Signals.

4th A.A. Divisional Signals. Colonel W. T. Dodd to command unit, 4/2/39.

5th A.A. Divisional Signals. Captain F. C. Seely to be Adjutant, 16/1/39.

[War Office, 7/2/39]

Regular Army Reserve of Officers.

Major R. C. Nixon, having attained the age limit, ceases to belong to the Reserve of Officers, 27/12/38.

Supplementary Reserve—Royal Signals.

The undermentioned 2nd Lieutenants to be Lieutenants, 1/1/39:

R. J. Jordan, A. E. Cook, E. H. Wilkinson.

[War Office, 10/2/39]

Regular Army—Royal Signals.

Major W. A. Scott, M.B.E., is seconded for service on the Staff, 4/2/39.

2nd Lieutenant L. B. H. C. Baker to be Lieutenant, 30/1/39.

Gentleman Cadet G. B. Donald, from R.M.A., to be 2nd Lieutenant, 26/1/39.

Supplementary Reserve—Royal Signals.

A. C. Croisdale to be 2nd Lieutenant, 11/2/39.

Territorial Army—Royal Signals.

2nd Cavalry Divisional Signals. 2nd Lieutenant E. S. Delmar-Morgan to be Lieutenant, 23/11/38. S. D. D. Hood to be 2nd Lieutenant, 11/2/39. R. D. Schuster to be 2nd Lieutenant, 11/2/39.

1st A.A. Divisional Signals. Major G. J. M. Peel, M.B.E., T.D., to be Lieutenant-Colonel, 3/11/38.

4th A.A. Divisional R.A.O.C. Major P. A. Chubb, Reserve of Officers, to be Major, 1/2/39.

[War Office, 14/2/39]

Regular Army—Royal Signals.

Lieutenant-Colonel H. A. J. Parsons, M.C., on completion of four years' service as a Regimental Lieutenant-Colonel, is removed from the regimental list and remains on full pay, 15/2/39.

Territorial Army—Royal Signals.

44th (H.C.) Divisional Signals. Captain H. L. Lewis, Royal Signals, vacates the appointment of Adjutant, 21/1/39.

4th A.A. Divisional Signals. The date of appointment of Colonel W. T. Dodd, D.S.O., T.D., is 15/12/38 and not as stated in the "Gazette" of 3/2/39.

[War Office, 17/2/39]

Regular Army—Royal Signals.

Major (local Colonel) F. W. Nicholls to be Lieutenant-Colonel, 15/2/39.

Major G. P. Pavey, M.B.E., to be Lieutenant-Colonel, 15/2/39.

Major W. C. V. Galwey, M.C., is restored to the establishment, 17/2/39.

Captain C. P. S. Denholm-Young is seconded for service with the T.A., 2/1/39.

Captain F. H. Pellew is seconded for service with the T.A., 2/1/39.

Captain D. White is seconded for service with the T.A 2/1/39.

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Captain E. L. L. Vulliamy is seconded whilst holding the appointment of Staff Captain, S.T.C., 21/1/39.

MEMORANDA.

Major (now Lieutenant-Colonel) F. W. Nicholls is granted the local rank of Colonel whilst C.S.O., Palestine, 18/1/39.

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE—ROYAL SIGNALS.

E. G. Giggall to be 2nd Lieutenant, 18/2/39.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

4th A.A. Divisional Signals. 2nd Lieutenant W. M. Dodd from 55th (W.L.) Divisional Signals to be 2nd Lieutenant with seniority as in the T.A., 23/1/39.

[War Office, 21/2/39]

REGULAR ARMY.

Lieutenant-Colonel C. H. H. Vulliamy, D.S.O., from Royal Signals, to be Colonel, 15/2/39, with seniority 15/2/38.

COMMANDS AND STAFF.

Captain R. H. O. Coryton, Royal Signals, from G.S.O.3 to be G.S.O.2, War Office, 1/1/39.

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE—ROYAL SIGNALS.

C. R. Dickenson to be 2nd Lieutenant, 22/2/39.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—COMMANDS AND STAFF.

Colonel C. H. H. Vulliamy, D.S.O., to be C.S.O., 1st A.A. Corps (temp.), 15/2/39.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

1st A.A. Divisional Signals. J. A. Beaver (late Lieutenant, S.R.) to be Captain, 22/2/39.

3rd A.A. Divisional Signals. Major T. S. Mensley, from T.A. Reserve, to be Major, 11/2/39.

4th A.A. Divisional Signals. Major F. J. Behn, from 55th (W.L.) Divisional Signals, to be Major, 23/1/39.

Mobile Divisional Signals. 2nd Lieutenant M. W. Harrap, from T.A. Reserve, to be 2nd Lieutenant, 11/2/39.

[War Office, 24/2/39]

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Lieutenant J. A. Beaver resigns his commission on appointment to a commission in the T.A., 25/2/39.

J. C. Rau (late Captain, Australian Staff Corps) to be Captain, 25/2/39, with seniority 13/1/39.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

43rd (W.) Divisional Signals. C. E. Ware to be 2nd Lieutenant, 25/2/39.

3rd A.A. Divisional Signals. W. J. G. Barnett to be 2nd Lieutenant, 25/2/39. D. V. Seddon to be 2nd Lieutenant, 25/2/39.

[War Office, 28/2/39]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Captain N. G. Newell to be Adjutant, 10/1/39.

ESTABLISHMENTS—SCHOOL OF SIGNALS.

Major L. C. Boyd to be Senior Instructor, 17/2/39.

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE—ROYAL SIGNALS.

D. Nelson to be 2nd Lieutenant, 1/3/39.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

2nd A.A. Divisional Signals. I. W. Nicholson to be Lieutenant-Colonel, 18/1/39.

3rd A.A. Divisional Signals. Major J. F. Darby, T.D. (late S.R.) to be Lieutenant-Colonel, 15/2/39.

[War Office, 3/3/39]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Captain K. E. Holmes is seconded whilst holding appointment as Mil. Member, R.E. and Signals Board, 4/2/39.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

43rd (W.) Divisional Signals. 2nd Lieutenant L. H. Clemas resigns his commission on appointment to the R.A.F., 23/1/39.

1st A.A. Divisional Signals. Captain and Brevet-Major A. H. Croucher to be Major, 3/11/38.

[War Office, 7/3/39]

REGULAR ARMY—COMMANDS AND STAFF.

Lieutenant G. D. B. McKean, Royal Signals, to be A.D.C. to the Commander, 5th Division (temp.), 1/1/39.

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Lieutenant H. Scarborough resigns his commission, 8/3/39, on appointment to a commission in the T.A.

The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants, 8/3/39 :

R. R. C. Rankin, H. H. R. Moule, F. A. Horne, W. M. O. Rennie, P. H. Moody.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

43rd (W.) Divisional Signals. Major C. W. Knight, Royal Signals, vacates the appointment of Adjutant, 6/3/39. Captain R. Webb, Royal Signals, to be Adjutant, 6/3/39.

3rd A.A. Divisional Signals. Lieutenant H. Scarborough, late S.R., to be Captain, 8/3/39.

[War Office, 10/3/39]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

The undermentioned R.S.M.s to be Lieutenants (T.M.O.s), 11/3/39 :

G. E. C. Kingman, A. F. Herbert.

Superintending Clerk J. S. Mitchell to be Lieutenant (Quartermaster), 11/3/39.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

44th (H.C.) Divisional Signals. 2nd Lieutenant F. G. Monk to be Lieutenant, 8/3/39.

53rd (W.) Divisional Signals. 2nd Lieutenant P. Fletcher resigns his commission, 15/2/39.

4th A.A. Divisional Signals. N. B. Rymer to be 2nd Lieutenant, 11/3/39.

[War Office, 14/3/39]

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Lieutenant E. E. Wilkins to be Captain, 14/1/39.

2nd Lieutenant W. E. Bellamy resigns his commission, 15/3/39

Captain M. C. Cooper, from Regular Reserve of Officers, to be Captain, 1/2/39.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

2nd Cavalry Divisional Signals. Lieutenant N. C. Pearson, from North Nidland Corps Signals, to be Lieutenant, with seniority as in the T.A., 20/10/38.

London Divisional Signals. 2nd Lieutenant H. Sinclair to be Lieutenant, 1/3/39.

2nd A.A. Divisional Signals. Captain C. F. W. Haseldine, from T.A. Reserve, to be Captain, 25/1/39. L. Hayes to be Captain, 15/3/39.

4th A.A. Divisional Signals. P. A. Wornsop to be 2nd Lieutenant, 15/3/39.

5th A.A. Divisional Signals. G. F. Johnson to be Lieutenant (Quartermaster), 20/2/39.

[War Office, 17/3/39]

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

London Corps Signals. 2nd Lieutenant R. L. Blakeney, from 54th (E.A.) Divisional Signals, to be 2nd Lieutenant, 12/10/38.

53rd (W.) Divisional Signals. A. G. Tett to be 2nd Lieutenant, 18/3/39.

4th A.A. Divisional Signals. W. C. Huff to be Captain, 18/3/39. A. H. G. Field to be Captain, 18/3/39. A. F. Davis to be 2nd Lieutenant, 18/3/39.

5th A.A. Divisional Signals. Lieutenant D. V. Craddock, late T.A. Reserve, to be Major, 18/3/39. R. B. St. J. Quarry to be 2nd Lieutenant, 18/3/39. L. A. Moss to be 2nd Lieutenant, 18/3/39.

[War Office, 21/3/39]

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Captain H. Metcalf, from S.R., to be Captain, 22/3/39, retaining his seniority.

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Captain F. R. Bolt, having attained the age limit, ceases to belong to the S.R., 27/2/39.

Lieutenant J. Reading to be Captain, 22/3/39.

2nd Lieutenant H. A. Turner is seconded under the provisions of para. 44, S.R. Regulations, 30/1/39.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Mobile Divisional Signals. P. D. Coats to be 2nd Lieutenant, 22/3/39.

52nd (L.) Divisional Signals. 2nd Lieutenant H. G. R. Luke to be Lieutenant, 26/2/39.

54th (E.A.) Divisional Signals. G. F. H. Walker to be 2nd Lieutenant, 22/3/39.

2nd A.A. Divisional Signals. J. W. Grieve to be 2nd Lieutenant, 22/3/39. T. H. Harding to be 2nd Lieutenant, 22/3/39.

4th A.A. Divisional Signals. D. A. Hough to be 2nd Lieutenat, 22/3/39. M. Drinkwater to be 2nd Lieutenant, 22/3/39. H. K. Turner to be 2nd Lieutenant, 22/3/39. J. L. Packer to be 2nd Lieutenant, 22/3/39. R. D. Thirsk to be 2nd Lieutenant, 22/3/39.

5th A.A. Divisional Signals. D. J. Chilver to be 2nd Lieutenant, 22/3/39. 2nd Lieutenant F. E. Moules, from 43rd (W.) Divisional Signals, to be 2nd Lieutenant, 12/1/39.

HOME STATIONS

Headquarters, Signal Training Centre.

Arts and Crafts Exhibition.—The pessimist is prone to opine "It'll never be the same again," but those of us who are not optimists received a pleasant surprise at the success of the S.T.C. Arts and Crafts Exhibition for 1939. Most of the old hands who attended agreed it was one of the best efforts they had seen, and the Judges (absolutely impartial) proclaimed themselves surprised at the excellence of some of the exhibits, particularly the knitting, embroidery, bread and cakes. There were over two hundred exhibits (including some non-competitive articles from officers and their wives), produced proportionately by the three Units, according to their size. Here we must put on record the excellence of the "non-competitive" articles, and to say that it is only the "non-" which prevents a few officers' names from appearing in the prize list. Here are the names of the winners:

BULBS. Best Single: 1, Mrs. Harries; 2, Mrs. Adams.

Best Collection: 1, Mrs. Andrews; 2, Mrs. Beverley; 3, Mrs. Saunders.

KNITTING.

(*a*) Lady's Jumper: 1, Mrs. Taylor; 2, Mrs. Fearnley; 3, Mrs. Skinner; 4, Mrs. Hague; 5, Mrs. Pack.

(*b*) Gent's Pullover or Cardigan: 1, Mrs. Taylor; 2, Mrs. Green.

(*c*) Child's Jumper: 1, Mrs. Saunders; 2, Mrs. Cockings 3, Mrs. Day.

(*d*) Baby's Jacket: 1, Mrs. Raymond; 2, Mrs. Small; 3, Mrs. Saunders.

(*e*) Stockings or Socks: 1, Mrs. Leader; 2, Mrs. Cockings.

CROCHET.

(*a*) Wool Crochet Articles: 1, Mrs. Leader.

(*b*) Cotton Crochet Articles: 1, Mrs. Taylor; 2, Mrs. Fraser; 3, Mrs. Beverley.

EMBROIDERY.

(*a*) Articles in Wool: 1, Mrs. Adams.

(*b*) Articles in Cotton or Silk: 1, Mrs. Shilton; 2, Mrs. Hibbert; 3, Mrs. Robertson; 4, Mrs. Kerr.

RUG-MAKING: 1, Sergeant Cockings; 2, Sergeant Cockings; 3, C.S.M. Beverley.

SOMETHING NEW FROM SOMETHING OLD: 1, C.S.M. Beverley; 2, Mrs. Hallett; 3, Miss Shiela Robinson.

CAKES.

(*a*) Plain: 1, Mrs. Harries; 2, Mrs. Hayes; 3, Mrs. Saunders; 4, Mrs. Arnell.

(*b*) Fruit: 1, Miss Joan Deptford; 2, Mrs. Murray; 3, Mrs. Beverley; 4, Mrs. Hampton.

(*c*) Iced: 1, Mrs. Gavins; 2, Miss Joan Deptford.

BREAD: 1, Mrs. Beverley; 2, Mrs. Lovejoy; 3, Mrs. Dunningham.

JAM: 1, Miss Joan Deptford; 2, Mrs. Cockings; 3, Miss Doreen Deptford.

Our congratulations to the Misses Deptford for carrying off four prizes between them; what a blow to the dismal Jimmies who deplore the dearth of domestic science in the younger generation.

Mrs. Chenevix Trench, assisted by the wives of the Commanding Officers and officers of the S.T.C., and the Unit R.S.M.s, are to be congratulated on their excellent efforts in running the inevitable Jumble Sale, fanning the competitive spirit, and producing such an admirable finale in the Exhibition.

At the close of the Exhibition, Mrs. Chenevix Trench thanked the competitors for their co-operation, the Judges for carrying out their difficult tasks, and the Band for providing music during the afternoon. It was the first time many of us had seen our new Bandmaster, Mr. A. Hibbert, L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M., p.s.m., in action.

And now, I think this is the last time you'll see the pen-name—

JESSAMINE.

School of Signals.

17th March.

"Oh, to be in England, etc.," for summer appears to have arrived in Catterick. The weather clerk must have blundered for we understood that summer this year was to have been on a Thursday in August.

We note many worried faces of late, and there are whispers of Annual Inspections and Inter-Company Athletics. Bob Hallet has a rub down every night with the Sporting Life!

Arrivals.—We welcome Signalmen Morgan, Leek, Taylor, Saville and McNulty, who have arrived. We also welcome Sergeants Harvey and Bishop, who are at present enjoying a spot of furlough.

Congratulations and a welcoming hand to Lieutenant J. S. Mitchell, Royal Signals, our new Quartermaster, on his promotion to that rank. May your stay be a long and happy one, sir!

Departures.—*Au revoir* and *bon chance* to Captain (Quartermaster) Hepburn, who has left us after his long stay for sunnier climes.

S.S.M. (Chief Clagger) Finn V. has left us for Egypt, and Sergeant Bush (Cushy) has decided to make India his future home. The very best of wishes go with them. We hope they will have overcome the effects of the rolling blue by now.

Things We Want to Know.—Why must "Tearaway" tear away to Huddersfield so often, and why has he adopted a certain song from the "Maid of the Mountains" as his signature tune?

Will Frankie Hoyle please let us into the secret of "Black Magic"?

Why has Driver Bullman adopted "Hold me tight, I'm falling" as his signature tune?

Is Signalman Fotheringham ever going to clear the trays?

Will Frankie Leader ever find SS/1523?

Overheard in the Orderly Room.—Sergeant (to Learner Clerk): "This is your Part II Pay Book, and you only use this when in the Field."

Learner Clerk (puzzled): "Does that mean that I have to come and collect it every time I play football?" (Collapse of Sergeant.)

POOPDECK, S.O.S.

Sergeants' Mess.

We welcome C.Q.M.S. Funnell and family, who have joined us from Canterbury, and also Sergeants "Snowy" Harvey and "Reg" Bishop, who have been posted to this Unit from India. The latter are at present enjoying their furlough. No long-eared chums here, "Reg."!

Our best wishes to S.S.M. Victor (Askytoff) Finn and family (I thank you) and Sergeant and Mrs. "Paddy" Bush, who decided that a nice sea voyage was necessary.

George Manning has hiked a little further up the hill to the Training Battalion, and S.S.M. "Inky" Udell has proceeded down the hill to 5th Divisional Signals. We also expect to lose C.S.M. Farmer and family, and S.S.M. "Fanny" Waldron in the near future. "Fanny's" departure will coincide with the cessation of the abnormal issue of microphone capsules, and our shattered ear drums will be given a chance to recover.

We take this opportunity to say good-bye to Major Galwey and Lieutenant Stewart (K.O.S.B.), who leave the School this

month ; Major Galwey goes to Egypt, and Mr. Stewart returns to his Unit. Both of them have been very popular figures at many of our Mess functions.

The R.S.M. finds it hard work to keep pace with the Blue Book amendments these days, and it is whispered that he spent the whole of one afternoon trying to get up to date. Our contribution this month is : S.S.M. Farmer to be W.O., Class II (C.S.M.), Lance Sergeant Jim Manning to be Sergeant, and Sergeant Wealleans, R.A., to be T.S.M. Congratulations to all of them !

Congratulations also to Lieutenant and Quartermaster J. S. Mitchell on receiving his commission. He has been posted to this Unit.

" Duggie " Hague confounded the critics and won our Snooker Handicap, defeating Sergeant Blake in the final.

The Darts Competition is developing into a good fight between " One Dart " Bert Wink, Sergeants Blake and Noddings.

Our dining strength dwindles. The latest victim of the marriage bug is Sergeant Naish, R.A., who was led gently to the altar on 21st February. (Naish work.) We tender our felicitations to the happy couple, but " Mysogonist " Marsh feels he can only offer condolences.

Thanks for the nice dinner last month, Sid. Keep it up ! Could you label the rice for Inky's benefit ?

To Bert, Stratford. " You said it. Willie Arnell thinks you mean Pompey. Give Wolves a cheer for me."

NOBBY.

"A" Company, Depot Battalion.

Obituary.—It is with deep regret that we learn of the death of 2322131 Signalman Wiles of " C " Company, and late of Hong Kong Signal Section. He will be missed by the many friends whom he made in the Army. Our deepest sympathy is extended to his relatives in their sad bereavement.

It is also my sad task to record the death of Elizabeth Remony Goodeve-Docker, daughter of Captain and Mrs. Goodeve-Docker, who passed away on 4th March. The whole of the Unit tender their deepest sympathy to the parents in their sad bereavement.

General.—A most unusual event has taken place in Catterick. We refer to two days' sunshine with which we were blessed this month, and everything was severely disorganised, owing to this very unusual occurrence. The unit gardener has had all his calculations upset, not that it matters much as neither his calculations nor gardens would have been successful !

The following Squads having completed their eleven weeks' recruit training, were transferred to other Units for trade instruction. Weight increases are recorded below :

13th February :

	Average Increase.	Highest Individual Increase.	
No. 50 Squad	6.9 lb.	Signalman Litchfield ..	13 lbs.
		Signalman Merryweather	13 ,,
No. 52 ,,	8.8 ,,	Signalman Gardner ..	21 ,,
25th February :			
No. 54 ,,	8.4 ,,	Signalman Stark ..	16 ,,

Training.—Squads still come and go, and the latest to pass-off are : No. 50 Squad, under Lance Corporal Dunbar, on 10th February ; No. 52 Squad, under Lance Sergeant Land, on 10th February ; and No. 54 Squad, under Corporal Williams, on 24th February.

The Commanding Officer was very pleased with what he saw of these Squads, and both men and instructors are to be congratulated.

The C.O.'s whip and the P.T. medal were presented to the following :

	Whip.	Medal.
No. 50 Squad :	SignalmanMather.	Signalman Hamlyn.
,, 52 ,,	,, Griffin.	,, Murphy.
,, 54 ,,	,, Gott.	,, Willis.

The following Squads have started their careers on the tarmac since our last notes :

No. 6 Squad under Lance Sergeant Land, 20th February.
,, 7 ,, ,, Corporal Farmer, 22nd February.
,, 8 ,, ,, Corporal Williams, 6th March.
,, 9 ,, ,, Sergeant Jones, 6th March.

It will be evident by the number of Squads started that No. 1 Depot is still very busy.

Officers' Course, Depot Battalion. *Photo by Avison, Catterick Camp.*

Courses.—An initial Course of Instruction for officers of the Supplementary Reserve (West Riding Air Formation Signals) was commenced on 30th January. It comprised three weeks of drill, weapon training, gas, and also a series of lectures. Major Fielder, "A" Corps Signals, was Officer i/c Course, and the other instructors were: Sergeant Stickley (Drill), Sergeant Small (Weapon Training), Sergeant Clarke (Gas).

The Course was very successful, and one and all enjoyed the training. This was mainly due to the extreme keenness shown by all these officers. The Course terminated with a visit to the Catterick and Disforth Aerodromes, where everyone had a flip. The Sergeants' Mess held an "At Home" for the Course; a full account will be found in the Mess news.

Concerts.—On 5th February a very enjoyable evening was provided at Newbiggin Hall on the occasion of the Band Concert. These concerts are more than worth a visit from all our recruits who only hear the band on Wednesday and Saturday. On these two days they can hardly judge what the Corps Band really can do, so we advise them all to go once, and we are sure they will never miss another concert. Remember, it costs nothing! The entertainment given us was of the highest standard and we congratulate both the instrumentalists and our Bandmaster, Mr. Hibbert, A.R.C.M., L.R.C.M., P.S.M., on such a grand evening's entertainment, and we all look forward to the next.

The Imperial Players of the N.A.A.F.I. played to a full house on 2nd March. They provided a high-class entertainment that was enjoyed by all.

On 5th March, a second grand concert was given by the Corps Band and, once again, the programme more than exceeded our expectations. The individual items are worthy of much praise, and we congratulate the artistes on their performance, the most outstanding of which was the song by Signalman Henry D. and the piano accordion and violin act given by Signalman Allan and Corporal Hurst. Corporal Hurst later gave us a cornet solo, followed by that stirring "Post Horn Gallop." We should like to make a special mention of the Male Voice Choir, who, as usual, were on top of their form. Finally, many thanks to our Conductor, Mr. Hibbert, who had worked so hard to arrange the programme, and who conducted the Band through another very enjoyable evening.

Arrivals.—Amongst the many arrivals are the following: Sergeant Walker of musketry fame; Sergeant Norcup, who has made up his mind to try the outside world; R.Q.M.S. Betts, Lance Sergeant Hopwood and Lance Corporal Fox. Lance Sergeant Hopwood has been captured for our P.T. factory, and Lance Corporal Fox will accept all applications for extra pay. He will relieve Corporal Walters, who is soon to leave for fresh pastures. There are many more arrivals, too numerous to mention individually, and to one and all we extend the usual greetings and welcome.

Departures.—Amongst the numerous departures were: Lance Sergeant Kelly to the Army Vocational Training Centre, Lance Sergeant Green to Chester for a well-earned rest, and, in the near future, Sergeant Searle to the A.V.T.C., Hounslow. It may be of interest to Razmak Signal Section to know that Sergeant Searle has sold his taxi and now looks very well as a publican, complete with apron. Another departure is our C.S.M. Murray, who has gone across the road to "C" Company, where things are so quiet! Then, of course, there are all those who have left us for Field Units, etc. It is impossible to publish all their names, so will they please accept our best wishes for a pleasant stay in their new stations.

Corporals' Mess.—There is no news from this Mess this month but we propose to ask for some inside information in readiness for next month's notes. Perhaps the "C" Company correspondent will help us out this time.

"C" Company, Depot Battalion.

11th March.

General.—The first thing we have to do in this month's notes is to apologise for the absence of our notes last month. Our one and only "Battler" left the Company at the beginning of the month, and a new representative had to be appointed.

Now that the drill parades have got going on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, some of the Company are getting that soldierly bearing again!

The weather at present is really wonderful; the sun shines all day (well, it has done for two days at least), and one or two of the more hardy type are bringing their bathing costumes out of the "dead sack."

Obituary.—It is our sad task to have to record the death of Signalman Wiles. Although he has never actually been with this Company, his fame as a sportsman was well known to many here. He came from Hong Kong Signal Section, was admitted to the Royal Herbert Hospital, and later transferred to the Milbank Hospital. He was buried at West Hartlepool on Saturday, 4th March. A party of six men, under Sergeant Gourlay, acted as bearers.

The deepest sympathy of all ranks are extended to the relatives of the late Signalman Wiles.

Promotions and Appointments.—Get your Corps Roster out, those of you who are looking for the next leg up, for we have to congratulate the following: Lance Sergeants Costen, Golding and Hart, Corporals Copping, Wilson, Walters and Malone, U/Lance Corporals Derwent, Lewis, Hardwick, Boynton, Drake and Hunter.

Arrivals and Departures.—Arrivals and departures have been too numerous to mention individually, but, nevertheless, we wish them all the best of luck. There is, however, one N.C.O. we must mention—Lance Sergeant Bain J. from "A" Company, who has taken over his new job rather cheerfully, but whether he likes it, is another matter. We wonder. C.S.M. Murray has also rejoined this happy band.

Sport.—Football has been progressing steadily. We just managed to defeat the Cameronians by a mere 15—0; "A" Company were also easily defeated by about 6—1. We have finished League football for another season and are waiting for the summer to begin, when we hope a few of our sportsmen will be interested in cricket activities.

Things We Would Like to Know.—Which policeman lost his armlet in the Corporals' Mess at breaktime?

Which newly-promoted Corporal chained his dog up so that the rabbits would not be able to eat it?

Repairs to the "Blood Tub."—We have some very good news for the boxing fans of the Company. The "Blood Tub" is nearing completion, and it will not be long now before we are witnessing some blood and thunder fights. To help our boxers on with training we have been playing quite a considerable amount of basket ball. Who said it was a ladies' game?

G. A. S.

Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess Depot Battalion.

The Mess has been very active this month. Our first function was the "At Home" for the S.R. officers, an event that was voted a huge success. Several games were played, but we are afraid that the results are a complete mystery. Nevertheless, everyone had a good time, and we wish the Course a very happy future.

The second event was the games tournament against the Corporals' Mess. Here, again, a very ragged account has been given to the writer, who was informed that in the "Boat Race" the juniors were well and truly beaten. Sergeant Searle was unable to participate as he had the bar to look after. The games were all declared a draw, and so a return match will have to take place.

On 1st March a football match was arranged between the Sergeants' Mess and the Corporals' Mess. This was the match of the year, and throughout the morning we heard N.C.O.s rushing about trying to borrow a pair of "Hotspurs."

At 2.30 p.m. the sun shone down on a field where both teams were punting about. Mr. Benns, the referee, arrived on the field, asked for a coin, and then called for the captains. The Sergeants sent six to make sure! We won the toss, and then the game started. A lot could be written about this very keen game, but being limited to 25,000 words, readers must accept a brief outline of the game.

The only goal that the Sergeants managed to get was a smashing drive from the " Duke," who, having beaten the other eleven players and the linesmen, scored with a well-placed shot in the " top bottom left-hand corner (Square 4)." This player was formerly a member of the Bethnal Green Pump Room, of which pub—sorry, club—he played outside left.

The Corporals replied twice with gusto. " Marine " Dunbar scored one and " Mortar Board " O'Leary the other. Dunbar played a fine game, and his clashes with the centre-forward of the Sergeants' Mess team, R.S.M. Brandon, soon became the chief events of the match. This always happens when two famous players oppose each other. The Corporals won the day, and the Mess team is now in strict training for a return match. Indeed, there are rumours that gland treatment will be provided for all the Sergeants' team.

Congratulations are extended to Sergeant-Instructor Reynolds on his grand display and victory in the recent boxing contest. Well done, Tich !

Hospital.—We welcome the return to duty of Sergeant Cook, our Pay Sergeant.

Sergeant Cooke (attached) has been admitted to hospital, and we sincerely hope that he will soon be on the way to recovery.

THREES.

Headquarters, Training Battalion.

13th March.

Major R. R. A. Darling, Royal Signals, joined the Battalion for duty on 2nd March. It is anticipated that he will take over the duties of Chief Instructor, Training Battalion, when Major E. H. de Cros, Royal Signals, completes his tour shortly.

Major R. C. Woodbridge and 2nd Lieutenants C. H. Golden, J. C. Garlick and D. T. W. Gibson have left the Battalion during the past month. Major Woodbridge proceeded to India for service with Waziristan District Signals, and 2nd Lieutenants Golden, Garlick and Gibson were posted to Field Units at home.

The congratulations of all ranks are extended to Lieutenant (Quartermaster) J. S. Mitchell, Royal Signals, on his recent promotion. Mr. Mitchell is now Quartermaster at the School of Signals, and we wish him every success in his new activities.

The Battalion has commenced to employ civilian Operator Instructors to assist in the training of the large number of recruits who are now joining. Ex-Signals personnel are being employed, and there does not appear to be any trouble in filling the vacancies.

L. B.

"D" Company, Training Battalion.

March.

General.—As our late scribe is now attached to " F " Company, while they are awaiting reinforcements to complete their office staff, I have taken over correspondent once again (who said you cannot make a successful comeback ?) to prove that Doncoy is still very much on the map.

Promotions and Appointments.—Congratulations to the following on causing amendments to be made to the Blue Book, and reaching the ranks shown: W.O. III Mills, C.Q.M.S. Dunningham, Sergeants Whalley and LeCocq, Lance Sergeants Pfeiffer and Day, and Corporal Dolaghan. Also to Lance Corporal Shepherd, who will be interested in the new Blue Book when it is printed, as he has discarded the " U."

Arrivals.—We extend the glad hand to W.O. I Harris (from Egypt), W.O. III Mills, Sergeant Bryant, Corporal Ashford and Lance Corporal Fairclough (from India) who have joined our happy band, and hope they will soon become accustomed to Catterick's uncertain weather.

Departures.—They are too numerous to mention individually, as recruits are continually being posted away from here, but we wish them all the best of luck in their new stations.

Social.—The Company paid their annual visit to Bishop Auckland during the month for the football match with Bishop Auckland Social Centre. After a thrilling and hard-fought game, the match resulted in a draw. After the match we were entertained to an excellent tea, provided by the Social Centre, and after everyone had been " watered and fed," the great trek around the town's most famous houses (" public," of course) began. Everyone had a lively time, and we are eagerly awaiting the return " battle," when we shall entertain the Social Centre at Catterick.

Successful Soccer.—We must congratulate the Company football team on their splendid performance in winning the Garrison League.

Re-engagements.—Lance Sergeant Darby (H.Q., S.T.C.), who has decided to be sure, in case of another crisis, has signed on the dotted line to complete his " pontoon."

Jews' Mail.—To Young Busc., Aldershot. " Have you forgotten what county Catterick is in ? I'm still here."

H. E. S.

"E" Company, Training Battalion.

7th March.

General.—Life runs smoothly here, training is well under way and most of the fellows are already looking forward to Easter leave.

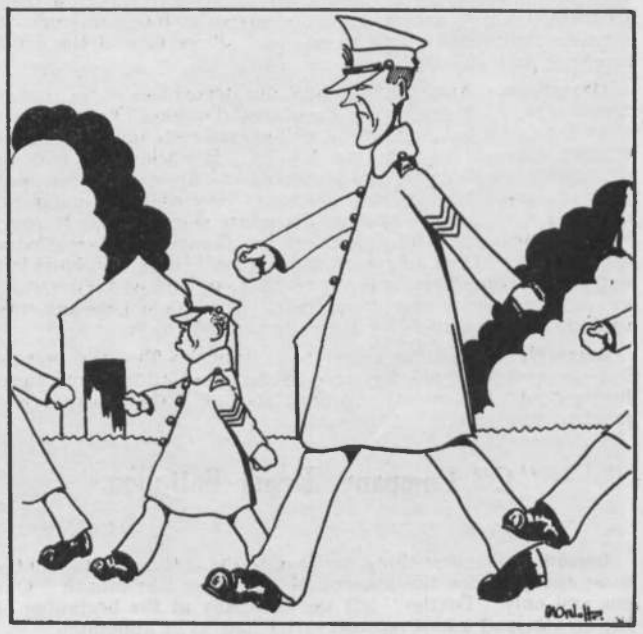
Sport.—" E " Company beat " D " Company in the Inter-Company Football Trophy Competition by 4—1. As " D " Company have already beaten " F " Company, it should be easy for us to retain the Shield !

Arrivals.—We welcome Sergeant Weir, Corporals Banham, Williams, O'Hara and Mallett, Lance Corporals Scott, Smith and Fish from overseas, and hope they will enjoy their tour of duty here.

Signalman Marsh (Hector) has returned to the Band after a short spell in " Civvy Street."

Departures.—Sergeant Lee N. (the pay clerk) has proceeded to Mobile Divisional Signals, Bulford. Signalman (Ticky) Tyler, of cookhouse fame, has gone to Handsworth for a Vocational Course. Sergeant Smith E. and Signalmen Moreland, Mulcahy, Palmer, Russell, Stones and Thompson to Palestine. We wish them all the best of luck.

Marriage.—Lance Sergeant Hunt J. and Miss F. E. Sayer decided, on 25th January, to take the long road together. We wish them both every happiness for the future.



Markers—Steady ! ! ! All right "Smarty"

Promotions and Appointments.—Records have been very busy lately. Congratulations to W.O.s III Cornish and Hopkins, Sergeants Warman, Smith and Pink, Lance Sergeant Burton, Corporal Lilley and Lance Corporal Diball.

Extensions.—Lance Corporal Smale and Signalman Whitfield (Band), having heard that there is some danger of getting work in "Civvy Street," decided to complete twelve years with the Colours.

Tailpiece.—Which budding Marconi used three pages of foolscap to explain "Electro Magnetic Ablution"?

BANGER.

"F" (Boys) Company, Training Battalion.

12th March.

General.—The welcome sun smiled caressingly upon a contented world, and the azure sky, like a warm lake, almost reflected the spirit of struggling nature as she tried to show the world that even Catterick could have a Spring. A few daisies peeped coyly from the banks of the crystal rivulets on Ilkla Moor, and even an N.C.O. was seen to smile!

Forgive this outburst of rhetoric and gentle satire; it is only a frantic effort on our part to inform the disinterested world that we had two days of fine weather this month. From this alarming situation, of course, we soon returned to normal. The climatic conditions in this uncivilised outpost may not seem very important—but listen! Since time immemorial the worthy chroniclers of this noble Company have faithfully recorded the grim and foreboding side of the elements. Now, posterity must bow to tradition, and for years to come the news of Catterick's climate must grace the pages of this illustrious Journal.

The recruit Boys who joined us in January have finished with that horrible phase of soldiering that we call the "Square," and extend our congratulations to Boys Dunning and Stevens. Boy Dunning was presented with the customary whip and a special belt, and Boy Stevens with a whip. These prizes, as ex-Rats will be well aware, are presented to the Boys who prove themselves to be the most efficient soldiers during their recruit's training.

Corporal Hoar, the drill instructor of this Squad, is very pleased with the progress they have made. He relates the following amusing stories:

While the Squad was passing Scotton recreation ground they happened to notice the Battalion rugby team at practice. One lad turned to the keeper of the flock. "Corporal," he said, "are they just learning how to play?" Well!

On another occasion the Squad was engaged in map reading in conjunction with some young officers. A certain Boy was given a map reference which should have worked out to the Officers' Mess. Seeing that the lad was having some difficulty with the problem, the officer endeavoured to assist him by asking, "Where would an officer want to go?" The lad saw light at once. "Oh, I see, sir, an inn!"

A few days ago rabbit pie made its appearance upon the menu. This, to say the least, created quite a stir. In fact, it was so important, that we feel the circumstances should be honoured by the following ditty:

RABBITS.

The sky was clear, the day was fine,
When our hungry lads sat down to dine;
See them all intent—no reason to talk—
But crouched like panthers with hand on fork.

Imagine then, their ghastly hue
When confronted with this wondrous brew;
Then disgust on each face, and an unuttered sigh—
For not one hand moved towards the pie.

But one lad, much bolder than the rest,
Opened up the pie crust with seeming zest;
Procured himself a sample from inside,
Then sat—agape—at what he spied.

There dawned upon his whirling brain,
The truth that seemed almost insane;
"By golly, boys," he said. "It's rabbit!"
But was nearly killed as he tried to grab it!

All fan mail should be addressed to: "Chronicler, Effco.," and please write "Wordsworth" in the top left-hand corner.

Captain G. Mellor spent one of his evenings with us, giving a talk to the stamp fiends on "The History of Stamps." He produced a very interesting collection, which was inspected amidst gasps of amazement and envy.

Another lecture of interest to nearly all of us was provided by Lieutenant MacDonald, who spoke on "China and its effects on the British Soldier." This lecture was delivered in an interesting and amusing manner. Several Boys have already volunteered for service in Hong Kong.

As a substitute for these lectures, certain Boys have started to relate "gripping" yarns to all who will lend an ear. One of my spies in No. 9 Hut reported the following: "And that," concluded Ferdinand, "is the story of my uncle Joe and the Great War." "Very interesting," mused a Doubting Thomas, "but I can't understand what they needed another twelve million blokes for." Ferdinand, alias Razmak Joe, hereupon decided that he has a letter to post.

One of our cross-country experts, "Emma" Collins by name, decided on one bright Sunday afternoon to dash out into the blue and do a spot of practice. After about four hours had elapsed, rumour whispered that "Emma" was mislaid. Darkness was rapidly approaching, and since the moors lose much of their homeliness after dark, Lance Corporal Tommy Blades began to take a serious view of affairs. Without much ado he set off to locate "Emma's" whereabouts—and, of course, "Emma" himself. A few minutes later a dozen of our intrepid lads made their way over the moors in various directions in order to join in the disorganised search.

Reflect on the courage and chivalry of these fine lads as they stumble blindly mile after mile across ditches and bogs. Without hesitating or complaining they wearily dragged their unwilling limbs over fallen trees—thinking all the while how much it would cost to have the Military Medal ribbon sewn on their tunics. After two hours of these gruelling conditions they decided that the search was hopeless. They staggered back to the lines—weary and disappointed—only to discover "Emma" calmly enjoying a "Woodbine." Had it not been for the fact that some of us were rather uncomfortable, we should have laughed outright. However, reparation came in the shape of "buckshee" suppers from the N.A.A.F.I. We have now arranged that "Emma" shall lose his way every other Sunday.

Mr. Jackie Carr, a former professional footballer, recently paid us several visits to coach our senior teams. Just to prove that his advice was invaluable, we should like to point out that "A" team are now of the opinion that they can beat "B" team!

Departures.—The following Signalmen have left us for fresh woods and pastures: Signalman Green J., who distinguished himself as a boxer during his stay with us, and also as a sprinter and Battalion hockey player. Signalman Holdaway, who proved himself, among other things, to be a very valuable artist. His posters still decorate the Club notice board. Signalman Foster, who was one of the chief reasons why the C.S.M. was so smartly dressed. Signalman Chandler, who had the distinction of playing for "A" team in the Garrison league matches. We miss the patter of your little feet, lads, and we wish you all the best in your new Units.

Hebrews' Letter Service.—Dav. 192—late and over. "Send address. Brooks."

Hank, 176. "Started rifle drill. Pigler."

Holly, 066. "What about a line? Robbo."

Things We Want to Know.—Who dropped a D.5 on the work) shop's deck?

What is the telebolo? How is it operated?

Which recruit cut the heels out of his socks so that they would fold square for kit inspection?

What does Algie want all this silver paper for?

Why do Lawrance and Barker think policemen are wonderful?

Who knows the answer to the one about the "Bear and the Barber's Shop"?

Have I rambled on long enough?

A JAY.

ALDERSHOT NEWS

"A" Corps Signals.

No. 1 Company.

The Command of No. 1 Company has been taken over by Major Cameron-Webb.

Training.—Line training, still in full swing, is no doubt responsible for the worried looks on so many faces. We all hope that, by way of compensation, much extra pice will be gained for extra ratings in the near future.

Promotions.—We congratulate C.S.M. Foley and C.Q.M.S. Harris on their promotion, and also Lance Corporal Breeze on dropping the "Unpaid."

Departures.—Driver Sweeney, Signalmen Smart and Haughton have departed on a Vocational Training Course. The last-named is better known as Signalman Bradford.

Arrivals.—Signalman Mitchell has arrived from the Training Battalion. Sergeant Baddeley, who returned to the fold after his Gas Course, has qualified as a Gas Instructor.

Howlers.—"Elusive Line Faults." The earth that shifts day by day as the lineman approaches.

No. 3 Company.

16th March.

General.—Once more the volcano has subsided, and we find arrivals from all parts of the Empire settling down safely here in preparation for yet another training period.

There are rumours and counter rumours, but we can safely say that Sections are being sifted out and formed. No. 1 A.S.S. will be journeying to Longmoor (oh, that bleak and desert land), where they will have a big reputation to uphold—that of the late No. 6 A.S.S. Get going lads, and make it a real No. 3 Company effort! We understand that No. 10 A.S.S. is bound for a South Sea Isle, and from the number of bathing suits being purchased they ought to be bright and happy.

Both Sections will be attached to the R.A., which means that there will be plenty of work, a lot of torn lines, and also a golden opportunity for Outside Units to get a glimpse of Signal organisation.

With arrivals from all parts there is double the usual quota of men working in the garage. Needless to say, all five have/been issued with a vehicle. We still have hopes of seeing the remainder of the vehicles taken out after their eight or nine months hibernation. They have taken a good deal of nursing, believe me.

Promotions and Appointments.—Lance Corporal Robinson to Corporal, Signalmen Galloway and Gosling to U/Lance Corporals. Congratulations! (Okay Robbo, we heard!)

Departures.—Sergeant Watts and Signalman Wright to Plestine Force Signals; Signalmen Belcher and Bethune to Sierra Leone; Signalman Seager to the Vocational Training Centre, Leeds. We wish them all the best of luck, and also trust that our previous A/C.S.M. will enjoy his duties abroad as much as he did in No. 3 Company Office.

Arrivals.—We once more have our own O.C., and extend a very hearty welcome to Captain Morton, Royal Canadian Corps of Signals, who is posted to us from Bulford. May your stay be both long and enjoyable, sir! Lance Sergeant Lennon is at present A/C.S.M. *vice* Sergeant Watts. (You will want some hair dye after completing a couple of Saturday parade states, Len.)

In addition, we welcome the following, and heave a sigh of relief at having some real live other ranks once more: S.S.M. Thomas, Lance Sergeants McKenzie and Lennon, Corporal Lambert, Lance Corporals Royal, Robson, Wright, Sneddon, Ramsden and Hagan, Driver (I.C.) Gordon, Signalmen Dunne, Baker, Taylor, Haslam, Stevenson, Nobbs, Pittman, Seager, Bancroft, Green, Barry, Dickens and Combe.

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CELLARS STOCKED — PAYMENT AS CONSUMED

Discharges.—C.S.M. Crockford has proceeded to Edinburgh in order to take up his duties with the T.A. as Lieutenant and Quartermaster. Good luck, sir! Ours will be the pleasure!

Signalman Wallis on completion of his Vocational Training Course.

Ends.—2312556 Joe. "Come home and see your 'B' items now!"

To Sergeant Watts. "The hospital return is much the same as when you left. Happy journey out!"

DX.

1st Divisional Signals.

15th March.

General.—The Officers', Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' individual training, consisting of a series of lectures, has commenced, in preparation for collective training. Company Commanders are forming up their Sections and, in addition, we understand that Sections may be considerably augmented by Gunner and Infantry signallers. The Junior N.C.O.s' Course started on Monday, 13th March, under the most capable direction of two Sergeants from 3rd Battalion, Grenadier Guards.

Passive Air Defence instruction is an essential part of a soldier's training, and personnel of this Unit are under training in order to fit them into the general scheme covering Mons Barracks. We are glad to note that the actual construction of air raid shelters is an R.E. service, but whether we shall have to do the digging is another matter!

Miniature Rifle Range.—The Powell Competition for 1939 ended with A.A. Brigade Signals making their second successive win. However, Nos. 2 and 3 Company, 1st Divisional Signals, gained second and third places, respectively. The team placings are as follows: 1st A.A. Brigade Signals, 1,375 points; No. 2

Company, 1st Divisional Signals, 1,210 points; No. 3 Company, 1st Divisional Signals, 1,185 points.

Officers.—Brevet-Lieutenant-Colonel H. R. Nalder, Royal Signals, has arrived from the War Office to take over the duties of second-in-command. Captain E. S. Cole, Royal Signals, joined us from Palestine as Adjutant, *vice* Major W. O. Bowen, O.B.E., Royal Signals. 2nd Lieutenants M. S. Hancock and R. M. Barlas have arrived from the Signal Training Centre.

Here is a full list of officers of 1st Divisional Signals: Lieutenant-Colonel A. L. Harris, M.C., Brevet-Lieutenant-Colonel H. R. Nalder, Majors W. O. Bowen, O.B.E., T. C. Thompson and E. L. Farnall, Major (Q.M.) A. E. Winton, D.C.M., Major C. Childs, Captains E. S. Cole and E. P. Blake, Lieutenant C. A. Henn-Collins, Lieutenant (T.M.O.) T. W. Harrison, 2nd Lieutenants B. R. M. Hayles, E. D. Halton, M. S. Hancock and R. M. Barlas.

Major W. O. Bowen and Major E. L. Farnall are still under orders for service overseas.

We have to report that the officers of the Royal Signals Mons Barracks football team trounced the W.O.s and Sergeants' football team in the annual football match for the Mudge Cup to the tune of 4—1. Captain Cole, who was in devastating form, had no respect for old age.

Warrant Officers and Sergeants.—There has been a considerable number of promotions within the Unit in the past month, but for the present we record the promotion of C.S.M. Hamlin to W.O., Class I, as from 1st January, 1939. He is going to "A" Corps Signals.

We are always pleased to welcome arrivals, and do so gladly in the case of the following, who have joined us from India and China: C.S.M. Leith, C.Q.M.S. Pickering, Lance Sergeants Simmonds and Vollans.

C.Q.M.S. (Gus) Fleet has left us on discharge to pension and employment with the newly-formed A.A. Divisional Signals, T.A., at Sutton Coldfield.

Sport.—Association football has chiefly been confined to Inter-Company and Section matches. Here are the results of Unit matches: v. 24th Field Regiment, R.A., won 3—2; v. "A" Corps Signals, won 10—2.

Hockey.—Only one Unit match has been played since our last notes, namely, against A.A. Brigade Signals. Result, lost 1—4.

Cross-country Running.—In the annual Mons Barracks cross-country run, the Unit gained second place to 2nd Divisional Signals.

2nd Divisional Signals.

No. 2 Company.

March.

General.—With the advent of spring, Mons Barracks is quickly shaking itself out of its winter lethargy. The lawns surrounding the barrack blocks look quite refreshing with the appearance of the spring flowers. A splash of colour was also observed on the barrack square which, however, was not due to matters horticultural, but rather to the appearance of two instructors from the local Guards Battalion. Their job is to knock the raw matter into suitable form. In other words, they are taking the Junior N.C.O.s of one of the Signal Units on a Drill Course.

Our Junior N.C.O.s got off the mark very early in the season, and are now passing on "that certain feeling" to the rest of the Unit.

Musketry is now well under way, and we hope that our performance at Bisley, where we fire our Annual Course this year, will satisfy the most critical of our instructors.

Re-engagements.—Lance Corporal Meese has shown the Company that he can "take it," for he has just signed on the dotted line to complete twelve years with the Colours.

Promotion.—Congratulations to C.S.M. Patheyjohns on his promotion to warrant rank.

Arrivals.—We have received too many reinforcements of late to be able to enumerate them all individually, but the N.C.O.s must be mentioned, if only to enable the inventory boards in India to be adjusted. They are: Sergeant Weeks, Lance Corporals Hopwood and Purkiss.

DO YOU REMEMBER ?

[Photograph by courtesy of the "*Daily Sketch*"

H.R.H. The Princess Royal watching a Signalman at work during an inspection of Units of the Corps at Aldershot.

To all of them we tender our very best wishes for a happy stay in Twocoy.

We must also gratefully acknowledge the safe arrival of C.Q.M.S. Ivey from the S.T.C. (I.) *via* home leave. He is now in the main "Q" Stores, where his services will be welcome.

Gems from the Company Office.—Extract from Company Detail: "Any birth or death of any married N.C.O. or man will be reported to the Company Office immediately it occurs."

Extract from a Traffic Accident Report: "Journey from Aldershot to *Bangalore*."

The former was obviously due to local "static," whereas the latter can only be attributed to a Madrassi complex which will obtrude during periods of mental distress.

Personal.—To Sergeant Wagg, 'Pindi. "Many thanks for sending John along. I'll look after him for you. Pathy."

C. P.

No. 3 Company.

General.—The Company has managed to survive the s ock of the 6 a.m. Reveille and 6.30 a.m. musketry.

Arrivals.—We extend a hearty welcome to Sergeant Cole V. and Signalman Stubley, who have joined us from India. Vic, who still shivers every morning, blames the cold weather, and says that Catterick couldn't be as bad.

Appointment.—Congratulations to Lance Sergeant Snell on his appointment.

Congratulatory.—Driver Recruit Rushman is entitled to a short space in these notes for the way he put his best foot forward at the Signals Inter-Unit Cross-country run, and also on being awarded a medal for his effort.

Congratulations to C.S.M. Willis and Mrs. Willis on being the proud owners of a son. Also to Lance Sergeant and Mrs. Christian on having a son presented to them.

Sergeant Cooley and Signalman Stubbs have managed to obtain their Class I Operator Signals rating.

Jungle Reports from the Trade Board.—What did the instructor say when the trained soldier pressed the pressel switch button in order to get a buzz on the "Tele. F"?

Does the ground spike on a lamp enable one to work on earth return?

And about the trained soldier who, when asked if the "Tele. F." would buzz, replied, "I thought it could, but they've left the key off this one!"

THREE CO.

Wireless Wing, A.F.V. School.

Bovington Camp, Wareham, Dorset.

15th March.

General.—We apologise for the absence of our notes in the last issue of the WIRE and will see that this does not occur in the future.

After a period of Arctic weather, we are at present enjoying a much milder and sunnier time, and the young men's fancy is turning to snappy spring suits and a sunny Easter. The motoring fraternity are carrying out their annual maintenance, and are also checking up on the routes to the local pleasure resorts. Listening to the tales of low oil and petrol consumption, we are forced to the conclusion that the usual fishermen's yarns are left well behind. We hear of one car whose record was slightly lower than that of a petrol lighter!

The recent promotions to W.O. III have been responsible for the re-appearance of Blue Books, and much controversy regarding the future promotions.

The majority of our "ignorant" members are due to attend the March examination for the remaining subjects of their "Firsts," and it looks as if the school will be out of action for a few days. Everyone seems to be confident about their particular subjects, and we hope to record 100 per cent. successes.

OFFICERS

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Arrivals.—We welcome Major L. A. E. Tozer, Royal Signals, as our new Officer Instructor, and hope his stay in Bovington will be both long and pleasant.

Departures.—W.O. III Smith J. leaves us on 16th March to join No. 1 (C.A.C.R.) Signal Troop at Aldershot. We wish both him and Mrs. Smith all the best in their new station, and hope to have the pleasure of meeting them again very soon.

Promotions.—T/Sergeant Locke C. to Lance Sergeant on the Corps Roster. Now for a few more years waiting, Charlie!

Sport.—Sergeant Gratwicke and Lance Corporal Lightbody represented the Section in the A.F.V. School team that reached the final of the Southern Command Hockey Cup. We were beaten by the 3rd Battalion, R.T.C., after a very good game.

As regards other sport, we have had one fifth dividend and three sets of "three draws" in "Littlewoods," with everybody else missing a "divvie" by one point. They're telling us!

WEEPIN' WILLO.

4th Divisional Signals, Canterbury.

No. 2 Company.

March.

General.—It is a long time since Canterbury saw so many Signals. As we said last month, recruits are coming down from Catterick at the rate of one Squad a fortnight, but it will be a long time before they go out as regularly as they come in.

The amazing transformation which has taken place is a tribute to the very hard work put in by the officers and N.C.O.s in charge of training. We must not forget our uncomplaining I.M.s, too. The sudden change that we have experienced was bound to create a tremendous amount of hard work, but we have our reward in the knowledge that there was no serious hitch, and training was in full swing from the commencement.

Former members of the Unit would have difficulty in recognising some of the buildings with which they were so well acquainted. The stables have been changed into lecture rooms, and in place of the swish of the dandy brush we hear the rustle of message pads as they are turned over. The old familiar cry of " Feed Away " has been replaced by that hopeful injunction —" Read." The Section Stores are now the Training Offices where, behind closed doors, the Draughtsman, in his shirt sleeves, turns out diagrams at amazing speed, and the C.I.'s staff are busily engaged in drawing up programmes and test papers.

Everything is progressing well, and it might be of interest to all recruits who are due to join us in the future, that sport plays a big part in our activities. We cannot guarantee a " South of France " climate, but assure them that we get more than a normal quota of good weather.

Little need be said of Canterbury, except that most fellows are really sorry when their stay here is at an end, and that speaks for itself. Catterick is famous throughout the Corps, if only for its weather. We hope that Canterbury will become equally famous—the city has a fascination for some.

Arrivals.—The following have arrived: Lance Sergeant Shirley and Lance Corporal Satchwell from India; Corporal Brooks from the S.T.C.; and a couple of Squads from Catterick for training. We welcome them all, and note with satisfaction that they have lost no time in settling down.

Promotions.—Only one this month, and that goes to our Procedure King, Corporal Honor V., who is now a Lance Sergeant. We consider he has earned it, if only for his " gripping " abilities.

Tales.—Operators please note.—A certain Squad, on a small Scheme, was working with No. 1 Sets. The H.Q., which was in one of the Section Stores, was supervised by the N.C.O. i/c Squad. Out in the blue was an enthusiastic young operator, who was desperately trying to make sense of what was, he declares, an unintelligible collection of the most hideous noises. Conscientiously he sent IMI and waited hopefully. That mysterious conglomeration of sounds was repeated, and the operator, with a benevolence that astounded even himself, and due no doubt to the memory of his own early battles with the key, repeated his former signal. But it was no use! The chap at H.Q. must obviously be a beginner, or probably someone trying to be funny. The Scheme must go on, so there was only one thing to do. Rather reluctantly, as though not wishing to spoil the sport of the other fellow, he signalled X5—5.

It was a mistake; a grave mistake. The other fellow was his instructor!

Many humorous incidents occur during the training of a Squad, and we hope, if we are fortunate enough to hear them, to bring readers one each month.

A. R. B.

No. 3 Company.

12th March.

General.—There is nothing of general interest to report this month. Training is progressing smoothly, and the accommodation problem, which up to now has been acute, has been eased by the opening of the new lecture rooms under Balaclava Block.

The Company Office presents a busy appearance, the addition of the Training Staff filling what little space was available.

Arrivals.—We extend the hand of welcome to Corporal Brooks from the Training Battalion, Lance Corporal Brown from " L " Company, India, Driver Burrows and the twenty Recruit Operators from the Depot Battalion. May your stay be a long and pleasant one!

Departures.—Sergeant Page to the School of Signals, Iraq Army, to take up the post of instructor. Corporal Howcroft, who leaves us on 15th March, is bound for Sierra Leone. There are some lucky chaps around, Taff!

Former 4th Divites may be interested to know that on 1st April " M " Section will become part of No. 2 Company.

Congratulations.—To R.Q.M.S. Quick, Corporals Cutter and Kiely on their step up. To Lance Corporal George for adding an additional rating to his " Q " Sheet, and also to No. 2 Squad on successfully passing their Group " E " tests.

Stop Press.—Northern Irelandites may be interested to know that Signalman Heslop is *not* on the Egypt draft. Write and ask him how he managed it.

Agony.—3046. Karachi. " How much longer have I to wait for a reply? 3045."

Johnnie Mac., Singapore. " Congratulations on the 'lagi satu.' Slim and Paddy."

SLIM.

Corporals' Mess.

General.—We humbly apologise to readers for the absence of our notes during the last few months. Before the Unit became a Training Battalion at the beginning of the year, our membership was so small that it was difficult to find anything to write about. But now things are different.

Who's Who.—We hope to make this a monthly feature, but do so with no intention of giving individuals an exalted feeling of importance, but because we hope it will help many readers to trace old friends.

Starting at random we have " Leonard of the House of Pickles," nicknamed " Pull through " or " Skinny." He is famous for his Gillingham walk, his inches, and his amazing anecdotes over the dinner table. Hobbies: early morning perambulations over the Old Park, and cheap wireless sets.

Apache Dance.—Last month we held a Dance, which we quite rightly called an "Apache." For the benefit of those readers whose education so far has not made them acquainted with the meaning of this word, we add a note of explanation. An "Apache" is a street ruffian of unsavory appearance, and a most undesirable character. It was the interpretation of this kind of individual that we aimed at when we held the dance.

We were most fortunate in being able to use our new Mess Room for this occasion, for it had tremendous advantages over the Canteen, where our dances are usually held. The dance was an outstanding success, and was entirely due to the hard work and the novel and ingenious ideas of our Entertainments Committee. We tender an account of the whole show in the hope that other Messes might find it interesting.

We tried very hard to get the right atmosphere, a feature as essential as the dress and appearance of the dancers. We used no electric light, but instead, storm lanterns were hung across the room, and around the sides we had empty beer barrels, upon which were placed lighted candles in beer bottles, which, together with the saw-dust, discreetly sprinkled, gave the place a distinctly Bohemian appearance.

Everybody entered into the spirit of the thing, and it would need a better pen than mine to describe the various interpretations of the Parisian "Apache." We know that the barracks was searched for anything that would look like a " ratting outfit." Why, we don't know, for on normal occasions the writer's hat is not the only " bit of rope " in the vicinity.

It is impossible to describe all the turn-outs, but we cannot allow a few of the outstanding ones to pass unnoticed. The prize for the best dress must go to our worthy President, " Tug " Wilson, the only one who looked the real thing! He did everything except to take a flying visit to Paris in order to find out all he could about " l'Apache." His swaggering insolence; the inevitable cigarette drooping from the corner of his mouth; the deftness with which he put out the candles, and the accuracy with which he " necked " the refreshments, was superb.

" Blackie " must come next for his dazzling beauty, his queenly carriage, and the grace with which he sat down. He says his dress came from Paris, but we wonder. We don't wish to appear indelicate, but we should like to know whether he acquired it with one fell swoop at the risk of someone catching a sever cold, or whether it was the result of many pleasing adventures. A good show, but you were never in any real danger, Blackie!

The writer must have been a good third, but enough has already been said.

The dance was remarkably well attended, and the visitors did not appear to mind the rough treatment to which they were undoubtedly subjected. The knowledge that a " Robert Taylor " smile, small talk, and apologies were not expected must

have been a considerable relief to many. This dance, which was tried as an experiment, proved to be an outstanding success, and despite the cost, and whatever had to be furtively returned next morning, it was considered by all to be well worth it.

Congratulations.—To " Vic " Honor, who, to our sorrow, was suddenly whisked away to the Sergeants' Mess. Your loquacity is sadly missed at the table. Remember there is one ear that is ever ready to receive your pearls of wisdom.

To the Motor Cycle Trials Team who have done so well in the recent Trials.

To Leonard for possessing so many more inches than the rest of us. Did you start at the top or at the bottom ?

Agony.—Ginger India. " What about some news ? Arthur."

Conclusion.—There is much more to be told, but it must be held over until next month.

STINKER.

5th Divisional Signals, Catterick Camp.

16th March.

General.—The G.O.C., 5th Division and Catterick Area, Major-General H. E. Franklyn, D.S.O., M.C., paid an unofficial visit to the Unit, and visited all departments connected with recruit training.

Squads Nos. 49, 51, 53 and 55 were passed out by the Commanding Officer during the month. At the end of the parades, whips were presented as follows :

BEST AT DRILL.	BEST AT P.T.
No. 49 Squad :	
6202696 Signalman Durrant, F.	2328132 Signalman Wilson S.
No. 51 Squad :	
865200 Signalman Brown E.	67140 Signalman Fountain R.
No. 53 Squad :	
2326057 Signalman Sweet A.	2327832 Signalman Morris T.
No. 55 Squad :	
2045253 Signalman Copland G.	2328206 Signalman Stone P.

Motor Cycle Trials.—The Unit team, comprising 2nd Lieutenant D. R. Horsfield, Royal Signals, 2nd Lieutenant J. de D. Yule, Royal Signals, Corporal G. Stowers and Lance Corporal H. Nix, represented the Unit in the Trials organised by 49th Divisional Signals at Baslow, Derbyshire, on Sunday, 26th February. The Depot, Sherwood Foresters, Derby, repeated their former kindness and put up the team for the night 25th-26th February. Unfortunately bad luck dogged the team, for punctures and mechanical breakdowns resulted in only two of them facing the starter. The machines have now gone into Ordnance before the Northern Command Trials, which take place on 4th April.

Corps Point-to-Point.—Two horses from the Unit ran in this race, which took place at Ashridgewood, near Wokingham, on Saturday, 11th March. " Hillside " (Captain E. D. Good) was third, and " Who'd a thought it " (2nd Lieutenant Austin) fourth.

Corporals' Dance.—This dance was held in the Dining Hall on Friday, 24th February. The new Dance Hall, which is a converted Dining Hall, makes a large dance room ; in fact, it is too large for our numbers. Although there were a good many couples dancing, the room still looked rather empty. It is hoped that a few structural alterations will improve this state of affairs. The Colonel and Mrs. Henderson, and nearly all the officers attended, and a pleasant evening was enjoyed by all, to the music of a Royal Signals Dance Band.

Arrivals.—We extend a hearty welcome to the following, who have joined the Unit since our last notes were published : Corporal Denholm and Signalman Blow from overseas.

Departures.—We regret to record the departure of Lance Sergeant Furze W. to " Civvy Street," Signalman Orgill to the Army Reserve, and Signalman Smith to the Vocational Training Centre, Bristol. We wish them all the best for the future.

Promotions.—Congratulations to Lance Sergeants McIndo H., Morris J. and Trout T., and Corporal Eggett J. Also to Lance Corporal Downie J. on his appointment.

Northern Ireland District Signal Company, Belfast.

March.

General.—The N.I.D. Motor Cycle Reliability Trials are being held on the last day of March this year, and Major E. MacD. Burns, our C.O., has again selected the course. The heavens have given of their best, or worst (whichever way you care to describe it) during the past few months, and we can visualise the sporting nature of the route. Having seen it, the writer is very glad that he is not a Despatch Rider by trade ; but take heart you riders for there are actually parts where the head is not wholly immersed. If it is true that mud is used for beauty treatment, then we would advise Mr. Cochran to look this crowd over after the Trials. Anyway, here's " mud in your eye," all of you !

Mental Tests.—We have started a new system of mind training here. A number of electric clocks were installed a short time ago and, after a few days, it was noticed that to walk from A to B it took twenty minutes, but to walk from B to A you arrived before you started, but by walking from A or B to C one had to work out if a night's sleep had been lost. This was, of course, very disturbing, but an individual in the Signal Office has had a brain wave. He thinks that if all the times shown were added together, plus the day of the month, and the answer subtracted from the official number in any of the clocks, all that is then needed in order to get the correct time is the six pips from Droitwich !

Arrivals.—Corporal Hudson from Depot Battalion, and Signalman Clarke from 3rd Divisional Signals. We extend a hearty greeting to both of them, and wish them a pleasant stay.

Departures.—Signalman Buckley to 4th Divisional Signals pending embarkation overseas. We wish him all the best in his new Unit. Signalman Dawson to the Army Reserve. (All the best, Ginger, in " Civvy Street.")

Courses.—Corporal Ashworth, having passed No. 12 F-of-S Course at Catterick Camp, is now on post graduate training at the G.P.O., Cambridge. We congratulate him on his success, and wish him all the best in the future.

Goonism (Local).—Signalman to Orderly Room Sergeant : " When is my draft warning order coming through, Sergeant ? "

Sergeant : " Don't know. In any case you are only going on a Cook's Tour."

Signalman : " If they think I am going to do " cook " for three years in Egypt, they've had it ! "

LONDONDERRY DETACHMENT.

Greetings from the chaps who push out the amps at Derry ! We haven't much to talk about this month ; there isn't even a spare copy of Part IIs to fall back on.

The No. 9 Sets are now well and truly installed, the opening ceremony being performed by the I.P.C., who was ably assisted by the C.S.M. We trust that the latter enjoyed his night-watch on the exchange. If we had only known, we might have called him up during the early hours just to see if he was " on the job."

During the month we were unfortunate enough to lose the services of Signalman Buckley, who has gone to Canterbury for posting to Egypt. Signalman Williamson has proceeded on twenty-eight days' leave prior to embarkation for foreign parts. It is to be hoped that he stays away from Limavady. We welcome the arrival of Signalman Griffiths, and trust that his stay will be long and enjoyable.

Heard on Pay Parade.—Supt. : " Did you press your slacks last night ? "

Goon : " Yes, Corporal ! I put them under my bedding."

Supt. : " Well, next time take them off first."

Same Supt. : " B——, has anyone given you a fiddle lately ? "

B—— : " No, Corporal ! "

Same Supt. : " Well, get your hair cut ! "

Burning Questions.—Has any mail arrived for me this morning?

When does the boat sail ?

I wonder if she will keep true to me for five years.

Can a Signalman be charged with being " drunk " on account of " intoxicating kisses " ?

BIG HEARTED.

INDIAN·SIGNAL·CORPS

NORTHERN COMMAND ..... INDIAN ARMY

"A" Corps Signals, Rawalpindi.

7th March.

Arrivals and Departures.—We welcomed the arrival of Captain A. T. Sladen, C.S.M. Archer W., S.S.M. Jackson J., Sergeant Wagg W. and Lance Sergeant Craggs T., who have joined us on posting during the month; also Signalman Binns W., who was the sole member of the third draft to arrive this year. Sergeant Cox S., who should have arrived to take over the duties of Orderly-Room Sergeant, has been detained in Egypt, owing to the illness of his wife, and we hope that she will soon be fit enough to travel. Signalman Bowkett returned after leave in the United Kingdom, and we were all very pleased to see him looking much better after his operations for the gunshot wounds which he received during the early part of the Waziristan Operations in 1937.

Lieutenant H. K. Milward, our Sports Officer, is leaving us on posting to the Home Establishment to take up an appointment with the Territorial Army. We are sorry to see him go, and wish him every success in the work which he will be undertaking. C.Q.M.S. Holness A., Signalmen Littleford J., Kelly J., Beardmore D., Bowling C. and Bunn A. have left us for the United Kingdom. Sergeant Skiffins H. and Signalman Sellers E. have proceeded on payment furlough.

Anti-Gas.—If anyone in Rawalpindi is in doubt about anything appertaining to gas training, come along to Unit Headquarters, and we shall be pleased to put you right. We have just completed three weeks of intensive training in this subject, and are now past masters (?) in the art of putting on a respirator in the minimum amount of time, and knowing all the answers to the questions put to us!

Social.—The Unit dances have been a great success, and the attendances have increased tremendously. At the last dance the hall was packed, and Rs. 124/- were taken at the door. Batson's Band provide excellent music, and is a band well worth listening to. Whist drives are also held, and have proved a very popular feature indeed.

Promotions and Appointments.—Congratulations to C.S.M. Jackson J., Sergeant McKenzie H., Lance Sergeant Bevans S. and Corporal Cox J. on attaining the ranks and appointments stated.

B.O.R.s' Tennis Club.—The recent heavy rains have improved our courts considerably. An "At Home" was held last week, and a very pleasant afternoon was spent by all who attended. The climax came when, in the final set of the day, with the score at five-all, one of the visitors fell into the net in an effort to gain an important point, breaking the net cord and ending the game and the afternoon's play on that court.

Sport.—We have not met with any success this year in the District Football and Hockey Tournaments, but the Royal Signals Rawalpindi team still have an interest in the Northern Command contest, which is being played off at the present time.

We have recently played several games of rugby, whilst the ground was soft. 1st Indian Divisional Signals provided the opposition, and the matches have been very evenly contested and most interesting to watch. A scratch game between members of the Unit was also organised, and enthusiasm made up for any lack of knowledge of the game amongst the players. Lance Sergeant Kerr must be thanked for his efforts to control this game, and if he had blown his whistle every time it was necessary, there would have been very little play. All the players enjoyed themselves, which was the main thing.

PEDLAR.

Tal-in-Tochi Detachment.

23rd February.

General.—Tal-in-Tochi calling! What? Never heard of it! Nevertheless, greetings to everyone!

As this is our first contribution, may we begin by introducing the personnel of this Detachment. The N.C.O. i/c is Lance Sergeant Oliver J., recently arrived from Northern Ireland, but on his *second* tour. Our Operating Staff comprises Signalman Clarke B., late of Scarborough, and Signalman Jardine W., late of Bulford; whilst our trusty Electrician Fitter is none other than Signalman Langley A., a seasoned Frontier wallah, who is counting the days. There is also "Sam" (on temporary loan) and "Ipi," a mountain pup (not the Reeve's Sahib's), complete our happy little band. The Kuttas are not in rations, but can't they eat!

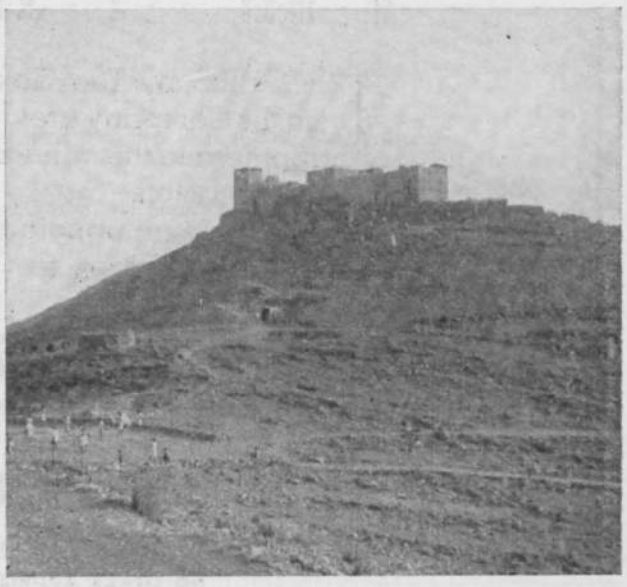
Tal Fort is situated on the crest of a mountain overlooking the Mirali-Razmak road and about forty miles from Razmak itself. The Fort is very small and is barely sufficient to accommodate its normal complement, which is one Company of Indian Infantry, commanded by a British officer. Life here is lonely and very primitive, but nevertheless thoroughly enjoyable.

Sport.—One would probably conclude that there is little scope for sport in an outpost like this. Everything considered, however, we manage to indulge in quite a number of games, principally basket ball and volley ball, with the Indian ranks providing the opposition.

Next month we hope to organise a Badminton Club, and in subsequent contributions we shall describe what progress is made in the world of shuttlecocks.

At the moment, Signalman Langley is pursuing a "Be a Superman Campaign." We have already observed the muscles rippling on his arms. An excellent idea, since the first step to happiness is fitness.

Technical.—Our links with the outside world are provided through the medium of a 120-watt set and a telephone, but in view of the fact that lines are so often damaged by mischievous locals, we rely principally on wireless.



The Fort.

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Miscellaneous.—A recent innovation in Tal is the " Swear Club," and quite a lucrative source of income it is proving. Each time a swear word is used, the offender contributes one anna. At the month end, or if the box is full before, the " takings " are devoted to providing something extra towards a special dinner. *En passant*, our Fitter is wondering if a hundred will really be sufficient next month.

We spend our evenings in a variety of ways. They are usually devoted to letter writing, reading (all of us are prodigious readers) or the " weekly grip." On this occasion, we gather round the fireside, recline comfortably in our easy chairs (hired monthly) and listen patiently while one member recounts some interesting event or incident of his life. We won't vouch for the correctness of all these yarns, but they are certainly most entertaining. To the best " gripper " each week a shield is awarded, and, believe it or not, since our friend " Nobby " arrived, he has made it his own !

An evening is devoted to study. At the moment a French Class is under way, with Jardine and Langley as the students, and our N.C.O. as *le maitre*. Clarke prefers Urdu. Whether or not he intends to remain abroad we cannot say, but we have an idea that the " charms " of Scarborough are beckoning him home again. Just another " three " to do !

The remaining evenings of the week are spent in listening to broadcasts. Our receiver is also one of the hired variety, but the outlay is a profitable investment, in view of the entertainment we derive, and, furthermore, it provides a link with home.

Our Company Headquarters is at Bannu, with Major J. A. I. Watts in command, and Mr. Dutton as Signalmaster.

In conclusion, may we take this opportunity to thank them both for all they do to make life in such outposts as this as pleasant as it is.

Until next month, then, cheerio, everybody !

TALSIGS.

Waziristan District Signals.

Headquarters, Dera Ismail Khan.

16th February.

On Thursday, 2nd February, a Muslim procession met a Hindu procession in Dera Ismail Khan City. One thing led to another and soon numerous Hindu shops were burning, and rioting was general. We were turned out to assist the civil power but, fortunately, on our arrival the situation quietened. We patrolled the city, enforced a curfew, and at 9 p.m. our B.O.R.s were withdrawn to the Fort area, as guards had to be maintained there.

During the first night we did " two on and two off " and on the second night " two on and four off," with guards on the Bastions and Remote Control Room, and a Flying Piquet patrolling the Fort area.

The ladies all moved into the Fort and managed to crowd into two married quarters.

Strangely enough, the most complete information to be had about the disturbances was received in the news bulletin broadcast from England.

For some years now the B.O.R.s have not organised a dance here. A new enthusiasm has arisen, and everybody is active. " House " schools are being run to raise funds, our stage is in course of restoration, we are borrowing some rzcords, and on Saturday we hope to have our first dance.

Lance Corporal Crosley and Signalman Shewring have completed the double-trip to Jubbulpore and back on shikar. Their vintage Morris never let them down. It has been used twice since, once to go to the Bazaar, and once to go to the hockey pitch 200 yards away. On its way back from the hockey pitch one of the " con. rods " snapped, and that was that.

The introduction of W.O.III into the Corps has benefited many : W.O.III Pronger has gone to Egypt ; Sergeant Packman is a C.Q.M.S. and goes home ; Sergeant Parker has been promoted C.Q.M.S. ; Lance Sergeant Wolfe P. is promoted Sergeant ; and Corporal Farnden has been appointed Lance Sergeant.

Lance Sergeant Coles, Lance Sergeant Farnden, and Signalman Mole are going on six months' furlough to the U.K. next month. Signalman McGuire is to be repatriated by the same boat—the " Somersetshire," Sergeant Wolfe and Corporal Higgins are going to the Signal Training Battalion, S.T.C.(I).

Sergeant Collins D. has been awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

Our new Sergeant-Major, W.O.II Gudgeon, is expected to arrive any day now.

4th March.

Arrivals.—Early in February, Lieutenant Yearsley, Royal Signals, arrived from U.K. We hope his stay will be a long and pleasant one.

A welcoming hand is extended to the new draft, who arrived a short time ago, and we hope that they will enjoy their stay in Waziristan, but, judging by comments heard in the canteen, D.I.K. is not the place it is said to be. During the latter part of February, C.Q.M.S. Gudgeon and his wife arrived from Meerut.

Departures.—Quite a number of members of this Unit left D.I.K. during January and February for Karachi, *en route* to England. On 7th March we say good-bye to C.Q.M.S. Packman, C.Q.M.S. Lister (F-of-S) and Signalman McGuire.

Sports.—Many games have been played against civilian teams at the local " stadium," and the results in the majority of games were in our favour. At present sport is at a standstill, owing to a break in the weather ; all grounds are out of bounds owing to the rain.

Social.—A whist drive and dance was held in the British Ranks' Institute a fortnight ago. Mrs. Wales was the lucky lady who took the first prize, and Signalman Durber was the winner of the gent's prize. After a short interval, dancing was soon in progress, and went with a swing. During the interval, when refreshments were provided, Lance Sergeant Mulcahy gave a short " turn." Dancing continued until a late hour, and everyone wanted to carry on until morning. All ranks join us in a vote of thanks to Lance Corporal Crosley and other members of the committee, who put in some very hard work to make the show a success.

Another all ranks dance was held in the Sergeants' Mess on 3rd March, when the band of Kohat District Signals was in attendance. Everyone enjoyed themselves.

Q. T. I. C.

Sergeants' Mess.

Dera Ismail Khan.

4th March.

During February several social functions were held, and we feel certain that everyone enjoyed themselves immensely.

Beer has been flowing freely to celebrate promotions. The honoured members are : C.Q.M.S.s Parker and Packman, and Sergeant Wolfe. All members join in offering congratulations.

In January and February quite a number of our members left for Blighty. We hope they enjoy the quietness of life in England after the hectic night life of D.I. Khan. Sergeant Wolfe recently left the Unit for Jubbulpore, where he is to take up the role of instructor. Corporal Higgins, also for Jubbulpore, follows shortly. We wonder how they wangle these postings.

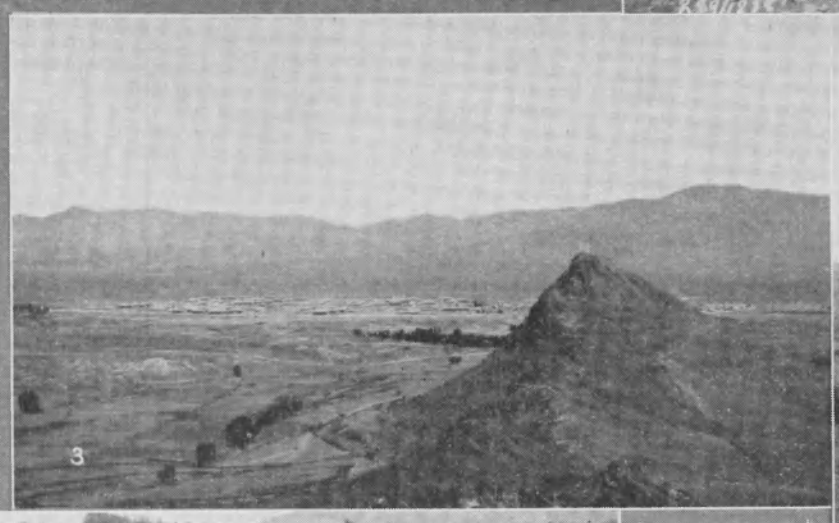
On 10th March we say cheerio to two more members, namely, C.Q.M.S. Packman, who has been transferred to the Home Establishment after a " Cook's Tour " in Waziristan, and to C.Q.M.S. Lister (F-of-S) as a Class " B " invalid. We hope it will not be long before they make you fit again, Paddy !

C.Q.M.S. Gudgeon G. arrived from Meerut at the end of February, and hope he will enjoy his stay with us. It must have been a wrench leaving Meerut, where he had spent many years. What did the M.E.S. say when you left, Q. ?

The Mess hockey team have proved their capabilities, having beaten the junior ranks once, and forced a draw in the second game. In the third game they played against the Indian ranks and we won quite easily. We are looking forward to more games in the future.

E. M.

WAZIRISTAN DISTRICT SIGNALS.



1. A spot of " Khana " at Camp " A."
2. The Section marching past the Brigade Commander on their return to Wana, Christmas Eve, 1938.
3. Gibraltar Piquet with Wana Camp in the background.
4. " Wanacol " Signals, December, 1938.
5. Washing Day during " Column," December, 1938.
6. Wana Plain.

Wana Brigade Signal Section.

January.

Column.—During December the Section was out on Column for a period of seventeen days. The route of the Column was: Wana—Tanai—Dargai Oba—Sarwekai—Splitoi—Shahur Tangi—Camp " A." One of the notable features of this Column was the march through the Shahur Tangi at 4 a.m. At Camp " A " we met " Razcol " who had been having a rather rough time owing to sniping, etc. The No. 1 Sets stood up to the strain as usual, and communication was very good. At Kot Kai, a Watch Tower was blown up because the inhabitants had sniped at " Razcol." The Section were back in Wana on Christmas Eve without any casualties.

Christmas, Wana—1938.—At 8.30 p.m. on Christmas Eve, the Section set off in full force to the Garrison Sergeants' Mess, where they were served with the usual beer, etc. After having two, three, four, or more, we set off under the capable guidance of Sergeants Wales, Collins, and Gordon on a tour of the Officers' Messes in Wana. We had good receptions at all the Messes, especially at the Brigade Mess, where our O.C. (Lieutenant McGill) was very liberal with refreshments. Corporal Park is still very anxious about his " Blighty " cigarettes.

Christmas dinner was served at 2 p.m. by Sergeants Wales, Collins, Gordon, and Lance Corporals Grant and Webster. The Brigadier (Lieutenant-Colonel R. M. M. Lochart, M.C.), the Brigade Major (Major Bullen-Smith, K.O.S.B.) and our O.C. (Lieutenant A. F. McGill, Royal Signals) attended the dinner. A toast to the " Brigadier and Officers " was proposed by Lance Sergeant Farnden, and the Brigadier replied.

All officers seemed very interested in the cartoons drawn by the Smith Bros. (of London), and also in a Christmas tree that we managed to procure (?). Lance Corporal Grant (attired as Subba Khan) had a long chat with the officers. (We heard him say that he had seen *so* many Brigadiers come and go from Wana.) Everyone had a splendid time and, after the dinner, three cheers were given for the officers.

At 7.30 on Christmas night the Navy turned up in the Canteen. The visitors were " Commodore " Webster, " Stokers " Allen and Burgess, and " A.B.s " Everitt and Ulrich. During their visit several sea shanties (?), etc., were sung. " Curly " is still looking for his hunting port.

At 9 p.m., we were favoured with the company of the officers of 1/18th Royal Garwal Rifles, and then a real good sing-song took place. " Ilkla' Moor " and " Yippy I Hey " proved to be the favourites. Signalman Bartlett was very busy with his Bar, and Corporal Park very careful indeed with his " Blues." The party " retired " at 4 a.m.

On New Year's Eve, Lance Corporal Grant prepared some rum punch which set everyone on the happy way to 1939. The Christmas dinner, which was repeated on New Year's Day, was thoroughly enjoyed by all ranks. What does " Twist " mean, Smith R. ?

The arrangements for our Christmas festivities were excellent, and our heartiest thanks go to Lance Corporal Grant and the others who helped to make Christmas, 1938, such a success. Well done, Geordie !

Appointments.—Congratulations to Lance Sergeant Farnden on his appointment.

Departures.—We are very sorry indeed to lose Lance Corporal Sweeny and Joe Carrott, who left us on 11th January for H.Q. on posting pending transfer to the Home Establishment. They will be missed by all ranks of the Section, and our very best wishes go with them.

Sport.—The Section has won the first round into the semi-finals of the Wana Brigade Inter-Unit Football Tournament. We played the 1/18th Royal Garwal Rifles, the score being 2—1 for us. Signalman Bond (Herbert) scored the winning goal. Well done, " Herb." ! We are due to play the 3/8th Punjab Regiment next, and with a bit of luck and Herbert, should beat them, thus entering the final.

Things We Want To Know.—Who is this brass-necked person ?

Who lost his white drill shorts ?

Tail Piece.—The weather at present in Wana is just O.K., so remember folk, if you want to feel a little fitter, come to Wana for a week-end.

SIGS. WNA.

March.

General.—The Section has been very busy during the month instructing officers of Units in the Brigade in the working of the No. 1 Sets, and demonstrating how these Sets can be used to the best advantage. Classes have also commenced in preparation for the Trade Test Board, which will be held in April; and the personnel of the Section appears to be very interested indeed at the moment in signal training.

The 1939/40 trooping season is drawing nearer, and already we hear cries of " Roll on the boat," and many calendars can be seen in the tents. (One man has four calendars !) The following are due for transfer to the Home Establishment during the 1939/40 trooping season: Lance Corporal Bond, Signalmen Everitt, Allen, Cass and Baker. Cheer up, Markendale; 1942/43 isn't so far away !

Several attacks have been made on piquets in this Station recently, and on one occasion two Sepoys of the 3/8th Punjab Regiment were wounded. A bridge between Sarwekai and Jandola was blown up by the tribesmen on 14th February. Lance Corporal Grant, who assisted in putting out a fire that occurred in the camp cinema during the month, was of the opinion that " Pyrene " was a good thing for cleaning officers' dress suits !

Sport.—The B.O.R.s' team was beaten in the final of the Brigade Inter-Unit Football Tournament by the 2/8th Gurkha Rifles, the score being 2—1 against. Signalman Bond scored our goal, and with a bit more pressure we would have beaten the Gurkhas. Still, better luck in the next tournament. The team was entertained by the Gurkhas after the match, and some of the players seemed to have enjoyed themselves. Didn't they, Smith R. ?

The team comprised the following: Signalman Smith T.; Signalman Markendale, Lance Corporal Piddington; Signalman Burgess, Signalman Cass, Corporal Park; Signalmen Allen, Bond, Mercer, Smith R. and Baker A.

Arrivals.—Corporal Ogden, Signalmen Thewlis, Mercer, Jarvis, Baker and Feakes—all from H.Q. Section; also Sergeant Gordon from one month's leave at Dehra Dun and looking very fit indeed. We all sincerely hope that their stay with us will be a very happy one.

Departures.—Sergeant Wales A. E. to H.Q. Section, and Lance Sergeant Farnden to U.K. on Blighty leave. We wish them all the very best in their new surroundings.

Appointments.—We offer our heartiest congratulations to U/Lance Corporal Bond H. R. G. on his appointment on 14th February. Well done, Herbert !

Marriages.—None at present, but one expected in the very near future. Hurry up with the hot water, Raymond !

Annual Musketry.—The Section fired their annual musketry practices during the month. The results were excellent.

SIGS. WNA.

Razmak Signal Section.

Razmak.

General.—We must apologise for the absence of our notes during the past few months. Unfortunately, there is no excuse to offer but the time-honoured Waziristan one of " Columns."

During the last three months we have spent more time hiking round North Waziristan and in temporary camps than we have in Razmak.

Obituary.—It is with the deepest regret that we have to record the death of No. 2322395 Signalman Hughes P., which occurred on 21st January as the result of injuries received whilst playing football against the Indian ranks. " Pip " was ever a cheerful individual, even when in the " sticky " on " Column," and we shall miss his cheery smile on the line of march. The Section extend their deepest sympathy to his relatives.

Arrivals and Departures.—Looking down the roll of the Section as it stands to-day, we note that quite a number of names have been added and that several well-known ones have vanished.

To " Ginge " and " Chap," now learning the intricacies of civilian " com " at the Vocational Training Centres, we hope the boat still rocks on Saturday evenings.

To " Tim " Kelly, now at Catterick aspiring to " F-of-S' dom," we wish the best in his studies. How did you scrounge a " Blighty " Christmas, " Tim " ?

Lance Sergeant (" Pip ") Wolfe has now decided to leave us for the warmer climate of the Plains. We hope he will find an outlet for his many activities wherever he goes.

We wish the new arrivals from home a pleasant stay with us. The pleasantness of their stay greatly depends on the antics of the Faquir of Ipi and Co. This band of hostiles have so far not given us very much rest, and at one time we held grave fears of spending Christmas in the " blue."

Mention of Christmas reminds us. Why does a certain well-known individual in a leading English daily newspaper think that Razmak is a place of sweltering heat ? Ask any of the lads who tramped from Ladha to Razmak on 20th December last in a blinding snow-storm, and through eighteen inches of icy water.

The Section, with the exception of a few individuals on road protection duties in temporary camps, is being warmed up to fire a succession of bulls during the forthcoming Musketry Course. The new draft is being initiated into the wiles of mules with No. 1 Sets, of " C " Sets with stubborn dispositions, and of playing games without getting the Razmak " puff."

We hear a loud voice shouting " get off the line," so hear goes.

L.D.L.

WESTERN COMMAND ..... INDIAN ARMY

"B" Corps Signals, Karachi.

Unit Headquarters.

5th March.

We were pleased to see, with the arrival of the February WIRE, our literary efforts that, somehow or other, had gone astray during the Christmas rush. We apologise to readers, but the fault seems to have been with the postman.

The Unit Camp has come and gone. We didn't do much about it in Headquarters, although one of the few who represented us in the field, or rather desert, kept us in the news. We refer to the " JEEP," who, in his younger days, kept the Birmingham Watch Committee on its toes. We recall the saying in circulation throughout the bazaars, " That man is here again ! "

Twenty-eight of our " key bashers " have left us for stations up country. A good crowd was at the railway station to say good-bye to them, and there were some exciting moments before bodies and baggage were safely put aboard. A good deal of cheery conversation was heard before our old friend " Mo " could get away—it concerned a little matter of maunds *versus* bushels ! Boiled down it appears that if a bushel of winter oats weigh so much, and a bedding roll so many seers, and there are two pounds to a seer, how many bushels does a bedding roll weight ? This problem has been given to one of our brainy fellows who is taking the first half of his third.

From letters received recently from our ex-comrades, it appears that they were not long in being introduced to the Frontier and " Columns," as well as the novelty of digging one's bed. Chin up, Alf, you have been down deeper than a few feet !

Some good tennis was witnessed when an American tennis team on tour in India visited Karachi. The best that India could turn out were no match for them, and they simply walked away with everything.

We might add that Karachi has had a heavy rainfall for this time of the year. Greatcoats have been the vogue ; we refer to those that the woolly bears have found too tough, and even our versatile surgeon and herbalist found the going a bit too much. He can be seen any evening, complete with Gladstone bag in which he carries some mysterious instruments, riding around and administering concoctions to everyone.

We shall be sorry to say farewell to C.S.M. Coombes, who is shortly leaving us for Kohat District Signals. We owe it to him for putting our football team on the map. Don't forget that other cup, sir, before you go. So what !

A batch of twenty-eight recruits have arrived from the U.K. for training. The unusual sight of flag-wagging has commenced again, and the Unit Club wireless set gives us a constant " continental."

The " Somersetshire " arrived, bringing only two would-be pukka sahibs. Seventeen are going home in the same boat ; some have done their " five," others for leave in the U.K., and six for the Home Establishment. What is going to happen to " M " Section now ?

Nuts and Bolts.—" Halt ! Who goes there ? " " No, you halt ! "

Famous sayings : " Yes, Corporal ! "

Who suffers from disappearing finger-nails ?

Which Caledonian is being pushed the wrong way ? Another canny Scot, ex-Egypt, who was No. 32, and is moving up fast.

To the old man from Norwich, now back in U.K. " What price the ' Canaries ' now for the Third Division ? "

G. O. O.

No. 2 Company.

General.—At the moment we are keeping up to scratch with weapon training, A.R.P. and technical training. Operating Courses have recently commenced, and we hope to have some good results by the time training has finished.

We are due to have the Brigade Commander's Inspection on 4th March, and just now we are getting everything ready.

Departures.—By the time these notes are in print, we shall have said good-bye to those members of the Unit who will have departed on the " last " boat. Most of them are for transfer to the Army Reserve ; there are others, of course, who cannot take it, and have gone for a Blighty breather in order to break the monotony. They will probably bring the boat out again to take a lot of us home.

The following have left us on detachment for the station shown : Lance Corporal Brooks J., Signalmen Winkley and Allen to Quetta ; Signalman Bennett to Fort Sandeman.

Arrivals.—Lance Corporal Bowman J. and Signalmen Feegan and Brydon from Quetta ; Signalman Beswick from Fort Sandeman.

Football.—Ex-members of the Unit will be glad to know that the Unit is still maintaining its place in the football world. At the time of writing the team is playing in the Y.M.C.A. Challenge Cup, and in the first round beat the R.A.F. Depot, No. 1 team, by 3—1, after extra time. The score at full time was 1—1.

This tournament was postponed indefinitely after this match, owing to very inclement weather—very uncommon in Karachi !

Things Heard.—Why was the Quarter Guard told to " Fall Out " for Staff Parade at Tattoo ?

About the chap who was buying a writing pad and said " Kitna baji writing pad, kaghaz wallah." We are sure that never came from the Munshi.

And receiving " Tea Party " for " Fatigue Party " !

That's all, folks.

E DOUBLE U.

Sergeants' Mess.

With the arrival of the troopships, " Lancashire," " Dorsetshire " and " Somersetshire," social evenings were to the fore.

We have received two additional members, Sergeant Green and Lance Sergeant Macguire, and there have been some family reunions. Mrs. Jones arrived only to stay a few days, and Mrs. Myddleton has also arrived. At the time of writing we are expecting Mrs. Hockley, Mrs. Nichols and Mrs. Green, and our messing member casts an eye at the rapidly diminishing number of dining members. It will cost the post office a lot in revenue we feel sure.

We have also a few who are leaving for special privilege leave, and we hope they will enjoy the air of the Blighty Cantonment.

Under the leadership of C.Q.M.S. (F-of-S) Brice (P.M.C.), ably assisted by Sergeants Healey, Wellock, Connor—and recently Lance Sergeant Scratcher—several successful and enjoyable Mess functions were arranged. A word of praise is also due to the ladies who provide those delicacies for the tennis "At Homes"; dare we say that they cause the hardened bachelors to dream.

Visitors' Book.—We have been visited by the following, either *en route* to or from the U.K., or on duty: S.S.M. Andrews, Sergeants Chidgey, Routledge, Gibbons (Peshawar), Gatford (for Jubbulpore), Ashford (for Jubbulpore), Barlowe (for Peshawar) and Smith (for Quetta), Lance Sergeant Goat (for Jubbulpore); also Sergeant Toogood and Lance Sergeant Fairclough, who were away on Brigade training with the 4th Field Regiment, R.A.

Promotions.—Our congratulations have been tendered to Sergeant Hockley on reaching full rank, and to Lance Sergeants Stretch and Rolls, who have joined the Mess.

Departures.—Sergeant Jones to Bareilly, Lance Sergeants Lennon and Bartlett to U.K. We are shortly to lose C.S.M. Coombes, who is leaving for Kohat; S.S.M. Vignaux to the Home Establishment; Sergeant Hockley to 4th Divisional Signals, Trimulgherry; Sergeants Cosens, Jarvis and Smith, who are going on privilege leave (may it be enjoyable). Last but not least, Mr. Taylor (Buck), who is now a real civilian in the true sense. We hope you strike oil, Buck!

Jottings.—The bearer brought two rabbits from the market. Who couldn't visualise them in a stew?

What does B.O.R. mean, dear? The answer to this question can be found any morning on No. 1 Company Parade.

Lastly, we received Big-hearted Arthur's comment from N.I.D. All is well!

Corporals' Mess.

25th February.

Arrivals and Departures.—Corporal "Bing" Pullinger from A.H.Q. W/T Station, Delhi. Steer clear of him when he croons; we have already heard him in the bath-house. Ouch!

Lance Corporal Bowman from "Fixedcom," Quetta. How do you manage to move so easily, Jack?

Lance Corporal Brooks to "Fixedcom", Quetta, and Corporal Winter to S.T.C. (I.), Jubbulpore, as an instructor. Isn't the Karachi air good enough for you, "Ginge," or can't you take it?

Promotions and Appointments.—I think that a new Blue Book will be needed prematurely, if Mr. Records is kept as busy with other Units as he is with handing out the extra "pice" to this one. Congratulations are extended to Corporals Rolls and Stretch on their appointment to Lance Sergeant; to Lance Corporals Rylatt and Ridley on their promotion to Corporal. Also to Lance Corporals Hankin, Burrows, Usher and Davies J. H. on dropping the "U"; and to our new members, Signalmen Sinclair, Flavell, Fairhead, Morgan and Derrick on appointment to U/Lance Corporal.

Births.—Yes, it's quite true. To Lance Corporal and Mrs. Twiddy our congratulations on the birth of a son on 4th February.

Problem Corner.—Why did the radiogram give forth its loudest squeak when one poor unfortunate had stated that it was in good working order? Better luck next time, Bert!

Who was asked if he would like to be a Dictator? Never mind, Geordie, you won't have this Squad for ever.

Pegasus.

Western (I) District Signals.

February.

Having said goodbye to many of our stalwarts, including two "surpluses," we were visited by the Milk Brigade. We welcome them to the fold and trust their stay will be a long and happy one in this Unit.

Individual Training is moving rapidly to a close, and the Trade Boards are in the offing. Every would-be aspirant to higher grades can be recognised by the copy of Volume II, Part 1, and message pad carried in the left hand, and by the furrowed brow and downcast look as he wanders around as if seeking inspiration from the very earth around him. (Negative potential, we might have said.) We hope and trust that the Trade Board questions will not be too "duplicated" for him. (Remember the lecture on exchanges, Sergeant!

As this year progresses we are again regaled with rumours of camps and more camps. Everything comes to those who wait, so here you are, Asquith!

The Tennis Club, which has been re-formed, has a larger membership than ever, and it is hoped that we shall be able to have a number of tournaments, "At Homes" and matches during the season, which commences on 1st May.

St. Swithun, or whoever is "well in" with the weather clerk, has given us several days of rain and snow. Indeed, things were so bad that the roofs of our bungalows had to be reinforced with sheets of corrugated iron, which were replaced later by tarpaulins. Now that March is here, we hope that this type of weather will desert us.

Since our December notes appeared in print (sorry there were none in January), we have had many arrivals and departures too numerous to mention individually. We welcome Captain Pocock from Meerut, and also our new A/R.S.M., C.S.M. Cooper, from Rawalpindi. Among the departures were five Linemen who had become "surplus to Establishment." We cannot say with any authority that they came out under the auspices of Thos. Cook & Sons, but there are many hints to that effect among those of us who appear to be fated to complete a "pukka tour." We wish them good luck in their new Units.

Our heartiest congratulations to Lance Corporal Last, who has been accepted for the Royal Army Ordnance Corps and leaves us for Woolwich on the March boat.

While on the subject of congratulations, we must not exclude those who have added yet another layer of cotton wool to the bottom of their haversacks, pushing that baton nearer to the top. We refer to Corporals Barlow and Gartery, Lance Corporals Whitehouse, Kerry, Pearson and Crockett, and U/Lance Corporals Hayes, Jackson, Smith and Mackenzie, who have now reached the dizzy height of their respective ranks and appointments.

Sport has been somewhat at a standstill recently, owing to inclement weather. A football tournament in the Unit has been started and the results will be announced in our next. Several rugger matches have been played and the net results indicate that we have been fairly successful in spite of the fact that several of the team are new to this game.

Shylock Calling.—Brown Pip, 'Pindi. "What about a line, Ging? 'Appy."

Wiley, 037. "What about it? Blondie 022, Qta."

G.B. 370. Where R. U.? Drop a line, Beg. S. 383."

Sgt. H.S.H. "Don't take any notice of Qta notes. It wasn't me on fire. S. Qta."

Footnote.—C.Q.M.S. Storey feels that England will be "Quetta" change, but he "Meeruts" the trip to Blighty.

Ronkay.

EASTERN COMMAND ..... ***INDIAN ARMY***

3rd Indian Divisional Signals, Meerut.

U.H.Q. Company.

General.—Owing to the heavy training demand on the Unit it is quite possible that notes will not appear for Companies, so

that it is left to U.H.Q. personnel to add their quota from Meerut.

Drafts.—The new drafts appear to have settled down nicely, and we hope their present tour will not seem too long. In any case one has to soldier somewhere, so why not here. (Personally I like India, but shall be leaving long before these notes appear in print.)

Since Christmas almost all our " fixtures " have left us, and we wish them all the best in their new spheres. Saying good-bye to old friends is all right in its way, but the writer (and others) often wish that drafts could come and go in a quieter way. Mind you, dear reader, we do not put the whole of the blame on to the drafts, because the least excuse nowadays seems to send the usuals Canteenwards. A celebration was arranged quite recently on the result of even an ordinary football match, and it was a success, too !

Promotions and Appointments.—The Unit congratulates the following on their recent rise on the Roster : Corporals Jordan (Stew Orderly), Greaves (Decs. and Docs.), Telfer (Golden Eagle) and Denholm (the best from Morris F.), and U/Lance Corporal Drysdale (the Singing Marine).

The remarks in the preceding paragraph were in evidence on this occasion.

Grippers.—The " Grippers' " Shield for the month is awarded to Signalman Smith R., who carried on for two solid days opposite the " Gram " Orderly's bed. He held his gathering spellbound about some trifling thing or other. To the remaining seventeen we say, " Bruce and the Spider."

Indoor Games.—Corporal Telfer and Pay (A) and (B) continue to tuck a " chota cluster " at the Tombola at both the Rifle Brigade and our own meeting. (B) is at present on the decline, but we sincerely hope he picks up within a few hours. With the March boat in the offing, the second string jam stranglers should now come into their own.

Officers.—Major B. D. Willoughby, Royal Signals, has now left us for twelve months' leave in the U.K. pending retirement. Major F. P. L. Gray, Royal Signals, has recently joined the Unit from Aldershot. To both officers we extend our best wishes.

IBDLA-ANAG.

No. 1 Company.

6th March.

The absence of WIRE notes last month is regretted, and is due to the fact that the Company was engaged in roughing it on manœuvres during January. When we did actually spend a day or two in camp, the whole purpose of life was sleep, and more sleep.

A large Section of the Unit went to Jhansi to participate in the Exercises there. "A" Section despatched four " C " Sets, and " D " Section sent a Signal Office. It was a month's hard work, that was generally enjoyed, if only because it was a change from the scenery and monotony of Meerut. Will ex-Section Sergeant (Bill) Pack please note that the " C " Sets once again collected the plums, but Robertson is scrounging in Naini-Tal.

Major F. P. L. Gray has relieved Major B. D. Willoughby as Officer Commanding the Company. The latter had been O.C. for only a short time, but had been familiar to the stable party for some time previous. He leaves us and the Army in due course, carrying with him our very best wishes for the future. To Major Gray we extend a hearty welcome, and trust he will enjoy his stay in No. 1 Company.

The Chief Signal Officer recently inspected the stores, etc., and also the Unit at work. The Company got to work smoothly for a few days before the event, and put all those extra touches to stores that are so necessary when inspections are the order of the day. After the inspections, we understand that the verdict was very complimentary. There was some excitement in "A" Section Stores at the last moment when it was discovered that a cat had very kindly deposited her kittens behind one of the wireless sets ! The C.S.O. did not put his hand behind that particular Set, so there were no casualties.

There have been a number of promotions in the Unit recently, and there are still one or two hoping. Congratulations to all concerned.

We welcome the new drafts from the U.K. A number of them are now feeling quite at home in the stables. Talking of stables, it is surprising how many men have volunteered to take over horses this year. There must be something in the " Long faced Friend " business after all.

Looking through one of the Rifle Books it is interesting to note that one of the new draft drew a rifle from the rack at " 0860 " hours. Well, done !

DOUBLEYOU.

No. 2 Company.

With all the Sections back from training, we are once more back to normal routine. Store inspections, clothing inspections, etc., are very frequent, but, as usual, the Company is taking them in its stride.

We are now preparing for the Annual Musketry Course, which is to be fired very shortly, and although the Course is harder this time we are expecting some good results. Whilst on the subject of shooting, we must congratulate our O.C., Major R. T. Williams, Royal Signals, on winning the Aperture Sight Competition at the Army Rifle Association Meeting with a score of 135 points. This competition was one of the many held at the A.R.A. (India) Central Meeting, which took place in Meerut from 20th to 25th February.

The repatriation list for the trooping season 1939-40 has been published and, once more, there are many smiling faces in the Company. Those concerned are already beginning to count the days !

Departures.—Since writing our last notes, the following have left us for the places named : C.Q.M.S. Gudgeon to Waziristan ; Lance Sergeant White and Signalman Lee E. J. to Quetta ; Signalmen Popple and Miller to 3rd Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop. There are, of course, the usual drafts to the Blighty Cantonment, which include Corporal Denholm T., Lance Corporal Tracy, Signalmen Mounsey, Middleton and Haslam, who left us on 5th February. We hope they will all be happy in their new Units.

Arrivals.—We extend a hearty welcome to Lieutenant G. C. Nelson, Royal Signals, who has joined us from Quetta. The following arrived from the U.K. in January : Lance Sergeant Peters and Signalman Tapper from Canterbury ; Lance Corporal Martin, Signalmen Wright, McNamara, Veevers, Morrison and Newsham from "A" Corps Signals, Aldershot ; and Signalmen Stroud and Robinson from Catterick.

Congratulations.—To U/Lance Corporal Brooker W. on his appointment.

MORANON.

"J" (9th Infantry Brigade) Signal Section.

The Section, under the command of Lieutenant L. J. D. Read, Royal Signals, left barracks on 31st December, 1938, for their annual manœuvres at Jhansi. On arrival at Jhansi, on 1st January, the Section marched to the Royal Fusiliers' barracks, where they were attached to "A" Company of that Unit.

On viewing the landscape it was found that the barracks were too far away from the I.O.R.s' Camp, so the B.O.R.s eventually erected 80-lb. and 160-lb. tents on the Rest Camp. The I.O.R.s were under canvas in the lines of the 18th A.T. Company.

During the evening of 1st January, the Signals detachment arrived by road and, much to their delight, discovered that " J " Section had made a complete job of the camp.

Very favourable weather was experienced during the Operations, and "A" and " B " offices were kept on the move a good deal, but, needless to say, they stood the wear and tear. The Wireless Groups did very well, under the watchful eye of good old " Nobby." (How are you, Nobby ? Is Blighty O.K. ?) At one time Set No. 553 was placed on Brigade Headquarters' roof so as to keep touch with the marching columns. All the sets were using the bamboo fishing rod as aerials, which proved very successful.

During the lull in the Operations, Sergeants Yorke and Wilson went shooting and brought back what is known as a

Sambhur. After a few meals off it we began to wonder if they really did shoot it. Did you, " Tug," really !

The Arab warfare provided much entertainment, especially to the wireless personnel, who were asked to turn out in any dress. We are still wondering how Nobby managed to get his Arab chargers " through."

Everyone enjoyed themselves thoroughly at camp during the Operations, and also at the Bank View Cafe, where the biggest attraction was the lady jazz drummer. What rhythm—and what a smile !

To conclude the log, we left Jhansi on the afternoon of 2nd February, arriving in Meerut on the afternoon of 3rd February.

What made " Butch " keep the C/S waiting three-quarters of an hour before he acknowledged GB ? (The longest in history !)

Sergeant Clarke left us in January. The Section remember his handshake and the twinkle in his eye, and all wish him the very best. We must also say a pleasant cheerio to the Section clown, little " Tich " Curran, who leaves us for the U.K. in a few days.

Our " Winnie " Brooker really made it on 25th February. By the way, Winnie, who swept all round your bedspace with the broom ?

Silent zones are not common in this country, so we suggest that White should look to his aerial connection before blaming the recalcitrant ether waves.

Butch.

"G" (22nd Mountain Regiment, R.A.) Signal Section.

Preliminary Canter.—The last occasion on which this Section subscribed to the Corps Journal was shortly after the Treaty of Versailles !

Method.—We intend to strike out on a new literary line, and will refrain from (*a*) Reproducing Part II Orders ; (*b*) Extending the glad hand to new arrivals and hoping their stay with us will be a long and happy one ; (*c*) Sentimental valedictory burblings ; (*d*) An agony column to dear hearts across the sea ; (*e*) Jokes understood only by the chap who writes them (e.g., " Who lost the felling axe ? ").

History.—We have come to the end of the training season. (Sorry—I was copying someone else's notes for 1925/26/27, and so on.) The training season was fairly successful, and we managed to wangle a good chit from the Regimental Commander. One cannot mention the Mountain Warfare Scheme at Dehra Dun without paying tribute to " L " Section (9th Infantry Brigade) with whom we were in close and more or less continual touch.

We camped together on the line of march, pinched one another's kerosene, scrounged each other's cigarettes, and poked about in one another's yakdans when nobody was looking (but we did NOT pinch your axe, Sergeant Elmes, whatever your storeman may say about it !).

" L " ran the B.O.R.s' messing and we did the forage. One noticed the well-nourished appearance of " L " Section B.O.R.s in comparison with ourselves ; while, strange to relate, their animals compared very unfavourably with ours.

The Scheme was most realistic, with perimeter camps to build at the end of the day, enemy to snipe us (with blanks, thank goodness) at night, and all the precautions and the restrictions of Frontier warfare. It was all very interesting, although some of us can't see it.

Had we not decided to cut out the valedictory and obituary stuff, we might tell how Sergeant " Jock " Lawson has at last laid down the warlike crookstick and taken up the peaceful ledger. " Local Boy Makes Good ! "

Conclusion.—About time, too !

The Gripper.

" L " Ran the Messing !

6th (Medium) Regiment, R.A., Signal Section, Muttra.

General.—Once again the " M.A.R. Sigs." chronicle their activities, and what with Practice Camps, D.I.B.A. Exercise and Christmas dinners (somewhat late), and the usual Yuletide hangovers, there seems to be plenty to write about.

Firstly, about the D.I.B.A. Exercise, which took place during the period 17th to 20th January. We proceeded by road to a place called Badshapur, taking about five and a half hours on the journey. The first and second nights were spent there, and it soon became apparent that this was to be one of the fastest-moving Schemes we had done. Communications were practically nil until after the first bounds had been captured ; then, with our usual efficiency, lines were laid, offices erected, and things started humming. The Exercise finished at nine on the morning of the 20th, when, tired, weary and covered with dust—but victorious—we returned to Muttra, so completing (we hope) the annual manœuvres for this training season. Whilst at Badshapur we were pleased to meet other members of the " Divsigs," who were also on the Exercise ; they were Sergeants " Elmo " Elmes and " Blanco " White, not forgetting Signalman

The one that didn't get away ! — with Signalman Fabian and Signalman Ferguson.

" Busty " Clavering, who, to our amazement, seemed to be fatter than ever—if this were possible !

Christmas Dinner.—As most members of the Section were away during the actual holidays, we decided to hold our Christmas dinner on 4th January, and we can honestly say that it went off well. There was one snag : our O.C., Lieutenant E. B. Elliott, was suddenly taken ill and, much to our regret, could not attend. Preparations for the dinner had been going on for days, and the great event passed without a hitch (technical or otherwise). We sat down to a five-course dinner in the Section Stores, and later adjourned to the Reading and Amusement Room to complete the evening. A games tournament between the various offices and groups came first, and then, with our glasses filled (Nicholl's was always empty), sat around a huge fire and swopped yarns and experiences. Donald told us thrilling tales of Frontier life ! One by one we departed to our beds, leaving behind the unbeatable four.

Departures.—After valiantly " holding 'em back " in Muttra for about three years, Lance Corporal " Swede " Floyde and Signalman " Nobbly " Marchant proceeded to Meerut, prior to catching the big boat on 4th February. From reports received from Meerut, they are still holding them back—sorry, we should have said down, as both these chaps can " grip " when the occasion arose. But, seriously, we were very sorry to see them go, and they will be missed, especially on the sports field. Corporal Dixon also proceeds home on 5th February, but (here is the joke), he returns again in order to complete his ten years abroad. Corporal Fairweather has gone to Jubbulpore on a Fitter's Course. Good luck, Fairy ; we miss your little grumble in the reading room during the evening. (Busty tells me to say that Euchre is still *the* game.)

Shootin', Huntin' and Fishin'.—The former scribe left orders that Signalman Fabian, known all over India as " Werp," the well-known big game hunter, was to be interviewed.

We got " Werp " in a corner, and he told us that as the sugar cane was all gathered in, Blue Bull, Buck and other game were plentiful.

Something must have gone wrong with his gun—or the Buck—because he returned from his last Shikar with plenty of small game, but little else. It appears that the Buck around this district have a habit of disappearing just when he gets all set to bump them off ! He has given us a photograph for this month's WIRE, and says that this is one that didn't get away into the cane.

With regards the fishin' part of this epistle, more anon.

Section Photograph.—A photograph of the Section is published with these notes. We do not intend to publish all the names of the B.O.R.s, they are too well known, but that enormous Sergeant sitting next to the O.C., and taking up all the room, is none other than Sergeant Carfrae J., who recently weighed himself. The scales recorded 12½ stone, and someone was heard to remark, " Blimey, he must be hollow ! "

Fan Mail.—To Nobby from " Werp." " Do you remember the tea and sugar ? "

Tailpiece.—Well, folks, that's about all. I'm off to " Home and Beauty " for six months. See you in September !

R. C. D.

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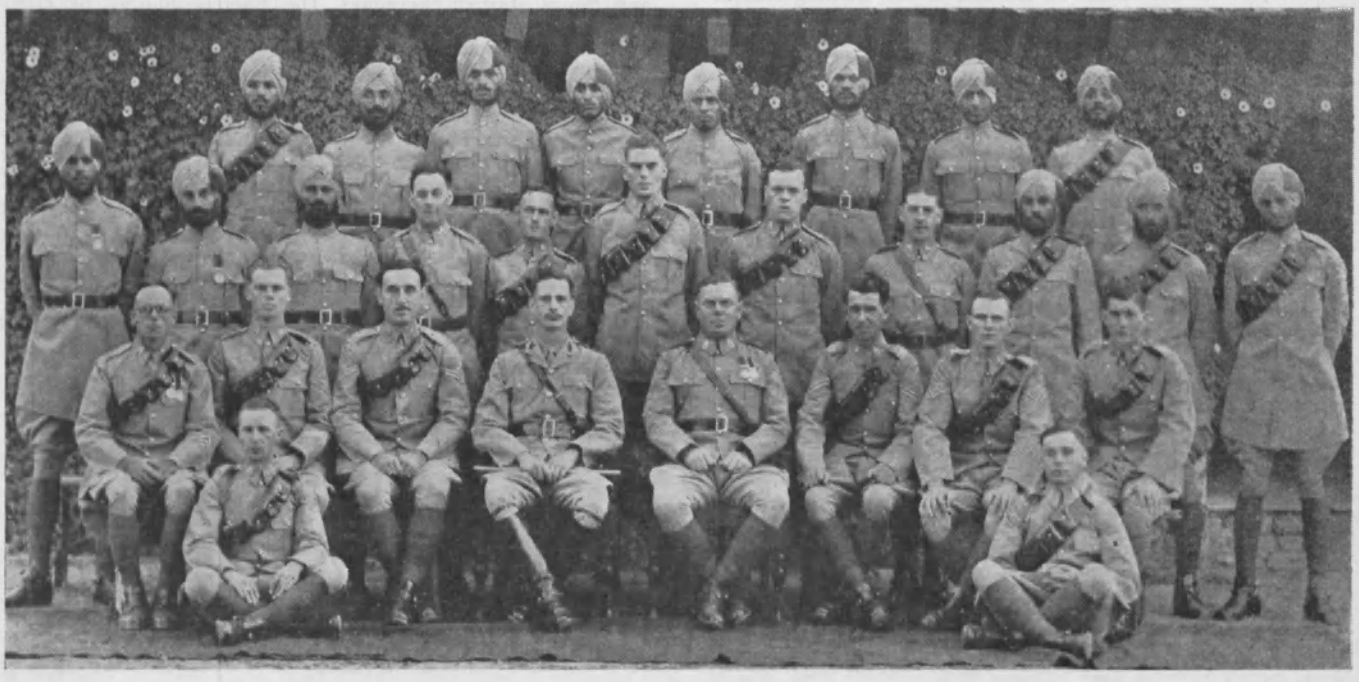
6th (MEDIUM) REGIMENT, R.A., SIGNAL SECTION, MUTTRA.



OTHER STATIONS ABROAD

Egypt Command Signals.

No. 2 Company.

March.

Obituary.—It is with sincere regret that we have to announce the death of 2325430 Signalman Bowden J., late of "K" Section of this Company, at the Camp Hospital, Mersa Matruh, on 9th March. It is difficult to associate death with this young comrade, and we keenly feel his loss.

The funeral, with full military honours, was held at the British War Memorial Cemetery, Old Cairo, at 4 p.m., on Saturday, 11th March. The Band of the 11th (P.A.O.) Hussars was in attendance, and the gun carriage was provided by "D" Battery, R.H.A. The officiating minister was Rev. E. H. Pillifant (C.F.).

Among the floral tributes were wreaths from the Officers, Royal Signals, Egypt; the Sergeants' Mess, Royal Signals, Egypt; the Junior N.C.O.s' Mess, Royal Signals, Egypt; the representative of the deceased's family; No. 1 Company, Egypt Command Signals; No. 2 Company, Egypt Command Signals; Mobile Divisional Signals; O.C., "K" Section; the other ranks of "K" Section.

Signalman Bowden joined the Corps on 25th September, 1936, and, after training in England, joined Egypt Signals during February, 1938. Since his arrival in this country he had been actively engaged in his duties, having served with his Section in Palestine and at various manœuvre camps. Those who knew him will remember him with affection and respect. We extend our deep sympathy to his family in their sad bereavement.

EFFZEDESS.

"X" Troop, Cavalry Signals, Haifa.

Signalman Brown W. sustained injuries in an accident a short time ago, and was away in Haifa hospital for a while. We are pleased to report that he is now back at his job.

New No. 9 Sets have been issued to us on a seemingly liberal scale for fitting in the new armoured cars with which the 11th Hussars, P.A.O., are partially equipped. Lance Corporal Moore and a number of his satellites at Helmieh have been very busy carrying out the task, and we understand that they even work! We refer to the Sets!

No doubt our readers will have heard the one about "Mother, there's millions of cats in our garden." I have just met its parallel.

On returning to Haifa from a couple of weeks' duty in Egypt. We were "gripped" by one named Henderson. He told us something about having asked one of the fellows to purchase some dog's biscuits, and then went on to say, "He brought back a GREAT SACK." (Readers—repeat that last phrase aloud.) Having some anxiety concerning the amount of room this "great sack" would take up, we dumped kit and overcoat, and very carefully pushed open the door of the room containing this "great sack" of biscuits. There it was, right in front of our very eyes. After managing to gulp, and take a deep breath, we carefully advanced toward the sack, looked it over, and observed that it held seven pounds of biscuits. Seven pounds! "Great sack," my eye! And Perrins of "Bottle" fame had the audacity to interrupt with, "Yer wanna see it."

Severl of the fellows at Haifa have been purchasing leather jackets. Whether they are intended as a distinguishing mark between Jew and non-Jew we cannot say. But it does remind us of the following incident. A Jewess, when referring to one of the men wearing a leather jacket, said, "I asked the 'Jewish' fellow for some flowers, but he wouldn't get me any." Here the story becomes confusing. She asked Henderson for the flowers, told McIver that the former would not give her any, and then persuaded Hart to pick some. We have nothing more to add!

As a point of interest, McIver, it has been discovered that the best bombs are not made with fifty pounds of "issued gallantine,"

Sergeant Pearce has managed to tear himself away from Helmieh at last, and has returned to Palestine. At the moment he is visiting our detachments at Jerusalem and Nablus—"Radio Jerusalem" and "Radio Nablus" to you. Lance Corporal Blackburn is expected to be caught in the act of putting up another aerial.

The 11th Hussars have collected some men together in order to form a hockey team. Five of them were Signals, who were delighted to get a good game. Their opponents were the M.P. Battery, R.H.A. The members of the Troop who played were: Corporal Lenton, Lance Corporals Reynolds and Blackburn, Signalmen Walker and Draper. The result was: 11th Hussars, P.A.O., 2; R.H.A., 0.

G. A. D.

Hong Kong Signal Company.

7th March.

General.—The third of the BII Courses is now in full swing. The instructors are: Sergeant Sayers, Corporals Brackenburry and Kennard, and Lance Corporal Ashford F. Lieutenant P. D. Gracey (O.C. Wireless) is in charge.

There are busy days ahead for the Line Section, for there is plenty of work in the new territories and on the island. We assume that they will face it with their usual cheerful disposition and self-sacrifice (?) Yeah!

The Company are eagerly looking forward to the summer, when no matches will be cancelled, grounds will be in good condition, Cups to be won, prizes to be had, Shields to place in the various Messes. Summer, glorious summer, bringing with it "prickly heat" and "Hong Kong foot."

Wireless Section Outing.—A Wireless Section "coach-cum-footslog-cum-hitchhike" outing was held in early February. The expedition (?) travelled by coach to Sha Tau Kok, stopping on the way for tiffin, which was supplied by the Kay Lee "special travelling snack bar" (confidentially—a lorry).

On reaching the border at Sha tau Kok, the party made the biggest mistake of their lives. Everyone proceeded to "foot-slog" it to Shung Shui, a small village about ten miles distant as the crow flies. Not being crows, the party followed the road. Up hill, down dale, into the valley of death—sorry, my error!

Thoroughly exasperated, but taking it in the usual inimitable way of Signals, the gang disappeared around another bend. Into No Man's Land they marched, and still no sign of life—nothing; nothing but hills and mountains, which appeared to be looking (or leering) down at them, as if with contempt. (Don't ask us how they do it!)

Later, we heard a rumbling sound. It was a lorry, and most of the party, almost berserk, clambered aboard. Beer and sandwiches were later taken aboard, and then some more beer.

Thanks are due to the organisers for their work in connection with the trip.

Hong Kong Whispers.—Great things are expected here from the Jitterbug learners, who are assisting our "Waterfront Floor Flapper" in his social work (?).

Several Drivers (I.C.) appear to be stumbling blindly about the Unit with worried and haggard faces. We wonder if the Linemen know anything about this!

Stop Press.—This was actually seen by a Lineman in the new territories. Anticipating an air attack by the Japanese, hundreds of Chinese headed towards the border, and leading them was a Chinese soldier, who, on reaching British soil, wrapped himself in a blanket and lay still on the ground!

Call of the Yid.—Paddy Hennessy, "A" Corps Signals. "Still in Hong Kong; how about a line? Having glorious weather. Sproul, 4310."

Swimming and Water Polo.—A good swimming season is anticipated, as we have many newcomers in the Unit, and there is every hope that we shall be able to form a formidable water polo team for the Small Units.

The Wireless Section water-polo team, captained by " Young Dignan," have great hopes of winning a few Cups. On the other hand, Mobile, who lost the Aggregate Cup to Wireless last season, will try hard. The Line Section do not intend to take it lying down this season !

JOE AND MAC.

Malaya Signal Company.

Fort Canning Detachment.

24th February.

News is very scarce this month, owing to our regular reporter's interest in a new pile of books he has just received, and which fills his locker to capacity. He has also been seen sneaking away in the afternoon, accompanied by Signalman Stewart G. K. Are these worthy men getting themselves educated ? Yes, we think that must be the answer.

Mechanization has at last reached Fort Canning. We have been expecting it for some time now, but not quite in the form it has taken.

Beds.—Believe it or not, streamlined, spring, and black-enamelled. It was very noticeable during the first afternoon when the beds were available, that nobody was seen going to work. Indeed, many actually put in passes for the following morning, in order to try them out in real style.

On 22nd February we were visited by the football team from the Alexandra Detachment. Having been defeated by them during the previous week, we naturally had to see them off, and did we do it ? The score, my hearties, was 3—1, and had it not been for their goalie, Signalman Harris, it would have been 6—1 The match was played on the heights of Fort Canning, overlooking the beautiful China Sea. This may have been the reason for their defeat, for only Canning players, who are now used to the scenery, could keep their eyes on the game.

Departures.—Sapper Hill (Draughtsman attached), who has given much of his valuable time to the work in the office, has left us for the land of swamps and python. According to the latest reports, which have arrived by native runners, who had been travelling through the " jungle " for weeks, he has been seen wielding a pick and shovel on an island where, we understand, it is too hot even for the natives to work. We all wish him easy diggings.

Arrivals.—In Sapper Hill's place we have received Corporal Dengate, who has already endeared himself in the hearts of all men. Besides being an expert draughtsman, he has had extensive training in wielding the syphon. We hope that the beer here will agree with him, and trust he understands all about the striped tigers.

Congratulations.—To U/Lance Corporal Soppet on attaining that appointment. We hope that it did not cost him too much per round.

Passes.—Many folk we know at Fort Canning have been seen looking round the famous " Gammeters " watch shop. The reason seems to be obvious, because from 1st March our time for staying out at night has been reduced by one hour. Huge quantities of passes are now being indented for, so there is no likelihood of the famous Chop Joints, " Malaya," " Stamford " and " London," closing down through lack of trade. This arrangement is only in force for a short period, and those who like to hoard their money should take advantage of the opportunity.

And so, with a Malayan good-bye (Selamat Tinggal), we leave you.

RASOOL.

Alexandra Detachment.

These notes should really have been headed, " Through the eyes of a new-comer." The writer only arrived last month, so that any omissions should please be forgiven. (No cracks. I know where to find the Canteen !)

February, to a certain extent, has been an uneventful month. No boats—in or out—except the " Empress of Britain," so that any quips at this stage about airships and luxury liners for the trooping season 1945 are out of order.

Congratulations to Corporal " Blanco " White, senior, Lance Corporal Thompson D. and Lance Corporal Duckworth on reaching their rise in the world.

Condolences to Corporal " Ticky " Norton, who is resting in Tanglin Hospital.

Welcome to Sergeant Penny (O.R.S.) and Lance Corporal " Chippy " Wood, who arrived on Inter-Section posting from Changi, and to " Ticky's " car ! (It took " Chippy " and " Ticky " a week to buy it !)

We bid cheerio to Sergeant Roberts and Signalmen Tatham and Ansett, the " reliefs " to Changi.

Our best wishes to the Football Management : Allison (Sergeant Cook) and Chapman (Corporal Thompson) ; there's some good material hear to mould !

Congratulations to " Snaky " Howland, graduate of Peshawar University, on being seeded No. 1.

Our Annual Inspection by the G.O.C. took place on the 22nd and 24th. There were no complaints. In view of our good efforts, Saturday was declared a holiday. Nice work—or was it, Blanco ?

The mention of Saturday reminds us that if " Haggi " Gorman sees this, will he please write to Laker of this Unit explaining the point of the story concerning the man who couldn't wait for a hair cut ? He can't see it !

The Up-Grading Course continues. Next month we may be able to publish results, but at the moment our " would be Marconi's " listen very diligently whilst the Instructors do their stuff. It was ever thus, Pleavin !

Musketry for the casuals is well under way, and firing takes place next week. Who says a possible ? We have seen Johnston and Moir practising their muscle exercises with a Barron's bar-bell !

Our first impressions of this place include : the palm-fringed shore (you were right there, Tando !) ; the rain ; the wet welcome—capacity and frequency (sorry, Brack !) ; the rain ; the heat ; the meaning and the use of the word " Laggi " ; and the rain. From which readers will gather that it rains here.

C.Q.M.S. Kavanagh and a party of intrepid Malayan Signals are blazing the trail in far-off Penang. At one time, hats were raised whenever their names were mentioned, and thoughts of dense jungles flashed through our brains (?). A letter has since arrived from one of the party burbling about the Hotel Imperial ! What a blow to romance ! We hope, for the sake of Blanco, Junior, that the natives understand the meaning of " Laggi."

Our technical equipment has been augmented by the arrival of some Sets built a little later than 1926. They are still undergoing tests, and the I.M.s are investigating them from all angles. Remember, Bill, screwdrivers are barred !

Cricket.—The lads are still at the nets and Dick Funnell has the eye of a lynx.

Water Polo.—For this game we combine with the remainder of the Depots' area. We have five members in the team, and have played 4 and won 4 games.

Football.—League matches commence next week, and prospects are hopeful. Practice friendly games are in full swing.

v. R.E.s, Pulau Brani		Won 5—0
	(Duckworth 2, Parent 2, Funnell 1)	
v. R.A.M.C.	(Penman)	Drawn 1—1
v. R.E.s, Tanglin		Won 5—2
	(Laing 3, Lance Corporal Thompson 1, Harris 1)	
v. Fraser and Neaves	(Corporal Thompson)	Lost 1—3

Grips.—Grip No. 1 still holds pride of place as the most popular topic with the married men, and as the most unpopular with the single members. If that wish comes true, Taffy, we shall thank you !

TOMMIE.

Changi Detachment.

20th February.

General.—Here again is the Changi effort for the month. Although the normal daily routine still continues we think it is possible to register some idea of the Changi Detachment's activities for the " Domesday Book."

During the past month we have acquired a Morris " 8 " van and a 30-cwt. lorry to aid us in our search for that ever-elusive fault. It is indeed a pleasure to have our own transport, so that we do not have to rely on the local " breakdown " lorries in the Changi area. The prestige of Signals now runs high since the advent of these " luxuries," and, nowadays, linemen clamour for the outer defence sections of the town in order to enjoy the " springy motion." " It's nothing like a rickshaw " is the general opinion, but we think our " Steve " enjoys grooming the van just the same. " It's not like the old, old Army," he have heard him murmur.

We are still very busy, and with the enlargement of various parts of the garrison there is plenty of work in the offing. To prove this we ask our readers to step inside that mysterious den of ours known as the Signal Office and watch our experts at work. How Sergeant Gordon manages to keep cool without a fan is still a mystery and will remain so, but it still provides a source of discussion for the rest of the Section.

Congratulations.—This month to U/Lance Corporal Burge, our pancake expert, on reaching the first rung of the ladder. What will the Tonbridge locals say now, Bill ?

Movements.—We welcome Lance Sergeant Roberts, Signalmen Ansett and Tatham (our Steve) to our happy band. May they enjoy the Changi air and the luxuries of sea bathing.

Lance Sergeant Roberts has taken over wireless duties, and has proved that it is possible to get through by " stool pigeon " when necessary. Ansett and Tatham, who have taken over M.T. duties, are now picking out the tracks between the waving palms and the Malay Kampongs, and at the same time gathering information about the positions of cable markers.

Corporal Gatford is back again at Tekong and, according to the reports of the local Malays and bootboys, the messing seems to be suiting him. That just about covers our movements list for the month. We understand that Signalman " Soapy " Hudson is out on a Cook's tour on the " Moonshine," somewhere in the China seas.

Sport.—" In these we hope to excel." (Extract from Joe's life story.)

A General Section Meeting was cazlled on the 12th, and in response to the jungle telegraph, the strays of the detachment mounted their water buffaloes, rickshaws and elephants and galloped post haste to the bungalow for the purpose of discussing the vital sporting questions of the year.

The O.C. Detachment was responsible for some sound schemes, and it is to be hoped in the near future to justify his faith in our abilities in the world of sport. Every game was considered, and the captains of the various teams were elected. Lance Corporal Stoner, who collected the honours for swimming captain, is now busy with his wings and " bladders " on sticks training for a gala, which we hope to hold in the near future. ("Alex.," please note.)

We are now the proud owners of three boats—two pram dinghys and one nineteen-footer, recently bought by the Section. We are changing the gaff rig to Bermudian rig. " Popeyes " Burge, O'Callaghan and Fox brought it from Tekong on a jibsail, and rumour whispers that they raced the duty boat. No wonder the " Tombstone " is in dock !

Tennis is under the supervision of Signalman Darlow. We hear that he has already tested the wire fence round the courts in preparation for some really big events.

Lance Corporal Radford and his football committee have already made history by selecting a team that beat the bootboys and other Asiatics at Changi Village. The touch and goal lines were invisible, but this difficulty was easily surmounted by bribing the local fans to sit where the various lines should have been. Lance Sergeant Roberts, who was in charge of the game, was ably assisted by eight players from each side. (Good show, Signals !) In our next issue we expect to have a photograph of the eleven.

Diets.—Rather an unusual heading we know, but one of our N.C.O.s is now on an ice cream diet, much to the delight of the local " cold storage " people. Are we right in assuming that he will shortly be offered a post in the Company ? We hope it will be a directorship.

Agonies.—To 1837. " How about it ? Lofty, 1836."

Will " Duck " Lambert please report his reactions to the Hull population ?

And that, dear readers, concludes the observations by the scribe of Allsop fame.

SINGUP.

Blakang Mati and Pulau Brani Islands Area Detachment.

We welcome the arrival of Sergeant Taylor W. and family, and hope they will enjoy their stay.

The personnel of the detachments on Blakang Mati and Pulau Brani consists of : Sergeant Taylor, Corporal Keeling and five Signalmen, viz., Signalmen Sanderson, Ruddock, McLeod, Moffatt and Northall.

We are very busy at present (ex-P.B.s please note) with musketry. We held our annual cross-country run last week.

Things We Want to Know.—Who described the Blakang Mati Detachment as the " Isle of Banished Signalmen " ?

Who congratulated ex-Signalman Duckworth so enthusiastically on his first step up the ladder ?

Which Signalman saw four " Tong-Kangs " pushing the launch in front of them ?

Which N.C.O. built a wireless set, and, after searching the ether for five days, nearly blew up the exchange and fused all the lights, said, " Oh, it doesn't work " ?

We are sorry to relate that Signalman Sanderson could not go to Kuala Lumpur on the "Anderson." (Water transport don't supply wheels.)

Agony.—Lance Corporal Mitchell, alias Hutchinson. " What about it ? Never mind the stamp, Paddy."

Ode to Depot Battalion H.Q. by Paddy Ruddock : " Somewhere a voice is calling—Stocktaking next week."

To Jimmie Fraser in that Promised Land. " Have you washed them in the Jordan yet ? From Paddy Ruddock and Angus McLeod."

SANDY HAGGIS.

Malta Signal Section.

9th March.

Section News.—Were it not for promotions we should have little to record under this heading. We congratulate Lieutenant W. C. Ramsay on his second " Pip," and also Sergeant Freeman on his promotion to full rank.

Barracks.—During the past month we have, it is hoped, seen the last of the old pattern beds, for now we recline, more or less gracefully, on spring couches. Soldiers being what they are, it is perhaps natural that these new beds should be the object of much criticism. When an Australian visitor, last resident in St. Francis Barracks in 1902, expressed astonishment at the luxurious picture our rooms presented, we retired rather thoughtfully.

General.—Malta has been rather to the fore recently, on account of the recent Proclamation by His Excellency the Governor of the newly-granted Constitution. It seems that total self-government is the wish of the population, and the announcement of a compromise was accorded a mixed reception, which was quiet, and no untoward incident took place. The Carnival followed, but owing to the possibility of a postponement, the interest of those participating seemed to wane, and the affair was not the usual gala. Bad weather further damped the spirits of a crowd intent on gaiety.

SKIP.

THE TERRITORIALS AND SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE

42nd (East Lancs.) Divisional Signals.

Brooks Bar, Manchester.

16th March.

Regrets.—All ranks have missed the presence of our C.O (Lieutenant-Colonel C. B. Delaney), who has been ill and unable to be with us. We understand he is now recovering, and after a cruise will be with us again, we hope restored to full health. We wish you a speedy recovery, sir, and trust that it will not be long before you are back in our Office at H.Q.

Training.—This is, as usual, progressing steadily. Operators and Linemen have their respective nights for training, and the recruits carry out their preliminary training on Monday and Tuesday nights. By the time these notes are in print, Company training will have commenced, which means training by Sections. Many Sunday and week-end trainings have been arranged right up to camp.

Camp.—Everyone in the Unit is now looking forward very much to our annual training from 28th May to 11th June, at Halton, near Lancaster.

Divisional Dinner.—Fourteen officers of the Unit attended the Annual Dinner of the 42nd (E.L.) Divisional Dinner Club at the Midland Hotel, Manchester, on 10th March.

Officers' Dance.—On 18th February a most enjoyable dance was held in the Officers' Mess. There were over eighty present, and it was one of the most successful dances we have ever held. We congratulate our P.M.C., Captain T. A. H. Lea, M.M., and his worthy Secretary, Lieutenant J. L. Harrison, on their fine effort.

Assistant Adjutant.—Captain T. A. H. Lea, M.M., has been appointed Assistant Adjutant of the Unit as from 1st March.

Officers' Shooting.—On Friday, 3rd March, a return shoot on the Miniature Range against the officers of the 8th Battalion, Lancashire Fusiliers, was held. We regret to say we were again defeated by a narrow margin. After the shoot a "Hot Pot" was held at which Captain F. A. Walter presided. (The Mess Secretary attended this function incognito.)

Boxing.—Owing to the unfortunate absence of notes from the Officer i/c Boxing we are unable to give a report of the Divisional Boxing Championships, which were held on 10th February at the R.E.s' Headquarters, Manchester. We are very sorry to report that after holding the Beach Cup for the past two years, we failed by two points to win the Cup for the third year in succession. We wish the boxing team every success again next year, and also congratulate them on their very gallant efforts.

Despatch Riders.—Since our last notes the D.R.s have made wonderful progress, and the writer, who has the pleasure of looking after this Section, wishes to take this opportunity of thanking our Colonel (Lieutenant-Colonel C. B. Delaney) for his support and interest, and also the staff who have helped us to take part in many Trials in different parts of the country. The attendance at these Trials involves a good deal of detailed arrangements, and had it not been for the great assistance given to the D.R.s by the officers and staff we should never have been able to carry on. We thank you!

Colmore Cup.—Although this was an open competition, we decided to enter a team, who proceeded to Birmingham by motor cycle. Lieutenant J. L. Harrison kindly took the R.S.M. (Mr. Whittington) and Sergeant-Major Birchall there in his car. It had been arranged to meet at Birmingham, where the D.R.s had arranged accommodation for themselves. Unfortunately, we were late in leaving, and did not arrive in Birmingham until 12.30. Mr. Harrison greeted us at the hotel at which we had arranged to stay. We refrain from publishing his remarks!

Next morning we all set out for Stratford-on-Avon, reaching that place about 11 o'clock. It was a splendid sight to see the Army and T.A. riders who were taking part in this Trial. Secretly we hoped the team might do something, although we were not disappointed with the results as the enjoyment and experience was well worth the trip.

On our next trip we participated in the Northern England Royal Signals, T.A., Trial at Baslow. A party of twenty set off from H.Q. at 9.30, arriving at Baslow at 11 o'clock. This gave us sufficient time to have something to eat and look the machines over before the start at 12 noon. We actually entered four teams, each of four men, in the Trial organised by the 49th (W.R.) Divisional Signals, which were a great success. We left Baslow at 6 o'clock, everybody having thoroughly enjoyed themselves. When the results were received we found we had come in third, giving us four points to qualify towards the Annual Chellenge Trophy.

On Sunday, 12th March, we took part in a challenge scramble against the Stretford Motor Club at Mobberley. This was the first attempt of our D.R.s. The event consisted of eighteen heats, each of four laps. We entered two teams, A and B, each of six men, against the Stretford Motor Club, who put in one team. The course was held in a field which consisted of mud stretches, tricky bends, and very uneven ground. We had decided to enter this event in order to provide experience for our D.R.s, who put up a marvellous show, and we actually discovered that we had many star performers. Although we were beaten by the Stretford Motor Club, we were able to give them some good races. The weather was kind to us, and we had plenty of support from the officers—Major K. F. Woodham and Captain T. A. H. Lea, M.M., and Mrs. Lea were able to come along.

A.T.S.—This branch is now in full swing, and their numbers are increasing. It will not be long before they will have their full complement. Their drill night is on Friday, and our P.S.I.s are giving them every assistance.

43rd (Wessex) Divisional Signals.

Headquarters.

The Priory, Exeter.

15th March.

Editorial.—The months pass quickly and events crowd upon us at times. Each Company recently held a T.E.W.T. for their officers and senior N.C.O.s, and reports indicate that each was very instructive, and it is hoped that more of these Exercises will take place this year.

The Plymouth T.A. Officers' Ball, held at the Guildhall, Plymouth, was a complete success. This is an annual fixture, and it does much, not only in the way of introducing the T.A. to the civilian population, but it also affords an excellent opportunity for the Officers of the various Units in the area to meet each other. In Plymouth the Coast Defence and Field Force Units are about evenly divided, and it is not always easy to meet on common ground.

Our new Divisional Commander, Major-General Floyer-Acland, recently visited our Devon Companies' Drill Halls, and in the case of the Plymouth Drill Hall, appeared to be as dissatisfied with the premises as his predecessor.

Farewell.—Owing to ill-health, Major C. W. Knight has been compelled to relinquish the Adjutancy of this Unit. We are very sorry to say *au revoir* in such circumstances, and hasten to thank him for all he has done for the Unit during his stay. We sincerely hope that the rest he is taking will soon restore him to good health.

Welcome.—We extend a very warm welcome to Captain R. Webb on his appointment as Adjutant, and hope his tour will be a pleasant and happy one.

Strays.—In the counties of Hampshire and Devonshire, two well-known writers, who contributed under the pen names of "Begbie" and "Threecoy," and who, it is thought, are still answering to these names. We understand they were last seen on Company Exercises, possibly in disguise.

Will the finders kindly return them, in good health, to their respective Drill Halls?

MERCURY.

No. 1 (Plymouth) Company.

The Drill Hall, York Street, Devonport.

14th March.

Senior N.C.O.s' T.E.W.T.—An Exercise for the Sergeants and Lance Sergeants of the Company was conducted by the Company Commander on Sunday, 12th March, in the Plympton-Shaugh Bridge area, and proved both profitable and instructive. The Scheme covered the communications of a Division in a defensive position, which later developed into an advance, and the problems provided an admirable balance between the theoretical and practical. A noticeable feature was the spirited defence of the views put forward, which showed that people were thinking for themselves.

About lunch time it was discovered that the Division had conveniently advanced to the vicinity of the "White Thorn," Shaugh, which became a temporary H.Q. The landlord was very active!

The Exercise concluded with a surprise gas-practice, and a few short practical questions, all of which lent to the variety of the occasion.

The Company was very pleased to meet the new Adjutant, Captain R. Webb, who made his first appearance with No. 1 Company since his appointment, and we hope that his stay with us will be a very happy one.

At the same time we have to say good-bye to Major C. W. Knight, whose appointment as Adjutant to the Unit has now terminated officially. We regret that his illness has unfortunately prevented him from remaining for his full period of time with us, and hope that his extended sick leave will soon restore him to complete good health again.

Congratulations.—To 2nd Lieutenant R. D. Nash and Sergeant Blackaller R. C. on successfully passing their Gas Course, To U/Lance Corporal Travers on putting up the "tapes," and also on his success at the M.T. Drivers' Course at Bulford.

Congratulations also to R.S.M. Herbert A. F., formerly R.S.M. of this Unit, on his appointment as Lieutenant (T.M.O.).

T.A. Officers' Ball.—This function, which was held in the Plymouth Guildhall on 17th February, was very successful. The Signals were very pleased to welcome as their official guests Rear-Admiral A. N. Dowding, C.B., the Admiral Superintendent at Devonport, Major V. F. S. Hawkins, M.C., G.S.O.2, 43rd Division, and Mr. Palmer, editor-in-chief of the *Western Morning News*.

No. 3 Company was represented by Lieutenant W. S. G. Edgecumbe, and the officers of No. 1 Company present were: Major W. J. L. Cornelius, Lieutenants P. W. Shaw and G. K. S. Edwards, and 2nd Lieutenants R. D. Nash, R. W. Fennamore and A. L. Farr.

R. M. Sergeants' Ball.—Lieutenant G. K. S. Edwards, C.S.M. Gibbings, C.Q.M.S. Field and Sergeant Byfield all spent a very enjoyable evening as guests at the Royal Marine Sergeants' Ball, which was held in the Plymouth Guildhall on 28th February. Over 1,000 guests were present, but in spite of the huge crowd the arrangements were carried out in truly efficient manner The Company has many links with the Marines, and looks forward to being able to reciprocate their hospitality at some future date.

ONECOY.

THE SENIOR N.C.O.s T.E.W.T.

1. Where shall we put the Signal Office?
2. All working hard.
3. Major W. J. L. Cornelius hears some answers.

48th (South Midland) Divisional Signals.

Cateswell House, Hall Green, Birmingham 28.

14th March.

Officers' Supper to Sergeants' Mess.—This, the most eagerly looked forward to social event of the year, took place on Friday, 17th February, when the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel P. H. Jones, M.C., T.D., once again presided over a large gathering of nis officers, W.O.s and Sergeants. The guest of honour was the Hon. Colonel, Brigadier-General R. McCalmont, C.V.O., D.S.O.; the Rev. D. Barton, Chaplain to the Unit, was also among the guests.

The toasts of "The King" and "The Princess Royal" were proposed by the C.O. In his speech, the C.O. referred to the unfortunate likelihood that this would be the last time he would be present at the Supper in his present capacity, because of the reduction in the term for the tenure of command from four years to three years.

In a *resume* of the events of the past year, he recalled the success of the War Office Exercise in which the Unit took part during camp, and how sudden changes of plans had made it very difficult to complete the necessary organisation until a very short time before camp, when it became known that the Unit would be required to provide the whole instead of only a small part of the communications for the Scheme. In this connection, he also mentioned the work of Nos. 31 and 32 Wireless Companies, S.R., whose presence with us in camp had been very welcome. Then, shortly after our return to Birmingham, occurred the crisis week, and with it the formation of the A.T.S., which was now full and had a waiting list.

At present a new Territorial Unit—No. 2 Company, 4th Anti-Aircraft Divisional Signals—had just been formed, with its H.Q. at Wylde Green. The new Unit was under the command of Captain Killeen, who was formerly O.C. of our S.R. Company. This move had affected us to the extent of the transfer of the affiliated No. 228 Section and the formation of "H" Section for anti-tank formations.

As regards the future, the C.O. said that new vehicles and instruments had now arrived, and the accommodation problem had been eased by the building of temporary hutments, which would, he hoped, be replaced by permanent buildings by this time next year. It became very important now for all N.C.O.s to familiarise themselves with the care, maintenance and driving of the vehicles, and the knowledge of the Morse code, and he congratulated the following who had completed Instructors' Courses: C.S.M. Bright (P.A.D. Course), Sergeant Robson (Rifle Course), Sergeant Stanley, S.R. (Driving and Maintenance Course).

In recounting things in general, the C.O. bade a welcome to the new R.S.M., Mr. Offord, and also referred to the fact that the Unit was now not only up to strength, but well on the way to completing the permitted 20 per cent. excess. A total of fifty-five men had been transferred to the Regular Army during the year, but it was rather unfortunate that only three of these had chosen the Royal Corps of Signals.

Finally, in the midst of rumours of war, one thing was certain, that whilst no one wanted war, but if the worst came to the worst, no war was ever won by putting on gas masks and getting into a deep hole. "Learn your job, keep up to date, and pass on your knowledge and experience."

The Honorary Colonel, in his speech, endorsed what had been said about Camp Exercises, adding how impressed the Divisional Commander had been with the results, and this impression had gone a great deal further than the Division. The answer to the defeatist spirit which now seemed to prevail in the public mind was the spirit shown by the Territorial Army.

Replying to the C.O., R.S.M. Offord thanked him and the officers, on behalf of the W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess, for their hospitality and for creating this opportunity for an informal meeting of the officers and their N.C.O.s.

After the dinner there was an entertainment, in which the following took part: R.Q.M.S. Barlow R. F., Sergeant Ironmonger R., Mr. Val Lacey and Mr. Johnny James.

We extend a hearty welcome to ex-C.S.M. Renecle W. L., late Mobile Divisional Signals, who has arrived to perform the duties of C.Q.M.S. for No. 4 Company, A.F. Signals, S.R.

Despatch Riders' Notes.—During the month the D.R.s have continued busily in the Trials' Department. Two teams of four riders took part in the second of the Northern England Signals (T.A.) Trials Committee's Trials at Balsow, Derbyshire, on Sunday, 26th February, organised by the 49th Divisional Signals. Our "A" team, consisting of Lance Corporal Smith, Signalmen Darrell, Johnson and Dawes gained second place. Two teams were also entered for the Bemrose Trophy Trial in the same district, but found the eighty-mile course under bad weather conditions rather too much for them, and failed to have a complete team to finish the course.

On 26th March teams will again support the third of the T.S. Trials, this time organised by the North Midland Corps Signals near Derby. By this time we shall be getting used to the Derbyshire rocks!

Our own Trials in the series falls on 30th April, when, owing to the distance which most Units will have to travel to Birmingham, we shall hope to welcome those who arrive to stay over Saturday night to a social evening.

Camp.—It is now definitely known that the annual training will be held at West Runton, near Cromer. A welcome change from the usual Rhyl, Bulford, Weymouth cycle, and even from Budleigh Salterton.

GETCHER.

49th (West Riding) Divisional Signals.

Gibraltar Barracks, Leeds, 2.

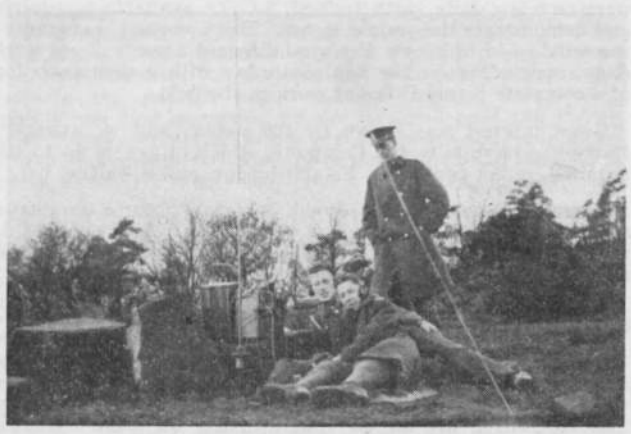
14th March.

General.—As usual, we find it hard to know where to start, as there doesn't seem to be very much to write about, but readers are welcome to the little there is.

Individual training continues to make good progress, with very good attendances by all ranks for classes. If we continue in this manner, there should be some good results to show for our trouble when the trade tests take place at the end of April.

Mingled with the I.T. is a spice of P.T., and our Demonstration Squad, practising for the eliminating rounds of the 49th Divisional Physical Training Competition to be held in these barracks on 23rd March, are shaping very well. The few who do turn up regularly are extremely fit and, as a class, work very well together. We wish them luck and success in the coming competition and hope to have good news for readers in the next batch of WIRE notes.

Riding up the third "Observed Section" of Riley's Rise. In background can be seen some typical country through which the course was made.



No. 1 Set W/T Detachment at our "Observed Section" at Riley's Rise working to H.Q. at Baslow, during the Motor-Cycle Trial.

On Thursday, 16th February, a party of old hands from the Unit assisted at various barracks and hospitals in Leeds for the "Leeds Hospital Day for War Patients." They acted as guides and were of help generally to the patients who were able to take part in the various smoking concerts and entertainments which took place. It is a safe bet that some "tall" stories were swopped.

Mainly About D.R.s.—On Sunday, 26th February, four teams of D.R.s from this Unit, and five W/T Detachments, went south to Baslow, near Chesterfield, Derbyshire, for the Despatch Riders' Motor Cycle Trial organised by this Unit.

The W/T Sections, who were placed at "Observed Sections," passed on the results, as and when they occurred, to "H.Q." at the Devonshire Arms, Baslow, while the D.R.s "saw the country" over a very well selected course.

Our teams, unfortunately, did not finish first, owing to an accident to the foot brake of one of our star riders, but congratulations are tendered to Signalman Whitehead A., of this Unit, who won the place of honour for "Individuals," finishing an easy first with the loss of only a few points. Well done! Congratulations would not be out of place to Lieutenant N. E. Dixon of this Unit, who organised the whole show so well.

Apart from a few showers of sleet, rain and occasional snow (!) a good day was enjoyed by all.

Arrivals.—To Lance Sergeant and Mrs. Wrighton A. C., a son, born at Leeds on 24th January. Congratulations!

Departures.—Sergeant H. Benson (P.S.I.) left us for his new duties with the recently-formed 2nd A.A. Divisional Signals. He is taking over the duties of P.S.I. with the local Leeds Company.

Sergeant Theobald L., (No. 3 Company), on transfer to the S.R.s, and taking over his new duties with the Bradford Company of his new Unit. Good luck to them both!

Recruiting.—Recruiting goes on apace with an ever-increasing queue of would-be members of the Unit outside the office door every Tuesday and Thursday night. In the last few weeks twenty-five new recruits have been finally approved and have commenced their training with the I.T. Classes.

Promotions.—Congratulations to Corporal Fielding G. (P.S.) on his appointment to Lance Sergeant; also to Signalman McGee G. W. on reaching the first step of the ladder and obtaining his "dog's leg."

W.A.T.S.—A new Company (the 20th West Riding Company) of the Auxiliary Territorial Service has been formed in Leeds, with their present headquarters situated in Gibraltar Barracks. At present they have only one drill night a week—on Mondays—when they have a spell of P.T., lectures and drill, under our R.S.M. It's a bit tough telling the ladies to keep their chests up and their "tummies" in, isn't it, sir? But, as he said last week, "I'll make a man of you yet." Ha!

It is hoped in the near future to get them to write a few lines for inclusion in the WIRE, as we note it is the fashion in some "Plain Tale" places. Up to now we haven't got any flowes on the table, but—you never know!

Sergeants' Mess.—During the last month three very enjoyable functions were held in the Mess. On Wednesday, 15th February, "A" Division, Leeds Police, were entertained to a Games Tournament, which included snooker, darts and dominoes. There were not too many members of the Force present, as we understand that many of the "regular" customers were incapacitated by 'flu. The games finished even, although in fairness to the Police we must say the first dominoes match was wangled between the R.S.M. and Charlie (Curly Top) Cummings. (5th Divisional Signals, please note!)

After the games an impromptu concert was arranged by members of the Police, and the Mess provided a "turn," too.

On Sunday, 12th February, and again on Sunday, 5th March, two very enjoyable entertainments were held in the Mess, at which excellent concerts were provided. Unfortunately, not a great number of Mess members attend these functions and we should like to take this opportunity of reminding Mess members that these concerts are held for their benefit; so do please make an effort and turn up in good numbers to enjoy the fun.

The Mess Annual Dinner takes place on 18th March, and approximately 100 guests are expected.

FOUR AND NINE

Air Formation Signals, S.R.

Gibraltar Barracks, Leeds, 2.

15th March.

New Arrivals.—We welcome 2nd Lieutenants F. H. Gates and E. T. Davis to Headquarters from "Not in Units" with effect from 28th January, and hope they will soon settle down with the Unit.

Promotions.—Many will be pleased to hear that the Commanding Officer has been promoted to Brevet Colonel with effect from 1st January. We understand that this is his third Brevet promotion, which surely must be a unique record. It is, therefore, with great pleasure that we offer our congratulations.

Courses.—The thirteen young officers have returned from their Special Course at the S.T.C., Catterick Camp. We hope that they enjoyed their brief stay, and found the Course very interesting. Judging from casual remarks which have been passed, there is general regret that the Course was so short.

R.S.M. Chadney V. attended a Maintenance of Small Arms Course at the Military College of Science, Woolwich, from 6th to 10th February, inclusive, and has upheld the honour of the Unit.

Medals.—We congratulate the following on being awarded the Efficiency Medal: C.S.M. Hartley F., C.Q.M.S. Heptonstall A., Lance Sergeant Dews A., Corporal Smith S., Signalmen Garth C., Gavins R. R., Jackson A., Baker A. E.; and also Corporal Rooke J. W. on the award of a clasp to the Efficiency Medal.

Opening of Barracks at Bradford.—The official opening of No. 5 Group Signal Company's Barracks at 10, Currer Street, Bradford, was held on 3rd March. The Lord and Lady Mayoress of Bradford, Major-General P. J. Mackesy, C.B., D.S.O., M.C., Canon C. W. Mowll, and a good attendance of distinguished civic and military guests were present at this ceremony.

What a transformation had been effected in a building which had been taken over as a warehouse! The grime and squalor had gone, and the palatial appearance paid tribute to the staff, who had put in so many hours of hard work. Signalman Hartley, in particular, is to be congratulated for his excellent work, which was greatly admired.

Individual Training.—The Sunday attendance at barracks is very good, and a great keenness is shown by everyone to become as efficient as possible, and ready for the Trade Boards that assemble at the end of April. We hope that the results will be a credit to both the instructors and instructed.

Entertainments.—Nil this month as the recent antics of a certain member of the Staff on an icy road were not witnessed!

A. F. S.

51st (Highland) Divisional Signals.

No. 1 Company.

Fonthill Barracks, Aberdeen.

March.

Recruiting.—During the past week, Aberdeen has held its "Recruiting Week," and the results were far above expectations. About 1,000 men and 200 women were enrolled during the week, which brought all Units, with the exception of the R.A.M.C., up to their full strength. As we were nearly up to full strength at the commencement of the campaign, we were in a position to concentrate on skilled men, and were exceedingly fortunate in obtaining some good recruits. To all those lads who have recently joined the Unit, we extend a friendly hand of welcome, and hope they will have many happy years with 51st (Highland) Divisional Signals.

On Wednesday, 8th March, a recruiting march was held through the main thoroughfares of Aberdeen. All T.A. Units and the A.T.S. were represented in a most spectacular parade. This Unit also provided two wireless cars to maintain communication from front to rear of the column, in order to regulate the march. This was the tit-bit of the evening and has given rise to favourable newspaper comment.

Training.—Considerable interest is still being maintained in the P.A.D. training, which takes place every Tuesday evening, and this week two demonstration films are being shown in the Drill Hall.

Boxing.—Congratulations are extended to Signalmen Smith and Graham of this Company, who were selected to represent the Scottish Command at the Territorial Army Championships held at the Albert Hall, London, during the first week of March. Signalman Graham did extraordinarily well in getting into the final, but was unlucky to lose by the deciding vote. Signalman Smith did not do so well, losing on points in the first round. However, better luck next time.

Signalmen Graham, Smith, Henderson, Jeffrey, McConochie, Brebner and Laing were chosen to represent the Company against the Brechin Amateur Boxing Club at the Town Hall, Stonehaven, on Friday, 10th March. After a most successful and exciting evening, we managed to run out winners by three wins, two draws and two losses. In the return match, we are hoping to put up an even better show.

We are pleased to include notes from our attached A.T.S. Unit, and hope they will continue to contribute to the monthly journal.

ONECOY.

No. 2 Company.

Goosecroft, Stirling.

14th March.

General.—Since our last notes we have been trying to show the local population how interesting National Service can be, especially in the Territorial Army. We have had a Territorial Recruiting Week, then an Operators' Course for the recruits, and, finally, our Annual Dance to prove that the Army is not all work.

Recruiting Week.—A Recruiting Week was organised by the Stirlingshire Territorial Army Association from the 11th to 18th February, in order to attract recruits for the R.A.O.C., 7th Battalion A. & S.H., the Women's A.T.S., and ourselves.

A shop (which will soon be a Regular Recruiting Depot) was borrowed for the week, and attractive displays of equipment were on view daily, with trained N.C.O.s available to explain and demonstrate the various items. This Company was granted one window in which we displayed different aspects of our work daily, concluding on the final Saturday with a demonstration of a complete Signal Office at work in the field.

Great interest was shown by the public, and we attracted thirty-five recruits to the Company, which brings us up to the required 20 per cent. over Establishment, and a waiting list.

Operators' Course.—Our second Operators' Course terminates to-night with a Trade Board, at which twenty men are seeking ratings or higher ratings. Judging by the preliminary test, they should all have a good chance.

The recruits have been on a Thirty-hour Course just to get an insight into Signals and how they work.

Company Annual Dance.—A very successful dance was held in the Drill Hall on Friday, 10th March, when a company of 350 attended to witness the social life of the Territorial Army. The committee are to be congratulated on their excellent arrangements, and we trust that they will do as well in the future.

Among those present were: Colonel E. Birnie Reid (C.O.), Lieutenant-Colonel T. P. E. Murray, Lieutenant-Colonel C. Wheeler (C.S.O.), Captain E. J. F. Heap (Adjutant), Captain J. Wood (O.C., No. 3 Company), with their ladies, and a number of notabilities from Stirling and district.

Recruit Training.—Recruit training, under Sergeant Campbell A., Depot, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, commences on Tuesday, 21st March. This year we are departing from our normal routine, and on each training night only one hour will be devoted to drill and weapon training. The second hour will be devoted to technical training, consisting of a short lecture, to be given in turn by officers and N.C.O.s of the Company, and then buzzer reading. In this way we hope to have some more men for a trade test in May, as these recruits have already had a 30-hour Operators' Course.

Sergeants' Mess.—The only increase in the social activities of the Mess is the formation of a darts team, and many challenges have been received. So far, one match has been won and one lost.

TWUCO.

No. 3 Company.

Kirkcaldy.

General.—The social season, as far as this Company is concerned, is now over. It was brought to a conclusion with our Annual Whist Drive, Supper and Dance. This function was attended by about 150 people and was voted a great success. The committee had worked hard in transforming the Drill Hall from its usual sombre appearance into a bright-looking and cheerful dance hall.

We welcomed our Adjutant, Captain E. J. F. Heap, and Mrs. Heap, R.S.M. and Mrs. Lewis from Aberdeen, and Lieutenant Muirhead, C.S.M. Todd and Sergeant Beveridge from Stirling. Our Commanding Officer and other officers from Aberdeen and Stirling were, unfortunately, prevented from attending, but a "greetings" telegram from Colonel E. Birnie Reid was read to the revellers during the interval. The whist, domino, spot waltz and lucky numbers prizes were won, as they should have been, in equal proportion by members of the Company and their friends, and Mrs. Heap very kindly presented them. Lieutenant A. Fraser gets full marks as a director of novelty spot waltzes.

Training.—Company training commences this week with a Sound Film Display, which is very kindly being given to all Units in Kirkcaldy by O.C., "C" Company, 6/7th Battalion, Black Watch. The films to be exhibited are: "Defence Against Gas," "First Aid," and "Maintenance of M.T. Vehicles." No doubt a lot will be learned and many lectures and demonstrations saved.

Recruit training has already commenced, and the new-comers are making splendid progress. Keep it up, lads, and you will be the best ever!

Recruiting.—We are up to Establishment at last and extend a welcoming hand to those who have recently joined. We can still accept a few more recruits to cover the 20 per cent. allowed over Establishment, so carry on the good work, chaps, and complete the number before Section training commences. Don't forget that recruiting prize! We still need the P.A.D. clerk who was mentioned in our previous notes and, judging by future requirements, he should be in possession of all the qualifications that were mentioned, plus a few Varsity degrees!

Sport.—Congratulations to No. 1 Company on getting some of their boxers through to the championships held in London; we hope they were successful in bringing home a title or two.

Our Badminton Club held its own at the bottom of the league table, but has gained experience in its first venture into outside competitions. They hope to do better next season and are sure there is some talent among the recruits.

The first Inter-Company Shoot was held last week. We are not putting up as good a show as usual, for the crack shots seem to be shy. There is still time and a few "possibles" will soon put us in the running.

Courses.—C.S.M. Davidson A. and Lance Sergeant Coull R. have just returned from Courses of Instruction in Passive Air Defence, and Drill and Weapon Training, respectively. The knowledge they have obtained about the new Field Drill, Anti-Tank Rifle, Demolition and Decontamination, etc., will be eagerly sought after during the coming season, so they had better be prepared for a busy time.

Conclusion.—Is there any member of the Company willing to relieve the P.S.I. of the unpaid job of Company WIRE correspondent? If more than one member applies, the vacancy will be made competitive—and I shall have a fit!

THREECOY.

13th (City of Aberdeen) Company, A.T.S.

Officially our life begun on 7th February, and we think we've shaped rather well during our short existence. We make no apology for such conceit, since all the credit goes to our inspiring officer, Deputy-Commander Esslemont. With the example of such efficiency and charm at the head, surely we cannot do less than turn out the best Company in our Shire.

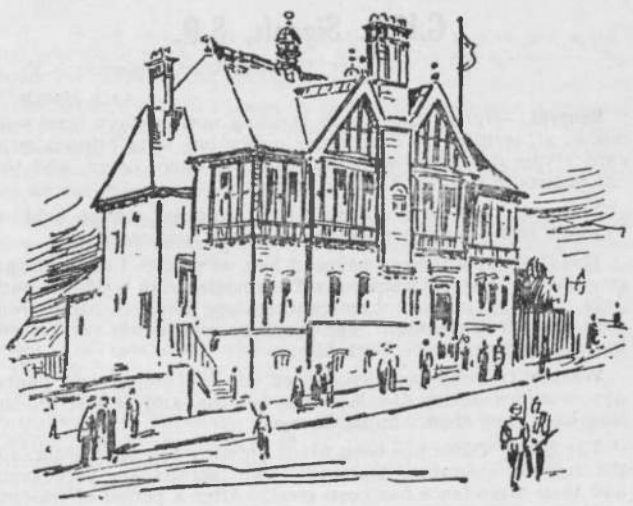
Altogether we are very privileged and spoiled. We were given a delightful room with a red carpet and two fires; unfortunately the roof is to be taken off, and it is doubtful whether the walls will be left standing.

Twenty-five maidenly hearts fluttered with apprehension on our first drill night. Sergeant-Majors, we had heard, were beings to be dreaded. Would we female interlopers be very intolerantly dealt with? R.S.M. Lewis made us hastily revise our impressions, and we were amazed to find that we actually enjoyed every moment of the drill. The standard demanded seemed high, but the methods were so irresistibly persuasive that we could not but respond enthusiastically. Is it possible that all Sergeant-Majors possess such a gift for creating poise, confidence and alertness in the fair sex?

We hope we were considered an adornment in the Territorial Parade last week. For our part, we were very happy, wedged securely between an ambulance and a pipe band. The comments of spectators, at least those which floated to our ears above the sound of the drums, etc., were, fortunately, more complimentary than otherwise. Only uniforms were lacking to make our bliss complete, although the sky-blue arm-bands did add colour to the spectacle. (Incidentally, the supper provided afterwards left nothing to be desired.)

A friend of one of our members is reported to have said: "It is doubtful if your gallant Company will ever gain distinction by stamping ration cards and issuing slops, but one never knows." The modesty of the last alone saves his unworthy life, so for the present he will be permitted to survive; one comfort lies in the consideration that some day he will certainly choke when swallowing his words.

SIGNALIA.



52nd (Lowland) Divisional Signals.

21, Jardine Street, Glasgow, N.W.

15th March.

Last time the writer grumbled about the short month of February, but, so far as this Unit is concerned, this period was not so bad after all. Courses, which have been so well attended throughout the season, have maintained their high standard and, in addition, a new Course for N.C.O.s and prospective N.C.O.s has been started, and is proving a great success. Recruiting, too, has been quite good this past month, and we are the proud possessors of a good number of D.R.s now. This, however, must not be taken to mean that there are no vacancies; indeed, there are plenty, and it is up to each member of the Unit to do his best to enable the writer truthfully to say, "We are BUNG FULL." Cooks are urgently needed before camp, and this deserves, nay, necessitates, real attention.

Talking about achievements, it is with pleasure that we see the new entrance to the parade ground nearing completion, and if what we hear is true, then some of next year's income tax will be spent on our building to make it more commodious. This probably means that each Section will have its own room for training and stores (subject to locks, etc., being satisfactory). We also note, with pleasure, that after several efforts, the new and imposing wireless mast has been successfully erected, and it actually works.

We did note, with some surprise, that an attempt appears to have been made, with partial success, to remove the Drill Hall door, which has slid smoothly for so many years. Fortunately, the transport was not quite heavy enough, so that the door still remains, in part if not in its entirety.

Now we must turn to the more serious subject of training and consider future events. We understand that No. 3 Company's P.S.I. has already got "cold feet" about the September manœuvres, and it seems certain that Lieutenant Graham's hair will soon go grey. Summer training begins early in April, and it won't be long now before uniforms are again the order of the day. With regard to the W.A.T.S., who are attached to us, it is feared that we shall not have them in camp with us this year.

We have to congratulate Corporal Skilling on obtaining a "D" on a M.T. Course, and Lance-Corporal Tunnoch on doing likewise on a Passive Air Defence Course. We hope Lance Sergeant Fisher is doing good work and enjoying himself at the Gas School, Tregantle, Plymouth. We are confident about the results of his Course.

We understand that the Sergeants had a well attended Theatre and Supper night. We are now looking forward to the Corporals' Dance at the end of the month.

Agony.—"Congratulations to Robbo. How about a line? Sandy."

KAY.

G.H.Q. Signals, S.R.

21, Jardine Street, Glasgow, N.W.

11th March.

General.—During the month training notices have been sent out to all members. This year's notice has been printed on a card giving details of week-end camps, annual camp, and the obligations of trained men and recruits.

Training commences on 4th April. Parades will be held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings until the July camp.

The Unit, with the exception of Nos. 51 and 52 Line Sections, is going to Barry Camp near Carnoustie from 15th to 29th July. Nos. 51 and 52 Line Sections are going to camp from 10th to 24th September. The exact location is not yet known, but it is believed to be Yorkshire.

Weapon training has been carried out on Tuesday and Thursday evenings during the last two months, and almost all the men have fired their Annual Course.

The Signal Office has been fitted up with two teleprinters for the recruits voluntary training. The recruits are very keen, and their attendance has been good. After a period of training at the head Post Office in Glasgow, which is done in their spare time, they are trained at Jardine Street in the Army method of despatching messages *via* the teleprinter.

The Linemen's Course finishes on Thursday, 16th March, and some good results are hoped for at the Trade Board.

Social.—A Theatre, Supper and Dance is being held on 21st April by the Sergeants' Mess, and 174 tickets have been reserved for the Empire Theatre. It is anticipated that these tickets will be in great demand as the show is "Band Waggon" and everyone will be wanting to see "Big-hearted Arthur" and "Stinker" in person, irrespective of what Mr. Walker wants to know.

Sports.—The Unit badminton team have now reached the final of the Scottish Command Badminton Tournament, after beating the 80th Field Brigade, R.A., T.A., in the semi-final. This was the hardest match we have yet played, and the issue was in doubt right up to the last game, when the score stood at four all. However, our first pair pulled the game out of the bag to win the rubber at 5—4. It was a great night and our opponents were the first to congratulate us on the victory, and to wish us luck in the final. In next month's notes we hope to print the good news that the Cup is in our possession for the first time, and once in our keeping we intend to make it a permanent fixture.

A circular has been sent to all ranks regarding particulars of the games and sports in which they are interested. According to the replies received we should be able to start a really good sports club that will cater for almost every branch of sport.

Conclusion.—The writer notes with pleasure that the good old custom of burning the old grey mare at Tientsin was celebrated during Christmas, 1938.

TICH.

Nos. 31 and 32 Wireless Sections, G.H.Q. Signals, Coventry.

"Melford," Warwick Road, Coventry.

15th March.

General.—Activities in the Unit during the past month have been very slow but, nevertheless, things are moving, and certain rumours are rife regarding annual training this year. Arguments can be heard in the Club Room each evening extolling the beauties and advantages of Scottish seaside resorts and the Yorkshire moors. We wonder if the Yorkshiremen are really so keen to experience the exhilarating effects and the cold, rugged beauty of their moors. However, more of this anon.

Congratulations.—Again hearty congratulations to Signalman Riley W. on being selected to play for Warwickshire County in the finals of the County Championships against Somersetshire at Weston on Saturday, 11th March. Well done, Bill! Even if you do retire from "ruggah" this year, we think you will have had a very successful season for your last. What are you doing with your caps?

Social.—A very pleasant and congenial evening was spent on Friday, 3rd March, with the members of No. 7 Branch of the British Legion, who were "At Home" to the members of these two Sections. Naturally, the predominating game was darts, at which our team put up a very creditable performance against some very skilful throwers. It is sad to record that we lost in the final and deciding game, although our representatives, namely, Lance Corporals Farrimond and Fish, certainly threw a very "nifty" arrow. This may have been because the audience were new to them, and the quantity of "Mild" was insufficient to offset the attack of stage fright. We shall have to go into training and acquire that "big match" temperament!

Enlistments.—We welcome Signalmen Foden, Piggott, Pitham and Scott to the fold. May their stay be pleasant and beneficial; there's nothing like the Scottish seaside and the moors to keep you fit.

G. E. C. O.

53rd (Welsh) Divisional Signals.

14th March.

It is good once again to be able to enter the Drill Hall without running the risk of dislodging iron girders and tons of bricks. The contractors have completed the widening of the entrance, which can now accommodate any vehicle.

Individual training continues until the end of March, but on 14th April, Sections will be taken over by their respective Section Officers until annual training in July/August. Annual training this year will be carried out at Locking, near Weston-super-Mare, during the period 30th July to 13th August.

With the influx of so many recruits, it is not surprising that, already, the chief topic of conversation is camp. A good deal of hard work, however, remains to be done before then, but we have the material and officers, W.O.s and N.C.O.s are tackling the training with their usual enthusiasm.

The W.O.s and N.C.O.s held their St. David's Day Dance on 1st March. Lieutenant-Colonel W. G. Trice, Majors V. W. and W. R. Hawkins, and many other officers and their ladies were present. A welcome guest was Lieutenant-Colonel G. J. M. Peel, M.B.E., T.D., and Mrs. Peel.

The Drill Hall presented a colourful spectacle, and, with over two hundred present, the fun waxed fast and furious. Paper hats and novelties were distributed during the evening, and it was with a feeling of regret that at 2 a.m. it was necessary to call it a day. It was a successful occasion, and the President and Committee of the W.O.s and N.C.O.s' Mess are to be congratulated on maintaining the high standard which we have come to expect.

The Unit Football Club are holding a dance on 17th March, and from what we hear, they are out to wrest the laurels from the W.O.s and N.C.O.s. They are certain to have a really good show.

The team has had a successful season, their position at the moment being fourth in the Cardiff and District League. Only one match has been lost this year.

Major V. W. Hawkins presented the whist prizes during the final social evening of the season at the W.O.s and N.C.O.s' Mess on 4th March. These evenings have been so successful that married W.O.s and N.C.O.s have, we understand, been encouraged by their wives to spend more time in the Mess because it has such a good influence on them.

The W.O.s and N.C.O.s are meeting the "Canteen" in a Games Tournament in the nexr future. The Canteen Committee is to be admired for their enterprise. Nothing is too hot or too heavy for them.

Practice for the Whitsuntide Shooting Competitions at Porthcawl commenced on Sunday, 12th March, when the three Companies had a trial run at that Range. Remarkable results were attained in certain cases by recruits who, until a few weeks ago, had not previously handled a rifle.

Congratulations.—To C.Q.M.S. Goble F. R., of No. 3 Company, on obtaining a year's extension as P.S.I. with this Unit.

THE LEEK.

54th (East Anglian) Divisional Signals.

Bay Lodge, The Green, Stratford, London, E.5.

March.

No. 1 Company.

A deep depression from Grimsby is at present hanging over the Company Office, but we hope that the latest activities in the Walham Green area will bring this period of mourning to a close.

Recruiting has progressed to such an extent of late that separate drill nights for recruits have been arranged. It seems that a quick move to those new Headquarters we hear so much about would be most desirable.

As already reported in other columns, Sergeant Hooker J. has left us and we wish him all the best in his new role of C.Q.M.S., No. 3 Company. At least he will still be amongst friends.

The first of the Paid Classes is drawing to a close and those who have listened to words of wisdom from their instructors are eagerly awaiting the Trade Board, in the hope of an increase in pay. Another Course will commence immediately afterwards, so that if at first you don't succeed, then we'll give you another chance, lads!

One absentee from these classes has been Lance Sergeant Morris, who has been on a Course of Fire Fighting. If at any time we should catch fire, we shall just send for Fireman Joe. Have you got that helmet yet, Joe?

It is regretted that the following were not mentioned in last month's issue of the WIRE: Signalmen Colman and Lewis. Both of them put up very good fights, in each case losing by a small margin of points.

Promotions are usually the signal for the killing of the proverbial fatted calves, accompanied by great rejoicings, but our latest ration of promotion beer lacked those delights. It is with a heavy heart and an eye to the future that we announce the promotion of Sergeant Hooker, who becomes C.Q.M.S., No. 3 Company. These additional duties make it impossible for our new "Quarter-bloke" to combine two jobs, and he has therefore been forced to hand over the reins of Bar Steward, a position he has filled with a success that none can deny.

A Mess without Jim behind the bar to furnish our wants and to provide those snacks on Mess nights, and that rum punch when it is cold, will seem a strange place. Whenever something unusual has turned up, Sergeant Hooker has always "come up to scratch" and carried out the job in such an unobtrusive manner that we are ready to forgive those who may have taken things for granted. Whoever carries on the duties of Bar Steward will be glad to know that Jim will be lurking in the background ready to give a helping hand and put us back on the right road when we stray. We also have a warm word of thanks for Mrs. Hooker, if it's only for cutting our sandwiches—one of many things for which we are grateful.

On 3rd March a small party from the Mess journeyed to the Albert Hall to witness the Army and T.A. Individual Boxing Championships. An excellent entertainment was enjoyed, despite the fact that the "Div." handed over the Scarborough Cup to the London "Div."

Should any of our readers wish to "shake a foot," we shall be pleased to entertain them as C.S.M. Amor has been busy arranging dances at these Headquarters.

Indian Mail.—We are just getting our racquets out, Fred, so what about it?

Sergeants' Mess.

The absence of our notes of late signifies that there is a lack of news, and also emphasises the old maxim "Business as usual." The Paid Classes, which are drawing to a close, are keeping all members busy in an endeavour to pass on their wisdom to a host of our recruits. One very important event of late in this Mess has been the purchase of modern streamlined glasses for our "Night Starvation Banishers." As one observer said, "When you think you've got a little, you've got a lot; and when you think you've got a lot, you've got a little." (No prizes for guessing the speaker's name.)

On Saturday, 18th February, two of our members journeyed to H.Q., London Corps of Signals, Putney, for the annual W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess Dinner. These two travellers, Sergeants Messenger and Cook, would like to thank their hosts for an excellent evening.

On Friday, 24th February, following the C.O.'s lecture, the Mess members present had the pleasure of entertaining the 13th Essex A.T.S., who are attached to this Unit. The darts board seemed the chief attraction of the evening, but in the case of this ancient pastime, we forgot the old maxim "Ladies first." C.S.M. Warner refused to be "talked off" by feminine wiles, and succeeded where others had failed. Did we hear "Chippy" say, "Nice work, Mum?"

Our reputation as perfect hosts is known far and wide, but on Saturday, 25th February, the occasion of a darts match with the Leyton A.R.P., we surpassed all previous efforts, when they arrived two months too early for the match. Some said it was a clerical error!

We were fortunate in obtaining a team from the O.C.A., but we forgot our role as perfect hosts and allowed our guests to pay for the "sherbert." Once more C.S.M. Warner finished it off; without him we should probably still be playing.

2nd Anti-Aircraft Divisional Signals.

Drill Hall, Derby Road, Nottingham.

11th March.

Introduction.—As with a stranger joining a party of friends, it is first necessary for us to introduce ourselves, with the hope that we shall soon be absorbed into the comradeship of our older established Units, and for a time our notes must, of necessity, be in the form of a "Progress Report." Later we hope to write something of our social activities. As most readers know, the raising of four Anti-Aircraft Divisions was authorised as from 2nd January. With the raising of these Divisions, new Signal Units came into existence, of which this Unit is one.

Command.—The Unit is commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel I. W. Nicholson, ably assisted by Major W. H. Arnold and Captain C. F. W. Haseldine as O.C., No. 1 Company here in Nottingham, and Major C. R. Millen, M.C., as O.C. No. 2 Company at Rotherham.

Recruiting.—No. 2 Company is still in its early stages, and is split up with Sections at Rotherham, Leeds, Sheffield and Hull. Reports from these Sections show that recruits are coming in slowly, the biggest handicap being the lack of suitable accommodation. In due course, however, each Company will have its own Drill Hall. We are receiving a very fine type of recruit, our sources of supply being Post Offices, Banks, Insurance Companies, and electrical firms.

The honour of being the first other rank to join the Unit goes to H. A. Pilgrim, who is shortly to be promoted to C.Q.M.S., No. 1 Company. The date of his attestation was 24th January, 1939.

Since 24th January there has been a steady flow of recruits to be attested. At the time of writing, our strength is eighty-seven other ranks. There is still accommodation for the right type of man. (Keyboard Operators and Linemen are required.)

Permanent Staff.—As Adjutant, we have Captain D. White, who was posted to this Unit on 2nd January, and on whose shoulders has fallen the heaviest responsibility in connection with the raising and organisation of the Unit. We understand that Captain White now knows the correct distances between Nottingham, Leeds, Sheffield, Rotherham and Hull. This knowledge has only been acquired after numerous rejections by the Paymaster of his travelling claims. At the time of writing he is still waiting (and hoping) for his initial claim for the journeys made in January to be paid. The wheels of authority do grind slowly! So far, we have not dared to shock the P.M. with the C.O.'s travelling claims. These are to come (we hope).

As R.S.M., we have A/R.S.M. Gavey G., formerly of Peshawar District Signals. The P.S.I. of No. 1 Company is Sergeant (T/C.S.M.) Hinds W. H., formerly of the Training Battalion, Catterick Camp, and at Leeds we have T/C.S.M. Benson H., who came from 49th Divisional Signals. We still require another P.S.I. for No. 2 Company at Rotherham, Yorkshire.

Our Orderly-Room Clerk is Mr. William Reed (shortly to be Orderly-Room Sergeant). Mr. Reed served with the Sherwood Foresters, Notts and Derby Regiment, 1915-1917; the R.A.S.C. Supply Section, 1917-1918; and in 1919 was attached to the War Office, Q.M.G. Accounts, No. 6 Dept. He holds the Meritorious Service Medal.

This completes our staff, except for the Quartermaster. We expect he will be a well known P.S.I. who is now a member of the North Midland Corps Signals.

Accommodation.—At present there is very little, for we share the Drill Hall here in Nottingham with six other Units, our immediate neighbours being the Sherwood Foresters ("Robin Hoods"). On drill nights (Tuesdays and Thursdays) the N.C.O.s have a shouting contest with an Artillery Unit, who use the same Drill Hall, which is partitioned midway by a curtain. This is not ideal conditions in which to instruct young N.C.O.s, and train a new Unit in elementary drill. This will be remedied in good time, when we move into a new Drill Hall at Triumph Road, Nottingham. Until then No. 1 Company is to shortly occupy temporary headquarters at Redoubt Street, Radford, Nottingham.

Training.—A still greater handicap in these early stages is the lack of lecture rooms, for although we are still awaiting the technical equipment, there are numerous subjects to be taught in connection with communications for an A.A. Division.

If our readers have been bored with a perusal of these notes, resembling a "Progress Report," we ask their indulgence, and hope that later we shall write of more interesting events, in particular the social and sport side.

G. G.

1st Cadet Signal Company (Haberdashers' School).

15th March.

Officers.—We welcome Mr. W. E. Henwood, a member of the School staff, who has been appointed Cadet 2nd Lieutenant for service with this Unit. Mr. Henwood has been honorary anti-gas instructor to the Unit since 1936.

Promotions to Cadet Rank.—To be Sergeant: Lance Sergeant Bayliss A. J. To be Lance Sergants: Corporals Innocenti S. R., and Mordant D. F. To be Corporals: Lance Corporals Bowen J. P., Tomlinson E. P. and Trent P. T. Appointed Lance Corporals: Anderson A. R., Dashfield D. C., Elgar J. D., McOmie J. F., Pointing J. and Werren K. M.

Certificate "A" Examination.—The following Cadets passed the Part I (Practical) Section of this examination on 23rd February: Bailey D. E., Hurt R. W., Kevan D. F., McOmie J. F., Monnickendam D. I., Schen R. J., Tomlinson E. P. and Werren K. M.

Field Day.—The following account of a recent whole day's training is contributed by two members of the Unit: For a field day, held on 1st March, the weather most fortunately was fine. In the morning a small Infantry Scheme was held over Copthall Fields, Mill Hill (by kind permission of the Hendon Borough Council), which made an interesting change from normal signal training.

We were told that enemy troop-carrying planes had landed part of an invading force which we, as the nearest available troops, were being called out to repulse. Having marched out of our "Depot" at Chase Lodge (where the School playing fields are), we soon reached the area and immediately made contact with the enemy. Duly deployed, the three Platoons, commanded by senior cadet N.C.O.s (with Certificate "A" candidates acting as Section Commanders), advanced under cover and gradually converged on the enemy. The presence of numerous low-flying planes either leaving or about to land at Hendon Aerodrome gave Section Commanders useful practice in "concealment from hostile aircraft" principles.

The hostile troops, inferior in number, retired under covering fire, but were finally rounded up just before lunch and proved to be our own band and recruits. They contended, possibly with some justification, that they had wiped us all out with L.M.G. fire earlier on, but the umpires, in commenting on the Operation, decided that in the main it had proved successful.

The afternoon was devoted to classification tests, and after a final parade at 4 p.m., the Company was dismissed.

Signal Unit, Glasgow University O.T.C.

Headquarters, University Avenue, Glasgow.

14th March.

General.—The examination for Part I of Certificates "A" and "B" was held on 7th March. It was pleasing to see the keenness shown, for ten candidates took the examination for "B" and twenty-eight for "A." Still more pleasing will it be if all who sat have been successful. The fellows are certainly keen, but University Examinations clash with those for the Certificates, and so many find themselves between the devil and the deep sea. Many good and true men of the Unit have thereby been prevented from taking the Certificate Examinations. Their future is at stake, and the University Examinations must come first.

The Unit is up to strength, and there are quite a few on the waiting list.

Departures.—We congratulate our former Lance Corporal Rennie W. M. O. on his appointment to a commission in G.H.Q. Signals, S.R., and wish him happiness with his new Unit. We shall miss him badly on the race-track, at camp, and on the Miniature Range when the shooting competitions come round again.

We are sorry to lose the services of Sergeant Reid A. M., who, as C.S.M. last year, was successful in licking into shape all those who were rather doubtful on matters concerning drill and discipline. His service with the Contingent was a long one—eight years with the Infantry Unit and two with Signals. This Unit owes him a lot and thanks him for his work.

Promotions and Appointments.—Congratulations to the following: Corporal Montgomerie J., Lance Corporals Anderson W., Davidson J., Christie A., Stewart W. and Watson F.

Training.—A good programme of training for the summer term has been arranged. This includes two Outdoor Signal Exercises, and everything suggests that they will be well attended.

At present our main concern is weapon training, for the Annual Course is to be fired at Dechmont on 18th, 22nd and 25th March. Knowing Glasgow weather as we do, we have forwarded a special Indent to the clerk of the weather for good conditions. Any special notes concerning the "shoot" will appear next month.

Moans and Groans.—Our friends in the Regular Army wear trousers instead of breeches and putties. Why cannot we do likewise?

Entertainments.—The Annual Dance, held on 17th February, was a great success. The Committee deserve a hearty vote of thanks for putting up such a wonderful show. It was well attended, and all present enjoyed themselves—they couldn't help it!

STONE AGE.

ADVERTISEMENTS!

Those Firms who advertise in these pages support our Corps Magazine. Will our readers please support them in return?

SPORTS NOTES

School of Signals.

Miniature Range Shoot.—In the last match of the season the result was: School, 760; "A" Company, 744. So this year the trophy comes to the School.

Hockey.—Owing to the usual Catterick weather games have not been as frequent as we should have liked; indeed, cancelled and postponed matches have become rather the rule. Since our last notes we have played two matches. That against the R.A.O.C., Catterick, resulted in a draw, 2—2, and the match against 55th Field Company, R.E., resulted in a win for us by 3—2.

Billiards.—SCHOOL v. "E" COMPANY. Although handicapped by the absence of C.S.M. Farmer, owing to sickness, we are able to record a win by four games to one in our first match of the season. The scores are as follows: Lance Sergeant Hudson, 150; Lance Sergeant Wink, 150; Signalman Sutton, 98; Lance Corporal Kerr, 150; C.Q.M.S. Hague, 150. Incidentally, this was the last appearance of Lance Sergeant Hudson for the School as he left us a few days later on posting.

SCHOOL v. "D" COMPANY. This match proved of great interest. Signalman Warren, who had filled the gap caused by the absence of Lance Sergeant Hudson, started his game rather "crowd shy," but later, noticing a debit balance of some fifty points, staged a remarkable recovery and eventually reached his 150, thirty-six points to the good. Signalman Sutton, after a rather shaky start, got his second wind early enough to obtain his revenge for his defeat in the first match. The scores were: Signalman Sutton, 150; Lance Corporal Kerr, 150; Lance Sergeant Wink, 150; Signalman Warren, 150; C.Q.M.S. Hague, 122.

SCHOOL v. "C" COMPANY. Another very interesting match. With the games at two all, Lance Sergeant Wink, our last player, commenced to play with the knowledge that his defeat meant that the School would lose their only match. A real ding-dong struggle ensued, with the lead continually changing hands. They were level at 120, and then a supreme effort by Lance Sergeant Wink, who reached his 150, beating Signalman Newsome by twenty-six points. The scores were: Signalman Sutton, 150; Lance Corporal Kerr, 150; Lance Sergeant Wink, 150; Signalman Warren, 139; C.Q.M.S. Hague, 93.

Training Battalion Royal Signals.

Catterick Camp.
13th March.

Rugby.—On 25th February the Battalion team met Richmond Grammar School in a match played on Scotton Ground. It was an ideal day for rugby, and some fine passing movements were seen. The Richmond team, although they excelled at this, were unlucky, as the efforts of their backs met with little success. Richmond seemed to have a slight advantage during the first half, but keen tackling saved our line on more than one occasion. At half-time no score had been registered, and both sides were just beginning to get into their stride.

The second half opened with Richmond breaking away on the left, only to be pulled up for an infringement. From this stage the Battalion forwards began to heel the ball from all scrums, and the "threes" had some good passing movements, but tackling and marking was so keen that it was impossible to make much headway. The only score of the game came about fifteen minutes after the commencement of the second half, when Sergeant Travis (A.E.C.) obtained the ball from a set scrum in the Richmond "25" and scored a drop goal.

The Grammar School then staged a come back, and we were hard put to save our line, but we managed to stave them off and finally ran out the winners. This was one of the best games played this season, and it was enjoyed both by players and spectators. If Richmond's passing movements had borne fruit, the result would have been much different.

Association Football.—The Unit team has had a fair season to date. Football has been spoilt by the bad state of grounds and the weather. Of ten games played, three were won, four lost and three drawn.

v. Cameronians	Drawn	6—6
v. 7th Battalion, Royal Tank Corps	Lost	1—4
v. R.A.F.	Won	7—0
v. R.A.M.C.	Won	8—1
v. Royal Irish Fusiliers	Drawn	3—3
v. Wiltshire Regiment	Lost	0—3
v. 20th A.T. Regiment, R.A.	Lost	1—4
v. Depot Battalion, Royal Signals	Won	4—3
v. R.I.F. (Inniskillings)	Drawn	2—2
v. 20th A.T. Regiment, R.A.	Lost	3—8

"F" (Boys) Company, Training Battalion.

Soccer.—We have done very well up to now in the Boys' Garrison Football Cup and League. Unfortunately, the weather has not been very good, and the matches were rather heavy going, but we can still show some very gratifying results.

GARRISON CUP: "A" Team v. West Yorks, won 8—1; "A" team v. Royal Artillery, won 5—2.

Our teams have improved quite a lot, with the able assistance of Jackie Carr, ex-International soccer player, during his short visits here.

BOYS' ARMY CUP—5TH ROUND: "A" Team v. R.A.O.C. (Hilsea). This match was played at Hilsea and resulted in our team saying good-bye to our Army Cup chances. We lost 3—0, after a very hard game, in which the only difference in the teams was opportunism: on three occasions our defence left an open space, and on three occasions the R.A.O.C. scored.

Results:

		"A" TEAM.		
GARRISON LEAGUE:	v. Cameronians (S.R.)		Won	18—0
	v. Green Howards		Won	18—0
GARRISON CUP:	v. West Yorks		Won	8—1
	v. Royal Artillery		Won	5—2
		"B" TEAM.		
GARRISON CUP:	v. Royal Artillery		Lost	1—2

Cross-country.—Our activities in the Northern Counties cross-country run are reported elsewhere by Captain T. W. Boileau, Royal Signals. The anticipated results were excellent.

Hockey.—We have only one more match to play in the Inter-Company Hockey League. We have not been lucky enough to find a ground at a convenient time as our one-and-only is being dug up for the foundations of new buildings.

Billiards.—We are running an Open Company Billiards Tournament ("F" only), in which Company officers are participating with a right good will. It is really surprising to see the looks of concentration and other emotions on several of the players' faces. We hope to have more of these competitions.

Athletics.—We have had one attempt so far at athletic training, but here again the weather has not been favourable. Scotton Ground is very wet and training is therefore impossible. One is still able to skid on the nether part of one's anatomy even with spikes on. We hope, nevertheless, to start training in earnest in the near future.

ROBEMMA.

2nd Divisional Signals.

Mons Barracks Inter-Unit Cross-country Run.—This took place at Aldershot on 22nd February over a course of 6½ miles, and was won by 2nd Divisional Signals (holders).

There was a very good turn out, especially on the part of spectators, for this race, all three Units producing full teams of fifteen runners. From the start, three of our runners took the

lead and maintained it throughout the race, arriving at the finishing line some 200 yards in front of the next man.

Now came the problem. Could we, with four of our best men away, hold the team from 1st Divisional Signals. Matters looked none too rosy when the next seven arrivals were seen to include five men from that Unit, but our reserves turned up " trumps," and we won by thirty-five points from 1st Divisional Signals. Only ten of the "A" Corps team were able to finish.

At the conclusion of the race, Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. R. Neale presented the Shield and medals to the winning team on behalf of the C.S.O., who was unable to be present.

Here are the placings for the first fifteen :

			Mins.	Secs.
	S.S.M. Shardlow	2 Div.		
2	Signalman Hopkins	2 Div.	39	40
3	,, Holness	2 Div.		
4	,, Wright, C.	1 Div. ..	40	8
5	,, Moncur	1 Div. ..	40	31
6	,, Howarth	"A" Corps ..	40	39
7	,, Ramsbotham ..	2 Div. ..	41	4
8	,, Wright, G. ..	1 Div. ..	41	51
9	,, McKinnon	1 Div. ..	41	54
10	,, Wallace	1 Div. ..	42	24
11	,, Pitman	2 Div. ..	42	44
12	,, Payne	2 Div. ..	43	8
13	,, Coleman	2 Div. ..	43	26
14	,, Bradmore	1 Div. ..	43	42
15	,, McDonaugh ..	2 Div. ..	43	50

Result : 1, 2nd Divisional Signals, 161 points ; 2, 1st Divisional Signals, 196 points ; 3, "A" Corps Signals (only ten runners finished).

Command Cross-country Championship. In the Command Championship over a seven-miles run, on Tuesday, 28th February, we entered a team which was weakened considerably by drafts and leave. In consequence we finished fifteenth out of twenty-four teams. The first man home for the Unit was S.S.M. Shardlow, followed by Signalmen Holness and Hopkins.

We hope " Records " will not forget us when he has some more runners to spare !

M. S.

Hong Kong Signal Company.

Badminton.—It is proposed to form an All Ranks Badminton Club in the near future. This is of special interest to many members of the Company as we already have several good players.

Football. Well, folks, here's the Company still dashing around with the ball. On Sunday, 5th March, the Unit 1st Eleven, together with many supporters, will visit Macao, where we are due to play " Macao Interport."

As a tryout before this great event, the team will play " Kwong Wah " in a friendly. " Kwong Wah " beat the " Maca Interport " recently, so that the match should give our men some idea of their opponents.

Honours are due to the Mobile Section this month. After beating the Rest by 2—1, they were presented with the Section Cup by Mrs. Collin, wife of Lieutenant-Colonel E. P. C. Collin, the C.S.O. Mrs. Collin was presented with a bouquet by little Master Dove, son of Lance Corporal Dove. Major and Mrs. E. Levett and Captain and Mrs. Mountford were present. The O.C. Company, Major E. Levett, kicked off. Well done, Mobile !

The first match for the Unit Novices Cup was played on 28th February. It was the Mobrsus *versus* Wireless and ended in another victory for the Mobile. The score was 3—2. Another feather in their cap ! Aren't we getting " uppish " these days ?

A rather " hectic " Sports Meeting was held recently, and all the sports committees were completely reorganised. Needless to say, that very able person, Lance Corporal Dove, still retains his position as Sports Secretary, and we hope to see things hum in the future.

Hockey.—Mobile are certainly in the limelight these days. The second match of the Inter-Section Hockey Cup was played on 28th February. It was Mobile *versus* the Line, and ended in a win for Mobile, 3—0. The first match for the Inter-Section Hockey Novices' Cup will be played shortly.

Signals in Tanganyika.

(*Continued from page* 155).

get the wireless lorry to Dodoma, rail it to Dar-es-Salaam and await instructions. These instructions were carried out.

During this period the O.C. had been instructed to move the whole Section to Dar-es-Salaam immediately. The packing up kept him frantically busy (it will be appreciated that with no trained troops all handling of technical stores must be carried out by either the O.C. or the F-of-S) and Tabora was left on 5th October, 1938. The F-of-S followed a week later.

Having arrived in Dar-es-Salaam, the main job was the building of the Loliondo Set, but several other items hindered the rapid progress desired.

A new Bedford 30-cwt. lorry had been bought for Signals use ; the body had been built by the P.W.D. workshop staff. This time Signals design was strictly adhered to, and a good wireless lorry for East African conditions resulted.

The arrival in Dar-es-Salaam was just right to prevent other Departments' ideas being incorporated in the W/T building then being erected, and the F-of-S became a sort of " residential engineer," ensuring that all details were in accordance with requirements. Time and again those concerned wanted to depart from the comprehensive plans and specifications prepared by Signals, on the grounds that requirements were often " not usual," and that their vast experience in this Territory should be respected. The obvious reply was always given as tactfully as circumstances permitted ; that as it was their first effort at erecting a building for wireless purposes our equally vast experience of wireless requirements was the thing which had to be respected.

As the move from Tabora had been so accelerated there were no offices or stores available in Dar-es-Salaam, and for the first three months the Sergeants' Mess dining room was used as an office and wireless stores, the three members having to use the lounge for all purposes. A grenade store was used as the clothing and equipment store and the Foreman's quarters as a workshop.

The Set destined for installation at Loliondo progressed slowly, but sometimes not so surely as was hoped for, as a fair amount of difficulty was experienced in getting the oscillator to function, due to peculiarities of the particular valve used, and in getting the amplifier to behave properly, due to an unfortunate choice of valve. It meant the finished article was entirely different from that intended, and it may be noted that both major faults could have been avoided had the system of obtaining stores been different.

All this time the Askari on detachment were managing so well that it was decided by the authorities to install a permanent Set, to be manned by K.A.R. personnel, at the Administrative H.Q. at Mbulu, which is another fairly isolated spot. For this station the P. and T. Department promised to produce a simple single valve transmitter and an Eddystone " Kilodyne 4 " Receiver. This outfit was tested, on production, by the K.A.R., in conjunction with Imperial Airways stations. Battery charging was to be carried out by a small, locally purchased American type petrol engine charger.

The " Homelander " Receiver proposed for the Loliondo station was unobtainable, and it was then decided to go quite modern, and an Eddystone Communication Receiver, type L.P.C., was obtained. It is a modification of their latest "All World 8 " and can be confidently recommended where a permanent installation is required.

At the beginning of December, 1938, H.Q. remembered that a Set had been promised to work in co-operation with the Northern Brigade during their Exercises, to be held just before Christmas, and at the same time they announced that they would like three Sets to work during our own Officers' T.E.W.T. period just after Christmas. This meant that the O.C. had to dash off to the Kenya people's affair with a Set in the new lorry, its speedometer registering a bare fifty miles. It also meant a drastic alteration to Signals plans, for, instead of having to find personnel for one permanent station, as anticipated for months past, there now had to be produced sufficient personnel for two permanent stations and three complete detachments for Exercises—a considerable problem when one realises it is just twelve months since only half the Section was introduced to wireless.

(*To be continued*)

THE WIRE

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Editorial Notes.

Royal Signals Territorial Units (London Division).—All Units of the London Division are in the process of increasing their strength and, in most cases, raising a duplicate Unit. During the next few weeks it is anticipated that there will be a steady flow of recruits for the Territorial Army.

One of the difficulties which will face almost all Units will be that of providing suitable warrant and non-commissioned officers for their duplicate Units. It is thought there may be many ex-Regular warrant and non-commissioned officers who are NOT Reservists, and who are employed in London, who would like the opportunity of joining the Territorial Army. The services of such ex-warrant officers or non-commissioned officers would be most welcome.

There may be opportunities in some cases for full-time employment as Instructors, but, in most cases, they would be required on the normal Territorial Army conditions.

The age limit for joining the T.A. is 38, but retired warrant and non-commissioned officers over that age may be employed for instructional purposes as required by Units at 5s. per day. (Regulations for the T.A., 1936, para. 633.)

Those interested are invited to apply at any of the undermentioned Royal Signals T.A. Unit Headquarters for further particulars :

1. 1st Anti-Aircraft Divisional Signals, T.A., 56, Regency Street, London, S.W.1.
2. London Corps Signals, T.A., Fulham House, Putney Bridge, London, S.W.1.
3. City of London Signals, T.A., Signal House, 20, Atkins Road, Clapham Park, London, S.W.12.
4. Mobile Divisional Signals, T.A., Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, London, S.W.3.
5. 44th (Home Counties) Divisional Signals, T.A., Drill Hall, Stamford Brook Lodge, Ravenscourt Park, London, W.6
6. 54th (East Anglian) Divisional Signals, T.A., Bay Lodge, The Green, Stratford, London, E.15.

Signals Experimental Establishment, Woolwich.—The Signals Experimental Establishment will be "At Home" to all Regular officers of the Corps (including those on leave from abroad) on Friday, 26th May, 1939.

Officers will be able to see all experimental apparatus in the process of being designed, including new apparatus due to be sent to trials this year. Officers should arrive not later than 11 a.m. The nearest station is **Woolwich Arsenal.** A convenient train from London leaves Charing Cross at 10.28 a.m., arriving at Woolwich Arsenal at 10.54 a.m., and, if required, transport will be sent to meet this train. Return trains to London run at very frequent intervals throughout the day.

Those wishing to see all the demonstrations and apparatus should be prepared to spend the day at the S.E.E. up to 4 p.m., when tea will be served. Luncheon can be obtained locally at two shillings per head (exclusive of wines).

Any officers desirous of attending should notify the Superintendent, Signals Experimental Establishment, Woolwich Common, London, S.E.18, at least one week beforehand, either by letter or by telephone (Woolwich 0181), stating whether they are coming by train and whether they require luncheon. Mufti should be worn.

Attendance is voluntary, so no travelling expenses can be claimed. No direct personal invitations will be issued, and it is hoped that all Regular officers will take this as a personal invitation.

Corps Cricket.—The following Corps cricket fixtures have been arranged for 1939 :

8th June.	v. R.A.O.C., at Mons Barracks, Aldershot.
9th June.	v. R.E., on R.E. ground, Aldershot.
12th/13th June.	v. R.A.S.C., at Buller Barracks, Aldershot.
14th June.	v. R.M.A., at Woolwich.

16th/17th June. v. Royal Tank Regiment, at Mons Barracks, Aldershot.
19th/20th June. v. R.A., at Mons Barracks, Aldershot.

The names of those available and desirous of playing in any of the above matches should be forwarded to Major H. S. Lewis-Barclay, 4th Divisional Signals, Canterbury.

Royal Signals Corps Dinner.—With the approval of Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, C.I., G.C.V.O., G.B.E., our Colonel-in-Chief, the annual dinner of the Royal Signals Dinner Club will be held on Friday, 26th May, at the Junior United Service Club, Charles Street, London, S.W.1, at 7.30 p.m. for 8 p.m. Tickets may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, c/o Chief Signal Officer, London District, Horse Guards, London, S.W.1, and NOT from Mr. S. Garland, c/o Lloyds Bank, Ltd., as in previous years.

Dinner notices, with the usual application form and bankers order for tickets, will be sent to all members and Messes at an early date.

Corps Promotion Roster (Pocket Edition).—In response to numerous requests, it is notified for general information that we are contemplating the publication of a revised and up-to-date Edition of the *Corps Promotion Roster* (Pocket Edition), subject, of course, to a sufficient number of orders being forthcoming to cover the cost of production.

Assuming that the necessary information will be compiled and available within the next two months, will Unit representatives kindly indicate the number of copies they will be able to dispose of AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE MOMENT? On receipt of that information, the work will be put in hand immediately.

The booklet will be on sale at 1s. per copy, post free at home and abroad.

Obituary.—We regret to record the death of Sergeant George William Robinson, who passed away at the Royal Herbert Hospital, Woolwich, on 24th January, 1939, and was buried with military honours at Napton, Warwickshire.

Prior to his last illness, Sergeant Robinson was performing the duties of Chief Clerk to S.D.6, War Office, and was held in high esteem by the many officers of the Corps with whom he came in contact.

He leaves a widow and one daughter to whom we convey our deep sympathy in their sad bereavement.

Among the floral tributes sent were wreaths from: "Major-General Lawrence Carr and Staff, War Office"; "Officers, S.D.6, War Office"; "Colleagues at War Office"; and "All Ranks, Royal Signals."

(See photograph on page 197.)

Situation Wanted.—The widow of a recently deceased Senior N.C.O. of the Corps is desirous of securing employment with an officer's family as nursery governess, or in any other capacity for which she may be considered suitable. Before marriage, the applicant was in similar employment with an officer of Royal Signals stationed in India, and can produce the highest references as to her capabilities and qualifications. Age 38. Brief hospital nursing training, and ten years' experience as nursery governess. For further information apply to The General Secretary, Signals Association, 95, Belgrave Road, London, S.W.1

Sports Clothing and other Articles in Corps Colours.—The following articles are held in stock at this Office, and can be supplied by return of post at the prices quoted:

BLAZERS: BARATHEA—In Corps colours	from	47/6
SWEATERS: White woollen with Corps colours neck and cuff	from	12/6
JUMPERS: White woollen with Corps colours at neck (sleeveless)	each	12/6
SCARVES: Woollen, Corps colours	each	7/6
SILK SQUARES: Corps colours	each	10/6
TIES: Silk, double-ended, Corps colours ..	each	2/6 and 3/9
CORPS RIBBON: ½ inch, for Christmas cards and decoration purposes	per yard	6d.
CAR BADGES: In chromium plate, with Corps colours, in enamel	each	15/6

Postage extra. Cash with order.

Corps Promotion Roster Amendments.—Owing to the recent move of the Record Office from Chatham to Reading, it is regretted that we are unable to publish the usual *Corps Promotion Roster* Amendments as usual in this issue.

THE EDITOR.

Signals Association

and

Ex-Service Old Comrades Branch Notes

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

It is notified for the information of all concerned that the next Annual General Meeting of Signals Association will be held at 95, Belgrave Road, London, S.W.1, at 12.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 24th May, 1939.

Members intending to be present on that occasion should notify the General Secretary not later than Wednesday, 17th May, 1939.

ASSOCIATION BRANCHES AND REPRESENTATIVES

The following is a list of Association Branches and Branch representatives:

ABERDEEN: Mr. C. F. Andrews, M.B.E., Hon. Secretary, 51st (Highland) Divisional Signals, T.A., Fonthill Barracks, Aberdeen.

ALDERSHOT: Mr. C. H. Tolley, Hon. Secretary, "Kildrum," 81, Coronation Road, Aldershot.

BIRMINGHAM: Major H. Bartlett, Hon. Secretary, 48th (S.M.) Divisional Signals, T.A., Cateswell House, Stratford Road, Hall Green, Birmingham.

BOURNEMOUTH: Mr. S. J. Rouse, Hon. Secretary, 123, Ensbury Park Road, Winton, Bournemouth.

CHESTER: Mr. R. Ryan, Hon. Secretary, Thornycroft, Queen's Park, Chester.

EXETER: Major J. W. Western, O.B.E., T.D., Hon. Secretary, "Royston," Countess Wear, Exeter, Devon.

LONDON (WESTMINSTER): R.S.M. Shergold G., Hon. Secretary, 1st Anti-Aircraft Divisional Signals, T.A., 56, Regency Street, London, S.W.1.

PORTSMOUTH: Mr. R. V. Pearce, Hon. Secretary, Army Signals Office, Government House, Portsmouth, Hants.

SALISBURY: Mr. F. Cole, Hon. Secretary, "Charnwood," 10, Charnwood Road, Salisbury, Wilts.
SOUTHAMPTON: Mr. H. Dickinson, Hon. Secretary, 145, Shirley Road, Southampton.
YORK: Mr. C. Lawrence, Hon. Secretary, Headquarters, Northern Command, York.

ALDERSHOT BRANCH.

It is notified for general information that the Royal Signals ANNUAL SPORTS AND OLD COMRADES' REUNION will be held at Mons Barracks, Aldershot, on Saturday and Sunday, 24th and 25th June. Further particulars may be obtained on application to the Hon. Secretary, Royal Signals Association, Mons Barracks, Aldershot, or from Mr. C. H. Tolley, "Kildrum," 81, Coronation Road, Aldershot.

EXETER AND DISTRICT BRANCH.

A successful year was reported at the Annual General Meeting. The possibility of increased activity in the branch was mentioned by Major J. W. Western (Hon. Secretary). The meeting was held at the Priory, Exeter, on Saturday, 1st April. Major E. Heron Varwell presided, in the unavoidable absence of Colonel W. G. Michelmore (Chairman).

Major Western said that at a recent meeting of Branch officials in London it was decided that in future annual affiliation subscriptions should be one guinea and Branches would be financially independent.

Last year was most successful, stated the annual report, and membership was satisfactorily maintained. It was found impossible to send a contingent to the annual reunion at Bulford; a party from Salisbury were among those attending the annual dinner, which was well attended, as was the Armistice Day service and parade at Exeter. Benevolent activity had also been undertaken.

The report mentioned the illness of Major C. W. Knight, Hon. Treasurer, and hopes were expressed for his speedy recovery. Officers and officials of the Branch were thanked for their services.

A satisfactory financial statement was presented by Captain H. D. G. Foord, who was elected Hon. Treasurer, and other officers and committee were re-elected with the addition of Major Varwell as Vice-Chairman.

It was decided that the annual dinner should be held on the last Saturday in November, and that £3 should be placed towards sending a contingent to Bulford this year.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Major Varwell stressed the necessity for support of the Government's campaign towards doubling the Territorial Army.

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HONORARY BRANCH SECRETARIES,

Held at H.Q. Office, at 2.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 29th March, 1939.

Present: Brigadier H. Clementi Smith, D.S.O., Chairman, Central Committee (in attendance); Mr. W. Butler, General Secretary; Mr. W. Wish; Mr. C. H. Tolley, Hon. Secretary, Aldershot, Farnborough and District Branch; Mr. J. Carnall, Deputising for Hon. Secretary, Birmingham Branch; Mr. S. J. Rouse, Hon. Secretary, Bournemouth Branch; Mr. R. Ryan, Hon. Secretary, Chester Branch; Major J. W. Western, O.B.E., T.D., Hon. Secretary, Exeter Branch; Mr. C. Lawrence, Hon. Secretary, Northern Command Branch; Mr. R. V. Pearce, Hon. Secretary, Portsmouth Branch; Mr. F. L. Williams, Deputising for Hon. Secretary, Salisbury Branch; Mr. H. Dickinson, Hon. Secretary, Southampton Branch; and R.S.M. Shergold G., Hon. Secretary, Westminster Branch. (A letter of regret at inability to attend from Mr. C. F. Andrews of Aberdeen was read to the meeting.)

In opening the proceedings, Brigadier Clementi Smith said that he was present only for the purpose of meeting the Honorary Branch Secretaries and, before leaving, delegated the conduct of subsequent business to the General Secretary. The latter explained that the meeting was in the nature of an experiment. It had been arranged, he said, to facilitate an exchange of views and to present local problems for open discussion, and he hoped that such conferences might become a regular feature.

The General Secretary then dealt with the proposed revision to Rule IV and corresponding amendments to Rules for Local Branches which, subject to final approval by the Central Committee, he summarised as follows:

1. Branches would in future be permitted to retain the whole of their revenue derived from *Annual* subscriptions, but *Life Membership* fees would continue to be remitted in full to H.Q. Office as heretofore.

2. Branches would be required to pay an affiliation fee of one guinea a year to H.Q. Office.

3. The existing clause in Rule 4, which forbids the use of Branch funds to defray the expenses of local social functions and entertainments, would be cancelled, leaving Branch Committees free to spend such revenue at their discretion.

In response to questions raised by the members, he emphasised:

(*a*) That all applications for Benevolent Fund assistance from Branch members would continue to be passed to H.Q. Office for necessary action and that Branch funds would *not* be called upon to defray such expenses.

(*b*) That expenditure on social functions should be kept within reasonable limits and with the primary object of attracting more members to participate in local Association activities.

(*c*) That it still remained the Central Committee's prerogative to criticise Branch expenditure and disallow any item which in their opinion appeared to be excessive.

It was ascertained that the foregoing was generally understood.

The General Secretary next brought forward Northern Command Branch letter No. OCA/A/5, dated 17th March, 1939, which read as follows:

(1) "Leeds Sub-Branch suggests that facilities for finding work for ex-Royal Signals personnel should be extended to serving T.A. Royal Signals members. In practice this is done within Branches, and the idea is to get it extended to circulating jobs available and jobs required to other Branches."

After discussion it was generally agreed that the system at present in force might well be continued, but it was not practicable at the moment to contemplate its extension.

(2) "Leeds Branch suggests that the Association should provide unstamped printed postcards to local Branches at cost price for Local Secretaries to send out as subscription reminders."

It was pointed out that quantities of "Renewal Notice" forms had already been distributed to the majority of Branches from H.Q. Office, but those Branches still requiring them would be supplied after the meeting closed. This was done.

(3) "Leeds Branch suggests that a meeting of Sub-Branch representatives should be held at Branch Headquarters, prior to the Annual Association Meeting at Headquarter Office in London, to consider any points of interest."

The General Secretary stated that arrangements for such meetings rested entirely with Branch Committees concerned.

(4) "York H.Q. Branch suggests that a ruling be made as to when a subscriber ceases to become a Member on account of non-payment of subscriptions."

The General Secretary invited the attention of Hon. Branch Secretaries to "Rules for Local Branches," paragraph 8, sub-para. ii, which specifies that "Members who become one year in arrear shall be struck off the Branch Roll, but may rejoin on payment of arrears not exceeding a total of three years' subscriptions." He explained, however, that it was permissible for an ex-member desiring re-enrolment to pay whatever arrears of subscription he could afford, or re-enrol as a new joining member.

The question of introducing a uniform system of providing members with receipts for subscriptions was discussed. It was stated that the present method of receipting membership cards was unsatisfactory as many members were unable to produce such cards when required to do so. The suggestion by Mr. J. Carnall (Birmingham Branch) that all members might be given a new card each year similar to that issued by the Association of R.E. Despatch Riders was not carried.

Various alternative proposals were discussed and it was finally decided to issue Hon. Branch Secretaries with counterfoil receipt books numbered consecutively for the purpose.

The General Secretary stated that he would order a number of such books from the Association printers, and distribute them to Branches at an early date. The initial supply would be provided free of charge, and Branches would make arrangements for subsequent requirements at their own expense direct from Messrs. F. J. Parsons, Ltd., "Observer" Buildings, Hastings.

It was proposed by Major J. W. Western (Exeter Branch) and carried unanimously that a list of names and addresses of Hon. Branch Secretaries should be published in the Corps Magazine periodically under the heading of "Signals Association Notes."

It was also suggested by Major Western that time-serving and other members might like to have available for reference a publication which would enable them to ascertain the whereabouts of mutual friends. This, he thought, might take the form of a comprehensive list of names and addresses of all ex-Service Branch members with a marginal note to aid identification.

The suggestion met with general approval, but the General Secretary stated that he could only proceed with the matter as and when Branch representatives supplied him with the necessary information for consolidation.

Major J. W. Western proposed a vote of thanks to the General Secretary, which was unanimously endorsed by the assembly, and there being no further business to discuss, the meeting closed at 4.30 p.m.

[NOTE.—The reference in the foregoing to the retention of Branch funds applies, of course, only to **"Ex-Service Branches of Royal Signals Old Comrades' Association."**]

EMPLOYMENTS.

Situations found during the preceding month with the co-operation of the National Association for the Employment of Regular Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen :

1	Ex-Signalman, Chester	Postman
2	Ex-Signalman, Shrewsbury	Postman
3	Ex-Signalman, Shrewsbury	Telegraphist
4	Ex-N.C.O., Stoke-on-Trent	Transport Driver
5	Ex-Signalman, Stoke-on-Trent	Labourer
6	Ex-Signalman, Preston	Postman
7	Ex-N.C.O., Reading	Labourer
8	Ex-Signalman, Essex	Postman
9	Ex-Signalman, Essex	Clerk
10	Ex-N.C.O., Brighton	Air Warden
11	Ex-Signalman, Reading	Telephonist
12	Ex-Signalman, Glasgow	Postman
13	Ex-N.C.O., Coventry	Postman
14	Ex-Signalman, Glasgow	Labourer
15	Ex-N.C.O., London	Clerk
16	Ex-Signalman, London	Postman
17	Ex-Signalman, London	Postman
18	Ex-Signalman, London	Postman
19	Ex-Signalman, London	Labourer
20	Ex-Signalman, London	Postman
21	Ex-Signalman, London	Postman
22	Ex-Signalman, London	Postman
23	Ex-Signalman, London	Labourer
24	Ex-Signalman, London	Telephonist
25	Ex-Signalman, London	Fitter
26	Ex-N.C.O., London	Fitter
27	Ex-Signalman, London	Clerk
28	Ex-Signalman, London	Telephonist
29	Ex-Signalman, London	Postman
30	Ex-Signalman, London	Postman
31	Ex-Signalman, Yorkshire	Labourer
32	Ex-Signalman, Manchester	Cleaner
33	Ex-Signalman, Norfolk	Wireless Operator
34	Ex-N.C.O., Newcastle-on-Tyne	Postman
35	Ex-Signalman, Newcastle-on-Tyne	Patrolman
36	Ex-Signalman, Devonport	Postman
37	Ex-Signalman, Reading	Labourer
38	Ex-Signalman, Chester	Motor Transport Driver
39	Ex-Signalman, Yorkshire	Labourer
40	Ex-N.C.O., Chester	Lineman
41	Ex-W.O., London	Quartermaster (T.A.)

SITUATIONS VACANT

Ex-Warrant Officer and Senior N.C.O. Candidates are urgently required for employment as Permanent Staff Instructors to Royal Signals, T.A., Units throughout the country.

Successful applicants will be enlisted into the T.A. as Sergeants with Full Pay and Allowances of that rank. They should have been discharged for not more than two years.

Apply to General Secretary, Signals Association, 95, Belgrave Road, London, S.W.1, stating qualifications and locality in which employment is preferred.

Handyman-Caretaker for Territorial Army Headquarters in the Birmingham Area. Wages £2 10s. 0d. per week. Duties : general cleaning, clerical, and serving in the Canteen.

Qualifications : Preferably married without children.

Apply to General Secretary, Signals Association, 95, Belgrave Road, London, S.W.1, by not later than Wednesday, 10th May, 1939.

GENERAL SECRETARY.

Benevolent Fund Notes.

The Administrator gratefully acknowledges receipt of the following :

CASH SUBSCRIPTIONS from :
Officers' Mess, S.T.C., Catterick.
3rd Indian Divisional Signals.

GIFT OF CLOTHING from :
Brigadier G. G. Rawson, O.B.E., M.C.

APPEALS dealt with :

1	Ex-Signalman, Sheffield	Grant	£3	3	0
2	Ex-Driver, Swindon	Grant	£2	10	0
3	Ex-N.C.O., Middlesbrough	Grant	£3	0	0
4	Ex-Signalman, Chester	Grant	£3	3	0
5	Ex-Signalman, Oxford	Grant	£2	0	0
6	Ex-Signalman, Cheshire	Grant	£2	10	0
7	Ex-Signalman, Sunderland	Grant	£2	10	0
8	Signalman, Catterick	Grant	£3	10	0
9	Ex-Signalman, Salford	Grant	£2	0	0
10	Signalman, Aldershot	Grant	£1	0	0
11	Widow of Ex-N.C.O., Hants	Grant	£1	0	0

(Signed) T. H. L. SPAIGHT, Lieutenant-Colonel,
Administrator, Signals Association Benevolent Fund.

Obituary

Lance Sergeant H. M. Sugg

Lance Sergeant Harry Martin Sugg died at Catterick Military Hospital on 4th April.

He joined the Corps in February, 1924, at the age of nineteen. He was a wireless operator, and went to India in 1926, proceeding to Shanghai in 1927, returning to India the same year. He was appointed Lance Corporal in June, 1929, and was invalided home from India in 1930. He spent three years at Bere Island, and subsequently served in Hong Kong from 1934 to 1937. On return home, he spent one year with the 2nd Divisional Signals, and then joined the Depot Battalion, Royal Signals, in June, 1938.

Harry Sugg was a man to whom nothing came amiss ; he was equally at home as a wireless operator, an Acting C.Q.M.S., a Signal Office Superintendent (both large and small offices), a Drill Instructor, Sergeants' Mess Caterer, an entertainer, a Master of Ceremonies, or a WIRE correspondent.

He was seen at his best when soothing an angry G.S.O.1, who was annoyed with the Signals personnel, and also on occasions when he tactfully but firmly instructed volunteers of higher rank how to function as Signalmasters.

He had suffered from ill health since 1929, but would not give way, and there is no doubt that behind a very cheerful and happy demeanour he hid the troublesome pains which eventually led to his death. Rather than report sick he believed in doing his job.

Undoubtedly he would have risen much higher in rank, for he combined a technical and practical administrative knowledge with the ability and will to set an example in carrying out his duty and carrying on cheerfully without revealing his private troubles.

As a member of the W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess he was always a willing helper with the Mess entertainments, and his cheerful manner and ability to overcome difficulties enabled social functions to be successfully carried out without a hitch.

The Corps has lost a very capable and likeable member, and all those who knew him offer their deepest sympathies to his wife and relatives.

The late Sergeant G. W. Robinson.

Signals Unit, Queen's University (Belfast) O.T.C.

Belfast.
14th April.

Musketry.—The recruits fired their Course at Ballykinlar on 21st and 26th March and 1st April. They were fortunate on each date to strike a dry interval in the almost uninterrupted wet weather, and some good scores resulted.

Easter Training.—On 8th April, outdoor training for the season began when a party (wearing for the first time the Signals badge on their collars) left Headquarters for Co. Derry. Three halts were made on the way to test W/T communication with H.Q. in Belfast, but satisfactory communication with normal, or even lengthened, rod aerials proved impossible once the Col between Squire's Hill and Wolf Hill (five miles out) was passed. The journey was continued *via* Antrim, Ballymena, Cullybackey, Kilrea, Garvagh and Limavady, and the party's destination at Ballykelly was reached at 6.30 p.m. Here the party, less Lance Corporals Gray and Lamb, Signalman Carter and Driver Douglas, of N.I.D. Signal Company, who proceeded to Londonderry, was billeted in a farm-house. Large quantities of tea were consumed, a " Flag, distinguishing, telegraph office " (right side up this time) and our Unit sign were put up at the entrance from the road Limavady-Londonderry, civilian beds were allotted in order of seniority, and the less fortunate officer-cadets resigned themselves to " biscuits " on the floor after partaking of biscuits and cocoa in the farmhouse kitchen.

Early next day one of the No. 1 Sets, working on a " Wyndom " aerial, got through R.9 on key to H.Q. in Belfast (fifty-six miles). After church (" Purdy," a spaniel, joined the Presbyterians and nearly succeeded in getting in to the church) and dinner, parties went out by car to reconnoitre positions for use on the following days. Various parts of the Sperrin Mountains were explored, and Lance Corporal Saville actually succeeded in taking his car to the summit of Benevenagh, the peak at the seaward end of the range.

Easter Monday was a heavy day, beginning with flag drill for recruits before breakfast, then R/T for everybody, and ending, for the more energetic, some time on Tuesday morning at a dance in Limavady.

Tuesday morning was devoted entirely to Wireless. A truck, with Lance Corporal Gray, Royal Signals, as driver, and Corporal Handforth, Q.U.O.T.C., as guide, tried to reach the top of Benevenagh, but had to give up a short distance from the summit. Some anxiety was felt at Ballyspallen for the safety of the truck, as one Map Reference received from it by wireless placed its position several miles out to sea. A Car Set worked in the vicinity of the " Rising Sun," and two ground stations near billets. The afternoon was given up to R/T group working.

Packing-up was completed after tea, and the journey back to Belfast, *via* Dungiven, Glenshane, Maghera, Toome and Antrim, was completed at 9.30 p.m.

In spite of our start in heavy rain on the Saturday, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday were all fine, sunny days, and complexions suffered accordingly.

Increase in Weight.—Considerable—thanks to Miss Gillespie and her staff at Ballyspallen. We sojourned in a land flowing with milk and raspberry jam.

Visitors.—Visitors on Easter Monday included Major W. Scott, D.S.O., M.C. (commanding Q.U.O.T.C.), Major E. McD. Burns (commanding N.I.D. Signal Company) and Lieutenant D. B. McNeill (late Q.U.O.T.C. Signals, now commanding Southampton University College O.T.C.).

Thanks.—Thanks are due to Major Burns for his assistance in lending W/T vehicles, and to the four representatives of N.I.D. Signal Company, who accompanied and helped us in many ways. They are all excellent fellows, and we hope to have them out with us again.

Catterick Notes.—C.S.M. Smith and Corporal Davis have been visiting the well-known resort and have returned full of knowledge.

Congratulations.—To Sergeant McDonald W., Royal Signals, on his appointment as Acting R.S.M., also to C.S.M. Smith and Sergeant Fitzgerald on promotion. We have also to congratulate Sergeant S. G. Bittles on appointment to a commission in the R.A.O.C., and wish him success in his career. We expect to see him back some time soon to inspect the mechanical cable-layers.

Howler.—One officer-cadet, seeing the temporary sanitary arrangements in the orchard at Ballyspallen, asked: "Are these for A.R.P. ? "

Looking Forward.—The R.S.M. has been over inspecting our camp site at Girvan, Ayrshire. We hope we may see some of our opposite numbers from Glasgow when we are there in July.

Q Q

Signal Unit, Glasgow University O.T.C.

Headquarters, University Avenue,
13th April.

This is the time of year at which any normal undergraduate might well become poetic if he were not faced by the stern reality of present or impending Degree Examinations. There

appears to be a certain lack of soul in a University Examiner; at least, in his relations with the examinee.

Having indicated in a somewhat obscure manner that we are aware that Spring has arrived (on the calendar), that buds are budding, shoots are shooting, etc., we may now proceed to narrate as shortly as possible the news of the month.

Annual Musketry Courses went off according to our expectations, which is more than can be said of some of the rounds. It is curious that even though we aim at the "bull" the man in the butts persists in signalling "outers." It's really quite mystifying. The results, however, were quite satisfactory. Most of our men classified as first-class shots, and the remainder qualified without much difficulty.

Three of our N.C.O.s have just returned from a Course of training at Catterick, but we have yet to receive a report on their activities.

It is proposed to carry out a Signal Exercise on the 22nd of this month, and it is hoped that it will, at least, provide some good material for next month's WIRE notes.

In the meantime, like the popular screen personalities, "It's off to work we go."

STONE AGE.

Plain Tales.

Knife, Fork and Spoon.—Lying comes easily to some people, but lying in bed appeals to a vast majority whatever they may say about it. I'm not asking you. Having suppressed my bout of 'flu by sheer will power and a few days in bed, I took myself off to the Annual Dinner of the 48th Divisional Signals on 1st April. The Drill Hall at Cateswell House has just been redecorated and the layout of the tables was a grand sight. Why every single member of the Unit doesn't attend this pleasant function is a profound mystery. A good dinner and a splendid opportunity of meeting everyone without thinking about falling in on parade in ten minutes might be regarded as an attraction, but the fact remains, too many men are not interested. Perhaps Saturday is not a good day for the younger members. It would be interesting to discover if there is anything in that theory. The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel P. H. Jones, M.C., T.D., at the end of his usual interesting and informative speech, presented cups to Major F. Braine, Commanding No. 4 Company, Air Contingent Signals, and Captain J. E. Rodgers, Commanding Nos. 31 and 32 G.H.Q. Wireless Sections. I hope my literary friend "Getcher" has recorded this happy occasion in the 48th Signals notes. Brigadier-General R. McCalmont, C.V.O., D.S.O., our Hon. Colonel, in a brief speech gave the Unit some very useful advice. What he has to say to us is always well worth listening to. There was a concert after the dinner about which I have little to say, since I was largely responsible for it. I would, however, observe for the benefit of those members of the 48th Signals who read the WIRE, that of 397 officers, N.C.O.s and men, there were only two volunteers to entertain the gathering. Thanking them. Anyway, it was a jolly good dinner and I am determined to record an appreciation of the efforts of the caterer, Mr. Trapp of Wednesbury. (Advert. or no advert.)

More Secret History.—I was all set to write a topping what-youmaycallit for the beginning of summer. Lots of real poetry and blurb. I warned you about this possibility last month. Well, you'll be ever so glad to hear that I have passed it up. The weather at Easter was responsible for that. I can't remember a more satisfactory state of affairs, meteorologically speaking, since about 1920, when Ted Darlow, John Wooldridge, Bob Bray and yours truly missed the last train from Tunbridge Wells to Uckfield on Easter Saturday night. As these gentlemen are all grown up and respectable I will skip a few hours because I feel sure that you wouldn't be interested in an account of their chatty little walk of, I think, fifteen miles. Nor of their well expressed opinions concerning one of the party who said he knew

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1934 Rover Ten Saloon de Luxe, just rebored and completely overhauled by ourselves	£69

AND MANY OTHERS

P. & O. "NARKUNDA" 6th March, 1939

Dear White,

Just a line to tell you how pleased I was with the Car you hired me for my leave. The Car was thoroughly reliable and gave no trouble at all. The hiring fee was reasonable and the Car was economical to run. I can safely recommend your Firm to anyone who wishes to hire a Car for their leave.

Yours sincerely, ... *Lieut., Royal Signals*

MR. C. P. GLENNIE, A DIRECTOR OF THE FIRM IS A SERVING MEMBER OF LONDON CORPS SIGNALS (T.A.)

for absolute certain that the train went at 10.10 p.m. (Well, I knew it was either " ten to " or " ten past.") Cups of tea in the Maresfield Sergeants' Mess at 5.30 a.m. remain a blessed memory to this day. We all missed the last train home from Brighton that night. Who cared about things like that in those days? This Easter of 1939 has provided us with similar weather if not the same adventures. My spare time was spent in the garden copying the man next door.

The Garden, In and Out.—I am very happy in my ignorance of practical horticulture and only get along by watching other people. The man next door is pretty good, judging by results, so when he dug over the eastern side of his garden, I shuffled along unobtrusively and dug my east side pretending I hadn't noticed him. I turned over the soil and chucked away a lot of stuff that seemed pretty awful after its winter sojourn under wet earth. Nasty white and green shoots and some oniony-looking things, buttercups, groundsel, grass and dead bushes. I became full of good intentions as I progressed. This year, we really would have a show. My reflections were cut short by my wife who actually knows a dahlia from a daffodil. She observed with more heat than I thought necessary that I had turfed out the tulips, lilies, snapdragons and a few other things that apparently would have come along nicely if left to their own devices. All very disheartening. I went to the pictures and then discovered that I had seen it before. I didn't like to ask for my sixpence back. So I don't feel like Summer Idylls and things. See?

Our Dreadful Serial.—Ukann Larfe rang his little silver hand-bell and waited impatiently. Surely there must be news of Inspector Faceache and Hermione by this time. He looked at his watch. It had stopped. He looked at it again. It wasn't going. He looked at the calendar. That, too, had stopped. " That's that bloke Barleux again," he fumed. " Nothing in his stories ever works properly." He rang his bell again. A postman rode in on a bicycle and dismounted into the fireplace.

" Ha! You'll do," said Ukann. " Where's my butler?"

The postman locked his bicycle in the sideboard before answering. " Yore butler," he said slowly, " 'as 'ad a bazooka on the Uncle Ned."

" A what on the which?" asked the detective.

" A fourpenny one on the crust," explained the postman.

Ukann Larfe pondered this alarming news for an hour and a quarter. No one seemed to be about in the house. He remembered that the staff were away for Easter. Now the butler was out of action. Who was there to bring him a telegram on the silver salver even if it came? His wife and the Inspector were to have notified him of their arrival in Extrania.

" I'll bet old Barleux creates these rotten situations for the purpose," he muttered.

The summer evening passed into a balmy night as he sat with the postman and demolished a bottle of whisky.

" Well, I must be off now," said his visitor. He recovered his bicycle from the sideboard and mended a puncture. Ukann Larfe watched him with keen interest.

" Before I go," said the postman, " 'ere's summat for yer."

" Why—it's a cablegram," screamed Ukann.

" Yeah. That's it." The postman, whose name was Tikkins by the way, slammed the door and rode down the stairs as a valuable Chinese vase shivered into fragments against the wall.

Do not miss next Saturday's ghastly instalment.

BARLEUX.

Northern Command Motor Cycle Trials, 1939

The Northern Command Motor Cycle Trials were held at Catterick Camp on 4th and 5th April. The first day's trial was over road and track (120 miles), and that on the second day took place over about fifteen miles of very rough and hilly country. There were forty-two competitors for the first day, but only twenty-seven were left for the second day. The

The Depot Team.

members of the Depot Battalion team were: Lance Sergeant Costen, Signalmen MacKay and Payne. Lance Sergeant Wood was the trainer.

At the start of the first day it rained very heavily, making the course very treacherous, but everyone set off with the intention of winning the individual and team events, and so the rain did not worry them.

Lance Sergeant Costen, No. 3, set off third, but was soon leading the field, and was later caught up by Signalman MacKay, who was No. 5. They stayed together and maintained the lead for the rest of the day. I first saw them at the second time check, which was about thirty-five miles from the start; the going had been very heavy, but they looked as fresh as they were at the start. It was at the lunch halt when I again saw them clock in and fill up their petrol tanks. When they came out of the pits for a cup of tea I checked over their time cards and neither of them had lost any points. When our third man came in he said he had been having trouble with his throttle, but although he had been riding 37th and the ground had been cut up for him he clocked in on time and had not lost any points to the half-way halt.

After lunch (thirty-four minutes for each competitor from the time he clocked in) they set off again in the order in which they had arrived at the lunch halt. This second half of the course was very hard, but they set up such a pace that I could only just keep a check on their times by cutting in here and there on the course.

I watched the team go through two very deep water-splashes and was so pleased with the way they were following my instructions that I made for the final water-splash before the finish. This turned out to be in flood and even the best of the riders baulked at it. Signalman MacKay knew that if he took the splash in the normal manner he would not get through, as the water was up to the petrol tank, so he made one dash and ploughed the water away from his carburettor air intake to make a perfect crossing and off he went to the finish to win the individual prize with the loss of only two marks for the whole day—a really wonderful performance.

The next man to get in—Signalman Baker of the School of Signals—had met with trouble at the last water-splash. The third man to cross the line was Signalman Payne (No. 37). He too had experienced trouble with water in his magneto at the same splash, but with quick repairs managed to arrive with a loss of only twenty-two points. We now had two men in, and were waiting for Lance Sergeant Costen to cross the line to win the first day's Trial, but he was having trouble with water in his magneto at the last splash; in fact he almost had to dismantle the whole of his magneto in order to get rid of the water. No member of a team was allowed to help another, so he worked hard against time to get on the road again, while we waited anxiously at the finish for him. At last he dashed to the post at about 60 m.p.h. to give the Depot Battalion a glorious win on the first day. We had the whole team of three in the first four to cross the finishing line, while the next team were still battling with the water.

The Depot Team and Cup

The Depot Battalion had gained a lead of seventy-three points for the second day's Trial, which was a team scramble across very rough and hilly country.

At the start of the second day, each team left in the Trials (now nine teams instead of fourteen) was allowed fifteen minutes maintenance before starting. The weather was glorious throughout the Trial, and spectators were scattered along the whole of the course to watch the battle between the Depot Battalion, Royal Signals, and the R.A.S.C., who had the advantage by having very light machines. The Depot team set up a record for the first half, to which no one could approach closer than twenty minutes, giving us a good lead. Knowing this at the second check, they were given orders to go easy. At the finishing line the R.A.S.C. were the first to get in, as they set off about half-an-hour before the Depot Battalion, but they were all in and had bent, broken and lost many parts of their machines. Then came the Depot team, as fresh as though they were about to start instead of finishing a hard ride, not even a foot-rest bent and equipment all complete. So ended the scramble with the Depot team again victorious by a margin of thirty points—for both days 103 points. A really wonderful performance!

Here are the results for both days:

INDIVIDUAL.

1	Signalman MacKay, Depot Battalion	198 points.
2	,, Baker, School of Signals	186 ,,
3	,, Payne, Depot Battalion	178 ,,

TEAM (First Day).

1	Depot Battalion	478 ,,
2	R.A.S.C.	405 ,,
3	2nd Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment	360 ,,

TEAM (Second Day).

1	Depot Battalion	570 ,,
2	R.A.S.C.	540 ,,
3	2nd Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment	310 ,,

NORTHERN COMMAND CHAMPIONSHIP.

Depot Battalion	1,048 points.
Runners-up: R.A.S.C.	945 ,,

The Depot Battalion in all took one Cup and seven medals out of a possible of one Cup and eight medals—a glorious victory at their first attempt.

CHIPPY.

Royal Signals Sailing Association

Report on the First General Meeting.

This meeting was held in the Royal Signals Officers' Mess, Aldershot, on 27th March. Sixteen officers attended, and Brigadier Chenevix Trench was in the chair.

Brigadier Chenevix Trench explained that the object of the Association was to encourage sailing in the Corps, and to this end a loan fund has been established from which regular members can borrow money for buying yachts and, in addition to this, funds were being accumulated towards purchasing a cruising yacht as a Corps yacht. He said that about 150 officers had considered that the formation of some sailing organisation in the Corps was a good idea, and that he expected that the present membership of sixty would soon be increased. He pointed out that as far as he knew this was the only Service sailing organisation open to Territorial and Supplementary Reserve Officers, and he was glad to note that there were already four T.A. members and one S.R. member.

The meeting then discussed various points raised by members:

(1) It was suggested that the Games Club be approached on the subject of an annual grant on similar lines to that given to the R.A.Y.C. by their Games Club. The sum of £50 a year was suggested.

This was carried unanimously, and Brigadier Chenevix Trench agreed to approach the Corps Committee.

(2) Two suggestions were made on the subject of purchasing a Corps yacht. The first was to devote a part of the loan fund towards such a purchase, and the second was to borrow money from a Finance Company. Brigadier Chenevix Trench explained the terms under which the loan fund was started and that such action was not at present compatible with them. After discussion it was agreed that the time had not yet come to buy a Corps yacht, and that these two suggestions be brought up again at the General Meeting in 1940.

(3) Considerable feeling had arisen over the question of paying back subscriptions. It was explained that the idea underlying this rule was to be able to have some idea of what the annual income was going to be and to prevent too much changing in the membership. After discussion in which it was hoped that this question would never arise, it was agreed that the rule should be cancelled, and the following substituted and brought into force forthwith:

> "Officers who have resigned and who wish to rejoin the Association may do so on paying a re-entrance fee of thirty shillings (30s.)."

(4) An amendment to the rule regarding Flag Officers was agreed to. This amendment is as follows:

> "Flag Officers shall hold their rank for a term of three years. No officer may serve more than one term in the same rank."
>
> "Flag officers shall *ipso facto* be members of the Committee."

(5) A suggestion was put forward that as there was no Corps yacht this year, a charter for a yacht to sleep, say four or five, should be taken out. This was agreed to, and the Secretary was instructed to see if he could fill such a boat.

Any member or potential member who would like a berth should communicate with the Secretary by 1st June, 1939.

The period selected is from 15th July to 12th August. It is proposed that the yacht should return to the same moorings on the south coast each week-end to pick up crews. Berths can be taken for one, two, three or four weeks at £3 10s. 0d. per week, inclusive, except for drinks. It is particularly requested that anyone willing to skipper such a boat should notify the Secretary early.

(6) It had been pointed out that as the burgee was derived from the Signal armband, the colours should be the same. In fact the blue was much too dark. A sample burgee was produced, made in the colours of the armband. It was unanimously agreed to adopt it. The new burgee is brighter than the old one and much more distinctive.

(7) The following working Committee was elected for 1939 : President, Brigadier R. Chenevix Trench ; Aldershot Command, Major L. B. Nicholls ; Southern Command, Captain D. M. Smyth ; Eastern Command, Captain W. B. Purser ; Northern Command, Captain W. R. Smijth-Windham ; Member for abroad, Captain W. D. Weir ; Member for T.A., Colonel T. W. Vigers ; Member for S.R., Lieutenant-Colonel F. W. Dallison ; Secretary, Captain D. M. Smyth ; Crews Secretary, Major L. B. Nicholls.

Major Nicholls has kindly offered his services as Crews Secretary. He is in touch with the Royal Corinthian and other Clubs where skippers are in need of crews. Any member wishing for a berth should apply to him, c/o 2nd Divisional Signals, Aldershot. (This does not apply to this year's charter cruises.)

(8) Votes of thanks for donations were passed to the following : Captain Bolitho, Brigadier Clements-Smith, Colonel Cobb.

Captain Bolitho has presented an annual prize of £5 for the best article on sailing appearing in the Corps Journal each year. This prize will be awarded each November for articles in the four preceding numbers of the Journal.

Corps News—Officers.

Extracts from "The London Gazette."

[War Office, 24/3/39]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Major G. H. Plummer, M.C., to be Lieutenant-Colonel, 25/3/39.

Captain R. Webb is seconded for service with the T.A.

Lieutenant (I.P.C.) W. Clark to be Captain (I.P.C.), 23/3/39.

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS.

The undermentioned, having attained the age limit of liability to recall, cease to belong to the Reserve of Officers :

Lieutenant-Colonel A. L. Owen, O.B.E., M.C., 10/2/39.

Lieutenant-Colonel F. Cobb, M.C., 27/2/39.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

2nd Cavalry (Middlesex Yeomanry) Divisional Signals. Lieutenant The Viscount Malden to be Captain, 26/2/39. Lieutenant J. F. Prideaux to be Captain, 26/2/39. Lieutenant J. G. Potter to be Captain, 26/2/39. Lieutenant D. B. Murray to be Captain, 26/2/39.

43rd (W.) Divisional Signals. 2nd Lieutenant R. Gibson resigns his commission, 23/2/39.

55th (W.L.) Divisional Signals. G. T. Radmore to be 2nd Lieutenant, 25/3/39.

2nd A.A. Divisional Signals. A. G. Smith to be 2nd Lieutenant, 25/3/39.

3rd A.A. Divisional Signals. E. E. Bailey to be 2nd Lieutenant, 25/3/39.

4th A.A. Divisional Signals. C. J. Killeen (late Captain, Reserve of Officers) to be Captain, 15/3/39.

[War Office, 28/3/39]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Captain H. N. Crawford to be Adjutant, 2/2/39.

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Major W. L. Roseveare, M.C. (Reserve of Officers, R.E.) to be Major, 28/3/39, retaining his present seniority.

The undermentioned resign their commissions, 28/3/39 :

Lieutenant G. H. Mayne, Lieutenant H. S. Walker, Lieutenant E. K. Sandeman.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

North Midland Corps Signals. A. J. Pentecost to be 2nd Lieutenant, 29/3/39.

2nd A.A. Divisional Signals. H. E. Mott to be Lieutenant (Quartermaster), 29/3/39.

4th A.A. Divisional Signals. F. W. S. Turton to be 2nd Lieutenant, 29/3/39.

5th A.A. Divisional Signals. G. T. C. Morris to be 2nd Lieutenant, 29/3/39. J. E. Gololthan to be 2nd Lieutenant, 29/3/39.

[War Office, 31/3/39]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Lieutenant-Colonel W. M. Miller, M.C., on completion of four years service as Regimental Lieutenant-Colonel, is removed from the Regimental List and remains on full pay, 1/4/39.

The undermentioned to be Lieutenant-Colonels, 1/4/39 :

Major J. W. Bailey, M.C., Major F. A. H. Mathew, O.B.E., M.C., Major C. V. L. Lycett, O.B.E., Major E. V. F. MacSwiney.

Captain J. B. Adams is restored to the establishment, 1/4/39.

SCHOOL OF SIGNALS.

Captain J. B. Adams relinquishes the appointment of Instructor, 1/4/39.

MEMORANDA.

Lieutenant-Colonel C. V. L. Lycett, Royal Signals, is removed from the Regimental List and remains employed, 1/4/39.

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE—ROYAL SIGNALS.

The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants, 29/3/39 :

N. O. Johnson, R. J. Barlow.

3rd A.A. Brigade Signals. The undermentioned to be Lieutenants, 1/4/39 :

V. E. Stanley, 2nd Lieutenant G. R. Edwards (from " not in units "), G. H. Metson.

The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenant, 1/4/39 :

E. J. G. Tucker.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

North Midland Corps Signals. R. E. Pickford to be 2nd Lieutenant, 1/4/39.

2nd Cavalry Divisional Signals. R. H. Calvert to be 2nd Lieutenant, 1/4/39.

55th (W.L.) Divisional Signals. Captain J. R. S. Orchard to be Major, 23/1/39. Lieutenant J. T. Stephen to be Captain, 23/1/39.

2nd A.A. Divisional Signals. 2nd Lieutenant W. H. Arnold, from T.A. Reserve, to be Major, 1/4/39.

3rd A.A. Divisional Signals. J. T. Dunbar to be 2nd Lieutenant, 1/4/39.

4th A.A. Divisional Signals. Major F. J. Behn to have seniority, 3/1/35. Lieutenant V. P. Care (late R.G.A.) to be Captain, 1/4/39. 2nd Lieutenant W. M. Dodd to be Lieutenant, 23/1/39.

[War Office, 4/4/39]

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Mobile Divisional Signals. Lieutenant N. C. Pearson to be Captain, 26/2/39. R. B. Willis to be 2nd Lieutenant, 5/4/39.

North Midland Corps Signals. 2nd Lieutenant R. W. Peel to be Lieutenant, 4/4/39.

53rd (W.) Divisional Signals. 2nd Lieutenant D. Stephens to be Lieutenant, 18/1/39.

5th A.A. Divisional Signals. E. K. F. Bucklitsh to be 2nd Lieutenant, 17/3/39.

[War Office, 11/4/39]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Captain E. Y. Nepean is seconded for service on the Staff, 20/2/39.

Captain E. S. Cole to be Adjutant, vice Major W. O. Bowen, 1/3/39.

Captain R. N. Seddon is restored to the establishment, 8/4/39.

Sergeant-Major (F-of-S) King V. F. to be Lieutenant (T.M.O.), 1/4/39.

A.F.V. SCHOOL.
Captain R. N. Seddon relinquishes the appointment of Instructor, 8/4/39.

MEMORANDA.
Lieutenant-Colonel W. R. C. Penney, D.S.O., O.B.E., M.C., on completion of tenure of service as Regimental Lieutenant-Colonel is removed from the Regimental List and remains on full pay whilst a Student at the I.D.C., 1/4/39.

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE—ROYAL SIGNALS.
2nd Lieutenant J. E. Woodward to be Lieutenant, 26/2/39.
W. S. Grieve to be 2nd Lieutenant, 12/4/39.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
51st (H.) Divisional Signals. Lieutenant J. Gray to be Captain, 12/12/38.
53rd (W.) Divisional Signals. Lieutenant J. B. Senior to be Captain, 15/3/39.
2nd A.A. Divisional Signals. Lieutenant H. Hall, late R.E., to be Captain, 8/4/39.
5th A.A. Divisional Signals. Lieutenant H. B. Somerville, Reserve of Officers, to be Captain, 8/4/39. Lieutenant C. S. Scantlebury, Reserve of Officers, to be Captain, 8/4/39. T. W. Piggott to be 2nd Lieutenant, 19/3/39. C. S. Wright to be 2nd Lieutenant, 20/3/39. B. C. Skelly to be 2nd Lieutenant, 30/3/39. J. S. Hill to be 2nd Lieutenant, 1/4/39.

[War Office, 14/4/39]

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE—ROYAL SIGNALS.
A. R. Knowles to be 2nd Lieutenant, 15/4/39.

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE—ROYAL SIGNALS.
A. R. Knowles to be 2nd Lieutenant, 15/4/39.
P. H. Muston to be 2nd Lieutenant, 15/4/39.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
44th (H.C.) Divisional Signals. Franck Parkinson, Esq., to be Hon. Colonel, 12/4/39.

49th (W.R.) Divisional Signals. Lieutenant B. B. Gardner to be Captain, 12/12/38.

North Midland Corps Signals. Lieutenant A. K. Haslehurst to be Captain, 12/12/39.

42nd (E.L.) Divisional Signals. Lieutenant R. J. Presland to be Captain, 20/3/39.

43rd (W.) Divisional Signals. 2nd Lieutenant D. C. Spicer resigns his commission, 20/3/39.

52nd (L.) Divisional Signals. Captain W. Buchanan, M.C. (from T.A. Reserve), to be Major, 11/1/39.

3rd A.A. Divisional Signals. J. Y. Ferguson to be 2nd Lieutenant, 31/3/39. D. Middlemiss to be 2nd Lieutenant, 15/4/39. F. P. Stewart to be 2nd Lieutenant, 15/4/39. A. H. Donnelly to be 2nd Lieutenant, 15/4/39.

5th A.A. Divisional Signals. J. C. M. Salter to be 2nd Lieutenant, 29/3/39, with seniority 29/7/38.

[War Office, 18/4/39]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
Captain T. H. Winterborn is restored to establishment, 15/3/39.

Captain W. D. Weir retires, receiving a gratuity, 15/4/39.

SCHOOL OF SIGNALS.
Captain L. S. Stirling-Wilkinson to be Instructor, 1/4/39.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
North Midland Corps Signals. J. H. C. Linney to be 2nd Lieutenant, 19/4/39.

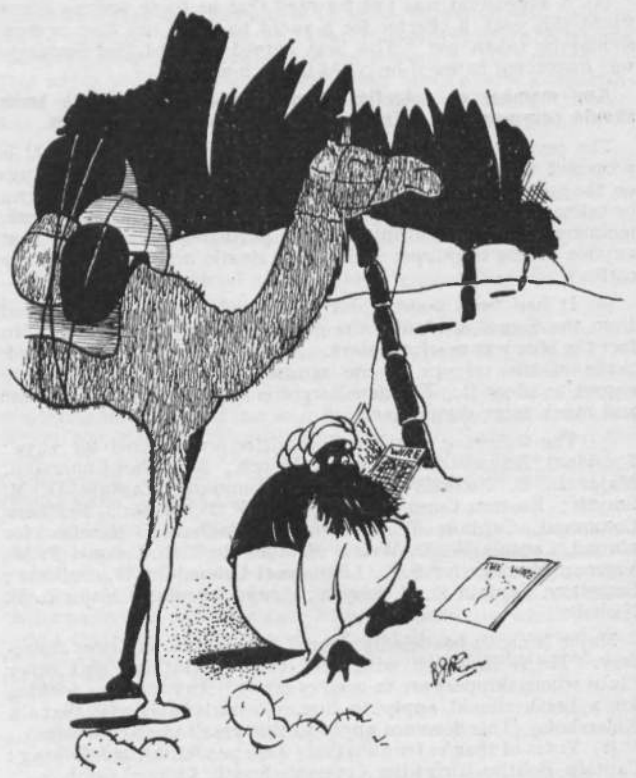
43rd (W.) Divisional Signals. H. W. B. Ashe to be 2nd Lieutenant, 19/4/39.

54th (E.A.) Divisional Signals. 2nd Lieutenant A. L. Farr, from 43rd (W.) Divisional Signals to be 2nd Lieutenant, 19/4/39, with seniority 12/5/38.

1st A.A. Divisional Signals. 2nd Lieutenant N. B. Ross resigns his commission, 31/3/39.

3rd A.A. Divisional Signals. 2nd Lieutenant J. J. Milburn, from R.A.T.A., to be 2nd Lieutenant, 24/2/39.

4th A.A. Divisional Signals. I. A. Landells to be 2nd Lieutenant, 22/3/39.



I really must attend the next "Old-Comrades" Dinner.

10th Divisional Signal Company, R.E., 1914—1919

Annual Dinner

The Nineteenth Annual Reunion Dinner of this Company was held at the Grafton Hotel, London, W., on Saturday, 11th March. This was the Jubilee Dinner of the Company and there was a record attendance of seventy-two.

Major-General H. C. B. Wemyss, D.S.O., M.C., Director of Mobilisation, who commanded the Company for sometime, presided. He was supported by Brigadier L. S. Smithers, C.B. (the Company's first Commanding Officer), Major M. E. Webb, D.S.O., M.C., R.E., and Captain F. H. Seabrooke, R.E., who also commanded the Company at different periods, and Major C. A. Murray, Royal Signals, Captain J. J. Graham, Lieutenants Beuslyn and Roebuck and C.S.M. Ecuyer, who served with the Company.

Among the guests were: Major-General Sir G. Bowman-Manifold, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., Colonel Commandant, Royal Engineers, who, during the war, was S.O.-in-Chief, Salonica and Egyptian Forces, Major-General Sir John R. Longley, K.C.M.G., C.B., the Divisional Commander, Brigadier E. M. S. Charles, C.M.G., D.S.O., R.E. (C.R.E., 10th Division), Major G. Lloyd, D.S.O. (D.A.D.V.S., 10th Division), Rev. B. K. Bond, C.F., Lieutenant Berlandina and others from IX Corps Signals (Suvla) and Desert Mounted Corps (Palestine), with which the Unit was associated.

Letters regretting their inability to attend and conveying good wishes were received from Majors F. B. Barker, R.E., Malta, R. R. A. Darling, Royal Signals, Palestine, and many others.

After the loyal toast, proposed by General Wemyss, had been honoured, the following toast list was proceeded with: "The 10th Division," proposed by General Wemyss, reply by General Sir J. R. Longley; "The 10th Divisional Signals," proposed by

General Sir G. Bowman-Manifold, reply by Brigadier Smithers; "The Organisers," proposed by Major Webb, reply by Mr. J. G. Martin; "The Guests," proposed by Captain J. J. Graham, reply by Brigadier Charles and Mr. King of the Desert Signals.

This Dinner saw the largest attendance present of all ranks of the Company since demobilisation, and the opportunity was taken to offer hearty congratulations to General Wemyss on his recent promotion.

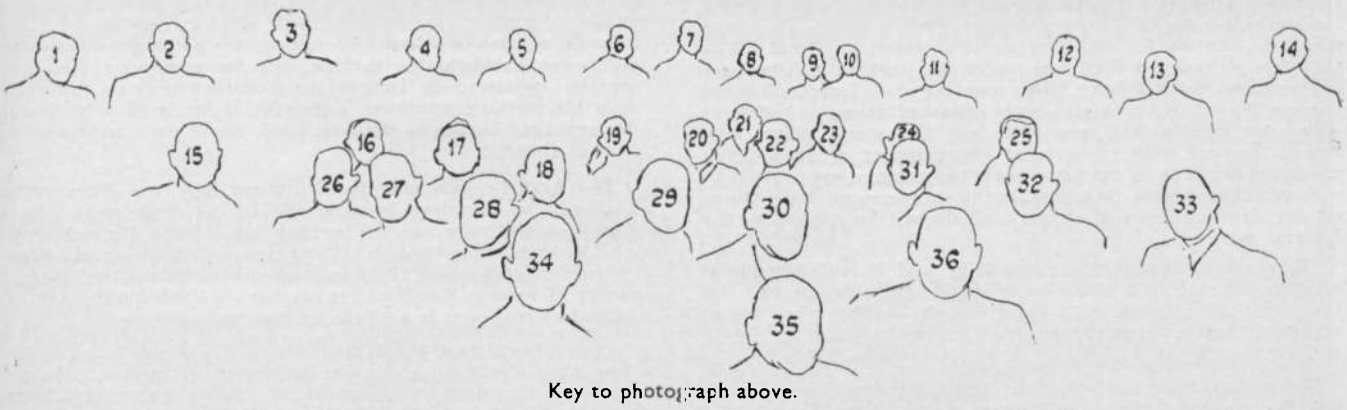
The arrangements were most successful, and Mr. J. G. Martin deserved the thanks and applause which greeted his toast.

The next Dinner will be held in Manchester on Saturday, 16th March, 1940.

No. 30 Motor Airline Section, R.E. Signals Annual Dinner

The third Annual Dinner of No. 30 Motor Airline Section, R.E. Signals, was held at Birmingham on 4th March. Captain H. C. Hannam-Clark was in the chair, and Lieutenant-Colonel J. S. Yule, O.B.E., was the guest. As will be seen from the photograph, there was a good muster and old friends met again. It was a very enjoyable evening

Sergeant Histon is to be congratulated on the success attending the great effort he always makes in hunting up members, and everyone will be looking forward with pleasurable anticipation to next year's function.



Key to photograph above.

1, Sergeant Rees J. W.; 2, R.S.M. Nealon J. (A.C.P.); 3, Lieutenant-Colonel J. S. Yule, O.B.E.; 4, Captain H. C. Hannam-Clark, M.C.; 5, Sergeant Histon F. G.; 6, Sapper Wilson A.; 7, Sapper Warburton A. M.; 8, Sapper Krause E. J.; 9, 2nd Corporal Bradbury L. W.; 10, Sapper Edwards A.; 11, Lance Corporal Taylor W. H. ("L" Signals); 12, Lance Corporal Smith F. P.; 13, 2nd Corporal Rose F. W.; 14, Visitor; 15, Visitor; 16, Lance Corporal Rees T.; 17, Sapper Henderson F. C.; 18, Lance Corporal Hands W. (A.C.P.); 19, Sapper Adams A. P.; 20, Sapper Hadley H.; 21, Corporal Griffin F.; 22, Lance Corporal Harlow F. J.; 23, Sapper Grimmitt H.; 24, Sapper Holder J.; 25, Sapper Wilkinson B.; 26, Corporal Sorrell W. G. (A.A.R.); 27, Sapper Dunkley L. W.; 28, Sapper Crowther A. T.; 29, Sapper Roberts A. L.; 30, Sapper Wells H.; 31, Sapper Shrive F.; 32, Sapper Ingram A.; 33, Sapper Portlock J. H.; 34, Sapper Blecker J. A.; 35, Private Sambrook J.; 36, Sapper Hursthouse J.

Signals in Tanganyika.

(Fifth Instalment, concluded).

The W/T building was completed in time for the final tests on the Loliondo transmitter to be conducted from it. The tests were by no means exhaustive, but higher authority was getting impatient, and it was decided the Set could be adjusted finally on site.

The O.C. and F-of-S left Dar-es-Salaam on 6th January, with the new Bedford lorry, the old Crossley lorry (both with T.R.4 type Sets installed therein), the Mbulu and Loliondo Sets and fifteen operators, and proceeded to Dodoma by rail. There they loaded up the two Transport Corps Bedford lorries, which were waiting for them, and all then headed for Mbulu, the No. 11 Set being collected *en route*. The 250-mile journey to Mbulu was not without interest as two fairly large escarpments had to be negotiated. No game was observed and very little scenery worth noting. Mbulu was reached by 9 p.m. on the 8th, and three days were spent in installing the P. and T. Department Set, and in contacting the Airways' stations at Dodoma and Moshi. Owing to the short notice regarding the installation, no building was available, and the Set was put into the Assistant Administrative Officer's office, everything being of a temporary nature.

Mbulu was enjoying English summer weather, the thermometer never exceeding 80 degrees Fah., and then only approaching that figure for a few minutes each day. After the comparative heat and humidity of Dar-es-Salaam it was a pleasant change. Readers might be interested to know that Tanganyika Officals consider it hot when the temperature gets around the 90 degree mark.

Considering the station sufficiently well established, three operators were left there and the remainder departed on the morning of the 12th, and travelled as a convoy for the first fifty miles. That fifty miles took them over a ridge of hills which brought back memories of journeys to a Hill Station in India, but with three noticeable differences. The roads here are far worse than the general hill road in India, one did not get the spectacular view of the Himalayas, and the natives, instead of cultivating the crops in level strips, in step formation down the hill-side, merely dig and plant over the natural contours. The latter is possibly a significant point regarding the natural intelligence of Indian and African natives. One was forced to the conclusion that the Agriculture Department could do something about it, for the nature of the resultant crops can probably be imagined. On reflection, however, one realises they may have similar problems to one's own.

At the fifty-mile point, the party split up, the F-of-S taking the two Transport Corps lorries and the four men and gear for Loliondo, and the O.C. taking the two wireless lorries and eight men and heading for the Exercise rendezvous at Moshi. The thoughts of Skeleton Exercises under the shadow of Kibo, and her younger sister Mwenzi (who together give Tanganyika her famous Mount Kilimanjaro) were pleasant enough, and eyes which for months had seen little else but sandy plains now looked forward with pleasure at the prospect of snow, even though it might be a matter of seventeen miles away. As if to welcome the wireless detachments the snow-capped Kibo threw off her dressing-gown of clouds and showed herself off to the hungry eyes.

Unhappily, Kilimanjaro is one thing and Moshi township is another. At the foot of her ladyship, Moshi bathes in dust—of the tenacious volcanic kind—and despite her brave efforts at making herself a pleasant township, she has to battle for breath with her enemy.

Under conditions such as these, three Wireless Sets took the field for the first time in the history of peace-time Tanganyika. The usual influx of traffic peculiar to Skeleton Exercises, the first field experience of native operators, and the idiosyncracies of obsolete R.A.F. Sets combined to make havoc with communications and provided the training and "lessons to be learned" so near and dear to military principles. Group tuning in barracks is an experience to be remembered when one has almost literally to send on one Set and then double across to listen to one's own sending on two other Sets for, as I have mentioned in previous articles, transmitter tuning on the R.A.F. T.R.4 Set is beyond the powers of an African who has had one year's proximity to (not, be it noted, intensive training with) a wireless set.

Procedure, generally, is very good; as the Askari is meticulous to a degree—perhaps one might say hidebound—and for a while the first Scheme with the three Sets working as a group went well, but the hour before sundown and the adjustments of the Sets became too much, with the result that a rot set in, which for the remaining hours made it an unequal struggle. Still, lessons were learned, and we can, in a way, get a small amount of satisfaction.

The next effort was an unqualified success. Practising ground-to-air communication (in co-operation with No. 232 Squadron, R.A.F., from Nairobi) at a Demonstration for the benefit of the Officers and B.W. and N.C.O.s of the Brigade produced an assurance that the Askari, even though half-trained, has possibilities, and the R.A.F. Operators admitted they had received a pleasant surprise regarding the operating, but the hard and fast rules of procedure adhered to by the natives were not to their complete liking.

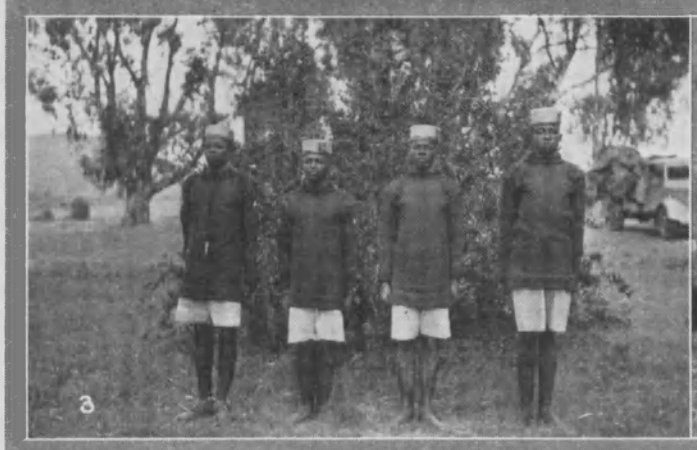
An Exercise on the lines of the Demonstration was then held, and a mixture of chaos and plain sailing did produce some result—why, no one will ever know! It was one of those rare occasions when Signals nearly get away with it! Kibo and Mwenzi must have smiled a bit; their age and experience had taught them that running before walking is a disappointing experiment.

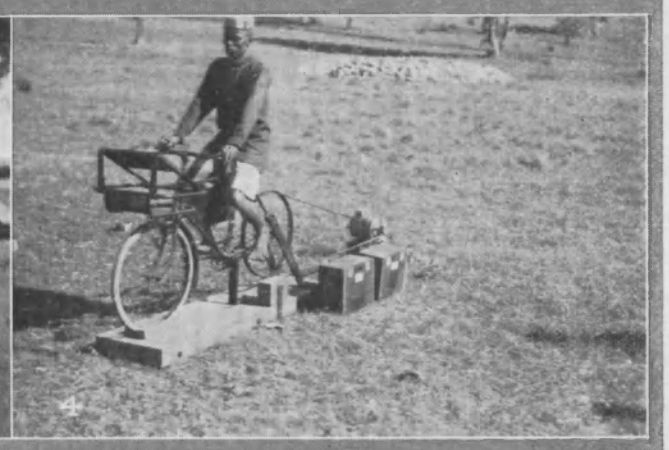
And now let us follow the Foreman's fortunes in his efforts to help in opening up this Territory. The Ngorongoro Crater was reached on the same day that the party from Mbulu split. It was as big a disappointment as when first visited; nothing but a shallow lake in an uninteresting crater. Loliondo was reached the next day, Friday, the 13th, at about 7 p.m. The journey across the Serengeti was uneventful, a few antelope, gazelle, ostrich and giraffe being observed. The Bedford lorries did not give a favourable impression. It seems impossible to ride anywhere but in the driver's seat without feeling sick, and the shaking given to the wireless equipment is very bad. Over a stretch of loose sand, extending for about twenty miles, it was necessary to help once or twice with a push, whereas on the previous trip the Crossley had just rolled through. Further, the amount of water required seemed large, for whereas the Crossley, old though it is, did the same portion of the trip with an addition of about two gallons, the Bedfords each required no less than six gallons to be added. As this was the Foreman's first experience with Bedfords, such an amount had not been catered for, and as there is no natural source of water on this route, eight of the twelve gallons required had to come from the twelve gallons of emergency rations carried. Not so very cheerful. It is probable that the Bedfords are good for hauling sand or coal, etc., over a reasonable surface, but for conveying men and wireless apparatus in Tanganyika Territory they do not meet with the writer's approval, although, higher authority having decreed that Bedfords shall be used, there isn't anything we can do about it.

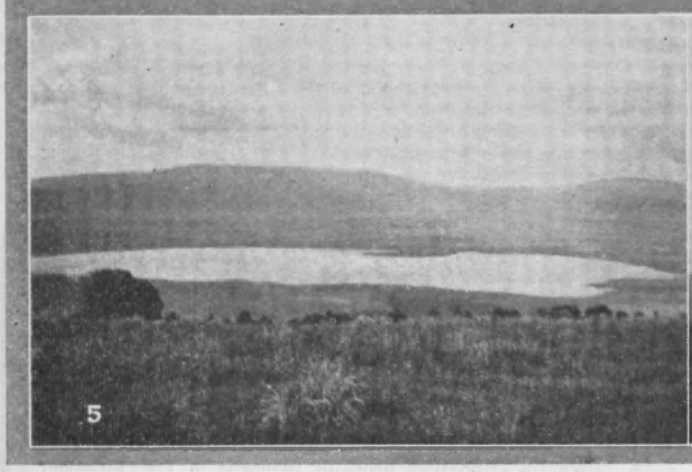
The Askari's view may be of interest, however. They prefer Bedfords to Crossleys because the former look more like a European's private car and so they can "fancy their chance" a little when riding in them. In similar spirit the only advantage of the Bedfords which the Foreman will concede is that there is plenty of room in the front for his dog—a Dachshund—whereas with the Crossley it is a job to fix him up!

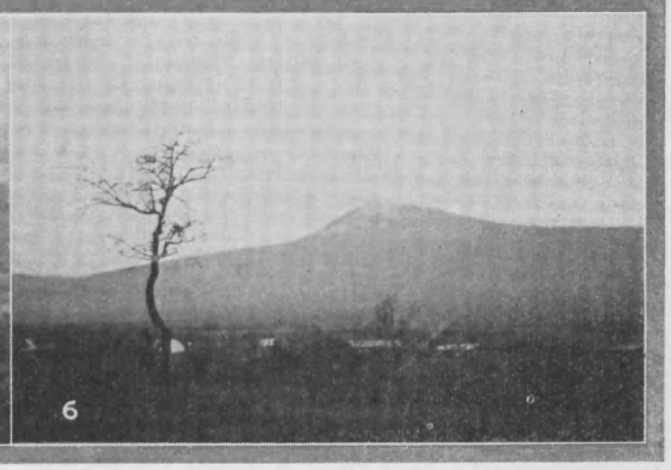
It was found that the Administrative Officer at Loliondo this time was a bachelor, and as he had to set off on patrol the day following the Foreman's arrival, the latter was alone during the ten days he was there. This period was spent in erecting wooden masts, wiring up the Set and batteries, testing out establishing communication and in giving final hints to the Askari regarding the running of the station. Communication was established with the other Set at Mbulu and the Airways' station at Dodoma on the 20th, and although it was continuously and satisfactorily maintained, several adjustments were necessary before the F-of-S deemed it advisable to leave the Askari alone.

SIGNALS IN TANGANYIKA.









1. Loliondo.
2. Wireless Station at Loliondo.
3. Personnel of the " Crisis " Station.
4. Battery Charging at Loliondo.
5. Ngorongoro Crater.
6. Kilimanjaro from Moshi Cantonments.

Due to the distance that Loliondo is from civilisation—230 miles from a source of supply in Tanganyika—the battery charging system adopted is a bicycle-driven generator; novel, but not, of course, unique. It takes longer to keep the batteries up to scratch, but ensures that there will never be the worry of a petrol supply which, with such distances involved, would be hazardous and expensive. Other methods were thought of but were turned down as being more likely to fail at the critical period, although it is possible that a wind-charging device will be installed later.

It had been intended that the F-of-S should stay for three or four days after everything had been properly settled in order to ensure that the station would run smoothly, and to give him the chance of a short rest, but such was the demand for his services that he had to leave Loliondo after only one day had been so spent and return to Moshi as quickly as possible.

The return journey to Ngorongoro was uneventful, except that several mirages were experienced. So clear and close did the water appear on one occasion that we thought that the wrong track had been followed and an unknown water supply discovered, but, like the remainder, it faded into thin air. At the Crater an unusually pretty cloud effect was observed at sunset, and that night more twinkling stars were noticed than ever before. The writer regrets never having found the time to study Natural History and its associated subjects, but if any reader is interested, Audrey Moore's book, " Serengeti " is both interesting and authentic.

Soon after leaving the Crater the following day, two elephants crossed the road about seventy-five yards in front of the lorry, taking the 9-10 ft. drop to the road as easily as normal humans step down stairs. As is usual on such occasions, the camera was not to hand. That day 160 miles were covered in nine hours, the greatest distance the Foreman has covered in a lorry in one day in Tanganyika.

On arrival at Moshi it was learned that the authorities had realised they had set a hard task, requiring troops to be trained without adequate equipment, and that the Foreman was to fly to Nairobi right away and, in conjunction with the Northern Brigade Signals, get on with the building of Sets suitable for training.

With regard to the men and their training during the period now under review (September, 1938 to January, 1939) it must be admitted that it had been impossible to give the men the personal attention desirable for the attainment of maximum efficiency, and all that had been possible was the connecting up of D.III Buzzers around the Sergeants' Mess verandah, to represent a W/T Group, and let them work as such. As all signals were clearly audible to the O.C. and F-of-S, a certain amount of supervision was possible. The systematic teaching of English was started in October, with the clerk as chief instructor, an hour a day being devoted to the subject. It will, of course, be several years before it is possible to use English as the everyday language, but the Askari are given every encouragement to try it.

When the No. 11 Set was collected, a most remarkable change was observed in the four Askari who had worked it since the " crisis " period. It had been a risk leaving them alone, and when left they were scared stiff at the very thought of being alone with such magic as a wireless set, to work official and paid traffic with skilled British Operators at the Imperial Airways' Stations. Now, however, they have all the confidence in the world, and their eagerness to boast of their abilities is most marked, although they are, of course, still a long way from being first class. It is, in conclusion, worth recording that the Imperial Airways' Operators' tolerance has been a great help in the job of convincing the authorities that wireless in Tanganyika Territory is a practical proposition.

The O.C. left Moshi on 29th January, by road for Dodoma and Daressalaam, taking with him the men, the Sets and the lorries. On arrival at Daressalaam he will start off the individual training period. The F-of-S left Moshi by air for Nairobi on the 30th. On arrival he will, it is hoped, become a producer of Wireless Sets.

ROYAL SIGNALS CAR BADGE.

The above illustration describes a new Car Badge, which has been designed to meet the requirements of all Royal Signals car owners.

It is a highly finished production of excellent workmanship—Chromium plated with a central background of Royal Signals Corps colours in enamel—and can be obtained on application to The Secretary, Signals Association; 15/6 each.

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 196

The subscription is only 2/- per annum
Ask your Unit Representative for further details.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

(By courtesy of Wm. May & Co. Ltd., Aldershot.)

(By courtesy of Wm. May & Co. Ltd., Aldershot.)

Visit of the Princess Royal to Aldershot in 1937.

HOME STATIONS

SIGNAL TRAINING CENTRE NOTES

"A" Company, Depot Battalion.

Obituary.—All ranks of "A" Company, in conjunction with "C" Company, desire to express their sympathy to the relatives of Signalman Jarvis in their sad bereavement.

Deaths.—It is with the deepest regret that we have to report the death of No. 2316049 Lance Sergeant Sugg H. in the Military Hospital, Catterick Camp. Sergeant Sugg had been ill in hospital for some days. The officers and other ranks of this Company tender their deepest sympathy to Mrs. Sugg in her sad bereavement.

General.—Owing to many unforeseen circumstances, the information under this heading is rather scarce this month, but atonement will be made in the next issue.

At long last the final approval for a modern cinema has been obtained, and we shall all look forward to the final completion of this building, which will be in complete harmony with the other new buildings, such as Sandhurst Blocks and the new married quarters. Catterick will soon be a modern city to which it will be a pleasure to return, in spite of the bad weather. All we want now is that long-awaited railway station that was mentioned many years ago.

No one seems to have said anything about the waiting rooms for buses which has been built at Kemmel Lines. It is a modern building in brick, without "E.L." or "H. and C.," but a great improvement on the previous open-air station.

There are rumours to the effect that a hot-water system will be installed in barrack rooms in the near future. What a pleasure that will be!

The "Gas" staff have also been very busy erecting posts with pointers to the various centres. These sign posts, which are painted in white and red, have also added to the cheerfulness of the Camp.

Promotions and Appointments.—Congratulations to the following on their raise in status: Lance Sergeant Collett E., Corporals Walters W. and Dunbar J. Well, Jock, they suit you very much, and what a grand occasion to wear a new tunic—on a Friday!

Postings.—We have said *au revoir* to the following: Lance Sergeant Cairns J. to "A" Corps Signals and Corporal Grigg T. to 5th Divisional Signals. Corporal Walters is shortly to leave us; he has decided on Canterbury for a change. During the month many of the recruits who have finished their Square training have been posted, and we wish them all the best of luck in their new stations.

Arrivals.—Not forgetting all the recruits we have received this month, we also welcome Lance Corporal Ward from 2nd Divisional Signals, Aldershot, who has arrived as relief for Corporal Walters. The usual good wishes to you all!

Pass-offs.—The following Squads have passed off with flying colours: No. 1 Squad (Instructor, Lance Corporal Graham J.); No. 2 Squad (Instructor, Lance Sergeant Theobald, F., 2nd Battalion, Bedfs. and Herts. Regiment). The Whip and P.T. Medal winners were as follows: No. 1 Squad: Whip, Signalman Fox C.; P.T. Medal, Signalman Fox C. No. 2 Squad: Whip, Signalman Piper J.; P.T. Medal, Signalman Wildman A.

This will be the last Squad for Lance Sergeant Theobald, who is to leave us soon for a taste of civilian life. We wish him the very best of luck in his new venture.

The following Squad has started: No. 10 Squad, under Sergeant Lunn, 2nd Battalion, Seaforths.

The following Squads have passed off after eleven weeks' training with increases in weights as shown:

	Squad Average Increases.	Highest Individual Increases.	
8th March:			
No. 58 Squad ..	6.3 lbs.	Signalman Wynne	16 lbs.
,, 59 ,, ..	6.7 ,,	,, Campbell	14 ,,
21st March:			
No. 1 Squad ..	7.0 ,,	,, Fox ..	19 ,,
,, 2 ,, ..	5.91 ,,	,, Elwick..	19 ,,
1st April:			
No. 3 Squad ..	7.74 ,,	,, Potter ..	22 ,,
,, 4 ,, ..	5.57 ,,	,, Bedwell	13 ,,

"C" Company, Depot Battalion.

General.—The Company is at present all on edge owing to the Easter leave they are going to get, and our very studious orders clerk (Driver (H.T.) Holman C.) is up to his eyes in work. We must not forget our stalwart—Drake of "C." He is having a strenuous time with his monthly returns and keeping the Army Forms up-to-date. He has lived up to his name. He was a little late for parade one day, and the Company thought he was just finishing his game of bowls, and had forgotten the parade.

The training department of the Company is progressing well these days, and we are hoping to turn out some good Drivers and Despatch Riders in the near future as we have started on a new programme of training. The M.T. clerk hopes that it will reduce the number of traffic accidents—he has had to deal with a mere nine or ten recently.

Arrivals and Departures.—These are so numerous that we cannot mention them all individually, but to those who have come and gone we wish all the best of luck wherever they are.

Appointments.—We congratulate the following on their appointments: Lance Corporals Drake (Drake of "C"), Boynton L., Harper T., Hope G. and Forbes J.

Marriages.—Congratulations to Corporal Robson F. C. on his marriage whilst on leave.

Obituary.—We are sorry to record the death of 2327658 Signalman Jarvis G. J. P., who passed away after a long illness at the Military Hospital, Catterick Camp. Signalman Jarvis was well liked by all those who knew him. He was a Despatch Rider in No. 31 D.R. Squad, and undergoing training up to the time of his illness.

The burial took place at Keighley, Yorkshire, and the Company sent a representative to the funeral. All ranks extend their sympathy to relatives of the deceased.

Casualty.—Our officer in charge of M.T. and D.R. training (Captain W. D. Horniman, Royal Signals) underwent an operation recently, and we all hope that he will soon be restored to good health once more.

Sport.—The Company football team have won the Inter-Company Cup, after a hard struggle in the semi-final. How could we lose with such a team?

The Company Sergeant-Major appeared to be licking his lips as soon as the match was finished. We wonder if he had a side bet with somebody. The match was played on the Command Ground, and just to show a few of these other teams that it was play that won the Cup, we ask them to take a look at the names of the team: Signalman Arnold; Signalman Phillips, Driver Stranks; Driver Taylor, Signalman Mansell, Signalman Codd; Signalman Markey, Driver Roberts, Driver Burden, Farrier Sergeant Cannon, Lance Corporal Murray.

The Company can be seen trotting around the Baghdad sports ground these days loosening up for the Mackworth Trophy. Judging by the way that some of our grand old men are faring, we have quite a few dark horses in the Company.

G. A. S.

Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess
Depot Battalion.

The Mess have said farewell to R.S.M. Brandon, who has left for warmer climes. Owing to an alteration of dates in his sailing we were unable to hold the usual farewell party. We hope that he will find his new station to his liking, and we tender our best wishes.

Sergeant Searle has also left in order to find a suitable public house that requires an ideal manager, and Lance Sergeant Cairns has once more returned to his home town—Aldershot. The Mess is strange these days without you, Badge!

Twenty-six members paid a visit to the semi-final at Manchester, and a grand day was had by all those who managed to get through the crush. One member remarked that he had the whole of the 77,000 spectators pushing him in the back.

Tailpiece.—Recruit to Sergeant: "Sergeant, is it true that Hitler has taken Kemmel?"

THREES.

"D" Company, Training Battalion.

April

General.—The Company has just returned from Easter leave and, judging from the remarks overheard in the Mess Room, such as "Gad, what a filly," and "Roll on, Whitsun," we imagine that all had a very good time. The N.A.A.F.I. had to replenish their stock of writing paper to cope with the rush of new "romances."

Promotions and Appointments.—Congratulations are extended to the following on attaining the ranks and appointments shown: Lieutenant (Quartermaster) J. S. Mitchell, Royal Signals, Lieutenant (T.M.O.) V. J. King, Royal Signals, T/C.S.M. Prior, W.O.III Thorne, Lance Sergeant Walton and Lance Corporal Toogood. Also to U/Lance Corporals Bartlett, Bennett and Vickers on joining the Junior Mess.

Arrivals.—We welcome Sergeant Whalley and Lance Corporal Gee back to the fold after their six months' Course at the G.P.O., Peterborough. We also have an influx of recruits, and the Battalion is well up to strength in this respect.

Social.—During the month we entertained Bishop Auckland Social Centre to a return fixture, which took the form of a football match in the afternoon and a "social" in the evening. After the tea had been "cleared away," the company made a bee line for the Wet Bar, where a sing-song was organised; a liberal amount of refreshment was available. Everyone voted it a very pleasant evening, and we hope it will not be long before we have another opportunity of entertaining our friends from Bishop Auckland.

Gargle Parade.—To safeguard against Catterick's unwelcome visitor (Influenza), gargling parades are in progress, and one of our budding young poets has contributed the following effort:

GARGLE PARADE.

By WALLYACK.

It was a winter's morning,
  And work had not begun;
But from their barrack rooms emerged
  The warriors at a run.

Across the barrack square they sped—
  Round to the cookhouse door;
They dipped their mugs into a bath
  That lay upon the floor.

No man took more than his fair share,
  And no man asked for more—
But gingerly away they went
  Shaken to the core.

Into their annexes they crept,
  And holding head on high
They poured the stuff into their mouths—
  And gave a strangled cry.

And when they'd finished struggling,
  They spat into the drain;
And then once more repeated
  Their peculiar refrain.

I.C. Drivers made a sound
  Like marbles in a can;
And linemen made a noise just like
  A camel chewing bran.

An I.M. standing near them
  Vibrated like a tank;
An E.S. gave us his idea
  Of Bren guns firing blank.

A Draughtsman's tonsils slipped a bit
  And got quite out of line;
A clerk whose false teeth didn't fit
  Cast pearls before the swine.

'Tis sad my friends to have to say
  Tradition we can't follow;
For once a Signalman has more
  Than he can darn well swallow.

But still bear up, my bonny boys,
  Be all ye of good cheer;
For you can take the taste away—
  By gargling (ginger) beer!

H. E. S.

"E" Company, Training Battalion.

General.—These notes are being compiled by a new correspondent and also immediately following the Easter leave period, therefore any irrelevancies which may be noticed may truthfully be ascribed to one or other of these reasons.

We gather from the conversation of those returning from leave that an enjoyable Easter appears to have been the rule.

Training is again the order of the day, and is quite a contrast to those delightful interludes we had at Blackpool and other salubrious places.

Arrivals.—We welcome our new C.S.M., W.O. II Farmer, who has joined us from the School of Signals. A welcoming hand is also extended to Signalman Riseborough from Blackdown, and to Signalman Smith A. from the Army School of Cookery, where he has been attending a Course.

Departures.—We regret having to announce the departure of W.O.s III Cornish and Hopkins, our ex-C.S.M. and ex-Senior Instructor. Ah, well; Bulford's gain is, etc., etc.

The following have left us in order to sample life in Palestine: Sergeant Smith, Signalmen Mulcahey, Moreland, Palmer, Russell, Stones and Thompson. They take with them our best wishes. Our best wishes are tendered to R.S.M. Shilton and Sergeant Jones, who have proceeded to Egypt. Signalman Cotter of the office staff has been posted to 5th Divisional Signals.

Promotions and Appointments.—Congratulations to R.S.M. Shilton on attaining that rank. Also to Sergeants Pink, Smith and Robinson and Lance Sergeant Shorrock on their new status.

Hockey.—Company hockey is rather at a standstill at the moment, as all interest is now centred on the Battalion team, who are enjoying an unbroken run of successes.

Athletics.—The Inter-Company athletic fixtures are now in the limelight and much running, jumping and throwing is taking place on Scotton, and some very good talent is being unearthed during the process. Here's wishing the final Company team every success.

Postage Due.—To Cassidy, Landikotal. "How about a line, Villa? Ginty."

BOYS AT WORK.

"F" (Boys) Company Training Battalion.

15th April.

General.—This month sees us preparing for the short respite which comes with the season of hot-cross buns and chocolate eggs. Most of us have decided to go home and see how our folks are managing things.

A small party of Boys, together with S.S.M. Pack and Lance Sergeant Nicholson, went to Newcastle-on-Tyne with some Signals equipment to occupy a stand at the Grocers' and Allied Trades' Exhibition. Similar parties from Chepstow, R.A.O.C., and the R.E.s were also present. The object of this part of the Exhibition was to show the inhabitants of Newcastle that we enlisted boys do not spend all our time peeling spuds.

The Exhibition, which was held at St. George's Drill Hall, was opened by the Lord Mayor. Since most of the Exhibition was devoted to a display of the grocery trade, the public were rather dubious as to the object of the Army stand ; consequently some very peculiar and original statements were made by interested spectators. For instance, one dear old soul was convinced that the No. 9 Set was for sale, but she refused it on the plea that it was too large for her sitting room and that there were far too many knobs to twiddle. Another onlooker thought that some of our apparatus was for curing rheumatism. " Emma " Collins, we understand, spent most of his spare time at the coffee stall. Yes, a good time was had by all !

The examinations for the First Class and Special Certificates of Education were held this month, and we are not attending school at the moment. The mere mention of the word " results "

causes most of us to begin speculating pessimistically on the view that the examiners will take of our efforts.

The O.C. has informed us that contrary to the weather reports, winter is rapidly receding, and it is time to ask Lance Corporal Blades to hunt out the javelin and discus with which we will exercise ourselves on Scotton Ground.

There has been talk of late concerning a P.T. Display to be held somewhere and sometime in the near future. This may, of course, merely be a cunning ruse to give us P.T.

Several strangers, when passing the Company lines, have been astonished to hear sudden wails of agony, a discordant giggle-cum-shout, as though a nightingale was trying to harmonise with a D.III. This is not the Company Dance Band rendering Dickinsonian's " Unnecessary Symphony," but the war cry of about 140 A/Ts as they battle with 'flu germs, using gargle as their chief weapon.

The introduction of a game called " Monopoly " into the club has caused quite a stir. The game, for the benefit of those to whom it is unfamiliar, is a test of business ability and speculation. Even the more thrifty of our comrades can be seen coolly losing thousands of pounds with little concern.

A new darts board has found its way into the Games Room, and we have heard the following remarks : " Wrong bed, chum," and " Peradventure, a shade more velocity with a trifle less elevation might suffice to achieve the desired object."

Auntie Kate's Corner.—Whilst glancing through my fan mail this month I came across this letter :

" Dear A Jay,—I am doing an M.T. Course. Whilst driving through a village, one of my front wheels came off and bowled merrily across the road and broke a chicken's leg. My instructor, naturally enough, was fast asleep. Seeing my chance, I nipped out of the car and replaced the wheel. The point which is troubling me is this : Should I tell my instructor what has happened and get told off, or shall I let the matter lie. Yours, etc., BUD."

To this touching little human tragedy I replied :

" Dear Bud,—I sympathise most sincerely with your difficult situation. Whatever you do, you must be quite honest. I suggest that you swipe another wheel from someone else and send a note of condolence and a small pair of crutches to the owner of the chicken."

Promotions.—Congratulations are extended to Lance Corporal Boys Gladwin and Tucker on attaining the rank.

Arrivals.—We put down the proverbial mat and offer the proverbial handshake to Lance Sergeant Manning from the School of Signals, who is to instruct our I.M.s. Also to Corporal Folks, who hails from the " Land of Chopsticks " ; he is to take over the post of Pay N.C.O., and hopes to balance our budgets. Another from the " Land of Chopsticks " is Sergeant Dodd, who is going to occupy his valuable (?) time teaching our I.M.s. For the purpose of teaching the operators the mysteries of wireless telegraphy, we now have Lance Sergeant Wagner. Corporal Ballard has joined us from "A" Company, Depot Battalion, and it will be his job to teach the raw recruits how to turn left and right.

We also welcome Boys Walters J., Knight L. and Vickers, who have joined us recently to start training as Apprentice Tradesmen. May they enjoy their stay in the Company and make excellent progress in their trade.

Scandal.—Grainger thinks that the red knobs on a No. 9 Set are for calling up the local Fire Brigade.

Hebrews' Letter Service.—MacKenna, 489. " There is a postal system in this country. Smudger."

And so, for the present, good-bye, everybody !

A JAY.

HAVE YOU JOINED THE SIGNALS ASSOCIATION ?

ALDERSHOT NEWS

1st Divisional Signals.

April.

General.—Individual training, very fittingly, ended with the Floor Schemes, Trade Boards and the firing of the Annual Rifle and Revolver Course.

The Floor Schemes are always a popular form of Unit training, and the directing staff this year comprised the C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel A. L. Harris, M.C., Royal Signals, assisted by Brevet-Lieutenant-Colonel R. F. H. Nalder, Royal Signals, and Major C. Childs, Royal Signals. The Chief Signal Officer, Colonel C. W. Fladgate, was in attendance on several occasions and, no doubt, his presence deterred syndicates from " old soldier " opinions. On the afternoon of Monday, 3rd April, we were also pleased to welcome Brigadier Chevenix Trench, O.B.E., M.C.

We feel sure that past members of the Unit would like to know that No. 2 Operator Squad is now composed of B.III Operators, and "A" Section of the Unit has already been formed.

The Recruit Driver (I.C.) Squad, having completed their Course of intensive training, are now fully fledged drivers, and have been posted to Sections.

" G " Section have moved to Gun Hill, under the command of 2nd Lieutenant E. D. Halton, Royal Signals, with Sergeant Brown C. at the Section Sergeant, and we have said good-bye until September, unless we meet them again on the Yorkshire moors.

1st Divisional Signals provided a very active Signal Detachment for the recent demonstration arranged for Their Majesties the King and Queen at Bordon Camp.

A team of three motor cyclists were entered in the Command Trials ; this was the first entry of its kind from 1st Divisional Signals. The team had some bad luck with the machines and, unfortunately, were not placed. A tremendous amount of experience has been gained which will be of great help in future competitions.

The Annual Rifle Course was of considerable interest this year as the C.O. very kindly presented two prizes for the best shot —one for the best other rank, and the other for the best young soldier of not more than eighteen months' service. The " Best Other Rank " was Signalman Le Cheminant (No. 2 Company), 97 points ; there was a tie for the " Best Young Soldier " between Signalmen Taylor T. and Pearce D. (No. 1 Company), each 95 points.

The *Daily Skelch* photographer, who spent a full day with the Commanding Officer on Tuesday, 18th April, took many interesting photographs, which should have already appeared in that newspaper.

Apart from the military side of the groups, we made athletic history when we produced teams of players with all the kit necessary to make up a game of American baseball, and since that day we seem to have produced many " would-be Babe Ruths " in the Unit. We should like to stress the fact that the ball is a hard one !

It is thought that a list of the W.O.s and Sergeants of the Unit who, we hope, will be with us during Collective Training this year, may be of interest to readers : R.S.M.s Westwood F. Hamlin H. and Minns G. ; Q.M.S. (F-of-S) West W. ; C.S.M. Leath G. ; S.S.M.s Nokes H. and Hoy ; C.Q.M.S.s Anthony J., Spencer A. and Pickering E. ; Sergeants Starling C., Wheeler F., Brown C., Cooper N., Sherrington F. and Gibbs F. ; Lance Sergeants Trew J., Geere W., Malvern, Choulerton, Kent W., Swinson L., Dendy E., Vollans L., Simmonds M. and Pettit T.

2nd Divisional Signals.

No. 1 Company.

April.

General.—We were favoured this Easter with some fine weather, and most ranks were able to get away on leave. Our sympathy is extended to those who had to remain behind to assist the City of London Signals, but they must console themselves with the knowledge that our friends the Territorials thoroughly enjoyed their short visit, and were extremely grateful for the willing help given to them. We have heard that it was the most enjoyable Easter training they have ever spent at Aldershot. Those of us who have been with the Unit for a few years, and have got to know the City of London Signals well, were pleased to see so many arrive at Mons Barracks.

Section training is now in progress, and although rather handicapped by shortage of men, we hope to get going in full swing before Unit training commences at Thursley.

Arrivals.—Many have been posted to us from various Units, and to all of them we extend a hearty welcome.

A Recruit Squad of Despatch Riders were posted to us recently and are now being trained under S.S.M. Shardlow's supervision.

Departures.—A draft left for Egypt Signals on 13th April. It comprised Signalmen Liversidge, Cowley, Wood and O'Sullivan, Drivers (I.C.) Rodger and Burden. We hope that they will soon settle down in the " Land of the Nile."

Promotions.—Very few this month. Congratulations to Lance Corporal Ellison on his appointment, and to Corporal Cox on going one step further up the ladder.

No. 2 Company.

General.—Easter and its attendant leave is now a memory of the past. To the majority of the Company it meant five days' leave spent under ideal conditions, for the clerk of the weather, by being so considerate, managed to anticipate summer by seven days.

To the less fortunate of the Company (about twenty-five N.C.O.s and men), Easter was just a series of shaded-in dates on the calendar. They found themselves classed as measles contacts, a category entailing sixteen days of segregation. The irony of this lay in the fact that, whilst the contacts were suffering the taint of untouchability, the patient had recovered and proceeded home on sick leave !

Medals and Awards.—A very interesting ceremony was witnessed on 5th April, when a number of medals were presented, and a silver-mounted swagger cane was given to the best recruit in the Squad, which has just completed training with this Unit. Amongst the recipients of medals were the following members of this Company, to whom we tender our heartiest congratulations : Long Service and Good Conduct, Sergeants Weeks and Pearson ; India General Service and Bar, Lance Corporal Purkiss.

Before the ceremony, the Commanding Officer addressed the Unit on many matters of great interest to the Corps in general and to our Unit in particular. Before dismissal the parade gave three very hearty cheers for the Royal Corps of Signals.

Musketry.—The Annual Weapon Training Courses, both pistol and rifle, have been fired, the former at Ash and the latter on the short Siberia Range at Bisley. If there was ever any doubt why this range was so named it was very soon dissipated.

Congratulations to Signalman Stubbs of No. 3 Company on his brilliant performance in scoring a " possible " over the whole of the Course.

Promotions.—Congratulations to Lance Corporal Hopkins G. on his first step. The whole of the " Blue Book " now lies open before him.

Arrivals.—It is always a pleasure to welcome new arrivals in the Unit, more especially when they are posted to this Company. Our best wishes to C.Q.M.S. Holness, Signalmen Sanger and Pulling for a pleasant tour with us. Rumour whispers that the C.Q.M.S. is going to write an account of his tour abroad.

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All ranks of " Twocoy ' extend a hearty welcome to our new Company Commander, Captain F. S. Whiteway-Wilkinson.

Departures.—With the departure of " E," " F " and " G " Sections, which have moved out to join their respective Field Regiments, No. 2 Company must of necessity enter into its annual quiet phase of barrack life. Only " H " Section remains to do all that is necessary, and even that Section will have to be looked on as a doubtful stand-by if its programme of work is any criterion.

Tailpiece.—And now, like the scorpion, the sting of this month's notes lies in the tail. We are shortly losing Major G. W. Odell on his retirement under the age limit. Major Odell has served with the Unit since 1932, and also commanded the 4th Guards Brigade Signal Section in 1923/4.

On his departure we feel that we shall be losing a Company Commander who not only commanded but deserved the loyalty he obtained from all ranks by his patience and kindliness at all times. The Unit is losing a tower of strength and No. 2 Company —a friend.

Our very best wishes go with him in his retirement, and we are glad to hear—if Dame Rumour is to be believed—that the Corps is not to lose his services entirely.

C. P.

No. 3 Company.

We welcome the following to the fold : Major R. H. Gem and 2nd Lieutenant Golden, Signalmen Beswick, Brydon, Holt, Done, Johnson and Aldridge from India ; Signalman Berry from Palestine ; Signalmen Hall J., Rose, Sims, Lawton, McLeod and Anderson from No. 1 Company.

The following have left us for Egypt : Lance Sergeant Snell and Signalman Pollard.

Lance Sergeant Evans and Signalman Stubley are counting the days towards their Vocational Training Course.

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We shall be pleased to send an Illustrated Catalogue.

Congratulatory.—We congratulate Signalman Stubbs on being a super shot and obtaining a " possible " in this year's Weapon Training Course. We also congratulate Driver Rushman on winning the " stick " as the best Recruit.

Conceit.—All we seem to hear now is, " When I fired at Bisley." No. 3 Company are throwing their weight about, having obtained the best average on the Ranges this year and tying with No. 1 Company in the Corps Shield Shoot.

Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess, Royal Signals, Aldershot

Having been duly " elected," I suppose it's up to me to put the Mess on the map once more.

Activities of late have been numerous and enjoyable, and much credit is due to our Entertainments Committee. We have just concluded an Indoor Games Tournament, consisting of billiards, snooker, and darts. Sergeant Sherrington met Lance Sergeant Hudson in the final of the Billiards Competition, the latter running out winner by approximately 45 points in 250 up. In the Snooker Competition, best of three frames, S.S.M. Hoy proved too good for C.Q.M.S. (F-of-S) Brown, winning by two frames to nil. Darts brought some surprises, some of the " dead eyes " being passed out early. The final was all Wright. C.Q.M.S. Wright H. A. met " Detective " Sergeant Wright H. H. in the final, the latter proving better on the doubles and winning by two legs to one. These games proved very enjoyable and aroused great interest. They were run in a very efficient manner.

Promotions during the last few months have been too numerous to mention here; our friends will see them published in the WIRE eventually. Congratulations to all.

Amongst the many arrivals we notice the smiling faces of S.S.M. Charlie Hoy, C.Q.M.S.s Jack Ivey and " Pip " Page from Jubbulpore. C.S.M. Leath, S.S.M.s Thomas and Green, Sergeants Taplin, McKenzie, Lennon and Simmonds have also arrived from overseas.

We have said good-bye to R.Q.M.S. Whattley, S.S.M. Sewell and family, Sergeants Baxter and Watts with families, and Lance Sergeant Snell, who have journeyed overseas. Other arrivals and departures have occurred, but we crave forgiveness for omitting their names; they are too numerous.

Easter treated us well; the weather was glorious. The visits of the City of London Divisional Signals, T.A., and London Corps Signals, T.A., brought about many reunions. The Mess put up a first-class Easter programme and our visitors appeared to thoroughly enjoy themselves; they spoke of not missing next year at all costs!

Good Friday was reception day, and a gentle flow of old friends from the " City of London " created a happy spirit. One could not help but feel impressed at the reception given to ex-C.S.M. Callegari as he popped his head around the corner—he doesn't alter. We caught a glance of Jack London, Bill Buttle, Dick Blackburn and Tommy Waite, all of whom were welcomed with open arms (and a full glass).

On Saturday we entertained the Pando Social Club at soccer, followed by a dance. Special mention must be made of the soccer. The Mess was represented by the following members, who are over thirty-three years of age: C.S.M. Leath; Sergeants Starling and Roberts; Sergeants Bartley, Cooper and Galbraith; R.S.M. Hamlin, Sergeant Steele, R.S.M. Westwood, S.S.M. Maynard and Sergeant Palmer. Superintendent Clerk Price G. made a strict and efficient referee.

It proved a first-class game and very even, the Mess being the more dangerous in the opening stages. At the cross-over neither goals had been pierced, thanks possibly to two sound defences. Soon after the resumption of the game, C.S.M. Leath was given no chance and although the barrackers tried to sway the referee, an equaliser seemed far away. The Pando Club again found a hole in our defence and the goalie found himself on his knees, but to no avail. Two down meant the Mess putting all they had into the fray and one could soon see the determined looks on the faces of our forwards.

R.S.M. Westwood soon reduced the lead, being rewarded for a fine solo effort by a nicely taken goal. Try as they would they could not break through a stubborn defence (nor sway the referee) so we had to retire losers of a very fine game. Bert Maynard was gamely chaired off the field. (Perhaps he could not walk off.)

The dance in the evening proved a great success, and we feel that the Pando Club went away with a good impression of our entertaining capabilities; anyway, it took them a long time to say good-bye.

On Sunday and Monday friends continued to arrive. One saw Joe Cottrill speeding by, but he eventually came to rest—where? Johnny Johnson, complete with family, was found loitering in the ante-room; it was good to see this famous Jubbulpore hockey personality, and we were particularly pleased to entertain Johnny, who is now taking up the appointment of Lieutenant (Quartermaster), T.A., at Reading.

Easter over, we now begin to look forward to some tennis, and Aldershot is already beginning to show signs of good days ahead.

THE SHOT.

1st Anti-Aircraft Brigade Signals, Blackdown.

14th April.

General.—Many additions with few subtractions, which is a pleasant sign of the times. The present strength of the Unit considerably relieves the strain for everyone. We now boast of sufficient Drivers (I.C.) to man all the vehicles, the Section N.C.O.s are looking forward to improved conditions during the coming training season, and the garage nowadays looks over-crowded after such a scarcity of personnel.

Thanks to the exigencies of the service, the Unit enjoyed (or otherwise) a week in London, a quick move, and some exacting work, from which much experience was gained. The Drivers (I.C.) and D.R.s had rather an exciting time avoiding other traffic in the overcrowded highways, and the latter are to be congratulated on their strenuous work under poor weather conditions. The whole affair went as per plan and once again Signals carried out their duties in their usual efficient manner, thus helping to make the show a success.

During the month we have inscribed our name on two trophies: " The Powell Shooting Cup " and that for the 1st A.A. Brigade Cross-country Championship. According to the scores, they were two easy victories for our teams. Congratulations to the teams in both events, for so ably representing the Unit and also for the very hard work put in prior to the events. It is a good performance for such a small Unit. Thanks to our C.O. and the officers for the great interest they have taken in the sport of the Unit, it has improved considerably, and we hope for better results as time goes on.

Arrivals.—From all directions. To each and everyone we extend a hearty welcome, and hope they will enjoy their stay.

Departures.—Sergeant and Mrs. Glass to Sarafand, Lance Sergeant Cottingham and Signalman Raynor to Palestine Force Signals, Corporal Howard, Signalmen Spearing and Walsh to Egypt, Signalman Roffey to Malta, Signalman Murray to Gibraltar, Sergeant Costello A. to Belfast (3rd A.A., S.R.), Signalmen Reed and Grant to S.T.C., Catterick. Bon voyage and a pleasant tour!

Promotions.—Congratulations to Lance Corporals Fisk and Stone on shedding the " Lance."

Marriage Stakes.—Ex-members will join us in wishing Lance Corporal and Mrs. " Duggie " Merriman a winning bet in these important stakes, which took place on 18th March.

A.A.

Wireless Wing, A.F.V. School.

Bovington Camp, Dorset.

18th April.

General.—The Easter break is over and we have a few spare days in hand before our next Course commences, and everyone is bent on making himself fully conversant with the No. 11 Sets, which arrived a short time ago.

The Easter holiday was taken in ideal weather, and the motoring fraternity made full use of the opportunity. Once again many tales of petrol consumption, speeds obtained, and distances covered are well up to standard. A new " record " has been obtained by a motor cycle, but its " 110 miles to the gallon " is causing many doubts. All the vehicles are undergoing overhaul, but we do wonder whether they will ever run again !

Departures.—Our O.C., Captain R. N. Seddon, Royal Signals, left us on 7th April for Catterick. We wish him every success at his new station.

Arrivals.—Sergeant Murphy J. and family from No. 1 C.A.C.R., Aldershot, to whom we extend best wishes and the hope that they will enjoy their stay at Bovington.

WEEPIN' WILLO.

4th Divisional Signals, Canterbury.

No. 2 Company.

18th April.

General.—The Company has just returned from Easter leave, but before we can settle down to training again the annual P.E. tests have to be completed. Very few of us looked forward to these tests with much enthusiasm, but they were not too bad. We expect that the whole Company will manage to pass, though not without a few heroic efforts on the part of one or two of the old stagers. We have so many recruits here nowadays, and the prestige of the old hands must be upheld !

Now that the long evenings are with us again, the sports ground is once more the scene of much activity ; the cricket season is not far off, and we have hopes of a really smashing team this year. Also, it is hoped to hold a Unit Sports Day sometime next month, and many of us are already dreaming of breasting the tape as first man in. But more of this anon.

A Concert Party has been formed, and although we are kept very much in the dark, we are led to believe that the talent is excellent, and the show, which is scheduled to take place in a month's time, is awaited with great anticipation. We have no doubt that it will be justified.

Surely we must have created a precedent when we engaged the services of a dancing instructress in order to teach the would-be Fred Astaires just how Fred does it. The classes, held in the canteen once a week, are remarkably well attended.

Tales.—A rather nervous recruit, undergoing his first instrument test, was asked the tests for a D.III. The rapidity with which he ran through the list rather staggered the N.C.O. conducting the test, and he felt rather at a loss, but not for long. " Tell me," he said, " what is the difference between a ' click ' and a ' blow ' ? " The recruit hesitated, apparently thinking very hard, and then, smiling sweetly at the N.C.O., said, "A ' click,' Corporal, is the sound that electricity makes in the microphone ; a ' blow ' is the draught it creates ! "

The N.C.O. is still wondering !

Arrivals.—Only one this month—Corporal Walters from the S.T.C. He has already been welcomed, and there is no doubt that he will settle down comfortably.

Departures.—A large draft—too many to mention individually—to Egypt, and our senior Squad to various Field Units. We say *au revoir* and the best of luck to all of them.

Promotions.—Congratulations to Lance Corporals Green and James on dropping the " U." The start is always the most difficult, isn't it ?

A. R. B.

No. 3 Company.

General.—Having more or less recovered from the effects of Easter leave, training is once again in full swing, the Company office presents its usual busy appearance, and things in general are looking up. A nasty shock was dealt out to us on our return from leave in the shape of the annual P.E. tests (were the " over 30's " chuckling ?), but we think it is safe to forecast that the whole Company passed, and so another black cloud has been left behind.

S.S.M. Collins and his staff have moved from the Company Office to the old S.A. Room, but they are still hoping that in the near future they will have an office of their own, instead of being chased from pillar to post and back again.

Sergeant Ball and Lance Corporal Smyth are still holding the fort—sorry, Company Office—against all comers, assisted by a long series of assistants, who come and go with amazing regularity—even the runner has deserted them in favour of a Cook's Course.

Congratulations.—To 2nd Lieutenant H. J. Thompson on his splendid performance in the recent Eastern Command Motor Cycle Trials, in which he obtained first place. To R.S.M. Laing on promotion to that rank.

Departures.—Corporal Hatcher to Western Command Signal Company ; Corporal Chambers to the Gas School, Winterbourne ; Signalman Ovenden to a " Voc. " ; and Signalman Heslop on a Cook's Course.

SLIM.

5th Divisional Signals, Catterick Camp.

17th April.

Training.—The following Squads were passed off the square during the month, and have now departed to their respective Units for technical training. Congratulations are extended to the whip winners in each Squad :

	WHIP FOR DRILL.	WHIP FOR P.T.
No. 101 Squad :		
2328284	Signalman Baker D.	2328138 Signalman Dewsnap T.
No. 102 Squad :		
2328290	Signalman Harris D.	2328294 Driver (I.C.) Jones, R.
No. 103 Squad :		
873281	Signalman Whetton S.	2569978 Signalman Bloomer H.

Motor Cycle Trials.—The Unit team, comprising 2nd Lieutenants D. R. Horsfield and J. de D. Yule, Royal Signals, and Corporal Stowers G., were entered for the Northern Command Motor Cycle Trial, held at Catterick Camp on 4th and 5th April.

It was unfortunate for all concerned that a spell of bad weather was followed by a very wet day and a certain amount of fog on the moors on the 4th.

The Downholme Water Splash, which was in the last section, was a severe obstacle for all the competitors, and nearly everyone had to stop and dry out their engines. Unfortunately, our machines seemed to have absorbed more water than most of the others ; it took the riders nearly two hours to get them going again.

2nd Lieutenant Yule had a nasty spill and cut his knee so badly that he could not start on the second day. This put us out of it as far as qualifying to compete in the Army Trial was concerned. The other two members of the team and Lance Corporal Nix, the reserve, riding 2nd Lieutenant Yule's machine, rode the course on the second day for practice.

We congratulate the Depot Battalion, Royal Signals, on easily winning the Trial, and wish them the best of luck at Aldershot on 28th and 29th April. 2nd Lieutenant D. R. Horsfield and 2nd Lieutenant J. de D. Yule, have both been asked to represent the Army in the Scottish Six Days' Trial, to be held from 1st to 6th May.

Sport.—A much weakened Unit football team turned out to meet the Depot Battalion, Royal Signals, in the final of the Company League at the Central Ground on 1st April. After an entertaining game the Depot beat us 3—1. The team was : 2nd Lieutenant Yule ; Driver Tiltman, Lance Corporal Dobing ; Corporal Denholm, Signalman Johnson W., Signalman Johnson ; Driver Hirst, Signalmen McKay, Bloomer, Hutcheson and Scullion.

Arrivals.—We extend a hearty welcome to the following who have joined the Unit since our last notes were published : Major A. J. Hannah, Royal Signals, who has taken over the duties of P.R.I. ; Captain R. N. Seddon, Royal Signals, who has assumed command of No. 1 Company ; S.S.M. Udell from the School of Signals ; Lance Sergeant Hughes from 2nd Divisional Signals, Aldershot ; and Signalman Cotter from " E " Company, S.T.C.

Departures.—Lance Corporal Downie and Signalman Allen to Sarafand ; Signalmen Morgan, Bryden and Forster to Egypt.

Appointments.—Congratulations to Lance Corporal Eden W. on dropping the " U."

Signal Training Centre (India), Jubbulpore.

March.

The Visit of the Signal Officer-in-Chief in India.—The week commencing 26th February found us in the throes of the Signal conferences and the Indian Signal Corps Reunion Week.

The following Officers and their ladies visited Jubbulpore for the week: Brigadier, Mrs. and Miss Hitchins, Lieutenant-Colonel Roberts, Lieutenant-Colonel Beadon and Mrs. Beadon, Lieutenant-Colonel Brown, Lieutenant-Colonel Jee, Major Halliday and Mrs. Halliday, Major Rogers, Major Holland, Major Akehurst and Mrs. Akehurst, Captain Eden (The Green Howards).

On Monday, 27th March, during the early hours of the morning, Mrs. Lee (wife of our Staff Officer), and Mr. H. R. Kerry of the Military Farms Department, kindly consented to judge the gardens of the Married Quarters for the Cup for the best kept gardens, presented by Lieutenant-Colonel W. M. Miller, M.C., before his departure from the station. The Cup was won by Mrs. Taylor, with Mrs. Farlow as runner-up.

Next morning found us on parade for inspection by the Signal Officer-in-Chief in India, and the following is an extract from S.T.C. Orders dated 1st March.

"CONGRATULATORY. The Signal Officer-in-Chief wishes to express his entire satisfaction with the Ceremonial Parade held on 28th February, 1939.

"He congratulates all ranks of the S.T.C. (I.) on the excellence of the drill and turn-out. He considered it entirely in keeping with the traditions of Royal Signals and the Indian Signal Corps."

So we felt it was a job well done!

During the remainder of the morning the Ladies' Club were getting down to it for their own Arts and Crafts Exhibition, and the following is a contribution from one of the members:

On 28th February an Arts and Crafts Exhibition was organised and arranged by the Signals Ladies' Club and Children's Welfare Centre. The day started at 9.30 a.m., when the exhibits arrived; the judging commenced at 11 a.m. The following ladies kindly assisted with the judging: Mrs. Hitchins, Mrs. Gravely and Mrs. White (Flowers), Mrs. Newbiggen, wife of Lieutenant-Colonel Newbiggen, K.O.S.B. (cakes), Mrs. Bond (knitting), and Mrs. Lane, wife of Brigadier Lane (embroidery and needlework).

At 2.30 p.m. the Exhibition was open to visitors, and tea was taken on the lawn at 4.30 p.m. The catering and arranging of teas and tables and all refreshments were done by the members of the Signals Ladies' Club.

Later, Mrs. Hitchins very kindly presented the prizes, and, after a vote of thanks to Mrs. Hitchins by Mrs. Nash, Patricia Quinn, aged six, presented a bouquet, beautifully arranged by Mrs. Quinn.

Colonel Pollard and Major Plummer, who had managed to escape from their numerous engagements, favoured us with a visit and voted it a very good exhibition.

The prize winners were as follows:

CUP FOR BEST-KEPT GARDEN.—1, Mrs. Taylor; 2, Mrs. Farlow.

CLASS I. GROUP "A." KNITTING.—1, Mrs. Clayton; 2, Mrs. Newberry.

CLASS I. GROUP "B." SOCKS AND STOCKINGS.—1, Mrs. Spearpoint.

CLASS II. EMBROIDERY.—1, Mrs. Farlow; 2, Mrs. Challen.

CLASS II. "A." NEEDLEWORK.—1, Mrs. Ellerton-Long; 2, Mrs. Mills.

CLASS III. SOMETHING NEW FROM SOMETHING OLD.—1, Mrs. Taylor; 2, Mrs. Mills.

CLASS IV. GROUP "A." PLAIN AND FRUIT CAKE.—1, Mrs. Newberry; 2, Mrs. Butler.

CLASS IV. GROUP "B." ICED CAKE.—1, Mrs. Quinn; 2, Mrs. Woolhouse.

CLASS V. VASE OF FLOWERS.—1, Mrs. Welsby; 2, Mrs. Taylor.

CLASS VI. CHILDREN OF MEMBERS.—1, June Ellerton-Long; 2, Rosemary Farlow; 3, Elsie Agar.

CLASS VII. BRITISH OTHER RANKS' HOBBIES.—1, Sergeant Connolly; 2, Signalman Palfrey; 3, Sergeant Adams.

CLASS VIII. OPEN CLASS.—1, Miss Hoffman; 2, Mrs. Clayton.

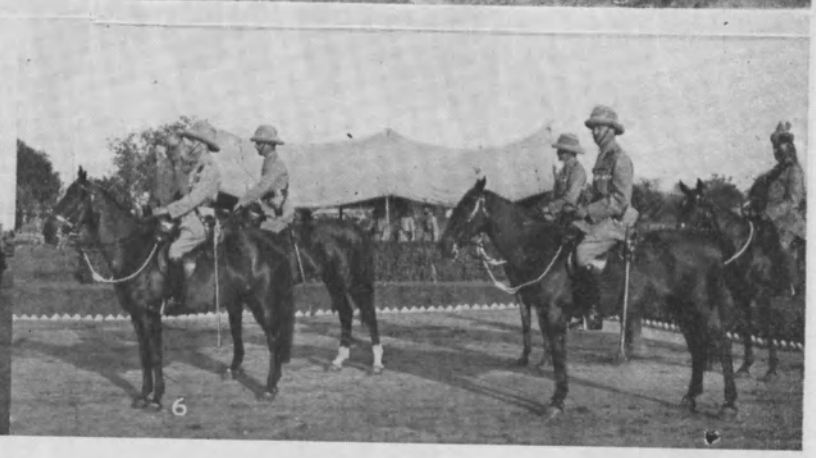
In conclusion, the ladies would like to say how much they appreciated the number of entries and all the assistance given by the B.O.R.s of "A" Company.

Well done, the ladies!

Whilst the Arts and Crafts Exhibition was in progress, the S.T.C. (I.) Golf Club were tackling the visitors at golf. After a very difficult match we had to admit defeat, the result being finally decided by the last pair, Lieutenant-Colonel N. Brown and our R.S.M. The Colonel secured a half at the last hole and the match in favour of the "Conference." After the match we all hurried back to the W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess, where the ladies had invited us to tea, and in time for the presentation of

Members and Guests at the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess Tennis "At Home"

SIGNAL TRAINING CENTRE (INDIA) JUBBULPORE.



1 and 4. Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess Tennis "At Home."

2. Brigadier E. N. F. Hitchins, D.S.O., M.C., meets old friends at the Arts and Crafts Exhibition.

3. Signal Officer-in-Chief (India) carrying out his inspection.

5. Communication Race, S.T.C. (I.) Sports.

6. Signal Officer-in-Chief (India) taking the Salute at the march past.

the prizes by Mrs. Hitchins. We noticed that the visiting officers were keenly interested in the Arts and Crafts Exhibition.

WEDNESDAY, 1ST MARCH.—On this occasion we had the pleasure of attending the well-known " Mounted Sports and Displays " by all ranks of the S.T.C. (I.). A detailed description by a very interested spectator will be found further on in these notes.

TENNIS "AT HOME."—On Thursday there was a tennis "At Home," that had been arranged by the members of the W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess. It was attended by all our officers, their ladies, and the guests. The weather was delightful, and everybody seemed to have a thoroughly enjoyable time. Tea was taken on the Mess lawn, followed by an informal photograph.

ANNUAL OLD COMRADES' DANCE.—This was again held on the tennis courts in the W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess. The Committee this year was under the leadership of C.S.M. Ellerton-Long, who is to be congratulated on putting on such a very good show. The whole of the courts had been transformed into a fairy-land with coloured lights, ferns, plants and flowers.

The S.T.C. (I.) Dance Band provided us with the most delightful music, and the dance was well attended. Amongst those present were Brigadier, Mrs. and Miss Hitchins, the Conference officers and their ladies, and many well-known visitors from other Units in the station.

Promotions and Appointments.—We extend congratulations to the following N.C.O.s: C.Q.M.S. Agar G. on becoming a " Q " bloke; Sergeants Bush and Connolly on dropping the " L "; Lance Sergeants Dumville H. on joining the Sergeants' Mess; Corporals Leith and O'Brien now " two up "; and Lance Corporals Davies B. and Newsham H., antedated a little bit further; Lance Corporals Munslow J., Jones R., Young S. D. and Williams F. on getting their hard cash; and U/Lance Corporals Thomas R. F. and Whatton R. on reaching the first step. We hear that the local " Blue Book " authorities have collapsed under the strain!

Miscellaneous.—Heard during the Signals Week whilst the Congress was assembling: " Did you see those fine elephants going to the Conference? "

The following publication has been received for distribution: " Clubs broken in one easy lesson," by M. H., M.M.

Athletics.—"A" Company athletic team came into their own again in the Brigade Inter-Company Sports, which they won with 51 points, the next team holding 38 points. This team has done exceedingly well in pulling off the three athletic events of the year.

Golf.—The Golf Club played against the R.A.M.C. during the month, winning the match by 5 matches to 2.

They also played the officers of the Indian Signal Corps Conference on Tuesday, 28th February. This game was won by the officers by 4½ games to 3½. A very close game was played, and the match depended on the last game, which was halved.

Hockey.—We entered two teams this year for the Inter-Platoon Hockey Tournament. The first team was knocked out in the first round by the Nagpur Rifles (A.F.I.) team.

The second team played No. 9 team, 2nd Battalion, K.O.S.B., winning 8—1, but met their masters when they met the Nagpur Rifles team, who won 4—0.

Mounted Sports at Jubbulpore.—Thirteen miles from the Cope-

"A" COMPANY ATHLETIC TEAM. S.T.C.(I.) SPORTS, 1939.

Winners Inter-Company Championship and Copeland Relay Cup.

land Sports Ground, Signal Training Centre (I.), Jubbulpore, the Indian Congress Party were to hold a mammoth meeting. This fact was probably responsible for the remark at the Annual Mounted Sports on 1st March : " Pity Gandhi, Bose, or some of the other Congress leaders are not here, they would see a fine testimony to military training."

Spectators began to arrive for tea at four o'clock on a perfect afternoon. Perfect because the sun was not too hot, and because there was a fresh breeze and only one small cloud in a bright blue sky. At 4.30, when the first event started, the various enclosures were filled by guests.

An Indian Ranks Communication Race began the programme. Teams were provided by the N.C.O.s' " S " Course, Upgrading Course and Recruits' Course. The Upgrading Course won a most exciting race.

The two mounted events followed, and then the finals of the Equitation Staff Individual Jumping and Section Tent Pegging open to the station. Spectators were kept fully informed (by a broadcasted commentary—B.B.C. standard) of the marks obtained by the competitors.

Hundreds of Indian troops anxiously followed the fortunes of their favourites in the tent-pegging. Shabash ! Shabash ! they shouted when the Cavalry, with war-like cries, sweep by in perfect dressing. And what a roar of delight goes up when the Signal Training Centre team does not register a miss, and brandish four pegs !

Members of the Sergeants' Mess and their families then entertained the large audience with an amusing race, in which the gentlemen had their backs to the ladies. When the whistle goes, they run thirty yards, open a sealed envelope, turn round and approach their partners, making the noise of the animal specified in the envelope. Grunts of a pig and the crow of a cock rose above the accompanying strains of a broadcasting gramophone record. There was pandemonium for a brief space, and then the record came sweetly across the air with " Cavalleria Rusticana."

The Officers Team Jumping was won by the Signal Training Centre team ; the 3rd Cavalry were second.

The many Indian gentlemen present—civil and military officers—could not help being still more impressed by the remainder of the programme. The Indian Boys gave a physical training display—vaulting, parallel bars, and tumbling in a happy, care-free manner.

Old long-faced friends of the Mounted Company seemed a trifle bored, when they were attached by long ribbons to motor cycles. Some of them had wheeled in the arena two, four and eight deep for several years. Old pals in tandem last year ; a motor cycle this year—what does next year hold ?

It is lucky that the stalwarts of " E " Company did not see the antics of the travesty which followed them or they would have refused to perform. " Umda Roti " by " Kush Kismat " out of " Bewaqufi " was the sort of horse seen only after having three over the eight. The two British ranks inside " Umda " (" Roti " for short) should have burst the structure during their antics. The spectators, kept in a state of laughing tension, were not quite sure whether to be glad or sorry when the dance was over, because " Umda," or " Roti " for short, had not come asunder, or should have come asunder, or . . .

Then followed " Retreat " by the Pipes of the Indian Signal Corps. Proudly the Pipers carried the banners bearing the crests of Chief Signal Officers of years gone by. This band is ceremoniously displaying a facet of the tradition of a Corps which has been on active service conditions in Northern India for the past nine years without cessation.

A murmur of excitement swept the audience when searchlights stabbed across the dark sports ground to meet the Indian Boys' Company. The Boys ended a display of ingenious illuminated club swinging by " S.T.C." in red, white and blue. Shabash ! Shabash ! shouted the Indian troops. And so say all of us.

British other ranks then gave an exhibition of trick motor cycling. Few of the performers were Despatch Riders by trade, and it just shows what training, determination and love of adventure will do.

The Boys' Company re-appeared, dressed as Toy Soldiers. There were Red Coats and Blue Coats. The Red Coats were bent on capturing Jubbulpore Fort—the Fort opposite which the wind had tried hard to blow down the night before. We saw the flag of the blue-coated defenders defiantly flying above. (The commentator had to speak in a hushed whisper the name of the country whose fort was attacked—Europe is troubled enough as it is.) There was a rattle of muskets, and a puff of the cannon. Blue Coats and Red coats fall. The key of the Fort is surrendered. The Union Jack is hoisted fast. A tiny red-coated drummer boy salutes, and then " God Save the King."

Better than ever !

NORTHERN COMMAND ..... INDIAN ARMY

Peshawar District Signals, Peshawar.

22nd March.

Introductory.—The absence of notes from this Unit during the past two months is very much regretted.

General.—Routine in the Unit continues to run smoothly. The recent repatriations and reliefs have brought us new arrivals and has taken many of our old friends.

Promotions and Appointments.—These have been plentiful during the last two months and the following are to be congratulated : Lance Sergeant Hipwood to Sergeant ; Corporal (Shoot It) Bruton to Lance Sergeant ; Lance Corporal Dunlop to Corporal ; Lance Corporal Ormiston to temporary Corporal ; U/Lance Corporals Healey L., Simpson J., Legge P. and Kedwards W. to Lance Corporals on the Corps Roster.

Congratulations also to the following B.O.R.s who have now obtained a hold on that elusive Field-Marshal's baton : Signalmen Baxter J. and Forslind C. to U/Lance Corporals (since appointed Paid Lance Corporals) ; Signalmen Lord G. and Cadwell C. to U/Lance Corporals.

Arrivals.—The following have joined us from the U.K., and we extend a welcoming hand and hope they will enjoy their stay with us : R.S.M. Spong H. and family ; Sergeant Jones D. ; Lance Sergeants Bolton W., Barron A. and Bruton S. ; and twenty-one B.O.R.s.

The following arrived per H.T. " Somersetshire " : C.Q.M.S. (F-of-S) Gerrish and family, Sergeant Barlow R. and wife, and Corporal Harrison.

Other arrivals are : Signalman Townsend from 4th Indian Divisional Signals ; Signalmen " Smokey " Hepworth and " Pip " Hughes from the Signal Training Battalion, S.T.C. (I.) ; Signalmen Page, Best, MacPhail, Elwood and Routledge from " B " Corps Signals, Karachi. We hope they will enjoy their stay on the frontier.

Departures.—The departures are too numerous to mention, but to all those who have left the Unit we tender our best wishes. (Don't forget that corner bed, " Taffy " !)

Individual Training.—An Upgrading Course for " Potential B.IIs " is at present in progress and, despite many interruptions, due to Brigade and Section Training, many say that the " Buckshee Pice " is n the bag.

Individual training for the summer starts next month and soon brows will be wiped feverishly whilst the laws of " E. and M." are expounded.

Entertainments.—An All Ranks Dance, held on 4th March, proved a great success, and even gained a mention in the " C. and M." The Bar, as usual, attracted many, but did not prevent the " Local Go-Getters " from performing.

Our out-stations at Landikotal and Nowshera supported the dance very strongly, particularly the Bar (or was it vice versa ?). Thanks " K " and " L " !

The weekly whist drives continue successfully, although recent bad weather has tended to decrease the attendance.

In Lighter Vein.—New ranks ? Have we a C.S.M. Signalman amongst us, or is he just left-handed ?

Who said " Once you have done a thing twice you know all about it " ? George, I am surprised at you !

Accelerated Promotion ?—Which of our junior N.C.O.s rose overnight to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel ? Ask the Zulu. *Et tu*, George ? You must be pulling your weight now. Did anyone correct the C. and M. ?

Things We Would Like to Know.—Where is " Popeye s " cigarette case ?

Does " Busty " Gardiner now hold the Corps record for the " Home to get Married " event ? (Forty-eight hours wasn't it Busty ?) A good attempt " Simmo," but you should have the Padre and the lucky lady at Southampton to beat that.

Do crossed flags signify "Aerial Bomber " ?

Is Cecil a qualified pilot ?

Flash.—Ex-king of the Khyber Sergeant (Paddy) Longwill has rejoined the Unit from Landikotal, leaving the laurel wreath on the head of Signalman (Ones-Away) Brooks.

Sport.—A B.O.R.s' team, comprising Lance Sergeant Bruton, Corporal Mills, Signalmen Stalker and Hearne, was entered for the District Point-to-Point. They put up a very good performance, gaining second place against more experienced and better-mounted riders. Unfortunately a prize was only awarded to the winners, but our Commanding Officer was so pleased with the result that he presented a handsome pewter mug to each of the team. (A very useful gift, sir, apart from the sentimental value.)

Conclusion.—That seems to be about all we can think of at present, and this Station now closes down until next month.

Auf Wiedersehen, cads !

SKIM.

Waziristan District Signals.

Wana Brigade Signal Section.

23rd March.

Arrivals.—Corporal Yeadon, Signalmen Carter and White, all from H.Q. Section. We sincerely hope that their stay in Wana will be a very happy one.

Departures.—The following have left us during the past month : Lance Corporal Grant G. to H.Q. Section (after four years in Wana) ; Signalmen Watkiss-Thomas and Cook G. to Razmak Section ; Signalmen Bartlett, Tonnison and Richmond to H.Q. Section ; Signalman Bartlett for ex-District posting ; and, last but not least, Signalman Smudger T. to H.Q. Section. Our loss is their gain ! (" Biscuit " and " Roko " have also proceeded to H.Q.)

General.—The Section was out on a four-day " Column " from 15th-18th March, the circuit being Wana—Dotanni Kot—Toi Khulla—Tanai—Camp. The " Column " was very successful and, at times, some very difficulty ground had to be traversed, but the B.O.R.s stood up to the strain. (This remark also applies to the Section Clerk, who has not yet suffered from sore feet.) Corporal Park D. was noticeably missed from this " Column." Sergeants Gordon and Collins had the usual " Big Dig " and at Tanai, a step ladder became necessary.

On 20th March about twenty shots were fired at the camp by the bad lads of the surrounding country. One of the shots hit the Post Stores roof, and there was a general " Stand to " at 1 a.m. on 21st March.

WANA BRIGADE SIGNAL SECTION

Looking towards Dotanni.

One mile from Dotanni Kot.

Starting point from Dotanni Kot-Toi Khulla.

Camp at Dotanni Kot.

Some of our readers may be interested to learn that Corporal Park D. had sufficient courage to attend the Garrison Cinema. The " hit " was " Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs," and his latest " Q " song is " Heigh Ho." Well done, Swordfish !

A number of B.O.R.s attended the examination for the B.A. Special and First Class Certificates of Education in March. Amongst them were Corporal Park, Signalmen Allen (699), Burgess E., Ulrich, Stanger J., Dunlop (" Daisy ") and Markendale. It was noticed that Allen was particularly good at time scales. Well done, Allen ! Signalman Laidlaw (the noted warrior of the Far East) also visited the Section during the month for the purpose of being examined in Urdu and " E. and M." towards the Special Certificate. During his visit he narrated some even GREATER stories of his escapades.

The Section garden is rapidly developing under the capable guidance of Paddy Burgess. During the summer we should (should we add " hope "?) have strawberries, melons, carrots, etc.

During the recent disturbances in this district, it was noted that seven armoured cars were travelling with the " MNZ-WNA " Convoy instead of the usual two.

Promotions and Appointments.—Congratulations to the following (and thanks for the beer) : Sergeant Gordon N. C., Lance Corporal Bond H. (Paid) and U/Lance Corporal Cass A. (Well done, Herb !)

Walter Winchell's Corner.—Who ordered tree tops for his sore throat ?

What is the devil box ?

Did you think that melons grew on trees, Curly ?

Who lost his pyjama jacket (A.L.L.E.N.) ?

ODE TO WANA SIGNALS.

Our Section Commander is Lieutenant McGill,
And next in line is old Ted ;
Then there is Jock, who seems to like a frill,
And Parky, who is never in bed.

Then we have Oggy of Follies fame,
And also young Yeadon—what a —— of a name ;
Our juniors comprise Pidd, Bond and Cass,
Who said that the first was good for the Bass ?

We still have a few odd ones whom we shall name,
Who also are hoping to reach Corporal fame ;
Our O.P.s are McStubby and Mark,
With Harris, Tulip and Smudger the Lark.

Then there's Daisy, Doughy, Towwy and Teak Hai,
Jarvis the small 'un, and Fewster the shaker ;
Allen the Yorker, and Stanger who's tall,
Ulrich the Jonah, last of them all.

There's Everitt the Babu ; the I.M. is Small ;
Paddy's the Cook and i/c football ;
Our famous fitters are Mercer and Carter,
At sharpening pencils there's no one smarter.

SNOW WHITE.

WESTERN COMMAND ..... INDIAN ARMY

"B" Corps Signals, Karachi.

Unit Headquarters.

26th March.

General.—With posting orders arriving with almost monotonous regularity, and the " Somersetshire " taking quite a crowd, we are becoming more like a Section than a Corps Signals. Many of the old school would be at a loss in the Unit now. No. 8 Bungalow (now 7) is completely empty. That old bungalow that was once the scene of many gripping schools, impromptu card games and other barrack games besides sleeping, has now the appearance of a morgue. We remember that in the days of the old Pack Section, when bed spaces were scarce, one had to run the gauntlet when paying a visit, especially a nocturnal one, and many barked shins next morning bore testimony of the adventure.

The number of incumbents in the U.H.Q. Bungalow has dwindled down to seven. (Memories of the poem of our schoolboy days, " We are seven.") With the arrival of the fans, we hope to remain cool until next trooper.

Captain C. C. Worrall, our Adjutant, has left us for the old country. We wish him all the best of luck. Lieutenant-Colonel A. W. Roberts returned from Bareilly to resume command, after his tenure as Officiating Chief Signal Officer, Western (I.) District, Eastern Command.

Nuts and Bolts.—Which B.O.R. is on an onion diet in order to become an insurgent ? But why the surplice ?

Seen : A refugee mosquito. Markings, R-101. Missed by the experts.

Question : Why is " Mist Expect Stim " used in flit guns ?

Answer : It is used as a throat spray for mosquitoes suffering from tonsillitis. E. N. T.

No. 2 Company.

General.—Since our last notes a large number of the Company have left us and we seem to be growing smaller day by day.

We usually expect the hot weather at this time of the year in Karachi, but so far King Sol has been playing tricks and keeps very much out of the way. One night recently we had a very good example of a thunderstorm, during which about two inches of rain fell in the same number of hours. Indeed, it became necessary for some of us to start salvaging our kit during the early hours of the morning.

After seeing the usual number of Boat Lists, it is a great pleasure to many of us to see ours at last. Although there is still months to go (a few insist that it is days), there is much talk of prices and qualities of " Cases, suit, leather." There are also those who are thinking (?) that it is time they started on a Jews' Course. There is nothing wrong with that, of course, but when some bright lads sign up for the A.S.A. on Saturday, and then apply for a big pay on a Monday, well, one cannot altogether blame the Pay Staff for getting a bit liverish.

Departures.—Captain A. J. Hamilton and Lieutenant H. Prince have left us for the Home Establishment. Lieutenant Thorpe is tp leave ex-India. The best wishes of the Company to them all.

The undermentioned have left us to see a little more of India, and we hope they will like their change of address : Signalmen Jones F., Price and Smith W. to Quetta ; Signalmen Strachan, Shaw J. D., Mole and Thomas to Meerut ; Signalmen Shaw J. H., Wood, Crook, Burchett, Williams G., Davis T. and Ralph to "A" Corps Signals, Rawalpindi ; Signalmen Toplass and Gray to 1st Divisional Signals, Rawalpindi ; Signalmen Coleman W., Henderson G. and Neve to D.I.K. ; Signalmen Coates and Jones W. to Kohat ; and Signalmen Elwood, Page, Best and Routledge to Peshawar.

Arrivals.—C.S.M. Moult from Poona. We hope you will like Karachi, sir !

Congratulations.—To the Unit's star goal scorer and U/Lance Corporals Hopkins and Townsend on reaching the first rung of the ladder. By the way, " Rozzie," we distinctly heard a hiss. Was it you, by chance ?

Exchanges.—One mincing machine (type infernal—Mk. 1), in perfect order but definitely overworked. All offers should be forwarded to " Box, waste " (not in this office) between 23.59 and 00.01 hours on any day after 31st March, 1940.

Scottish Mail.—3127 (Egypt). " How many days to go now ? "

E DOUBLE U.

Corporals' Mess.

General.—Since our last notes there have been quite a number of changes in the Mess. Our numbers have been sadly depleted, and on holding a private census a few days ago we arrived at the staggering conclusion that there were now only twenty-five members in the station.

Departures.—The following embarked on 10th March for the U.K. on what we believe to be the last trooper of the season: Corporal Stares, Lance Corporals Hallworth, Hamilton and Fairhead. The Mess wishes them all the best of luck in their new stations, or in "Civvy Street," as the case may be.

Lance Corporal Beal, who apparently couldn't take it, departed on the same boat for six months' leave in England. Leave your hammock hanging at the end of the return journey, and don't forget to send us a piece of the wedding cake!

We have also lost the following during recent weeks: Corporals Philpott and Stokoe and Lance Corporal Bowman to Western (I.) District Signals, Quetta, and Lance Corporal Morgan to 3rd Indian Divisional Signals, Meerut. We are sorry to lose them, and hope that they will enjoy their stay in their new stations.

Corporal Duggan, who thought that he would prefer a change of air, has departed to S.T.C. (I.), Jubbulpore, on attachment as an instructor. The boat list is already published, Geordie!

Weddings.—Having received advance information straight from the horse's mouth, we are able to announce that Corporal Pullinger is taking the fatal step with Miss M. E. Bowen at Karachi on 5th April.

Finis.—These notes are rather on the brief side, but as our activities are practically nil nowadays, it cannot be helped, and so, for the present, cheerio!

PEGASUS.

Western (I) District Signals.

March.

In continuing with the activities of Western (I.) District Signals, we have to commence with the arrivals and departures throughout the past month. We welcome Captain N. E. I. Pocock and Lieutenant G. D. K. Woolrych, and trust that their stay in Quetta will be a long and happy one. Twenty-eight of our stalwarts have left us for Trimulgherry, and are being replaced with an equivalent number of Madrassis. We could use that stereotyped phrase, "our loss is their gain," but it would be kinder to wish them all the best in their new Unit.

There are still sufficient of us here to carry on the good work, and the Unit is now preparing for spring camp at Kuchlagh, as the Unit camping ground at Bostan now accommodates the new railway quarters. We shall have more to say about events relating to camp in our next notes.

We cannot omit a few remarks about the weather during the last month or so. It has rained almost incessantly, and still shows few signs of clearing. This has been considerably helpful to those who have arrived in Quetta from the U.K. recently—it is "so much like home." For the remainder it has almost been enough to turn their hair white; indeed, a few more weeks of it and we should be all "platinum blondes."

On 30th March, Lance Sergeant Huggins J., prompted by some invisible force, decided to quit the dining portion of the Sergeants' Mess and take the plunge into matrimony. He was married to Miss Rosa Staples at St. Mary's Church, Quetta. As the happy couple left the church they passed under an archway of uplifted spades, forks, garden rakes and other agricultural implements. The reception, held afterwards at 25, Braithwaite Road, the residence of Captain and Mrs. G. O. N. Thompson, R.E., was very well attended. The happy pair were the recipients of many handsome presents, including a canteen of cutlery, a cruet, and a "swede" from the members of the Sergeants' Mess. Our best wishes for a very "happy ever after" are tendered to the bride and bridegroom.

Increases to Establishment.—We congratulate Captain and Mrs. N. E. I. Pocock and Lieutenant and Mrs. T. T. S. Cooke on the births of sons at the B.M.H., Quetta, on 21st March and 4th April, respectively.

Congratulations are extended to U/Lance Corporal Smith and A/U/Lance Corporal McEwen on the loss of an "oblique stroke." Just another rung on the ladder of fame has been overcome.

Sports.—The tennis courts are looking rather like the battlefields of Flanders, for the wall has been shifted, and a new

Lance Sergeant and Mrs. J. Huggins.

shelter is in the process of erection. We hope to start on 1st May and show others what tennis really is on our improved courts.

The Unit rugby team reached the final of the Garrison Tournament by a series of very good wins, but were unlucky to lose in the final during the last few minutes of the game. In the "seven-a-side" Tournament the "Others" won the first round by 10—3. No comments or flowers by request!

For the rest, sport has been rather at a standstill. Owing to the inclement weather, very little hockey has been played, and football has been confined mainly to Section games with a few outside matches in which the Unit has tried out different combinations in readiness for forthcoming tournaments, and they are fairly confident of success.

That's all, folks!

RONKAY.

EASTERN COMMAND ..... ***INDIAN ARMY***

3rd Indian Divisional Signals, Meerut.

Unit Headquarters.

March.

The Brigade Commander, who inspected the Unit on 15th March, was favourably impressed by the extra work that had been done by all concerned to make the inspection satisfactory.

We have had three outings to Delhi, mainly in order to see our football team play in the Vizianagram Tournament. Unfortunately, we lost in the third round, 2—0, being beaten by the 1st Battalion, East Yorkshire Regiment. The team are to be congratulated on putting up a very good show in all three matches. We think special mention should be made of the splendid game played by Signalman Redgrave at centre-half and Signalman Clenahan in goal. Incidentally, the former was picked to represent Delhi, but, eventually, Delhi turned out an all-Indian side.

Hill Moves.—The next item of consequence is the move to the hills, and this year there are four hill parties instead of the normal two detachments. Another change in routine is that we are to be stationed at Kailana instead of Chakrata. The families are going to this station, too, and will be together, instead of being distributed throughout the Dehra Dun area. The first move takes place on 6th April, and packing is the order of the day.

One should have a spare room handy for this job and there is no doubt that the whole affair must be well organised. For those in doubt we suggest that the left of the room should be allotted to the boxes not going, and the right to the boxes that are. At this stage the wife will probably arrive with the carpets, rugs, collapsible tables, pots and pans and a FEW oddments of clothing. Hard work, this packing business!

After one or two unsuccessful attempts, the boxes should be ready for labelling, but be prepared for emergencies. Little Willie, bless his little heart, may fall into the swimming bath about an hour before you are due to set off. Just one more thing about the boxes. When the lorry arrives and the fatigue party commence operations, don't forget to despatch the boxes on the LEFT of the room and you will find that your wife, on her arrival at Kailana, will be very pleased with all you did for her; indeed, everything in the garden will be lovely.

GEEB.

6th (Medium) Regiment, R.A., Signal Section, Muttra.

General.—After another successful training season, the Section have contentedly settled down to the usual routine of polishing, painting and overhauling cable.

Within the next few days some of our B.O.R.s will be leaving us for a few weeks in order to proceed with the "Div." to Kailana. The remainder are preparing themselves for another summer on the plains.

It really isn't too bad here during the hot weather, and we have some very good fishing in the Jhumna. Our one real grouse is due to some of our men being required in Meerut for the annual Up-grading Courses, and we find great difficulty here in raising either a football or a hockey team.

On 13th February we had a visit from our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel H. D. Beadon, M.C., and Captain and Quartermaster J. T. Cussens. On 15th March we had a visit from the Delhi Independent Brigade Area Commander on his annual inspection. The Area Commander made some very favourable comments, especially about our beautiful garden an the I.O.R.s' cookhouse.

Eastern Command Internal Security Scheme.—On 8th and 9th March we took part in this Scheme which, for the Muttra Defending Force as a whole and our Section in particular, turned out to be a great success. The Scheme was intended to last three days, but by the second day we had the "Rebels" so completely on the run that the umpires called a halt.

The following is an extract from a "Special Order of the Day," issued by Lieutenant-Colonel R. MacLeod, D.S.O., M.C., R.A.: "The Commanding Officer wishes to thank all ranks of the 6th (M.) Regiment, Signal Section and Workshops, for their good wgrk on the Eastern Command Internal Security Scheme. That communications were consistently good with a very scattered force reflects great credit on the Signals."

Promotions and Appointments.—Congratulations are extended to U/Lance Corporal Rutherford J. of the Section on reaching the first step. Also to ex-Muttraite Sergeant Maddison on dropping the "Lance."

Sport.—We are taking part in a Regimental Inter-Section Hockey Tournament, run on a league system. After the first few games, it looked as if we would absolutely walk away with this competition, but, with the commencement of the individual training season, our two star I.O.R. players had to return to Meerut. Since their departure we have played three games and lost two. This doesn't look so promising, but we think that we can still pull through.

The Regimental Inter-Battery Sports were held here on 1st and 2nd March. Our B.O.R.s could hardly compete with the Battery, but our I.O.R.s, who entered a team, surprised everyone by finishing only two points behind the winners of the I.O.R.s' section. This was really a grand performance as the strength of each of the three Batteries with whom they were competing is somewhere around fifty or sixty.

Naik Teja Singh, who spent a short leave during January shooting crocodiles at Jhansi, was very successful, and returned to Muttra with thirty-three very good skins. Our other "shikari wallah," "Werp." Fabian, has done nothing outstanding lately, although he usually brings sufficient buck and hares back to keep the Section messing up to scratch.

This week-end some of the Section are going down to the Jhumna to see how the fish are biting. Last year Fabian caught two forty-pounders, and we hope to beat that effort this year.

J. S. R.

Detachment, 3rd Indian Divisional Signals, Lucknow.

General.—Apologies must be tendered for the absence of our notes. Our scribe has now passed his Pelman Course, and we hope that he will show his literary talent monthly.

Since our last notes, in the dim and distant past, many changes have taken place. The 6th Infantry Brigade Signal Section and 8th Field Regiment, R.A., Signal Section, have been amalgamated to form the Detachment, 3rd Indian Divisional Signals, and have taken up their humble abode in Campbell Lines under Captain G. U. Finney, Royal Signals, who is now commanding the Detachment.

These lines have just been vacated by the 14/20th King's Hussars, so we are well equipped in the way of gardens, swimming pools, etc. The I.O.R.s, who live in a B.O.R. bungalow, with electricity laid on, are quite "Khushi."

Our manœuvres were carried out in Jhansi this year, and many miles were covered by both Sections. Now that they are over we look back on them as being all in the day's work. With manœuvres and inspections over we are now resting on our laurels.

Arrivals and Departures.—Lieutenant G. E. G. Brown (formerly O.C., 8th Field Regiment, R.A., Signal Section) has left us for Blighty. Signalmen Morgan and Ambrose (less the band) have arrived from Meerut to replace Signalmen Somerfield and Emblow. Lance Corporal Hutton and Signalman Kistruck have left for U.K. They met us on Jhansi Station, when we were returning from Camp, and did they chuckle?

Twelve B.O.R.s, I.O.R.s and mules, complete with No. 1 Sets, with Sergeant Walker in charge, were ordered to Cuttack and left the day after our return from Camp. We have heard many weird tales about bows, arrows and blow-pipes.

Promotions.—We congratulate Signalman Kirk (Kinks) on his first "leg up" and hope that he will soon drop the "U."

Sport.—Despite our lack of numbers we have a hockey team up to the standard of any British or Indian Unit in Lucknow. Unfortunately, we cannot enter for any competitions as our team perforce comprises both B.O.R.s and I.O.R.s.

After our return from camp on 2nd February, and despite the loss of eighteen of our number on duty in Cuttack, we had an almost unbroken run of success, winning eight matches out of nine, with one drawn game. Our victims included No. 2 Company, I.H.C., who have won the Lucknow Indian Units Tournament for the past two years and who, incidentally, fielded their strongest team that included one Olympic player.

Leave and Courses have now taken their toll, and the team is much below strength. However, many new players are coming to light, perhaps the most promising being our new-comers, Signalmen Ambrose and Morgan, and next winter we hope to maintain our good reputation.

J. D. D. T.

OTHER STATIONS ABROAD

Egypt Mobile Divisional Signals

No. 1 Squadron

Abbassia, Cairo.
12th April.

Egypt Mobile Divisional Signals is now an officially recognised unit, and we hope in future to publish our Squadron notes regularly.

To introduce ourselves. The Squadron, whose job it is to provide communication for Headquarters and Divisional troops of the Egypt Mobile Division, consists of Headquarters, "A" (Wireless) Troop, "M" (Workshops) Troop, "T" and "U" (Tank Battalion) Troops, and will also include (when the personnel arrive from England) "C" (Despatch Rider) and "D" (Signal Office) Troops.

The following officers, W.O.s and Sergeants already belong to the Squadron: Major B. B. Kennett (O.C.), Captain G. M. de M. Blum, Lieutenant A. J. Athill, Lieutenant J. E. Anderson (Troop Officers), Squadron S.M. Pronger W., T.S.M. Aiken J., T.S.M. Finn V., S.Q.M.S. Winter, Q.M.S. (F-of-S) Homan, Sergeant Wright F., Lance Sergeants Pape and Teal.

Want of space precludes a nominal roll of the Squadron, but the majority of those on the strength appear in the photograph published with these notes. It will be noticed that most of them appear quite cheerful; the photograph was taken when we were about one hour distant from Cairo after three weeks of training in the Western Desert, and this may account for some of the smiles.

We extend a hearty welcome to those W.O.s and their families who have just joined us from Palestine, India and England, and in the same breath we bid farewell to Lance Corporals Maloney and Knight, and Signalman Ryder, who will be leaving us in a few days, if the international situation doesn't stop the boat.

On 28th February we left barracks for Divisional training. Thirty-six hours later we arrived at Gerawla Camp, after a desert march of 200 miles. All our vehicles were intact. We then proceeded to carry out a programme of training which gave very little time for maintenance, and concluded with a Command Exercise that lasted three days. Many of the operators and drivers were new to Egypt, and it was the very good effort on their part that enabled the Squadron and the Unit to maintain communications without a single serious breakdown throughout the three weeks, a fact that earned the praise of the G.O.C., which is not lightly given, in addition to a first-class report from the C.S.O.

Since returning to barracks most of us have lived in a whirl. Owing to shortage of time for training, we are combining the first Individual Training Courses with preparations for G.O.C.'s annual inspection, which takes place on 14th April, filling in any idle hours with an intensive maintenance programme. In addition we are moving into new stores and barrack rooms, reorganising our vehicles, and training for athletics.

Despite all these distractions, two teams of enthusiasts were turned out by the Unit to take part in the Motor Cycle Trials held in the Command for the first time at the end of March, and we heartily congratulate all those who took part on their excellent performance after such hurried preparations, and in particular we mention Lance Corporal Bothamley of Egypt Command Signals for winning the Individual Championship. A full account is published elsewhere.

Last, but not least, may we offer a rather belated welcome as well as congratulations on his promotion to Lieutenant-Colonel F. A. H. Mathew, O.B.E., M.C., our new C.O. We hope that both he and Mrs. Mathew will enjoy this tour as much as they did their last one.

Answers to Correspondents.—"Driver (I.C.)." Yes; you are quite right in removing the rose from the watering can before filling the radiator.

"Puzzled." No; the large corrugated iron building was not built especially to house the T.M.O.'s private car. Its main use is as an arena for the new indoor game called "Stable Maintenance, or Find the Driver?" which is played regularly by Mobile Divisional Signals from 11.45 a.m. to 12.45 p.m. daily. For detailed rules, see next month's issue.

No. 2 Squadron Headquarters

Abbassia, Cairo.
1st April.

After a somewhat lengthy absence from these columns, No. 2 Squadron Headquarters ventures at last to make its belated and somewhat exhausted bow to their readers.

The Squadron was formed on 1st February, 1939, after which date much frenzied work was done in moving all offices and troop stores to the accommodation then occupied by No. 3 Company, Egypt Command Signals. Soon after the move, all offices, Troop and Squadron stores were packed, and on 27th February the Unit proceeded, via the desert, to the Mersa Matruh area for Mobile Division manœuvres.

The journey was completed without mishap, and during the actual manœuvres the Squadron was able to fulfil all demands made upon it. For the first week the weather was indifferent, but afterwards brightened up to such an extent that, on two occasions, well attended sea-bathing parties were organised.

We started on our return journey to Cairo on 17th March, but made such poor progress that three days were taken to make the same journey that, according to rumour, Lieutenant A. B. de Lisle, in a civilian car, made in five hours. While traversing a particularly bad piece of country, one of our 8-cwt.

No. 1 Squadron, Egypt Mobile Divisional Signals.

trucks became separated from the main Column and, with a 7th Hussars lorry, returned to Cairo independently, arriving a day before the slower Column.

On our return from Mersa Matruh, No. 2 Squadron moved into a new block of barrack rooms, which contain such additional features as timber rafters, new pattern wardrobes, and a differently constructed wash-house. The utility of these innovations will, no doubt, be determined during the coming months. The new Unit M.T. garage, which has been formally opened, is surely the most imposing in Abbassia. The M.T. offices have been moved into the old No. 3 Company C.Q.M.S. Stores. These quarters are shared by the two Squadron offices, the two Squadron Sergeant-Majors and the R.S.M., but the congestion is doubtless only temporary.

The Annual Inspection by the G.O.C. takes place on the 14th of this month, and we are now enjoying every variety of inspection that the ingenuity or perversion of man can devise. In addition, the Adjutant's "Spring drills" take place twice a week at 6.35 a.m., so perhaps we need not make any further remarks concerning the word "exhausted" in the opening paragraph of these notes.

Congratulations are extended to R.Q.M.S. New on his appointment, and we are all extremely sorry that he had to be posted to Egypt Command Signals. That Unit has gained a very popular Warrant Officer. Congratulations also to W.O.III Richardson on his promotion.

Owing to the absence of the Unit from Cairo, there is very little sports news to report, but preparations are going ahead both for the Motor Cycle Trials and for the Signals Sports; both events are expected to take place this month.

DUKE.

"W" Troop, No. 2 Squadron

The manœuvres took place, as usual, on the Western Desert and in the vicinity of Mersa Matruh. They were a crowning success, in spite of the new and trying conditions under which we all had to work. This year the weather did not favour us greatly, and the first few days of our camp were somewhat marred by rain, which was followed by strong winds and the usual dust storms (so familiar to those of us who remain from the "Old Troop").

The last Scheme was very eventful, as the entire Mobile Division was visited by Sir Miles Lampson, the British Ambassador, and General Sir Robert Gordon-Findlayson, G.O.C.-in-C., Egypt. We are pleased to report that the combined efforts of the Troop during the manœuvre period were rewarded by notes of congratulation from the Staff.

Now that we are once more firmly ensconced in barracks, feverish preparations for the forthcoming G.O.C.'s inspection are taking place and once more the Unit lines are beginning to sparkle. Very shortly the Courses for individual training will commence. They will include Machine Gun and P.T. Courses; the former is now necessary as tanks have to be manned by gunner-operators. And so, on the whole, the Troop is a hive of industry.

Sport.—The Inter-Section Knock-out Football Competition has once more evaded our grasp as we were beaten in the semi-final by "D" Section. We are consoling ourselves upon the fact that we have gained a few more points towards the Mansergh Cup. The semi-finals are our bugbear, for we have also reached this stage in the Inter-Section Knock-out Competition for the Hockey Cup. Considering the number of members of the team who are limping about, we cannot reasonably be accused of not trying.

Promotions.—Delete Lance Corporal and substitute Corporal in respect of the following: Burdon and King. Keep going with the good work, fellows; another rung up the ladder!

Howlers.—We are anxious to set the bloodhounds upon the trail of the culprit who is responsible for the following faux pas: "Any mut can tune in a nine set, even the blinking dhobi boy." We are all wondering if the blinking dhobi boy would switch to "A" frequency, and tune on "B"!

PIP.

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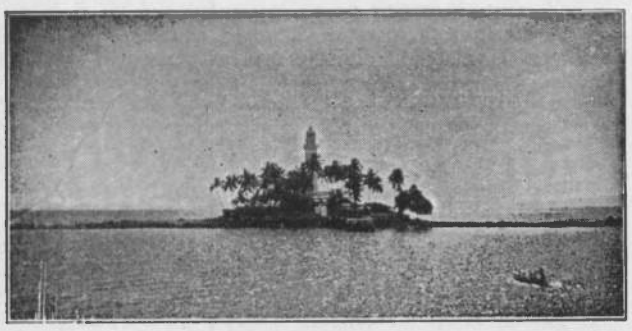


Malaya Signal Company.

Fort Canning Detachment.

This month we are glad to report that there has been an increase in the Signals staff at Fort Canning. We refer to two canaries, one monkey, and a dog by the name of Bismarck.

The canaries have now taken to song, and all of us find it far more pleasant to be awakened by the sweet trilling notes of the birds than by the usual methods employed.

Godfrey the monkey is at present feeling his way around, and we are sure that by the time the next edition has been printed there will be plenty of thrilling exploits to relate.

Bismarck the dog has now settled down to challenging, fighting, and defeating all the dogs he has encountered on the Island. He is also a keen supporter of all the sporting events at which he has never lost an opportunity of meeting and fighting some other canine friend. Indeed, at many of these sporting events he has taken the applause, and the committee have finally decided that he is an essential part of the programme.

Arrival.—We heartily welcome Mrs. Jackman to Singapore, and trust that her stay will be a happy one.

Appointment.—Congratulations to U/Lance Corporal Jones H. on being paid for his appointment.

Commission.—Many members of the Corps will remember Mr. Bale, formerly C.S.M. in the Mounted Wing, and who left us for the R.A.O.C. We are sure that everybody who knows him will be glad to join us in congratulating him on his commission.

RASOOL.

Alexandra Detachment.

4th April.

" The months fly but the moments drag " is a parody of an ancient Chinese proverb. It is strange how good resolutions fall through ; we always intend to have our notes ready early, but invariably finish up with a last minute dash.

Now to business. Congratulations to Lance Corporal Radford on his appointment as Acting Corporal (Paid), and to Signalman Harris W. on winning the C.O.'s prize for the highest score at musketry—83 out of a possible 95. Nice work ! Signalmen Sanderson and Moffatt ran him close second with 82. To Signalman Walker on winning the Musketry Sweep, and to the Unit on obtaining a good average at musketry. To Signalmen Brady and Smithies on becoming eligible for B.III pay ; and to Lance Corporal Thompson on not having to write any mail.

We welcome Lieutenants Paris and Townsend on their arrival from U.K., and also the draft of seventeen which arrived with them. Sergeant Bob Rankin has found no " Bar " to his progress on pay, while " Pete " Gwillim has started a Course on " Vocs. and how to get them." May their stay be just as long as they want it to be. Boys, please always remember that film stars, etc., pay pounds to visit this place. Who emitted that hollow laugh ? Hush ! the rain has almost ceased.

Our Up-grading Squad are wandering around in a dream. Next week sees them on the road to success—they hope ! They have our best wishes.

Training is still in full swing, and with the arrival of the last draft we now have three Squads in progress. The R.E.s have very kindly built us another lecture room. The "Attap " shed (is that right ?) still causes a certain amount of head scratching. How about " Operators All " as a name ?

Signalman Slavin, complete with dressing gown, has left us for a short stay at Changi. We sometimes wonder if that same " Phil Scott " dressing gown has anything to do with his assumption of the prone position so often whilst playing soccer. Signalman Garner has taken his place here, in order to study for his B.II rating.

With reference to your crack in the WIRE, " Tando." Since your departure we have all gone " Bond Streetish." Good people do not need any advertisement ! (Cor lumme, the argument that's going to cause.)

To Haggis Gorman and Dickey Burdes of the Far East and Pompey, respectively. If you don't receive a letter before this is published, remember the matter is still to hand. Tommie.

Congratulations to Corporal White, Lance Corporal Wood, Signalmen Camp and Healey, and Gunner McRae on moving to Alexandra from Gillman. They have started to put on weight already.

For the main topic of discussion, see last month's WIRE. It never changes.

Brady of this Unit hopes that it is not stoking up too much in Egypt.

Sport.—Soccer and water polo are the only games at the moment.

The Company has entered a team in the S.A.A.F. League, but so far we can only record one wash out and two defeats. In the first instance we were due to meet the Naval Base at Seletar, kick off at 5.15 p.m., but rain commenced at 4.30 p.m.

On the 24th we played the Post Office, a team playing five State players. The result was 5—2 in their favour. Wild and

Duckworth scored for us. A record crowd witnessed a very good game.

The next match was on 31st March against the R.A., Blakang Mati. We lost 2—0. Another good game! We hope to have better news for ex-colonists next month.

Our second team has not played much soccer this month owing to the League matches. Here are the results:

v. Wearnes, Ltd.	Lost	3—4
v. Clerical Union	Lost	3—4
v. R.A.S.C.	Lost	0—1

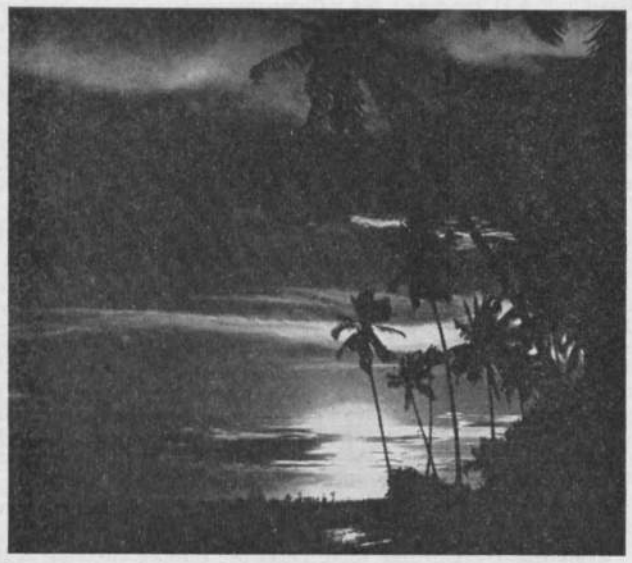
Water polo is booming. The Depot team won the local league without losing a match. Two matches were drawn:

v. Loyals' second team	Won	7—1
v. R.A.M.C.	Won	4—1
v. H.M.S. " Grimsby "	Won	5—0
v. H.M.S. " Grimsby "	Drawn	3—3

The last two matches were friendlies.

Athletics are on the go now, and a couple of likely youngsters have entered their names for the three miles.

We are not certain if weight-lifting comes under sport, but we have to report that " What-a-man " Barron's class is increasing. The sight of so many men lifting such weights really tires out our darts players.



Changi Detachment.

3rd April.

General.—Hello, everybody! Changi is here again to give readers an insight into our recent activities. We still have a lot of work around this part of the world, but there is also plenty of sport to balance the day.

During the past week we have been busy moving into the new offices and workshops which were recently completed in the cantonment. This calls for still more wiring and wall " bumping," and we can truthfully say that " Civvy Street " and thoughts of hard labour have no terrors for us.

Yachting is now our favourite sport, and work on the Section boat is proceeding apace. Lance Corporal Stoner, our chief camera man, has taken some interesting snaps of the lads at work, and we hope in the near future to provide our readers with some pictures of our progress. The date of launching has not yet been fixed, but, judging by the number of bottles promised for the ceremony, it should be a grand affair and seats should be booked early at Changi Pier to avoid disappointment.

One topic this month has been the staging of a feud between our Steve, " The Otley Duke " and his A.O.C., " Lofty " Darlow. The real reason for the trouble has not yet been ascertained, but the scribe believes that it may have been caused by the recent height contest which took place in the barrack room. Neither of the combatants will divulge anything, but the " Duke " was observed to leave his tobacco pouch in the workshop the other day in the hope that " Lofty " would come to earth and smoke the pipe of peace with him. " Never mind, Stevey, you've both got three years to get over it! "

Musketry.—A party of our " more recent " draft took part in this pleasant pastime last week, and so completed the Company musketry for the year. The scores were satisfactory, and rifles have now been put away in the lofts till next year. We understand that Signalman Hunter believes in the old theory, "A good marker beats a first class shot."

Congratulations.—To Corporal Radford on reaching full rank, and tankards have been raised and emptied many times. The Section now awaits the elevation of our " pancake " expert to paid rank.

Agonies.—To Austin from the " Otley Duke." " Does Bill still go in for gardening?

To 837 from " Lofty," 836. " Last effort. How about a line? "

Howler.—On the 24th one of our cables was struck by lightning and the fuses on the test frame were blown. The duty lineman, who was informed about the fault, promptly proceeded to the line stores for a pair of " gloves, rubber " in order to tackle the job. Quite a good show, Johnny, but please be careful of those live wires!

Tailpiece.—This is dedicated to " T.B.C.," somewhere in Palestine. The scribe wishes it to be known that the Potsdam was in Singapore last week. Please pass the news on to Charlie. (Joe.)

That's all for the present, so good-bye, everybody!

Seng Hup.

Blakang Mati and Pulau Brani Islands Area Detachment.

We were honoured by a visit from the C.S.O. last Monday and also the Foreman-of-Signals. We hope they left with a good impression of the Islands, also of the N.C.O. and men who bear the burden of so great and vital a part of Singapore.

The Island experienced a great loss when our esteemed Corporal Keeling left us for Alexandra. There was much weeping and gnashing of teeth. Adios, Corporal, the best of luck, and may your stay be a long and happy one. Corporal Keeling, his trusty followers and a bodyguard, were called upon to play an important part in our last Scheme on the mainland. They put in many hours of hard work.

Other stations of the Malaya Signal Company please note. Anyone interested in shooting is cordially invited to the Islands for tuition. Results: Signalman Harris (" P.B."), 1st prize; Signalman Moffat (" B. Mati ") and Signalman Sanderson (" P. Brani ") tied for second prize.

We have heard rumours that a certain Junior N.C.O. has developed a secret passion for fan mail.

Things We Would Like to Know.—What is this Jew-boys' launch? Is it a new kind of toy, a new torpedo boat, or a method whereby tightish N.C.O.s and men save taxi fares.

Seeing is Believing.—Believe it nor not, one of the Signalmen from Pulau Brani actually saw a crane lift a battleship and put it into dry dock. Any remedies?

Heard in the Exchange.—" Is that Blakang Mati? "

" Yes."

" There's something wrong with my phone."

" Well, report it to the Orderly Lineman."

" I can't, there's no match on."

Jews' Mail.—To Bobbie, 'Pindi, of half-mile fame. " It gets lonely on these Islands. Sandy."

To Tando, Palestine. " I have still got the cushion. Do you want the air back? Mac."

Sandy and Haggis.

THE TERRITORIALS AND SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE

The London Corps Signals; Affiliated S.R. Units; and 28th (London) Company, A.T.S.

Fulham House, Fulham High Street, London, S.W.6.

13th April.

General.—There is still nothing very exciting to report, and training is proceeding normally for trained men on Mondays and recruits on Wednesdays. The former are now busy on Section training preparatory to Camp, which we are holding at Corfe Castle, Dorset, again (we hope).

The effect of the international situation has not passed us by in the matter of recruits. We are already up to war strength, and are now forming our second line.

We have had rather an orgy of boxing lately. On 4th March we held our Annual Inter-Company Boxing Competition, refereed by Captain L. M. Joseph, T.D., which No. 3 Company managed to win. On 24th March the finals of the London Divisional Inter-Unit Team Novices' Boxing Competition, 1938-39, was held in our Drill Hall. Captain C. Venables, T.D., refereed. The contestants were the 90th Field Regiment, R.A., T.A., and ourselves. The Gunners won by three points. On each occasion the boxing was excellent and entertaining, and their was a wonderful show of good spirits.

On 18th March, No. 3 Company held a dinner at Headquarters. Among the guests were our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel C. L. H. Humphreys, T.D., our Hon. Colonel, Colonel T. W. Vigers, O.B.E., M.C., T.D., and Captain J. C. Rau, Commanding Officer of the affiliated S.R. Units. There was a good attendance of the Company, who sat down to an excellent dinner, followed by a concert. The Company is to be congratulated on putting up a very fine show. Other Companies, please copy.

Good Friday was the occasion of our annual pilgrimage to Mons Barracks for our football match with our Regular comrades. As usual, the visitors lost; the result was 3—0. Nevertheless, it was a good game, and everyone appeared to have a good time.

Sergeants' Mess.—We held our last Mess Dance on 25th March, and what a wonderful night it was, too. Good band, good company and consequently good dancing. We fixed up our bar in the Hall, so that we could dance and drink at the same time as it were. It was a great scheme really, as it kept the members (and their ladies) in the hall and "scotched'" any tendency for snooping off to the Mess for a quiet one.

We congratulate C.Q.M.S. Cyril Hobbs on his promotion to that rank and trust that the crown will not weigh so heavily upon him as his "Yule Log" pipe appears to do. There's one thing, Cyril; you and your pipe will be in clover if ever you have to issue the tobacco ration!

We extend a very hearty welcome to ex-Corporals Crampton F. J., Pipe C. W., Smith C. F. and Stiff H., and trust their stay with us will be a long and happy one.

The play for the "Murphy Snooker Competition" referred to in our last notes, resulted in a win for the 47th Divisional Signals, O.C.A., in a play-off after tying with ourselves.

How's this for National Service? We have in our Unit three brothers, Lance Sergeant Munn A. W., Corporal Munn L. C. and Signalman Munn A. J. Their sister, Miss I. F. Munn and Signalman Munn's wife, are members of our attached A.T.S., while the mother of the family is in the Red Cross Association and the father in the Auxiliary Fire Service. Not too bad, eh!

We referred at the beginning of these notes to the lack of excitement. On second thoughts perhaps we were not quite correct. Why? Well, on entering the Orderly Room on the drill night preceding Easter we were indeed surprised to find, not the usual stolid-looking clerks at work there, but five or six of our A.T.S. volunteers very busy typing, writing and sorting, and—no, Mr. Printer, not talking! They were certainly "down to it."

EFFEMMA.

42nd (East Lancs.) Divisional Signals.

Manchester.

15th April.

General.—At the time of writing these notes we have six weeks to go prior to camp, and to say that we are busy is only putting it in a mild form. On Monday nights, No. 1 Company do their Section training, and we have two Recruit Squads at drill; Tuesdays are taken up by No. 3 Company, and the Unit Band in P.A.D. training; No. 2 Company are busy on Wednesday nights. Recruiting takes place on Thursdays. This leaves Friday, which is allotted to the Band for practice, and also to the W.A.T.S. for their parade. We have only Saturday and Sunday left, and most of these are taken up in some form of training right up to camp.

Lecture.—An interesting lecture was given by Captain Palmer (41st Battalion, Royal Tank Regiment) on Monday, 3rd April, at Headquarters. The C.S.O., Western Command (Colonel D. A. Brown), and all officers of the Unit were present.

A.T.S.—The first social evening was devoted to a dance, held on Saturday, 15th April, and was well supported.

D.R.s.—A party of sixteen travelled down to Belper, near Derby, to take part in the third Inter-Unit Team Reliability Trial, organised by the North Midland Corps Signals. We entered three teams, and at the end of the Trial were pleased to note that we had been placed third again. Congratulations to the North Midland Corps Signals in taking first place. This time we were able to take a vehicle down with us, and it proved very useful indeed, as we had to bring back three damaged machines. The whole of the party arrived back in Manchester at 10 o'clock, after a very enjoyable day.

Promotions.—Congratulations to Capt. R. J. Presland on receiving his third "pip."

Exercise.—By the time these notes are printed the Unit will have had a Week-end Exercise in the Bollington area on 29th and 30th April.

Recruiting.—Soon after the announcement of the increase of the T.A. we were up to War Establishment. After changes had been made in the personnel of the Companies we were then able to commence on our second Unit and, judging by the number of recruits turning up at the time of writing, this new Unit should be very quickly formed.

Agony Column.—Is it true that the P.S.I. desire a Scheme in the vicinity of the "Devonshire Arms," Baslow?

Old Comrades' Association.—War-time memories and friendships were revived at the Carlton Restaurant, Manchester, on Saturday, 18th March, when the old members of the 42nd (East Lancs.) Divisional Signal Company, R.E., and of the present Unit foregathered for their Annual Meeting and Supper.

The President, Colonel R. S. Newton, M.C., D.L., occupied the chair and, at the outset, heartily welcomed all present, paying tribute to those who had journeyed from London, Yorkshire and the distant parts of Lancashire.

A report of the year's activities, and the Statement of Accounts were presented by the Chairman (Mr. H. Willcock, D.C.M.) and the Hon. Secretary (Mr. P. E. Parker), and approved.

After the President, Vice-Presidents, and Committee had been re-elected, an adjournment was made for supper. Before sitting

down, the room was darkened and the customary tribute was impressively paid to "Our Fallen Comrades." Their names were recited, and the "Last Post" and "Reveille" were sounded by a Royal Signals trumpeter.

The Supper in place of the usual Hot Pot seemed to satisfy everyone, and by its popularity the beer appeared to be up to standard.

The "loyal toast" was duly honoured in Lancashire style as "The King, Duke of Lancaster," and the company settled down to enjoy song and story, with bursts of community singing.

Captain H. Andrews, T.D., proposed the health of the President and referred to the days, over thirty years ago, when they both served together in Volunteer Signals.

In reply, Colonel Newton said that it was just twenty years since the last of the old Signal Company, R.E., left Charleroi and their war service came to an end. During the Company's 4½ years' service abroad, it passed through many phases, and there were not many who saw them all; some would still have impressions of mobilization and the memorable voyage in the "Saturnia" to Alexandria in September, 1914, the desert training at Abbassia, the landing and eight months at Cape Helles, the defence of the Suez Canal with the advance across the desert to El Arish; others would only remember the last two years in France and Belgium.

Many came and many went, but the Company always carried on, and the large attendance that evening, after twenty years, was a proof that the spirit and soul of the Company still existed. He said that the ideals which they all had during the war had not been realised, and that now we lived in a more anxious and disturbed time than ever, and whilst we must not think that another war was inevitable, there was a vital need for everyone to make some contribution towards the completion of our defences.

The guests included Major E. R. Sutton, Captain T. A. H. Lea, M.M., Lieutenant and Quartermaster McVittie, R.S.M. Whittington, and the Permanent Staff of 42nd Divisional Signals. The toast was proposed by Mr. J. E. Campbell, late R.E., the Company's Sergeant Instructor in 1914.

Major Sutton expressed his regret at the absence of his Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Delaney, on account of illness, and said that the traditions of the Signal Company were a constant incentive and encouragement to the serving members, and he hoped that old members would always look upon themselves as part of Divisional Signals, pointing out that on the Annual Armistice Day Parade in Manchester it was the custom for serving officers to fall in and march behind the Old Comrades in rear of the Unit.

The Divisional Signals was now 20 per cent. above Establishment, and he was confident that, if occasion arose, it would play its part as the old Company had done in the past.

Major Sutton referred to the great improvement in the technical equipment now being issued, and interested everyone in his description of the possibilities of the latest Radio Telephone Sets.

At the request of the President, R.S.M. Whittington also spoke, and on behalf of the Permanent Staff thanked the members for inviting them to be present. He said that the war record of the Old Company was frequently put forward as an example to serving members in the Unit, which was recruiting a splendid type of man, keen and anxious to do more than was expected of him. It was hoped that some of the Old Comrades would visit them during Annual Training at Halton, near Lancaster, this year, when they would receive a most cordial welcome.

43rd (Wessex) Divisional Signals.

Headquarters.

The Priory, Exeter.

April.

Editorial.—The main feature of the past month has been the intensive recruiting campaign to bring the Unit up to its new Establishment. It is really superfluous to say that every endeavour is being made to complete our roll in the minimum of time. Reports from each Company Headquarters indicates that results are justifying the efforts made to achieve this end.

To the new-comers we extend a very warm welcome, and assure them of a really good time with us.

The sooner we attain 100 per cent. strength, the sooner we can set to work to function completely. Then, each and every job becomes easier, because at present most of us have to try to do at least two jobs, owing to deficiencies in numbers.

MERCURY.

No. 1 (Plymouth) Company.

The Drill Hall, York Street, Devonport.

April.

Training.—March has seen the completion of individual training, and everyone who is not a recruit now finds himself in a Section. There is still the little matter of trade tests to take place, and some are actually working overtime at operating practice. Good luck to them on the great day (or night, should we say !).

Social.—The principal event of the social world this month has been the "Back-Badge Ball," given by the 2nd Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment, at Crownhill, and which was attended by C.S.M. Gibbings and two Sergeants from this Company. From all accounts it was a most successful event.

Congratulations.—To Corporal McDonagh A. on successfully completing the Gas Course at Tregantle. We now have one officer and two N.C.O.s to instruct us in P.A.D.

ONECOY.

44th (Home Counties) Divisional Signals.

No. 2 Company.

The Drill Hall, Gloucester Road, Brighton.

Boxing.—On Saturday, 18th March, a match between the Royal Signals Units at Brighton and Hurstpierpoint took place in the Drill Hall, Gloucester Road, Brighton. Our opponents won by six points to two. Details:

LIGHT-WEIGHTS.—Signalman Denton lost on points to Signalman Leaney. This was a ding-dong battle from start to finish, and Leaney, who found Denton no easy opponent, won by a very narrow margin.

WELTER-WEIGHTS.—Signalman Frost knocked out Signalman Mancer in the first round. Frost, who had an advantage in reach, made good use of it. Lance Sergeant Ripley beat Corporal Dunn, the fight being stopped towards the end of the first round. Dunn had a bad cut over his left eye. The result was a big disappointment to all, for when this pair meet we generally get our money's worth. Better luck next time, Corporal Dunn !

LIGHT HEAVY-WEIGHTS.—Signalman Blackman lost to Signalman Virgo, the referee stopping the fight towards the end of the first round. Blackman, who took a lot of punishment, was applauded as a very plucky loser.

WELTER-WEIGHTS.—Lance Sergeant Ripley unfortunately was disqualified in his fight against Lance Corporal Green in the last round. Ripley, though leading on points, had no easy task.

The prizes were presented by Captain T. Freer-Ash, Royal Signals, T.A., who congratulated the boxers and staff who had organised the show. "This," he said, "is the first show of the year, and I hope that many more will follow." The O.C. was heartily applauded by all present.

GEORGE BEER.

No. 32 Construction Section, L. of C. Signals

Drill Hall, Gloucester Road, Brighton.

April.

This Section was formed on 15th February, 1939, and T/Sergeant Collington R. M. is our Permanent Staff Instructor. At present we have no Section Officer, but hope to have one very soon.

Our first recruit was Signalman Prindable G. C. G., and we have since welcomed Signalman Pope A. A., McGee J. and Driver (I.C.) Hamilton J. R. to the fold. The Section extend a warm welcome to our P.S.I.'s wife, and hope that she will have a pleasant stay in Brighton.

On Sunday, 19th March, we commenced our drills, and our prospects look very bright. We are all looking forward to our first camp with our parent Unit in September.

At present we are accommodated with No. 2 Company, 44th (H.C.) Divisional Signals, but we hope to make our Headquarters in Springfield Road.

Our drill period is on Sundays from 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m., and a visit from any member of the Corps will be welcomed.

HAGGIS.

Air Formation Signals, S.R.

Gibraltar Barracks, Leeds, 2.
15th April.

Permanent Staff.—C.Q.M.S. (F-of-S) Forrest W. and Sergeant Storey A. have recently joined the Permanent Staff, and we offer them a hearty welcome to what we hope will prove to be a very pleasant tour of duty.

Sergeants' Mess Dinner.—The Sergeants' Mess dinner on 18th March was very successful. We were very pleased to welcome the Chief Signal Officer, Northern Command, and ex-R.S.M. Pillinger H. Their kind remarks regarding the Unit were very much appreciated.

Annual Dinner.—The Unit Annual Dinner, held at the Griffin Hotel on 25th March, was a great success. Although there was a drizzle during the evening, it did not dampen the spirits of those who attended. Messrs. A. Dickinson (accompanist), Beaumont and Cleary provided the entertainment and, judging by the merriment, they *did* entertain. The management of the Griffin Hotel provided a very good dinner, which was much enjoyed, but we cannot say whether the liquid refreshment consumed was appreciated next morning; we leave you to draw your own conclusions.

We were all very pleased to see the Chief Signal Officer looking so well after his recent illness.

The following press report is reprinted by permission of the Leeds Mercury:

"Reference to the rapid growth of the Air Formation Signals, Supplementary Reserve, was made by Major R. S. Smith at the annual dinner of the Unit in the Griffin Hotel, Leeds, on Saturday, 25th March.

"The Air Formation Signals, whose object is to provide communication services for the Royal Air Force, have their Headquarters at Gibraltar Barracks, Leeds, and Companies at Leeds, Bradford, London, and Birmingham.

"Major Smith said that the Royal Corps of Signals had been aptly described as the nervous system of the Army. They all knew what happened when the nervous system of a human being failed, and it would equally be serious if the nervous system of the Army failed in the field. It had never failed yet, and he was confident it never would.

"The Air Formation Signals were a comparatively new Unit and were little known even in the Regular Army. Nevertheless, in their short life they had reached a high degree of efficiency under the direction of Colonel Campbell.

"Big changes had taken place during the last year. From being a small Unit they had become the largest single Unit in the Army. Including the numbers in the two Companies stationed outside Yorkshire, they had an Establishment of over 1,000 (all ranks).

"Major Smith said that since last September, 360 men had been recruited for the Leeds and Bradford Companies. Nearly all these men had been in training for some weeks. In addition to normal Training Schemes they had been able, with the help of the Head Postmaster of the places concerned, to start keyboard training schools in several Yorkshire cities. They had 180 keyboard operators in training.

"He thought they had every reason to be proud of their achievement and of the hard work put in since last September. He was confident that the Unit could go forward, sure of its ability to fulfil its mission in the field and to maintain the happy spirit at present pervading its ranks."

The toast of "The Unit," to which Major Smith replied, was moved by R.Q.M.S. Wood S. W. R.Q.M.S. Wood expressed the pleasure of all ranks at the fact that Colonel Campbell's period of command had been extended. Referring to the new recruits who were coming along, he said that they were of a fine type, worthy of the Unit they were joining.

Brevet-Colonel J. Campbell, commanding the Unit, proposed the toast of "The Colonel-in-Chief," The Princess Royal.

Major J. Gardiner proposed the toast of "The Guests." In reply, Colonel G. Bray expressed the hope that there would be a strengthening of the S.R.—T.A. "Axis."

Colonel R. E. Barker, Chief Signal Officer of the Northern Command, presented a Long Service Medal and Warrant to C.S.M. Hartley, and a Warrant to R.Q.M.S. Wood.

Others present included Lieutenant-Colonel T. P. Hobbins (Regional Director of the Post Office), Lieutenant-Colonel A. C. Haddow, Lieutenant-Colonel W. F. Jackson, Major H. Richardson, Captains C. C. Danby, G. F. Houghton, P. Jennings, D. H. S. Saunderson, J. E. Z. Bryden, J. G. Parry, E. B. Tinney, and J. E. Young, Lieutenant (Quartermaster) F. Tebb, Lieutenant (Quartermaster) H. Archbold, Mr. S. T. Needham, Lieutenants W. Morton and C. A. Atkinson, 2nd Lieutenants R. Jones, R. S. Gander, F. Gates, E. T. Davis, V. H. G. Page, R. H. S. Simon, B. Rycroft, A. D. Carrette and T. R. North, and R.S.M. Chadney V. F.

Marriages.—We offer our congratulations to the following officers who have recently entered into double harness: Lieutenant C. A. Atkinson to Miss M. B. Steel, of Wakefield, at Wakefield Cathedral on 1st April. 2nd Lieutenant V. H. G. Page to Miss M. G. Allen, of Southampton, at Southampton on 8th April.

Individual Training.—We are very pleased to see the very good attendance of other ranks maintained on drill nights and the Sunday training parades. This gives the impression that they are keen to reach the high standard of efficiency required by this Unit. At the present rate of progress this should not be very difficult.

Promotions.—We congratulate A/R.S.M. Isaac R. R. and T/C.S.M. Frampton E. H. of our friends the 49th Divisional Signals, T.A., on their appointments.

A.F.S.

51st (Highland) Divisional Signals.

No. 2 Company.

Goosecroft, Stirling.
12th March.

Training.—Training for the Company commenced on Monday, 27th March, and there was a substantial attendance of the Company. This year we are having three nights a week for drills, and although Monday does not seem to be as popular as the normal Tuesday and Thursday, there is always a very good attendance.

The training at present consists of technical classes, with drill, under our Regular drill instructor, in between to relieve the monotony.

Trade Board.—Our first Trade Board was held on 14th March, and the following men obtained the rating shown: Signalmen Parker T., Collins M. and Stewart K., Group "E" O/S.; Signalmen Ging J., Stafford W. and Wilkie G., B.III O/S.; Signalmen Brown J., Miller D., Robertson A. and Wiggins H., B.II O/S.; and Signalman Louden G., Clerk, C.III.

We should like to congratulate those who passed, and trust that the failures will put their backs into it and pass the next Board, which will probably be in May.

Departures.—It is with regret that we record that Sergeant Ging J. has left the Company after fourteen years' service. He was one of the few remaining N.C.O.s with service in the Great War.

Our C.Q.M.S. (Alec Given) has handed over the reins of office to Jack Todd, as he has had to depart for London to take up a civilian post. As the post down south is likely to be a temporary one, Given is being retained in the Company as a Sergeant, so we shall hope to see him at St. Andrew's in July.

Twuco.

13th (City of Aberdeen) Company, A.T.S.

Stirling.

We lament the gradual diminution of the barracks, but our indefatigable Signals are still able to find room for us; indeed, who can blame them for welcoming our presence when we can boast of such high lights as Doris Angus? We hear that she has become quite indispensable in the office, and we know that everything she tackles will always be carried out efficiently. But what's this about a parade of the flower of the Signals' youth? All for your benefit, Doris? We admit you deserve a reward for your exemplary conduct, but wouldn't you like one of your humble colleagues to come along and help with the inspection?

We've tried to give R.S.M. Lewis a rest by shouting commands ourselves. Thanks to excellent instruction one or two members have become expert; our youthful Jean Gadsby especially has shone, and so have Muriel Coutts and Elizabeth Semple. Together with Doris Angus, they must be congratulated on being chosen for promotion to Assistant Section Leaders. We look forward to sampling their achievements in another capacity when we go to camp—or, rather, if we go. We hope their cooking is as efficient as their drilling: if so, the enjoyment of this important side of camp life will leave nothing to be desired.

Last week we were measured for uniforms. The prospect of getting these is intriguing, but the business of having measurements taken was painful in the extreme for one nameless member.

We are glad to have such capable members as Geddes, who joined us recently. She had valuable experience as a W.A.A.C. during the Great War.

This month we thought we ought to refrain from saying too much about our modest R.S.M. Lewis, but we must tell him again how very grateful we are for the interest he has shown in us from the beginning, for sparing so much of his valuable time for drills, and for the help and advice he has given to novice clerks when they disturbed the peace of his office.

Signalia.

52nd (Lowland) Divisional Signals.

21, Jardine Street, Glasgow, N.W.

April.

Last month the writer declared that the Unit was up to strength, but now we have to announce that there are round about 400 vacancies, for we have started to recruit our second line. We have already recruited about thirty men for the new Unit, and, by the end of the next fortnight, which is entirely devoted to recruiting, it is to be hoped that the Commanding Officer will have two complete Signal Units to cope with. We understand that demonstrations of "Signals in Operation," lengthy route marches, and even something at Hampden Park other than football, will be indulged in, just to show the public that "There's something about the Signals!"

Our Aerial Mast.

One thing, however, causes us to scratch our heads a little, and that is a question of accommodation; but if we do get that extra .0000001d. from the nation's income tax revenue to spend on our H.Q., we may possibly be able to strengthen the walls, and so prevent them from bulging out too far!

An improvement already carried out is the completion of our beautiful aerial mast. As illustratetl, it towers majestically above the waters of the River Kelvin, and we are pleased to say that it works very well with the No. 1 Set, and splendidly with the No. 9.

The upgrading Course has now been completed. The results have proved very satisfactory, and many have received new ratings. We congratulate them. Congratulations also to Lieutenant H. G. R. Luke on his recent promotion to that rank, and to Sergeants Roberts J. and Shields J. A. on their promotion to (Acting) Warrant Officers Class II, and to all the others upon whom the sun has shone.

There is nothing much to be said about social matters this month, except that the Sergeants have again held a successful dance which was well attended.

Some news has just come in. Lieutenants Carlaw and D. C. Lindsay and 2nd Lieutenant Moyes have just passed their Captaincy Examination, and are to be congratulated. The last-mentioned officer has just returned from a Course with 2nd Divisional Signals, Aldershot.

Congratulations to Major W. C. Buchanan, M.C., on his promotion and also appointment to the Active List of the Unit.

L.

G.H.Q. Signals, S.R.

21, Jardine Street, Glasgow, N.W.

11th April.

General.—The drill season commenced on Tuesday, 4th April, when those men who had enlisted since November, 1938, were placed in Squads for training in foot and rifle drill, whilst the old soldiers commenced training in their respective Sections.

The Signal Office now has four teleprinters connected up for message practice and the counter clerks will now be able to have practical experience in their work.

There will be five week-end camps before the annual training, and it is hoped that there will be a good turn-out to make them as great a success as they have been in previous years.

Recruits have been turning up in good numbers, and our Establishment is now complete.

Ten recent recruits from the Post Office have been training in their own time on the teleprinters at the G.P.O. They have now qualified, and we are grateful to the Postal officials for their co-operation.

Sport.—Since our last notes, this Unit were the winners in the final of the 52nd Division and Lowland Area Badminton Tournament, having defeated last year's winners—the 4/5th R.S.F., Ayr—by 5 games to 1.

The match, which was played on a neutral ground in Glasgow, was a real fight from start to finish, and the score does not do justice to our opponents, who made us go all out to win.

Our first pair beat the opposing first pair after a struggle lasting well over half-an-hour, leaving a tired couple to face our second pair, who had been resting after beating the opposing second pair. Our third pair also won, after losing the first game, but lost to the opposing second pair after nearly an hour's play. The remainder of the matches were not played as the issue was no longer in doubt. After tea the pairs split up and the ladies joined in to make a delightful evening.

Well done, G.H.Q.! Now that you have the Cup, hang on to it!

There is no further sports news until the Unit Sports Club gets under way, except that a team has been entered for the local tug-of-war. More about this event later.

Cheerio, everybody!

TICH.

53rd (Welsh) Divisional Signals.

Cardiff.

14th April.

Section training commences on 17th April, and Section Commanders take over their charges as from that date. Judging from the number of recruits passing off and expected to pass off in the near future, a good deal of spade work in technical training will have to be done in a short time when these recruits are posted to Sections.

An interesting film display dealing with the technical working of the G.P.O. telephone service is to be given on 14th April, at 7.15 p.m., in the Drill Hall, Park Street. No doubt this will attract most of the Unit members.

A number of officers passed an operating test on Monday, 3rd April, and a satisfactory standard was attained.

W.O.s and N.C.O.s attended a T.E.W.T. on Sunday, 23rd March, in the vicinity of Cowbridge, the subject of which was "Organisation and Administration." Good value, too!

The Unit has lost two most promising officers in Captain G. Cawthorn, transferred to the Reserve of Officers, and Lieutenant Phillip Fletcher, whose medical services in war time would be reserved, and he has, perforce, resigned his commission. We shall miss them for they were good workers and sportsmen.

No. 2 Company again feature in the final of the *Western Mail* Cup for Miniature Range Shooting. Their opponents this time are 244th Company, 53rd (Welsh) Divisional R.E. The result should be available for next month's issue.

On 5th April the W.O.s and N.C.O.s entertained the "Crikey Club" (Shell Mex Social Club) at Park Street. It was a Games Tournament, but the result will never be known!

Congratulations.—To Captain J. B. Senior on promotion to that rank; to 2nd Lieutenant D. Stephens on promotion to Lieutenant as from 21st January; and to Mr. A. G. Tett on being gazetted 2nd Lieutenant to this Unit. We hope his service will be long and happy.

THE LEEK.

54th (East Anglian) Divisional Signals.

Bedford Detachment.

The Drill Hall, Ashburnham Road, Bedford.

13th April.

Training.—Paid evening classes have ended, and a Trade Board was held on 6th April. Congratulations are tendered to Sergeant Thurley on obtaining that elusive Class III, and also to Signalmen Bright E., Farmer R. and Pilgrim W. on passing the Class III Trade Test. Some good operating is expected in the future. With the lighter evenings approaching, it is anticipated that some outdoor training will commence.

Musketry.—As all trained men have to fire on the open range, quite a number are asking each other how much they "don't" know about the parts of a rifle. We trust that the old soldiers will not forget the last time they were there. We understand that a sheep was missing! They cannot put all the blame on Signalman D. and V.R.K., Poacher Cook, Class I.

Agony.—Snake Charmer Lance Corporal Simpson J. has been lying low lately, and some say that the snake has gone to sleep for the winter. Some say that he forsakes drills to mind the baby. We wonder!

To Hong Kong.—Some of the old hands want to know if a cat has nine lives in Hong Kong, and if any mail has arrived from the late P.S.I. What about a line, Tom!

BEDFORDION.

2nd Anti-Aircraft Divisional Signals.

Drill Hall, Derby Road, Nottingham.

13th April.

Recruiting.—Since our last notes were written, recruiting has been very satisfactory, and to date the number attested in Nottingham is 111 O.R.s. No 2 Company at Rotherham also reports good progress. Congratulations are due to the Leeds Section, which now shows a strength of 53 O.R.s; a waiting list is being kept for those who cannot be accepted. The absence of a P.S.I. at Rotherham somewhat retards the more rapid growth of the two Sections there.

It is refreshing to find such a number of ex-Servicemen who are anxious to rejoin in any useful capacity, and even those who have almost reached the age limit can be of great service during this period of rapid development. We welcome them just as much as the younger recruit, whom we hope to train as useful tradesmen.

National Service Week.—A Recruiting "Drive," organised by the District Committee for National Service, was made at the Ritz Cinema last month. On the final day our C.O. made a very impressive address, and the following is taken from the "Nottingham Guardian":

"An impressive week's appeal to Nottingham men and women to devote part of their time to national service was brought to a close on Saturday at the Ritz Cinema, where a brief address has been given every evening.

"The speaker on Saturday was Lieutenant-Colonel Nicholson, Commanding Officer of the 2nd Anti-Aircraft Divisional Signals (the Nottingham Unit). Appealing to his hearers to undertake some form of national service, Colonel Nicholson said that the necessity was only too obvious. Clearly it was better to train to meet an emergency than to hold back and be a hindrance later by having to be trained after the emergency had arisen. The more prepared we were the less likelihood there was of anybody 'putting some funny stuff over.'

" Some might be sitting back thinking that as they were in a reserved occupation they were already ' doing their bit.' That was not so. There was scope and a job for everyone in one capacity or another. Incidentally, how many ' reserved ' occupations were likely to remain reserved after anything had happened ?

"As a Territorial he wanted to speak about the Territorial Army. The old gag that Territorials were Saturday afternoon soldiers was disproved during the last war and would be disproved again. In addition to forming part of the expeditionary forces, Territorials were now responsible for the whole of the ground defences of Great Britain from air attack.

" That was a very great responsibility. Further, strong and efficient A.A. Units would reduce the work of the A.R.P. service. The Territorial Army was a typically British institution, thoroughly democratic in principle—a Citizen Army composed of volunteer soldiers. That was as it should be in a democratic nation, and it was up to all of them to show the world that we had the courage of our convictions and were ready voluntarily to make any sacrifice to preserve our ideals.

" Thousands of recruits were wanted, women as well as men. It was often claimed that Nottingham and Notts. gave a lead to other parts of the country. Hitherto, in the ordinary everyday things of life, that was perfectly true. They were now asked to give the country a lead in the biggest thing of all, namely, to rally round for the defence of our national freedom."

Gazetted.—All the officers in Nottingham are now gazetted. Congratulations to the following, who were gazetted during the past month: Major W. H. Arnold, 31st March; Captain L. Hayes, 15th March; Captain H. Hall, 13th April (Leeds Section); 2nd Lieutenant T. C. Harding, 21st March; 2nd Lieutenant J. W. Grieve, 21st March; 2nd Lieutenant A. G. Smith, 24th March (Leeds Section); Lieutenant D. M. Carson, Medical Officer (commission confirmed but not yet gazetted); Lieutenant (Quartermaster) H. E. Mott, 29th March. The latter, who was a well-known P.S.I. in North Midland Corps Signals, has served with other Regular Army Units both at Home and in India.

Promotions.—In addition to being the first O.R. to join C.Q.M.S. Pilgrim H. A. has the honour to be the first N.C.O. actually appointed whilst serving in the Unit. His promotion to C.Q.M.S. is confirmed as from 11th March.

Accommodation.—No. 1 Company are now in occupation of their temporary Drill Hall in Redoubt Street, which is a much better arrangement than being squeezed in here with four other Units. As soon as the alterations are completed, a club room is to be furnished, complete with the necessary bar, so essential when discussing the merits, etc., of our budding instructors !

Civilian Staff.—We have taken on the following during the past month: Mr. R. Hyder as Wireless Operator (he is an ex-Signalman who was formerly with the Experimental Wireless Section, Cherat, India, and " B " Corps Signals, Karachi, India); Mr. J. Innocent as Clerk for the Wireless Station; and Mr. L. Heason as Telephone Operator. The last two are disabled ex-Servicemen.

Camp.—The estimated numbers for attendance at camp have been submitted to Divisional Headquarters. Camp is to be at Weybourne on the Norfolk coast from 31st July to 13th August.

Courses.—The C.O., accompanied by his two Company Commanders (Major C. R. Millen and Capt. C. F. W. Haseldine) attended a useful three days' Course at 1st A.A. Corps with the D.C.S.O. during March. It is hoped that in the near future we may receive a visit from our friends in 1st A.A. Corps and 1st A.A. Divisional Signals.

G. G.

5th Anti-Aircraft Divisional Signals

Headquarters : " Briarwood," Tilehurst Rd., Reading, Berks.

April.

General.—Although authority was given for the formation of this Unit early in January, 1939, it was not until 10th February that the Unit was allotted accommodation at the above address, and able to commence its arduous task of forming a Divisional Signal Unit from scratch. The first recruit—Signalman Jenkins—who has been enlisted as a Draughtsman, was attested on 16th February, 1939, and since that date the permanent staff have been more than overworked to cope with recruiting alone. To date, 168 recruits have been attested, and there are many others in the various stages of being medically examined, etc., prior to attestation.

To provide a nucleus of trained men, certain personnel of No. 2 Company, 43rd (Wessex) Divisional Signals, T.A., were transferred to the Unit in order to form No. 2 Section at Southampton. One officer and forty-one other ranks were transferred and, with the addition of these other ranks, the Unit has already 60 per cent. of its establishment. We hope to inform readers in next month's notes that the Unit has attained 100 per cent. of its Establishment.

Situation of the Unit.—Unit Headquarters and No. 1 Company (less No. 2 Section) are situated at the above address. It is a private house, not quite adequate as a drill hall, but we must be satisfied until such time as our permanent drill hall is built.

No. 2 Section of No. 1 Company is at Hamilton House, Southampton, and shares the drill hall of No. 2 Company, 43rd (Wessex) Divisional Signals, T.A.

No. 2 Company is at 64, Worrall Road, Bristol. Here again the accommodation is temporary, pending the building of a permanent drill hall.

Command.—The Unit is commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel F. E. A. Manning, M.C., T.D., Royal Signals, T.A., assisted by Major D. V. L. Craddock, Royal Signals, T.A. No. 1 Company is under the care of Captain C. S. Scantlebury, whilst No. 2 Company will be commanded by Captain H. B. Somerville. The following subalterns have already been gazetted: Messrs. E. K. F. Buckltsch, R. St. J. Quarry, B. S. Chilver, G. T. C. Morris, L. A. Moss and J. E. Golothan.

Lieutenant (Quartermaster) G. F. Johnson, Royal Signals, T.A. (ex-" F " Company, Training Battalion), is ably administering the stores side, and, after weeks of completing and submitting indents, has at last the satisfaction of seeing the arrival of the stores.

Permanent Staff.—Captain F. C. Seely, Royal Signals, who is the Adjutant, is bearing up admirably under the strain of these last few hectic weeks. As R.S.M. we have A/R.S.M. Waight T.A., who joined the Unit from the Training Battalion, S.T.C. He is at present also carrying out the duties of P.S.I., No. 1 Company, pending the re-enlistment of ex-Sergeant Shreeves L. for these duties. The P.S.I. of No. 2 Company is Sergeant Millen S. W., who re-enlisted on 10th February.

The Section at Southampton is at present relying on the assistance of the P.S.I. of No. 2 Company, 43rd (Wessex) Divisional Signals, T.A. The Unit also has a vacancy for a Foreman-of-Signals, and his presence in the Unit would be more than useful at this stage of our formation, but, alas, the Officer i/c Records cannot produce one.

Training.—An eight weeks' Course in Drill and other subjects appertaining to interior economy has been held at Reading for the subalterns, who are now passing on the information and training they received to the recruits of No. 1 Company. Recruit instruction has been arranged for drill, gas, map reading and " E and M." Information has just been received that the first class of " Operators, Keyboard " will commence training at the G.P.O. at Reading on Tuesday, 18th April. Similar training for the Operators at Bristol and Southampton will also commence in the near future. Line training stores are now being received, and the technical training of Linemen and Switchboard Operators will begin very shortly. It is hoped that the Unit will be well advanced in its technical training by the time we proceed to camp.

Congratulations.—All ranks of the Unit join in congratulating our Commanding Officer on the award of the Territorial Army Efficiency Decoration.

Social.—The social side of the Unit must perforce be neglected for the time being. Apart from lack of suitable accommodation, training must take precedence during the next few months. We hope to make up for lost time next winter, after we have completed our first training season.

SPORTS NOTES

"F" (Boys) Company, Training Battalion.

Soccer.—Semi-final Boys' Garrison Football Cup—"A" Team v. Green Howards.—"A" Team started scoring in the first five minutes. Brooks scored off a pass from Beattie, and then gaily carried on scoring like this for the rest of the game. The Howards put up a good fight, but were overwhelmed by a vastly superior team. "A" Team won 13—0. Other scorers were Corporal Boy Smith, Boys Barton and Beattie and Signalman Pavey.

Final Boys' Garrison Football Cup—"A" Team v. "B" Team.—It is very difficult to report on this game, as the play was so even. The match was played mostly in midfield, and was absolutely level for the first few minutes. Then Stewart tried to score, but Render, "A" Team's goalie, saved this fairly easy shot. Again "B" Team attacked, and again Render saved a difficult shot. The play then moved into "A" Team's half, but Kneebone, their goalie, foiled two or three attempts on "A" Team's part to score. Just before half-time, the play returned to "A" Team's side of the field and D'Hooghe scored by heading the ball in off a pass from Marlow. Both teams were playing extremely good football.

Early in the second half "A" Team made a spirited attack on the opposing goal, but the defence beat them. Again they attacked strongly and were again repulsed. "A" Team continued to press strongly, and Brooks tried to score, but overestimated and kicked high. The play then moved into the "A" half, and D'Hooghe scored off a pass from Ward. Lance Corporal Boy Stewart was supporting "B" Team beautifully in the position of centre-half. Again the play moved into "B"'s half, when Beattie failed to score off a pass from Pavey. Then Corporal Boy Smith scored for "A" off a corner kick.

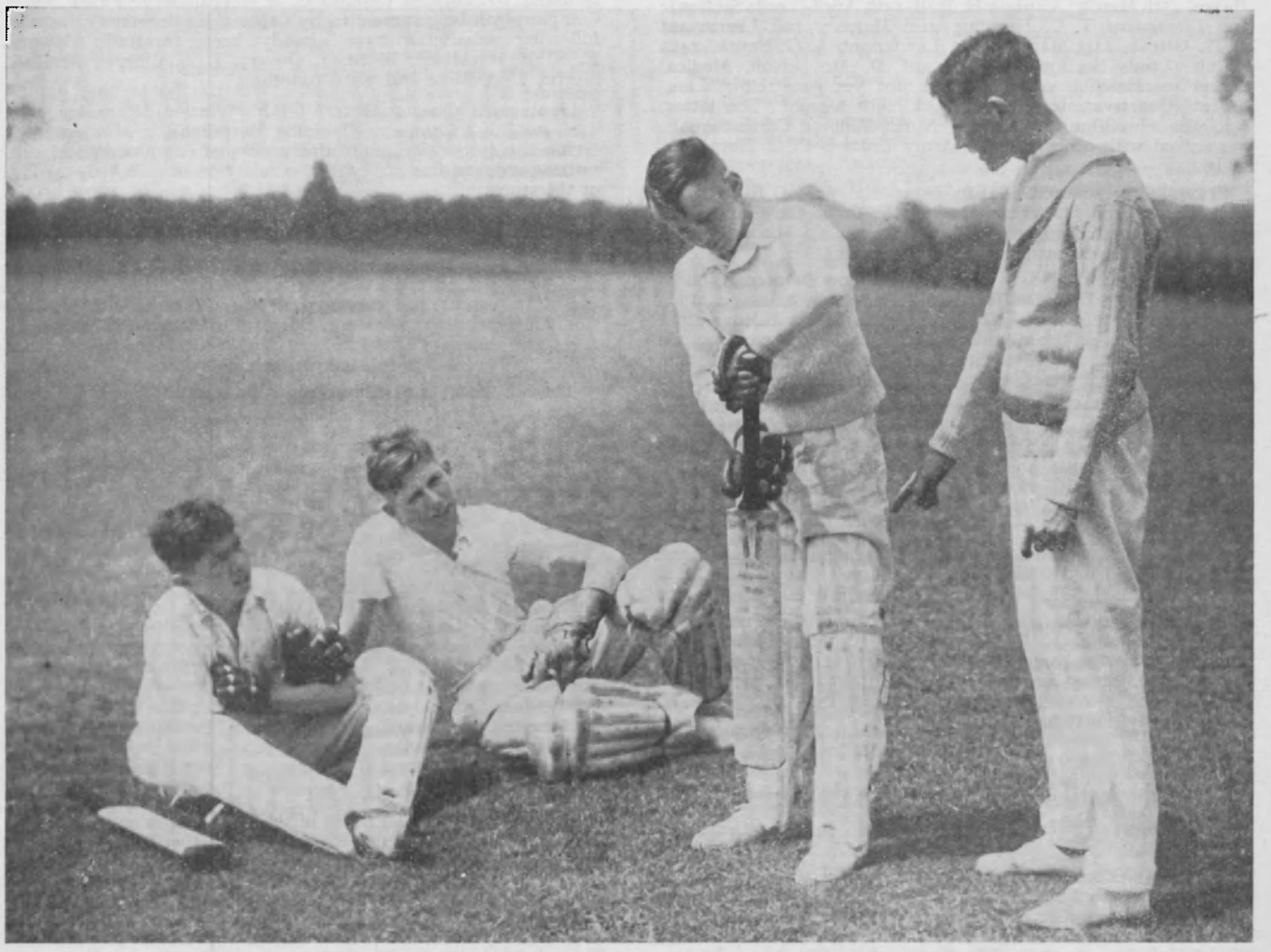
"B" team carried the ball away from their goal-mouth towards "A" Team's goal, but their efforts were of no avail, owing to the combined efforts of Warren, Murray A. and Smith. The game ended perfectly, both teams fighting hard—"A" Team for the equaliser and "B" Team to make sure of victory.

Results:

"A" Team, winners of the Garrison League Competition.
"B" Team, winners of the Garrison Cup Competition.

Garrison Cup Competition.

"A" v. West Yorks, won 8—1; "A" v. Royal Artillery, won 5—2; "B" v. "C," won 2—1; "D" v. Wiltshire Regiment, lost 0—3.



BOYS AT PLAY.

GARRISON LEAGUE.

"A" v. Wiltshire Regiment, won 4—1 ; " B " v. Royal Artillery, lost, 1—2 ; "A" v. Royal Artillery, won 4—0 ; " B " v. West Yorks, won 5—0 ; " B " v. Wiltshire Regiment, won 2—0 ; "A" v. West Yorks., won 6—0 ; " B " v. Inniskillings, won 3—1.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Goals. F.	A.	Pts.
Royal Signals " A " ..	17	15	1	1	127	4	31
Royal Signals " B " ..	15	10	3	2	54	20	22

Athletics.—We have now started training in earnest. We were fortunate in again witnessing a demonstration by the Achilles Club. To see these really good athletes perform has been a great help to our budding champions. We hope to bring back as many trophies this year as we have done in previous years.

Shooting.—The results in the Bell Medal Competition have been gratifying. They were as follows: Pavey, 39 ; Collins, 36 ; Warwick, 28. The Bell Medal competition was open to recruits, young soldiers, and boys. Pavey was awarded a consolation prize for a creditable performance.

Hockey.—We haven't finished the Inter-Company League, as we have to play "A" Company yet. At the moment grounds are not available.

R. P. M.

1st Anti-Aircraft Brigade Signals, Blackdown

Hockey.—Inter-Unit games have been fairly frequent, with a view to finding talent. Apparently the committee have many possibles under observation. If rumour is to be believed, the team will be greatly improved upon the return from leave of one or more of our recent arrivals from overseas. Results :

1ST A.A. BRIGADE CUP.

v. A.A. Battery, R.A. .. .. Lost 2—5

BLACKDOWN GARRISON CUP.

v. 1st Battalion, Royal Berkshire Regiment .. Lost 1—2

FRIENDLIES.

v. 6th A.A. Regiment, R.A. .. .. .. Lost 3—5
v. Royal Engineers, Aldershot .. .. .. Drawn 3—3

In the Garrison Cup we deserved a better fate. It was all Signals until the closing stages, when the " Berks." equalised and went on to score the one necessary to give them the victory in a splendid game. This was a brighter match than with the Gunners, and the team are to be congratulated on their performance against superior forces ; a couple of injuries caused them to play a man short for twenty-five minutes during the second period.

Football.

FRIENDLIES.

v. 1st Light Battery, A.A., R.A. .. .. Lost 1—3
v. Training Company, 1st R.W.F. .. .. Drawn 2—2
v. " B " Company, Royal Berkshire Regiment .. Won 4—1
v. 1st Light Battery, A.A., R.A. .. .. Won 6—2
v. Training Company, 1st R.W.F. .. .. Lost 1—4

1ST A.A. BRIGADE CUP.

v. 1st Light Battery, A.A., R.A. .. .. Lost 0—3

In this competition our hopes were high as we had previously defeated this team by 6—2. These hopes were rudely dashed by the Gunners' well-merited victory of 3—0. The R.A., who played cup-tie football, had our team on the run, especially in the second half, when *anno domini* told its tale.

Shooting—Miniature Range.—After much hard and consistent training, the team are to be congratulated on the excellent average and good score they attained in the Powell Cup. Being the holders, we naturally were all out to retain the trophy for another year. The clear, decisive win proved that our efforts were not in vain.

1, 1st A.A. Brigade Signals, 1375 ; 2, No. 2 Company, 1st Divisional Signals, 1210 ; 3, No. 3 Company, 1st Divisional Signals, 1185.

Cross-country.—The first Unit run for all " under thirties " was over a 3¼-mile course. Some keen running by the sixty entries should enable the committee to field a more than useful team in the Brigade Championships. 1, Lance Corporal Mackenzie ; 2, Signalman Murphy ; 3, Signalman Morana.

This successful run was followed by an Inter-Section event which was won by the Recruit Lineman's Section, the first man being Driver Morana, No. 3 Section.

A.A. Brigade Championship.—Thanks to a well-merited win by the team, this trophy was won by Signals. An easy victory in a fast-run race. Congratulations to the team and reserves on their splendid efforts in the most famous sporting event in the Corps. The race was run under adverse conditions ; there was rain and mud throughout most of the distance.

INDIVIDUALS.—1, Sapper Keeble, 1st A.A. Battalion, R.E. ; 2, Gunner Lanham, 12th A.A. Battery, R.A. ; 3, Driver (I.C.) Rowlands, Royal Signals ; 4, Lance Corporal Mackenzie, Royal Signals.

TEAMS.—1, Royal Signals, 108 points ; 2, 1st A.A. Battalion, R.E., 148 points ; 3, 12th A.A. Battery, R.A., 209 points. Signals team : Lance Corporal Mackenzie, Signalmen Riley, Waddington, Eccleston, McKeachin, Harrison, Hart, Murphy, Driver Walker, Passey, Rowlands and Morana.

"B" Corps Signals, Karachi.

Football.—Although we had lost several of our prominent players, a team was entered for the Karachi Challenge Cup. Two new-comers, Signalmen Yeats and Owen-Thomas, replaced the positions left vacant by the departure of Signalmen Menhenick and Done on the " Somersetshire."

After victories over Lasbella, an Indian team, to the tune of three goals to one in the opening round, we then met a fairly strong R.A.F. team from the Aircraft Depot, Drigh Road. The " decider " in this match was not obtained until extra time, both teams being a goal up when the final whistle sounded. The R.A.F. could not make the grade at this stage, and conceded a goal in each half of extra time. Indeed, a great deal could be said of the way our fellows put on pressure to get that winning goal, this phase of the game being the most entertaining of the day.

This brought us into the final, in opposition to the Karachi Police. This team also was practically an Indian team, with about two exceptions. Our chances it seemed were few, as this team had been our bogey in the past on more than one occasion. However, with the good record obtained this season, and just spot of optimism, we lined up as follows : Lance Corporal Evans ; Signalmen Spall and Yeats ; Signalman Ingham, Lance Sergeant Connor and Signalman Owen-Thomas ; Signalman Baker, Lance Corporal Murray, Signalman Rosbotham, Signalman Symonds and Lance Sergeant Jarvis.

From the kick-off the Police got away, and keen play centred around our goal. After five minutes the Police were one up, Murdoo, their centre-forward, making sure, after receiving a nice pass down the middle. Some keen play resulted, and the very nippy forwards of the Police gave our fellows the run around.

Just on half-time, however, some infringement by one of the Police defenders led to a penalty being awarded to the Corps which, as usual, Jarvis soon complied with, banging in a very hard shot with his customary gusto. At half-time both teams were level, with a goal apiece.

The Police meant business after this respite, and it was not long before they were in the lead again. Rosbotham had the ball in the net for us a moment later, but the goal was disallowed on the grounds that Murray had handled as the ball passed into the net.

We were not dismayed, and our lads kept pegging away at the Police goal for the " decider " that seemed so long in coming Just when our supporters had given up hope, a nice movement by Rosbotham and Murray proved fruitful, the latter rounding off the last pass with a really dazzling drive into the net. Before the last cheers had died down, the final whistle sounded, presenting us with a spot of extra time for the second time in this competition.

It was noticed in the first few minutes of this session that the Police had worn badly, and seemed very tired. Our fellows were just the opposite, and appeared to thrive on the exertion, as they did in the match before. Taking advantage of lapses by the Police defenders, Rosbotham soon had the ball into the net, sidestepping the goalkeeper when he found himself right through, and walking the ball into the net. Our team continued to

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dominate the play, and later Rosbotham put the issue beyond doubt, returning the ball into the net after Jarvis had hit the upright. Two very tired teams by this time heard the whistle go, with " B " Corps the very worthy winners by four goals to two. So another Cup came our way, making a total of three for the season. A very fine performance !

Hockey.—Congratulations to the Indian ranks of the Unit on winning the Brigade Hockey Cup. This team, which included one British officer, Captain W. J. S. Gray, and two other B.O.R.s, Lance Corporal Murray and Signalman Ross, had the good fortune to be in a team which defeated the 3/16th Rajputs for the first time in any final for twenty years.

After disposing of the teams of H.M.S. " Clive " and the 10/10th Baluchistan Regiment, the I.O.R.s, playing extremely well, overcame the Rajputs to the tune of two goals to one, the goals being scored by Lance Corporal Murray and Signalman Ross.

Athletics.—Prior to the Brigade Athletic Meeting, two Athletic Meetings were held in the Unit, one for the British and one for the Indian ranks. Here are the results of the British Meeting :

100 YARDS.—C.Q.M.S. Brice . .	11 1/5 sec.
220 YARDS.—C.Q.M.S. Brice	26 secs.
440 YARDS.—Signalman Lamb	—
JAVELIN.—Signalman Ross	115 ft. 4 ins.
SHOT.—Lance Corporal Smith	34 ft. 10 ins.
HAMMER.—Lance Corporal Smith	97 ft.
ONE MILE.—Signalman Neve	5 min. 20 secs.
HIGH JUMP.—Signalman Lamb	5 ft. 1 in.
LONG JUMP.—Signalman Nichols	17 ft. 5 ins.
HURDLES.—Signalman Lamb	40½ secs.
DISCUS.—Lance Corporal Smith	106 ft.

VICTOR LUDORUM.—Signalman Lamb.

Results of the Indian Meeting :

SHOT.—Lance Naik Mohd Ashraf.	
HURDLES.—Lance Naik Saw Kelvin	19 2/5 secs.
ONE MILE.—Naik Bakar Hussain	5 mins. 26 secs.
DISCUS.—Naik Saw Mg. H. Tee	76 ft. 6 ins.
100 YARDS.—Lance Naik Mohd Ashraf	11 2/5 secs.
HAMMER.—Rifleman Saw Elmo	76 ft.
220 YARDS.—Lance Naik Mohd Ashraf	25 1/5 secs.
440 YARDS.—Lance Naik Saw Ba Thoung	1 min. 3/5 secs.
HIGH JUMP.—Rifleman Saw Elmo.	
LONG JUMP.—Lance Naik Mohd Ashraf	18 ft. 5 ins.
JAVELIN.—Lance Naik Yang Kho Vai	112 ft. 8 ins.

VICTOR LUDORUM.—Lance Naik Mohd Ashraf.

Brigade Athletic Meeting.—Strong teams of the IVth Field Brigade, R.A., Hyderabad, and the Aircraft Depot proved too much for our small body of athletes, but we excelled in the field events, taking a first in the high jump, long jump and the discus. Credit goes to Signalmen Ross and Lamb in the high jump, Lieutenant Stonestreet with a jump of 20 ft. 6 ins. in the long jump, and Lance Corporal Smith in the discus with a throw of 115 ft. 6 ins.

Compilation of "Wire" Contributions.

It is noted with satisfaction that the uniformly high standard of contribution submitted for publication by their predecessors is being maintained by present Unit Correspondents, but as the latter are obviously not yet entirely *au fait* with general " lay-out " requirements, we republish the following suggestions for future guidance :

1. Show name of Unit, full address and date of writing, at the head of Notes.
2. Write Sports Notes on separate sheets, and not interspersed among other items.
3. Type all Notes with an open space between the lines. This allows room for editing the copy, and facilitates the printer's work.
4. When Notes are duplicated, the top (and most legible) set should be forwarded for use. Faint and blurred sheets often have to be retyped in fairness to the compositor.
5. Use simple language and write concisely. Involved and incomprehensible sentences should be avoided.
6. Be careful in the spelling of names, whether of persons or places—particularly if they are of foreign origin.
7. Avoid all unnecessary use of quotation signs (" ") and other punctuation marks.
8. Set out Sporting details in a methodical manner.
9. Notes and Articles written in biblical parody cannot be accepted for publication, and should NOT be submitted.
10. The use of *nom-de-plumes* is permissible, but all contributions should be endorsed with the full number, rank, and name of the contributor, not necessarily for publication, but as an indication of good faith only.
11. No notice is taken of anonymous contributions. Contributions should preferably be endorsed by an Officer of the Unit.
12. **" Copy " should be despatched in time to reach the Editor by the 16th of the month. " Copy " received after that date will normally be held over for insertion in the following month's publication.**
13. Photographic illustrations, cartoons, and humorous sketches are particularly desirable, but as blockmaking is a highly technical process, the following points should be strictly observed :
    - (*a*) Photographs for reproduction should be clear in every detail, free from heavy shadows, and adaptable for enlargement or reduction as circumstances necessitate.
    - (*b*) Prints only are required—not negatives— and indifferent pictures should not be submitted.
    - (*c*) Avoid the use of clips or pins for fastening photographs to contributions. The resultant mutilation frequently renders the picture unfit for blockmaking purposes.
    - (*d*) Diagrams, cartoons, and sketches must be drawn in Indian ink on good quality paper.
    - (*e*) Coloured ink drawings cannot be utilised.
    - (*f*) All " lettering," " captions," etc., should be printed legibly, and in porportion to the size of the drawing.
14. In order to obtain uniformity of style throughout the magazine, all abbreviations should be studiously avoided, and when reference is made to dates, correspondents should place the figure before the month, and spell the latter out in full.

It would greatly facilitate the work of this office, and the printing staff, if contributors would very kindly note the above hints when preparing Notes for publication.

THE EDITOR.

THE WIRE

THE CORPS MAGAZINE OF THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

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Mr. W. BUTLER, 95 BELGRAVE ROAD
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VOL. XX.—No. 232. JUNE, 1939. PRICE—SIXPENCE

Editorial Notes.

The following copies of telegrams, despatched and received on the occasion of the birthday anniversary of Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal are published for information :

H.R.H. The Princess Royal,
Harewood House, Leeds.

All ranks Royal Signals join in offering their respectful greetings on the occasion of the birthday of your Royal Highness.

Colonel Commandant,
Royal Signals, War Office.

Newmarket,
25th April, 1939.

Colonel Commandant,
Royal Signals, War Office, London.

Much appreciate good wishes from all ranks and send sincere thanks.

MARY, Colonel-in-Chief.

Unit Correspondents.—There has been a very pronounced decline in the quantity of Unit Notes submitted during recent months for publication in the Corps Magazine, and we bring this matter to the notice of Unit representatives with the object of soliciting their co-operation in maintaining a consistent supply of copy.

The inclusion of regular contributions is considered to be of paramount importance, not only to all ranks of the Corps at present serving, but also to our ever-increasing circle of WIRE readers now in civil life, who anticipate news of their old Units and personal friends with each monthly issue.

It is realised that the exigencies of the Service may not always provide opportunities for lengthy or descriptive contributions, but we venture to hope that those who can do so will continue to chronicle and submit their usual monthly articles and so assist the Editorial Staff to produce a faithful record of Corps activities, without any serious break in continuity.

The collaboration of all concerned in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Aldershot Week.—The 1939 ANNUAL REUNION OF ROYAL SIGNALS OLD COMRADES is scheduled to take place at Mons Barracks, Aldershot, on Saturday and Sunday, 24th and 25th June, to which all Old Comrades of the Corps are cordially invited.

A number of personal invitations are being sent out to Old Comrades residing in the Aldershot and London areas, and Hon. Secretaries of all LOCAL BRANCH FORMATIONS will receive similar communications on behalf of their provincial members.

We have been asked to announce that the amount of sleeping accommodation available this year is limited, but that every effort will be made to meet the requirements of those attending from a distance who make EARLY application to the Hon. Secretary, Signals Association, Mons Barracks, Aldershot.

The programme of events will be as follows :
Saturday, 24th June :

2.15 p.m. Royal Signals Sports. Tea for Old Comrades in the W.O. and Sergeants' Enclosure.
9 p.m. Smoking Concert in the Regimental Theatre.

Sunday, 25th June :

10 a.m. Old Comrades' Church Parade, with rendezvous at the Main Guard Room. (Photograph of Old Comrades immediately after Church Parade.)

1 p.m. Lunch for Old Comrades in the Regimental Institute.

Further particulars can be obtained on application to :

(*a*) The Hon. Secretary, Signals Association, Mons Barracks, Aldershot.

(*b*) Mr. C. H. Tolley, Hon. Secretary, Aldershot Branch Signals Association, " Kildrum," 81 Coronation Road, Manor Park, Aldershot.

(*c*) Hon. Branch Secretaries, Signals Association, at Aberdeen, Birmingham, Bournemouth, Chester, Exeter, Portsmouth, Salisbury, Southampton, Westminster (London), and York.

Felicitations.—We extend our very cordial congratulations to the undermentioned on their recent appointment to commissioned rank, and wish them every success in their new spheres of operation :

S.M. (F-of-S) V. King	to be	Lieut. (T.M.O.),	1.4.1939.
Supt. Clerk, W.O.I C. Patrick	,,	Lieut.-Qmr.,	29/4/1939.
R.S.M. D. Todd, M.B.E.	,,	Lieut. (I.P.C.),	1/5/1939.
R.S.M. B. Bevan	,,	,,	1/5/1939.
R.S.M. F. Westwood	,,	,,	1/5/1939.
R.S.M. H. Spong	,,	,,	1/5/1939.
S.M. (F-of-S) G. Flynn, M.B.E.	,,	,,	1/5/1939.
R.S.M. B. T. Sherman	,,	Lieut. (T.M.O.),	1/5/1939.
R.S.M. E. Nash	,,	,,	1/5/1939.
R.S.M. J. Robertson	,,	,,	1/5/1939.

Wireless Mechanics.—A number of vacancies exist in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps Workshops at York and Catterick for WIRELESS MECHANICS (Civilian).

Applications should be addressed to Officer Commanding, R.A.O.C. Workshops, York, stating age, experience and educational qualifications.

Rate of pay, 69/- per week, which may be increased by 10/- a week to exceptionally well-qualified men.

Reunion Dinner.—The Second Annual Reunion Dinner of the Indian Signal Units (1911-1919), O.C.A., under the presidency of Colonel L. H. Queripel, C.M.G., D.S.O., is scheduled to take place on Saturday, 10th June, at " The Restaurant," Bush House, Strand, London, W.C., at 6.30 p.m. for 7.30 p.m. (Dress : Lounge suits without medals.)

Although only in active formation since June of last year, no less than seventy officers and one hundred and fifty British other ranks have already joined the movement, and the founders cordially invite ALL RANKS who served with Indian Signals from 1911 to 1919 to support their undertaking.

Full particulars of the Association's aims and objects, also tickets for this year's Reunion Dinner may be obtained on application to Mr. W. A. Dowley, 29, Eckington Gardens, New Cross, S.E.14.

THE EDITOR.

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AND MANY OTHERS

P. & O. " NARKUNDA " 6th March, 1939

Dear White,
Just a line to tell you how pleased I was with the Car you hired me for my leave. The Car was thoroughly reliable and gave no trouble at all. The hiring fee was reasonable and the Car was economical to run. I can safely recommend your Firm to anyone who wishes to hire a Car for their leave.
Yours sincerely, ... *Lieut., Royal Signals*

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Signals Association

and

Ex-Service Old Comrades Branch Notes

CORRESPONDENCE.

Malaya Signal Company,
Singapore.
30th April, 1939.

The General Secretary.

DEAR SIR,

Cases are frequently occurring where N.C.O.s and men posted to this Unit have stated that their " O.C.A." and WIRE Subscriptions have been collected in advance.

As many Units fail to send a statement regarding O.C.A. membership and outstanding subscriptions, much time and postage is wasted in obtaining the necessary confirmation.

It is requested that ALL Units be asked to supply full details regarding these matters when N.C.O.s and men are posted elsewhere.

(Signed) F. T. POPE, Major, Royal Signals,
Commanding Malaya Signal Company.

(To facilitate the work of this office and our many Unit representatives, it would be greatly appreciated by the Central Committee of Signals Association if the above request may be complied with.—EDITOR.)

The Editor.

DEAR SIR,

Will you kindly publish the following Obituary Notice of the late Signalman Rennie F., Royal Signals, who recently died from the result of injuries sustained in a motor accident.

Yours faithfully,
R. CROOKS,
Alexanders, Ltd., Edinburgh.

Readers at the Depot Battalion, S.T.C., Catterick, and 3rd Indian Divisional Signals, Meerut, will regret to learn of the death of Ex-Signalman Rennie F., who died in Edinburgh on 27th April, as the result of a road accident.

Rennie will be well remembered by his favourite expression of "Amp Same." His keen sense of humour and ever-ready smile were two of his greatest assets, and he will be greatly missed by his workmates, with whom he was very popular.

Rennie transferred to Royal Signals from the Highland Light Infantry, and served with the former at Peshawar, Kohat, Meerut, Bulford and Catterick.

We desire to convey our deepest sympathy to his relatives in their sad bereavement."

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) R. CROOKS.

EMPLOYMENTS.

Situations found during the preceding month with the co-operation of the National Association for the Employment of Regular Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen.

1	Ex-Signalman, London	Postman
2	Ex-Signalman, London	Electrician
3	Ex-Signalman, London	Labourer
4	Ex-Signalman, London	Labourer
5	N.C.O., London	Conductor
6	Ex-Signalman, London	Porter
7	Ex-Signalman, London	P.O. Engineering Dept.
8	Ex-N.C.O., London	Clerk
9	Ex-Signalman, London	Postman
10	Ex-N.C.O., Bristol	Wireless Operator
11	Ex-Signalman, Reading	Wireless Operator
12	Ex-Signalman, Sunderland	Telephonist
13	Ex-Signalman, Wolverhampton	Labourer
14	Ex-Signalman, Croydon	Warden
15	Ex-Signalman, Shrewsbury	Waiter
16	Ex-Signalman, Derby	House Parlourman
17	Ex-Signalman, London	Wireless Operator
18	Ex-N.C.O., London	Postman
19	Ex-Signalman, Devonport	Caretaker
20	Ex-Signalman, Stoke-on-Trent	Driver (I.C.)
21	Ex-Signalman, Stoke-on-Trent	Electrician
22	Ex-Signalman, Stoke-on-Trent	Labourer
23	Ex-Signalman, Portsmouth	Labourer
24	Ex-N.C.O., Sheffield	Wireless Operator
25	Ex-Signalman, Sheffield	Clerk
26	Ex-Signalman, Sheffield	Sheet Metal Worker
27	Ex-Signalman, Sheffield	Labourer
28	Ex-Signalman, Sheffield	Motor Transport Driver
29	Ex-Signalman, Sheffield	Labourer
30	Ex-N.C.O., Sheffield	P.O. Engineering Dept.
31	Ex-Signalman, Sheffield	Labourer
32	Ex-Signalman, Sheffield	Salesman
33	Ex-Signalman, Devonport	Electrician
34	Ex-Signalman, Portsmouth	Clerk
35	Ex-Signalman, Portsmouth	Labourer
36	Ex-Signalman, Brighton	Wireless Operator
37	Ex-Signalman, Brighton	Electrician
38	Ex-Signalman, Yorkshire	Patrolman
39	Ex-Signalman, Yorkshire	Patrolman
40	Ex-Signalman, Sheffield	Painter
41	Ex-Signalman, Sheffield	Chauffeur
42	Ex-Signalman, Sheffield	P.O. Engineering Dept.
43	Ex-Signalman, Sheffield	Postman
44	Ex-Signalman, Manchester	Motor Mechanic
45	Ex-Signalman, Manchester	Teleprinter Operator
46	Ex-Signalman, Manchester	Teleprinter Operator
47	Ex-Signalman, Nottingham	Telephonist
48	Ex-Signalman, Reading	Telephonist
49	Ex-Signalman, Croydon	Wireless Operator
50	Ex-Signalman, Yorkshire	Porter
*51	Ex-Signalman, Yorkshire	Storeman
52	Ex-Signalman, London	Storeman

* 51 Northern Branch Signals Association.

GENERAL SECRETARY.

Benevolent Fund Notes.

The Administrator gratefully acknowledges receipt of the following :

CASH SUBSCRIPTIONS from :
S.T.C. (I.), Jubbulpore.
3rd Indian Divisional Signals.

GIFT OF CLOTHING from :
Colonel A. H. French, D.S.O.

APPEALS dealt with :

1	Ex-Signalman, Sheffield	Grant	£1	10	0
2	Ex-Signalman, Oldham	Grant	£2	0	0
3	Ex-Signalman, Exeter	Loan	£5	0	0
4	Signalman, Ireland	Grant	£2	2	0
5	Ex-Signalman, London	Loan	£2	0	0
6	N.C.O., Aldershot	Loan	£5	0	0
7	Signalman, Aldershot	Grant	£3	0	0
8	Parents of Signalman (deceased), Catterick	Grant	£3	10	0

(Signed) T. H. L. SPAIGHT, Lieutenant-Colonel,
Administrator, Signals Association Benevolent Fund.

Corps Promotion Roster.

Subsequent Amendments.

[The figures in the last column indicate the pages in the " Corps Promotion Roster " (published in April, 1938) on which the respective names may be found. This information cannot, of course, be given in the case of Lance Corporals appointed since that date.]

Promoted Warrant Officer, Class I (R.S.M.).

2311587	C.S.M. Hamlin H.	1/1/39	..	7

Appointed Regimental Quartermaster-Sergeant.

2310320	C.S.M. New F.	1/1/39	..	7
1860324	C.S.M. Quick P.	14/1/39	..	7

Promoted Warrant Officer, Class II (C.S.M.).

7075905	C.Q.M.S. Foley J.	1/1/39	18
2306838	W.O. III Hoyland V.	1/1/39	18
2309675	C.Q.M.S. Higham B.	1/1/39	18
2306754	C.Q.M.S. Lewis W.	1/1/39	18
2313509	W.O. III Napper H.	1/1/39	19
2313750	W.O. III Knox G.	5/1/39	19
*2309693	C.Q.M.S. Payne G.	14/1/39	90
2313903	W.O. III Jackson J.	25/1/39	19

Promoted Warrant Officer, Class III.

2309814	Sergeant Cornish W.	1/1/39	24
2309415	Sergeant Jones C.	1/1/39	24
5877567	Sergeant Coles G.	1/1/39	24
2312364	Sergeant Hopkins F.	1/1/39	24
2314360	C.Q.M.S. Wilmot D.	5/1/39	22
1857249	C.Q.M.S. Maynard A.	25/1/39	21

Promoted Company Quartermaster-Sergeant.

2309594	Sergeant Gilmour A.	1/1/39	22
2306789	Sergeant Harris T.	1/1/39	23
2311126	Sergeant Wigzell W.	5/1/39	23
*2310544	Sergeant Gardner J. T.	14/1/39	93
2314281	Sergeant Challen W.	25/1/39	23

Promoted Sergeant.

2309130	L/Sergeant Hockley B.	31/12/38	42
2316729	L/Sergeant Bartlett J.	31/12/38	42
6390313	L/Sergeant Lambird W.	1/1/39	42
2316966	L/Sergeant Shaw C.	1/1/39	42
2306727	L/Sergeant Giddy E.	1/1/39	42
2313713	L/Sergeant Baker H.	1/1/39	42
2317887	L/Sergeant Whalley J.	1/1/39	42
2314002	L/Sergeant Connolly J.	1/1/39	42
3183634	L/Sergeant Penny C.	1/1/39	42
2316484	L/Sergeant Cooper H.	1/1/39	42
2316680	L/Sergeant Barnett W.	5/1/39	42
2313526	L/Sergeant Strickson H.	5/1/39	42
2309496	L/Sergeant Storey A.	5/1/39	42
5330987	L/Sergeant Button R.	8/1/39	42
2309637	L/Sergeant Worsley F.	8/1/39	42
2314118	L/Sergeant Warman E.	8/1/39	42
2310730	L/Sergeant McKenzie H.	19/1/39	38
730015	L/Sergeant Freeman C.	20/1/39	42
1037642	L/Sergeant Manning S.	24/1/39	39
2316759	L/Sergeant Camin F.	24/1/39	42
4257493	L/Sergeant Le Cocq E.	25/1/39	42

Appointed Lance Sergeant.

2315127	Corporal Grafton J.	19/10/38	51
2554783	Corporal Weller A.	31/12/38	52
2921996	Corporal McIndo H.	31/12/38	52
1850136	Corporal Hart A.	1/1/39	13
2319860	Corporal Costen A.	1/1/39	52
2317153	Corporal Day G.	1/1/39	52
2318533	Corporal Pfeiffer G.	1/1/39	53
2561306	Corporal Morris J.	1/1/39	53
5246492	Corporal Millichip W.	1/1/39	53
2309315	Corporal Honeybourne H.	1/1/39	53
2320118	Corporal Webb C.	5/1/39	53
2318256	Corporal Bruton S.	8/1/39	53
2309651	Corporal Bevans S.	19/1/39	44
2317132	Corporal Green E.	19/1/39	53
2318003	Corporal Lonton E.	19/1/39	53
2320240	Corporal Barron A.	23/1/39	53
2319293	Corporal Trout T.	20/1/39	53
796700	Corporal Chadwick W.	24/1/39	50
2317012	Corporal Golding A.	25/1/39	53

Promoted Corporal.

2323656	L/Corporal Smith E.	31/12/38	75
2321957	L/Corporal Coates C.	31/12/38	75
2322089	L/Corporal Heatherington J.	31/12/38	75
6341746	L/Corporal Slaymaker E.	1/1/39	75
2321367	L/Corporal McMullen G.	1/1/39	75
3907733	L/Corporal Hurst J.	1/1/39	75
2319645	L/Corporal Good W.	1/1/39	75
2321660	L/Corporal Vernon S.	1/1/39	75
2323229	L/Corporal Gilchrist A.	1/1/39	75
2321343	L/Corporal Ashby F.	1/1/39	75
2318230	L/Corporal Robinson E.	4/1/39	70
2320287	L/Corporal Hemmings W.	5/1/39	75
2323023	L/Corporal Cox J.	8/1/39	73
2321717	L/Corporal Martin K.	9/1/39	75
2319081	L/Corporal Nurse W.	14/1/39	71
2311194	L/Corporal Bradbury H.	15/1/39	72
2317995	L/Corporal Dolaghan J.	17/1/39	72
2323184	L/Corporal Roberts A.	19/1/39	73
811195	L/Corporal Gedney W.	19/1/39	75
811483	L/Corporal Madder B.	19/1/39	75
4534133	L/Corporal Lilley F.	20/1/39	75
2563526	L/Corporal Oliver U.	23/1/39	75
2321036	L/Corporal Dick J.	23/1/39	75
2319753	L/Corporal Bothamley W.	24/1/39	75
2319651	L/Corporal Burdon J.	25/1/39	76

Appointed Lance Corporal.

2319353	Signalman Reece C. J.	2/8/38
2322027	Signalman Campbell P.	6/8/38
2321667	Signalman Hepworth F. W.	6/8/38
2323618	Signalman Davies B. J.	7/8/38
5669929	Signalman Treloar H.	7/8/38
2322252	Signalman France J.	8/8/38
819521	Signalman Elliott J.	8/8/38
2323006	Signalman Packman P.	8/8/38
2323550	Signalman Valentine C.	9/8/38
2318005	Signalman Maunder S. A.	10/8/38
2322492	Signalman Illingworth H.	14/8/38
2322400	Signalman Archer R.	14/8/38
2322215	Signalman Craig J.	14/8/38
2323602	Signalman Newsham H.	16/8/38
2321903	Signalman Royal S.	16/8/38
2321008	Signalman Purkiss S.	17/8/38
2607211	Signalman Wilce W.	18/8/38
2323270	Signalman Kirk W.	20/8/38
3525881	Signalman Fell L.	21/8/38
2322242	Signalman Greaves W.	22/8/38
2319322	Signalman Parry R.	25/8/38
2323182	Signalman Church F.	25/8/38
1051801	Signalman Wilson H.	1/9/38
2320291	Signalman Seymour A.	1/9/38
2323714	Signalman French A.	1/9/38
6283693	Signalman George H.	1/9/38
2322276	Signalman Haxell E.	1/9/38
2321360	Signalman Reedman E.	2/9/38
2320506	Signalman Medlycott A.	2/9/38
2321192	Signalman Howard L.	3/9/38
6084677	Signalman Kennedy R.	6/9/38
2323967	Signalman Harrison T.	6/9/38
2323067	Signalman Harrod G.	6/9/38

* Special Roster.

Plain Tales.

Stand at Ease.—Life has been one mad scramble lately but at last the spate has subsided. We may begin to look round and wonder what is to happen to all these new comers to the Army. How shall we clothe them? With what do we propose to give them instruction? These little matters will be solved so do not become impatient you lads. Meanwhile there is still a lot of paper about, so there is no reason why we shouldn't draw pictures of wireless sets and mechanical cable layers.

P.S.I.s all over the country have been working impossible hours and they must surely heave a sigh of satisfaction and relief as their Units reach the final figure. And all because of one man who had a mind above house painting. Well, we are not allowed to go all political on this page so give him his rope and leave him to it. Rope is never more than just so long.

New Voices.—These will be heard with the Territorials in Birmingham before the month is out. When they are installed, I will tell you about them. Step up chaps.

Objection Sustained.—In the midst of the great rush to join the Services we must be regaled with the spectacle of an educated man standing forth and declaring publicly that he wouldn't raise a hand to defend his mother and sisters in the face of danger. No. He would protest about it afterwards. One look at his photograph solves the problem. No, I haven't dirtied these pages with it.

The statement that he is backed up by 125,000 men with similar views leaves me cold. Nothing will convince me that there are 125,000 men—I say " men " for simplicity—with hair like that and ink in their veins.

I remember a conscientious objector at Maresfield in 1919. He had been dragged into the Army in 1918, a pale faced lad with big brown eyes, long hair and I say it in all seriousness, a spiritualist. Someone persuaded this boy to take up boxing; how, goodness knows. Running true to form, he gave this new interest all he'd got. Eventually he appeared in one of those open air tournaments that were so popular at Maresfield and was matched at 8 stone something against a stocky red faced lad from " E " Company. Very few of us knew anything about " Conchy " and when we gazed on the white thin arms and legs and the pale serious face, we murmured suitable epitaphs or laughed outright.

The red faced lad smiled at his many friends, flexed his muscles and the fight was on. For about thirty seconds we sat utterly and completely dumbfounded. The hope of " E " Company was carried away gently and deposited in the Royal Sussex County Hospital with a fractured jaw. This lad's O.C. spent an hour trying to convince him that it wasn't a mule. If you ask me why I tell you this, I shall feel inclined to say I don't know, but I suppose after all you have some rights. Our pale friend really was a conscientious objector in the beginning, but long association with sane men had done something to him. I never saw him fight again though.

Summer Break.—With luck and no interference from that man we of the great Territorial Army will be soldiering in pleasant places during August. So far as we know at the moment it will be West Runton, near Cromer, for the 48th Divisional Signals. New ground at last. The B.B.C. are asked to dig out some anti-cyclones to cover the East coast. Light variable breezes and continuous sunshine please.

Must remember to enlist the aid of some special correspondents from this huge Unit. " Getcher " fell down on the Unit notes last month. Too busy looking for the parts his D.R.s have lost from the W.D. motor cycles. What ?

Ukann Larfe.—The famous detective flung his bag at a porter at the Gare du Nord and set off on foot for the Rue Laugier which as everyone knows, except you of course, is in the Paris 17 district. The Seine in fact. Here he hoped to locate the Cafe La Magette so well known as the haunt of Colette, the ravishing, heartbreaking spy. In less than twenty minutes, or at the most twenty-two he was hopelessly lost. He stood still in the road while cars and buses whizzed past him at incredible speed. Suddenly he made up his mind. He would ask in the little shop over the way. " Boulangerie " it said over the door, not that Ukann Larfe cared about that.

" Pardon m'sieur," he said to the flour-dusted man inside the shop, " mais parlez vous francais ? "

" Well, of course I do you fool," replied the genial boulanger.

" Bien," said Ukann Larfe unabashed, " ou est mes amis aujourh'hui, l'inspecteur et ma femme ? Et j'espere que vous etes en bonne sante," he added, just for effect.

The man shook his head sadly. " Lousy " he said.

" But come with me m'sieur." He led Ukann by the hand to a door at the back of the shop. The detective noted a large card on one of the door panels. Headquarters, Extranian Intelligence Service. The door slammed behind them and the key grated in the lock. Outside, the volume of traffic gradually diminished and noise died away. A soft wet breeze blew gently through the rafters of an old barn in the New Forest and night fell with a soggy squelch.

The end. Now read on.

THE DIAL GUEST HOUSE

DIAL POST, Nr. HORSHAM, SUSSEX

SITUATED MAIN LONDON—WORTHING ROAD, CLOSE TO SOUTH DOWNS AND CHANCTONBURY RING
(HORSHAM 8 — WORTHING 12 — BRIGHTON 18 MILES)

PROPRIETOR :
MAJOR C. A. MURRAY
R. SIGNALS (RET.)

TELEPHONE :
PARTRIDGE GREEN 101

EXCELLENT
ACCOMMODATION
GOLF ETC.

TERMS FROM :
2 GUINEAS A WEEK
9/6 A DAY OR 6/6 BED
AND BREAKFAST

SPECIAL TERMS OFFERED TO R. SIGNALS GUESTS

Breath of Freedom.—The snow lay thick on the mountain-side, the traveller paused for breath. The dawn broke just to the nor-nor-west, or around that way more or leth. I'll tell you the tale as it goes from here, a blizzard raged over the desert. The Captain cried, "Women and children last" and the ship ran aground on the sands.

A Voice: It doesn't rhyme.

Another Voice: No more it don't too.

Me: All right. You sail your ship on the desert and see what happens.

Then Napoleon dashed to the telephone

And dialled 1212

And Nero bowled in with his fiddle in flames

Yelling "Get me another one too."

(That's just a bit out of another masterpiece to fill up).

The traveller paused for breath again, and the snow fell very much faster, as a line of people went slowly by. At their head was the Workhouse Master. The traveller took yet one more breath for England Home and Beauty.

"I've waited many long years for this, here's something ripe and fruity." The inmates laughed with fiendish glee, their lives had been so hard. They put their hands together—so, and tore him off a yard. The Master hung his head with shame. He knew he'd been too tough, but he wouldn't repent as he cracked his whip. So they brained him with his duff. Then over the country free at last they laughed and danced and sang. The traveller paused for another breath, and burst with a dreadful bang!

This correspondence is now closed.

BARLEUX.

Recruiting of Supplementary Reservists, Category "B," for Eastern Command Signal Company

Approval has been given for the enlistment of a small number of suitably qualified men into Supplementary Reserve Category "B," Royal Corps of Signals, for duty with the Eastern Command Signal Company. The trade qualifications and conditions of service for these men are shown below. Candidates, who are only required to attend for a fortnight's annual training each year, may be enlisted from any place and it should be noted that elderly men who are suitably qualified can be considered.

Candidates should apply in writing to: O.C., Eastern Command Signal Company, Headquarters, Eastern Command, Horse Guards, Whitehall, London, S.W.1 (Telephone: Whitehall 4466), and give the following particulars: age, civil employment, technical experience for the trade in which they wish to enlist.

Tradesmen required and their qualifications are as follows:

OPERATORS SWITCHBOARD: Ex-operators of Royal Signals, or ex-Regimental Signallers who have some experience of switchboard operating, men without any previous Army experience who are or have been employed on switchboard operating.

LINEMEN: Ex-linemen of Royal Signals, ex-Regimental Signallers who have acquired some additional technical knowledge as a result of civil employment, men without any previous Army experience who are employed on civilian telephone line work.

INSTRUMENT MECHANICS: Ex-mechanics of Royal Signals, or ex-soldiers or civilians who are employed in civil life on the repair or making of electrical instruments.

DESPATCH RIDERS: Men who are experienced motor cyclists, and who own their own machines.

DRAUGHTSMEN AND CLERKS: Men who are skilled at draughtsman work and who are good typists.

The conditions of service are: Age limit for enlistment—55 years, and for discharge, 60 years. On mobilization the men will be required to serve with the Eastern Command Signal Company at any station in the Eastern Command. Conditions of enlistment are as laid down in Category "B" not in Units in S.R. Regulations, 1933, viz.: Enlistment for 4 years. Bounty payable: Operators Switchboard, £12; Linemen, £12; Instrument Mechanics, £15; Despatch Riders, £12; Draughtsmen, £12; Clerks, £12. Pay, etc., during Annual Training at Tradesmen's rate of pay.

Annual Training will consist of one fortnight with the Command Signal Company at any of the following stations: Chatham, Sheerness, Dover, Shorncliffe, Shoeburyness, Harwich, Felixstowe. No drills will be performed additional to Annual Training and, consequently, the men will not be eligible for proficiency grant.

Each reservist will be required to accept in writing the liability to be called up for service in Emergency *prior to the Army Reserve* without any extra bounty being payable.

Administration will be under the Eastern Command Signal Company.

The General Post Office authorities are being informed of the contents of this circular, with a request that they will circularise their various offices.

(*Circular C.R.E.C., No.* 6401 (*C.S.O.*), *dated* 19*th April*, 1939.)

Corps News—Officers.

Extracts from "The London Gazette."

[War Office, 21/4/39]

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Lieutenant C. W. Millard, from Reg. R. of O. to be Lieutenant, 22/4/39, with seniority 29/12/37.

[War Office, 25/4/39]

The names of the undermentioned have been brought to notice by the G.O.C. British Troops in Palestine and Trans-Jordan in recognition of distinguished services rendered in connection with the operations in Palestine during the period 1/4/38 to 31/10/38:

Royal Corps of Signals—

Major R. H. R. Steward, M.C.
Lance Corporal Westbrook J. J.
Lance Corporal Barr A.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Major and Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel T. P. E. Murray to be Lieutenant-Colonel, 24/4/39.

H. Beastall to be 2nd Lieutenant, 26/4/39.

[War Office, 28/4/39]

REG. RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Captain J. C. Cuthbert, M.C., resigns his commission, 28/4/39.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Captain N. V. Baldwin, R. of O., to be Captain, 29/4/39.

Lieutenant C. Worrin, from 4th Battalion, R.W.K., to be Lieutenant, 29/4/39.

C. F. N. Marshall to be Lieutenant (Quartermaster), 20/3/39.

H. K. Hakon to be 2nd Lieutenant, 29/4/39.

L. Hill to be 2nd Lieutenant, 29/4/39.

[War Office, 3/5/39]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Captain L. S. Stirling-Wilkinson is seconded, 1/4/39.

The undermentioned to be Lieutenants (I.P.C.s), 1/5/39:

R.S.M. D. Todd, M.B.E.
R.S.M. B. Bevan.
R.S.M. F. H. Westwood.
R.S.M. H. C. Spong.
S.M. (F-of-S) G. H. R. Flynn, M.B.E.

The undermentioned R.S.M.s to be Lieutenants (T.M.O.s), 1/5/39:

B. T. Sherman.
E. Nash.
J. E. Robertson.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants, 23/3/39:
D. Gruffydd.
G. Hyde.
G. F. Truman.

F. E. Berry to be 2nd Lieutenant, 3/5/39.

2nd Lieutenant P. J. Robson (late R.G.A.) to be Captain, 3/5/39.

[War Office, 5/5/39]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Major G. W. Odell, having attained the age limit for retirement, is placed on retired pay, 4/5/39.

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE—ROYAL SIGNALS

2nd Lieutenant D. W. Roy to be Lieutenant, 19/3/39.

2nd Lieutenant D. J. Tynan-Byrd resigns his commission, 6/5/39.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Lieutenant-Colonel and Brevet-Colonel E. G. McHutchon, O.B.E., T.D., to be supernumary on vacating the appointment of D.C.S.O. for T.A. duties, Scottish Command.

Lieutenant-Colonel and Brevet-Colonel C. H. Walsh, D.S.O., M.C. (Lieutenant-Colonel retired pay), retires on completion of tenure of command, 29/10/38.

Captain J. Knowles, from 102nd Field Regiment, R.A., to be Captain, 13/2/39.

E. C. Higgs to be 2nd Lieutenant, 6/5/39.

Lieutenant-Colonel and Brevet-Colonel F. Reid, M.C., T.D., from T.A. Reserve, to be Lieutenant-Colonel and Brevet-Colonel, 5/5/39.

The undermentioned Majors to be Lieutenant-Colonels, 5/5/39.
K. F. Woodham.
H. Richardson, T.D.
R. S. Wight.
J. L. Lilley.
R. W. Bailey.

[War Office, 9/5/39]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Major L. A. E. Tozer to be Instructor, 8/4/39.

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Lieutenant W. E. Gill resigns his commission on appointment to a commission in the T.A., 10/5/39.

A. V. Shields (late 2nd Lieutenant, R.E., T.A.) to be 2nd Lieutenant, 10/5/39.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

C. L. Turnbull to be 2nd Lieutenant, 10/5/39.

Donald MacGregor, D.C.M., to be Major, 10/5/39.

William Holmes, M.M., to be Lieutenant (Quartermaster), 6/2/39.

[War Office, 12/5/39]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Captain E. V. McCormack to be Major, 12/5/39.

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE—ROYAL SIGNALS.

The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants, 13/5/39:
A. Mitchell.
N. P. Gates.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Captain C. R. Millen, M.C., from T.A. Reserve, to be Major, 6/2/39.

2nd Lieutenant J. H. Russel, from S.R., to be Lieutenant, 13/5/39.

B. E. F. Lane to be 2nd Lieutenant, 13/5/39.

Captain C. P. S. Denholm-Young, Royal Signals, vacates the appointment of Adjutant, 26/4/39.

Corps Golf.

Royal Signals v. R.A.S.C.—The annual Corps match against the R.A.S.C. was played at Bramshot on 18th April, and resulted in a win for the R.A.S.C. by 8 matches to 4.

Singles were played in the morning and at lunch the score stood at 5 matches to 3 in favour of the R.A.S.C. Colonel Phillips and Lieutenant Hayles won by large margins, and the remaining matches had reasonably close finishes. We were not unduly depressed, therefore, and felt that the afternoon four-ball matches might turn the scales in our favour. In this, however, we were disappointed. Major Chadwick and Captain Cole won their match easily, and although the other three went to the last green, we lost them all.

The teams were evenly matched and the course, as always was in perfect condition.

ROYAL SIGNALS.		R.A.S.C.	
Major M. Duke	0	Lieut. T. F. B. Law ..	1
Major C. K. Thursby-Pelham	0	Major G. B. Macdonald. ..	1
2nd Lieut. R. T. Harris ..	0	Captain G. D. Stewart ..	1
Captain J. F. Longfield ..	1	Colonel J. C. M. Doran ..	0
Captain E. S. Cole ..	0	Major H. R. Dobb ..	1
Major C. A. H. Chadwick ..	0	Lieut. J. F. Rush	1
Lieut. B. R. M. Hayles ..	1	Lieut.-Col. A. N. Travers-Rountree	0
Colonel L. G. Phillips ..	1	Major R. H. Elliott ..	0
Duke and Thursby-Pelham	0	Law and Macdonald ..	1
Harris and Longfield ..	0	Doran and Rush	1
Cole and Chadwick ..	1	Stewart and Travers-Rountree	0
Hayles and Phillips ..	0	Dobb and Elliott	1
	4		8

Royal Signals Golf Meeting.—The annual Corps Golf Meeting was held as usual at the Berkshire Club, Ascot, on 19th and 28th April, and we were favoured with perfect conditions. We tender our thanks to the members of that Club for the use of their Club House and their two excellent courses.

The Corps Champion, Major Lewis-Barclay, was unfortunately not able to play owing to an injury, and the Championship this year was won by Major M. Duke with an aggregate of 166, being four strokes better than the runner-up, Major C. K. Thursby-Pelham. Major Duke is a worthy successor to the title. In the past he has shone more as a match player than in medal play, and his latest success is a fitting reward for the many valiant deeds he has performed over a number of years as a member of Corps teams in the Army Championships.

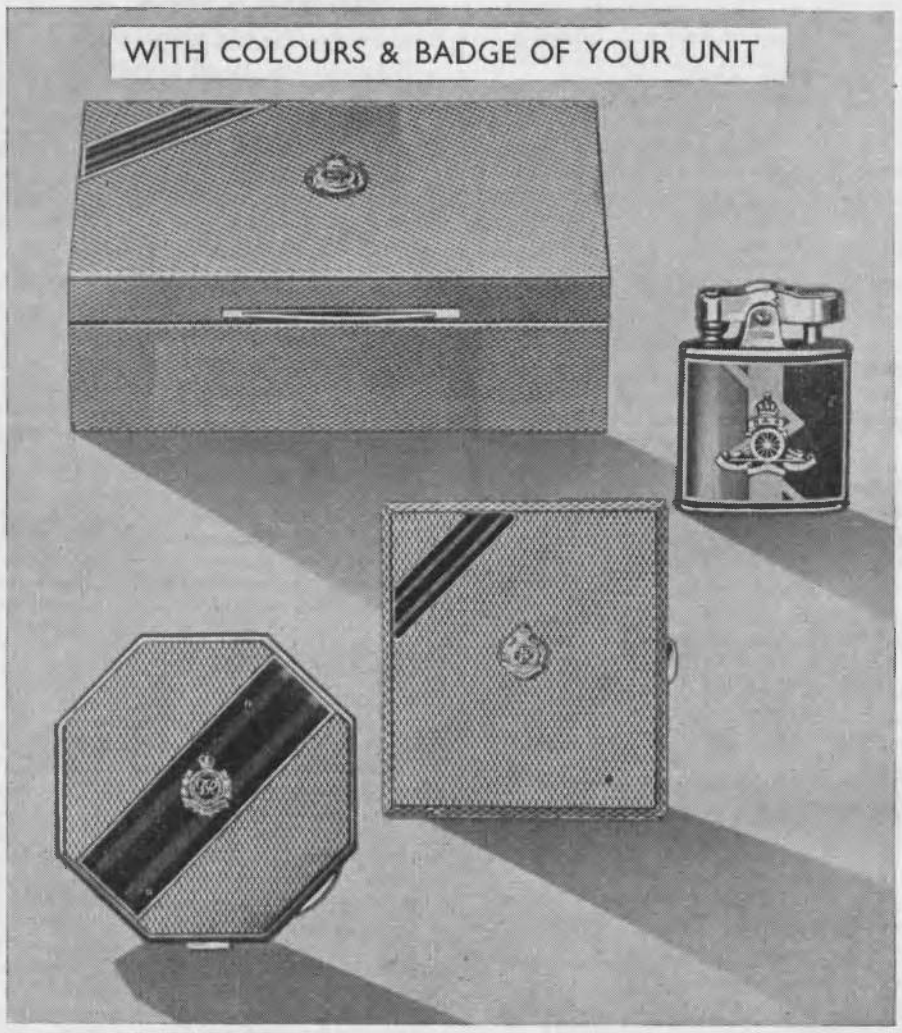
In the Handicap events, the outstanding performer was 2nd Lieutenant P. T. S. Brown, who made a clean sweep of all three events. He won the Corps Handicap by one stroke from Captain H. D. Orr, romped away with the Bogey Singles with a phenomenal return of 6 up, and won the Bogey Foursomes in partnership with 2nd Lieutenant B. R. M. Hayles.

It is most gratifying to record such a performance by a young player, and in him we look forward to a promising recruit for future Corps representative teams; at the same time, however, we offer up a silent prayer that he will not reproduce with undue frequency any golfing shots during the coming cricket season!

The attendance at the meeting, in view of its enjoyable and light-hearted nature, was inexplicably meagre and most disappointing. We feel justified in expressing the hope that in future every effort will be made to facilitate and encourage the attendance of officers at this their annual Corps meeting.

With much regret we record the fact that this year, for the first time in many years, we were unable to produce a team either from Catterick or "The Rest" to represent the Corps in the Army Championships. Nor were we able to gather a team of ex-members of the Corps to compete for the newly-instituted "Ordnance" Cup at the Army Meeting.

(*Continued on page* 280)



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HOME STATIONS

SIGNAL TRAINING CENTRE NOTES

School of Signals.

13th May.

With the Annual Inspection only three days ahead, the School is at present " up to the neck " in paint (the usual black and white), distemper and floor polish. All offices and bungalows are assuming the " new pin " appearance, and even the verandah is looking forward to its " annual."

Cycling has once again made its presence felt. We have all seen pictures of the Cyclists' Corps of other armies, and it seems that the idea has spread to the School of Signals and, in future, after " School of Signals " the following may probably be added : (" Fully affiliated to N.C.U.")

Promotions and Appointments.—Congratulations to Lance Corporals Hallett, Peck and Kendall on their appointments, and to Lance Corporal Hodgson R. (Odden) on having lost that " U " at last.

All the best to the Pay Clerk (C.Q.M.S. Clark W.) on his promotion to that rank.

Agony.—Twirp : " I'm thinking of taking up Russian."
Clerk : " That's a pretty stiff language to learn, old chap."
Twirp : " I don't know, the Russians seem to learn it easily enough."

Driver Recruit : " Is it right that *Certa Cito* means " More haste, less speed " ?

The Light Fantastic.—" Sally " Blane teaches ballroom, ballet and tap dancing. Imagine the fun of presenting arms to the magic swing and rhythm of the Rumba. " Sally " will tell you all about it ; he does it himself. He also supplies hints and tips on nocturnal habits.

Things We Want to Know.—All about the Mess under the three-tonner !
Who won the Cup ? (Specially for Peter.)
When is Ted Last attempting the land speed record ?
Has Driver Harris had his work tickets amended to read " French Road ? "
Has Bob Hallett gained experience of traffic accidents, or did the duck-pond look too wet ?

POOPDECK, S.O.S.

Sergeants' Mess.

We welcome C.Q.M.S. Packman and family from the wilds of Waziristan, and trust they will find the Catterick air more to their liking.

Our monthly whist drive and dance continues to attract a great number of the Garrison and also many civilian friends. We shall soon need a *Palais de Dance* to accommodate them all.

On Easter Saturday we held a Games Tournament with the Depot Battalion, which was followed by an informal dance. When everyone had tired of dancing, we carried on with a " bit of a to-do." Molly of the Depot was in fine fettle, and easily carried off the honours of the evening. His Nautch Girl number had everybody doubled up with laughter.

As forecast in our last notes, Bert Wink won the Darts Tournament, narrowly defeating Sexton Blake in the final.

Congratulations to Snowy Harvey and Nobby Clark on their promotion to C.Q.M.S. Pay clerks' beer does taste good !

To Bert, Stratford. " Your cheer must have put them off ! "

NOBBY.

Headquarters, Depot Battalion.

May.

The month of March has been notable for an increase in the activities in connection with tests for both mobilisation and passive air defence, and much useful information has been gained as a result. Passive air defence rehearsals are becoming almost as frequent a part of the normal routine of the Battalion as the time-honoured practice fire alarms of the past, although the latter are by no means neglected.

Until recently, passive air defence, which is known amongst the civilian population as A.R.P., was, to some extent, cloaked in a veil of secrecy. This policy, in the main, has been abandoned, and it is thought that a brief account of recent rehearsals may be of interest to readers.

During the crisis week last September, sufficient trenches to accommodate about 600 men of the Battalion, 300 civilians, and the families were dug by recruits working in three shifts from dawn until dark. These trenches were revetted to an R.E. specification and have stood a severe Catterick winter remarkably well. The sites chosen were particularly favourable for drainage and approach, and these trenches are looked upon as a model of efficiency by the various experts who have visited the site.

P.A.D. equipment is now forthcoming in adequate quantity for training and demonstration, and considerable R.E. work is in progress with a view to rendering certain buildings proof against blast and splinters. In addition, a system, which requires the services of men specially trained in assembling civilian general service respirators, and also a fleet of light cars to deliver to outlying districts, has been worked out, and will ensure that every family and civilian for whom the Battalion is responsible will obtain their respirators within four hours. Recent tests were designed to try out the speed with which all ranks could draw their personal anti-gas equipment and reach the trench system in order to practise the alarm system and telephone communications, to make the air raid wardens conversant with their duties, and also to rehearse the gas proofing arrangements for food stores, the N.A.A.F.I., and other places.

In addition, a considerable amount of M.T. is required for ambulance work, liaison, D.R. work, etc., and the time required for these vehicles to reach their action stations is recorded and, if necessary, speeded up. During the most recent practice, a generous use of smoke and tear gas, the staging of a realistic fire in one of the M.T. bays and A.A. defence fire using blank ammunition added to the realism of the test.

Special thanks are due to No. 26 (A.C.) Squadron, R.A.F., Catterick, for their co-operation in the Exercise.

The former saddler's shop has been converted into a temporary Gas Defence Centre, and in it are stored the various articles of P.A.D. equipment, such as protective clothing, tools and bleach.

The various becks (or streams, if you don't live in Yorkshire) are being dammed in certain places to provide reserve supplies of water for fire-fighting purposes. In any case they should make good swimming pools.

Captions for the photographs appearing with these notes are published below :

1. An Air Raid Warden. How many readers know who he is ? Many have met him—some in unhappy circumstances.

2. Recruit Squads doubling to the trenches after the air raid warning signal had been received. The ground sheets are worn as a protection against gas spray. About four minutes before this photograph was taken these Squads were being drilled on the Square.

3. Aeroplane about to dive on the trenches.

4. Men about to climb down into the trenches. The plane came over a few seconds after this photograph was taken.

Photographs taken during a recent Passive Air Defence Exercise in the Depot Battalion, Royal Signals

5. An incendiary bomb exploding during the test. A good deal of tear gas was also released in order to practise the anti-gas sentries in their duties.

6. Fire piquet playing on a garage bay after an incendiary bomb has been extinguished inside with sand and removed in a bucket. Note the absence of the usual cordon party, who are all in the trenches. All the vehicles have been evacuated to a nearby wood.

7. Stretcher party near an anti-gas sentry. Note the detector discs on the ground which the sentry is watching, and his rattle for the local gas alarm.

H. R. V. C.

"A" Company, Depot Battalion.

General.—At the time of writing, the Company is very busy preparing for the Annual Inspection by the Commandant, S.T.C.

The practice parades are giving ample scope for our new S.D.I., Lance Sergeant Collett, whose style and words of command remind us strongly of his predecessor, Sergeant Jones, now in India.

Lieutenant (T.M.O.) J. E. Robertson has been posted to "A" Company as C.D.I. (Chief Drill Instructor). Congratulations on your promotion, sir!

Promotions.—Congratulations to the following on their raise in status: Corporals Graham J. A., Driscoll D. D. and Toft E. (Cheshire Regiment). Corporal Driscoll still remains with the A.S. of P.T., and we understand that he is to take part in the show at the Olympia.

Pass Offs.—Since our last notes the following Squads have passed off the Square: No. 5 Squad (Instructor, Corporal Carr); No. 6 Squad (Instructor, Lance Sergeant Land, D.W.R.); No. 7 Squad (Instructor, Corporal Farmer, Berkshire Regiment).

The whip and P.T. medals winners were:

Squad.	Whip Winner.	P.T. Medal.
No. 5 ..	Signalman Slevin P.	Signalman Haynes A.
,, 6 ..	,, Gallagher.	,, Gallagher.
,, 7 ..	,, Wilson W.	,, Anderson A.

Signalman Gallagher is to be congratulated on winning both trophies.

Athletics.—This year two Meetings were held to decide the Inter-Company Championships. "F" Company, as usual, emerged worthy winners. "A" Company did very well indeed to be placed fourth. Our 880 yards relay team deserves special mention for they ran a brilliant race, against strong opposition, to gain first place.

Previous to the above sports, "A" and "C" Companies held a local Derby on the Baghdad Ground. The result was a draw—"A" Company won the first Meeting and "C" Company the second by the narrow margin of half a point.

Marriages.—Congratulations to Signalman Cansell W. on his marriage to Miss Nancy Hawke at Durham.

Arrivals.—Lance Corporal Drake E. has arrived from "C" Company, complete with legs, but, alas, no bowls! Rumour whispers that a fund has been started to enable him to purchase a barrel so that he can crease his trousers properly.

Arrivals.—Lance Corporal Overton R. has returned from the "Muscle Factory" at Aldershot and has commenced work in the gymnasium. Warning to recruits—don't nauseate him.

The following Squads, on completion of eleven weeks recruit training, showed increases in weight:

	Squad.	Average Increase.	Highest Individual Increase.	
25th April.	No. 5	8 lbs.	Signalman Cousins	14 lbs.
			,, Sprigg ..	14 lbs.
9th May.	,, 6	8.2 lbs.	,, Brown ..	16 lbs.
	,, 7	6.23 lbs.	,, Williams	16 lbs.

J. H. D.

"Uniformly Perfect" says the Soldier

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"C" Company, Depot Battalion.

May.

General.—The Company is very busy at the time of writing preparing for the Commandant's inspection, which takes place on 19th May, and as the practice parades have started, everything and everyone in the Unit seem to possess that spring feeling in spite of the wintry weather.

The M.T. and M.C. personnel appear to be getting "swell headed" these days at having the honour of being the special feature of the parade.

We appear to have had our summer in Catterick for this year. It has brought out the Company gardeners from their shells again, and all the gardens are looking very well indeed.

Arrivals.—Too numerous to mention, but we wish them the very best of luck in their new surroundings.

Promotions.—The Blue Book is getting used quite a lot these days as promotion seems to be going rapidly ahead. We congratulate the following on their promotion: Lieutenant (T.M.O.) Robertson (our former R.S.M.), Corporals Burke and Bunting.

Births.—We congratulate Lance Sergeant and Mrs. Swan on the birth of a daughter, Ann; also Lance Sergeant and Mrs. Puleston on the birth of a son.

Illness.—We are glad to have Captain Horniman back with us, and hope he feels as fit as he looks.

Agony.—We are surprised to hear that a certain N.C.O., with about nineteen years' service, cannot tell the difference between the bandmaster and an officer in uniform. No names, no "Jerries"!

Sport.—The Annual Inter-Company athletics for the Mackworth Trophy has been fought out with the usual result—a win for "F" Company. The Company Commander was quite satisfied with the performance of the Company team, considering the average weight and—ahem—length of service of the competitors. Unfortunately, we lost some good men for the last meeting, particularly Signalman Shaw, our star performer in the mile; but were fortunate in getting Driver Rowley from 5th Divisional Signals to help us out in the two mile.

Congratulations to the Company football team in winning the Garrison Company League by defeating 5th Divisional Signals.

G. A. S.

Corporals' Mess, Depot Battalion.

May.

An apology is due for the absence of our notes during past months. Our only excuse is that no one was brave enough to write, or strong enough to face the criticism.

During May, in common with the S.T.C., we have been busy preparing for the Commandant's Inspection. It is such a serious matter that even Reg. Fox plied a nifty fork in the garden. Former members of the Mess will be pleased to hear that Reg. has now recovered from his recent illness and is once again strong enough to visit Redcar.

The membership has changed considerably in a few months, and it must suffice to say welcome to new-comers and the best of luck to those who have left us for other climes.

Recently, our President had the honour of promotion to Lieutenant (T.M.O.). Congratulations, Lieutenant J. E. Robertson!

Incidentally, Mr. Records has not overlooked us in the way of promotion. A notable member, Ernie Collett, has gone across the road. We do hear some say that hope springs eternal in the younger generation, so that quite a few of us should be interested in the new blue book. If only a terrible printer's error occurred and the first 96 pages were left out. But, alas, it is only a mad dream.

Now that summer is approaching, members are going afield. In conversation, places such as Leyburn, Tunstall, Bellerby and Reeth are mentioned. This hiking is a serious business, and it is

"C" COMPANY, FOOTBALL TEAM.

no question of sampling a different brew, at least that is what we should like readers to believe. What could be nicer than a long hike, a plate of fish and chips, and a nice long hike back to bed. There are no prizes for obvious answers.

In the manner of men some achieve fame, whilst others have it thrust upon them, and so we come to the formation of the "gross circle." Its members are Reg. Fox, Chota Fox, Jock Scott, Young Mose, Willie Dunbar and Chota Fox. The last-named has fully earned the two mentions. In opposition to the "gross circle" we have "angels' corner," whose membership is Black Mamba Robson, Weasel Shipley, Frog the French and Dodo Watts. In all self-respecting circles these terrible people are introduced by a host holding a bottle of smelling salts in one hand and a "broom, sweeping, hard" in the other. To give readers some idea how terrible these members are, Mutt Matthews has been refused a seat in either party!

Strange as it may seem, we have no Grippers' Cup, for the simple reason that it would wear out through passing from member to member with such astonishing rapidity.

Among our members are several Infantry Corporals. No doubt they miss their own Regiments, and we sincerely hope that they do not find us too irksome. Later on we may be able to persuade them to say a few words. To whom it may concern, Crasher Mitchell is progressing well and his leg is on the mend. The railway authorities are expecting further damage to property when he is on the road again.

A little bird whispers that a Corporal of nineteen years' service did salute the Bandmaster. His only excuse is long service and bad stations.

There has recently been one or two changes in the Regimental police staff, and at long last justice has been done. Remember those words "Cast not . . ."

Paddy Malone has dared to introduce a peanut roaster; it pleases him to call it an automobile. Reg. Fox cannot understand why it always runs out of petrol when he is a passenger. Nice work if you can get it!

In conclusion we have to say farewell to our very own "gross" Jock Scott. He leaves us for "Civvy Street," and will report to the nearest large town in Scotland. Our best wishes go with him, and all members ask him to remember those he leaves behind to carry on the "gross" work. Jock, as a little boy, saw service in a choir. Alas, much water has passed under the bridge since then! His favourite song is, "Why do they misunderstand me?"

THE PIGEON.

Headquarters, Training Battalion.

15th May.

Congratulations are extended to Lieutenant (T.M.O.) V. J. King, Royal Signals, and Lieutenant (T.M.O.) V. J. Sherman, Royal Signals, on their promotion to commissioned rank as from 1st April and 1st May, respectively. Mr. King has since been posted to "A" Corps Signals, Aldershot, but Mr. Sherman remains with the Training Battalion.

Captain J. D. L. Morris, Royal Signals, left the Unit on 1st May and is now taking over an appointment in Leeds with the Territorial Army.

On 16th May the Annual Inspection of the barracks by the Commandant, Signal Training Centre, takes place.

The congratulations of all ranks are extended to the Corps Athletic Team on their success in winning the Lambert Athletic Trophy.

The Junior N.C.O.s' Drill Course commences on 20th May. Quite a nice job for the new R.S.M. if he arrives in time.

"D" Company, Training Battalion.

May.

Once again your up-to-the-minute super-newshound takes over the journalistic reins of "Doncoy." Yes, you are right; it could be nobody else but Ack Pip Beer. (How modest!)

The Company is in the throes of the Annual Inspection fever, and all around me can be seen nothing else but paint brushes, varnish, blue-wash, etc. At the time of writing, the great event is only a matter of a few days distant, and everyone is working with the same good will that has earned excellent reports from "Doncoy" in the past. How's that for keeping up the old traditions?

Major C. E. Sketch, O.C., "D" Company, and his Office Staff.

Normally, at this time of the year, everybody is looking forward to Whitsun leave, but, alas, this break does not occur in the programme for this year. Female hearts will be broken, but we expect that a few three-halfpenny stamps will repair the damage.

We commence the news bulletin this month by throwing laurels to members of our happy community. Heartiest congratulations are extended to Lieutenant (T.M.O.) B. T. Sherman on attaining that rank. Lieutenant Sherman is not leaving the Unit, as he has been posted to "F" (Boys) Company.

Congratulations also to W.O.II Prior on dropping the "T"; to Lance Sergeant Walton on dropping the "T"; to Lance Sergeant Melmore on entering the senior Mess; and to T/Corporal Fairclough on attaining that rank. Do we see some sly glances at the little Blue Book?

The final meeting of the Inter-Company Athletics was held on Scotton Ground on Monday, 8th May. This day will go down in the annals of "D" Company as a red letter day, and it is with the greatest of pleasure that we announce that "D" Company came second, "F" Company being first. A detailed report of the meeting will be found in our sports notes. Our very heartiest congratulations are extended to all those who represented the Company in the events with such splendid results.

Signalman Gray has left us to enjoy the fruits of life in "Civvy Street," and we wish him the best of luck in his new sphere.

Wedding bells were ringing at North Harrow, Hendon, on 29th April, when Corporal Harrod C. was married to Miss Mabel Irene Druce. May they live happily ever after.

With the recent announcement in the House of Commons regarding the lowering of the Marriage Allowance age to twenty, we anticipate that the marriage section of these notes will provide material for a magazine of its own; there should be some "bunk furniture" for sale.

The proverbial stork paid a visit to C.Q.M.S. and Mrs. Storr on 9th April and left them a daughter, who has since been given the names Ann Margaret. Congratulations!

Lance Sergeant Morton has signed on the dotted line to complete the twenty-one glorious years—tut! tut! Good luck, Sergeant!

The Royal Army Pay Corps attracted the eye of two of our recruits, and, as a result, Signalman Kinder is attached to the

Depot, Black Watch, and Signalman Gillis to the Detachment, R.A.P.C., York, with a view to transfer. Kinder's " gripping " will be missed.

A word in the ear of those responsible for sport at 1st Divisional Signals. Signalman Kendrick S., who has joined that Unit made quite a name for himself at sport during his stay in this Company. He has represented the S.T.C. at cross-country running, and also took part in the London to Brighton road walk in 1938. In the latter he came in third in the Inter-Services Section.

Other departures during the past month were Sergeant Whalley to 1st Divisional Signals; Signalman Clements to 2nd Divisional Signals; and Signalman Kelly A. to 4th Divisional Signals. The last-named has also indulged in cross-country running. We trust that these people will enjoy life in their new Units.

Congratulations to Corporal Bennington L. on obtaining his First Class Certificate of Education. What is next on the programme—" Special " or " Class I " ?

One of our happy community was unfortunate enough to be admitted to hospital with German measles. One bright spark, on being asked how the disease had caught up with the victim, replied, " He sat listening to a speech by Herr Hitler one day, and the following morning broke out in little swastikas."

The new barracks are gradually taking shape and, before long, we expect there will be several of the Cadre personnel reserving bedspaces in our new Ritz-Waldorf.

Looking into the future, we anticipate a lot of wailing amongst the Junior N.C.O.s. On 22nd May, a Junior N.C.O.s' Drill and Duties Course will commence; it will finish on 24th June. Just imagine the happy looks on their faces when at 6.40 a.m. sharp our blushing Junior N.C.O.s will demonstrate their skill on the parade ground. We should like to know how many are thoroughly conversant with the new drill in " threes " !

What else can we see in the future ? Ah, there is a crowd of new faces. Can it be that new-fangled idea, conscription ? Strangely enough, not a thing has appeared in the newspapers about it, so this must be a scoop !

We thank H.E.S. very much for carrying out the good work of scribe during the writer's absence from public life.

" Doncoy " Letter Service.—65266 2nd Div. Sigs. " Ever heard of Catterick. What about a line ? Gertie (No. 39 Squad)."
Cheerio, old timers—ouch !

ACK PIP BEER.

"E" Company, Training Battalion.

General.—The Company at the present moment is in the throes of " Inspectionitis," in view of the impending inspection by the Commandant on 12th and 16th May. Still, it will not last a long time, and the result is well worth the effort involved. Our valiant efforts to improve the lines have been somewhat nullified by the splinter-proofing of the bungalows, but we bear it in cheerful silence.

The customary training is in progress, and the normal flow of recruits in and out of the Company is being maintained. One of the most popular subjects of conversation these days among the instructors and others concerns annual furlough.

Arrivals.—A welcoming hand is extended to W.O.III Vignaux and family, who have joined us from India, and we sincerely hope their stay will be both long and pleasant.

We also welcome the recruits, who are too numerous to mention individually. Perhaps their feelings are, " The sooner we're out of here the better," since leaving us means the possession of a trade rating.

Promotions and Appointments.—The Blue Book has received a very heavy onslaught this month, and we heartily congratulate the following on their step up: Sergeants Robinson, Jones and Fraser, T/Sergeant Winder, Lance Sergeants Shorrock, Pearson, Purvis and Bailey.

Extensions and Re-engagements.—Signalman Allen J. has decided that he likes the life and has signed on the dotted line for twelve years with the Colours.

The following N.C.O.s like the Army so much that they have engaged for the " pontoon ": Sergeant Fraser, Lance Sergeant Burrell and Corporal Ebbage.

Courses.—Our Band Sergeant, Sergeant Reilly, has returned from a Gas Course at Winterbourne Gunner, and Lance Corporal Fish has left us for a Course at the Army School of Cookery, Aldershot.

Medals.—The following have been presented with visible tokens of their endeavours in the past, and congratulations are extended to Sergeants Cosstick and Pink, Lance Sergeant Shepherd and Corporal Baker on their award of the Indian General Service Medal, 1936, and to Sergeant Weir on his award of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. Well done !

Education.—The phrase " congratulations are extended " is growing a bit thin by this time, but is nevertheless sincerely extended to Sergeant Fraser, Corporal Lavelle, Lance Corporal Spence and Signalman Kellett on passing the examination for the First Class Certificate of Education. The two last-named obtained a " D " in English and Mathematics, respectively.

Marriages.—This paragraph seems to have grown somewhat rusty with disuse during the last few months, but two marriages are recorded this month. Congratulations to Corporal and Mrs. " Ginty " O'Hara on entering the Matrimonial Stakes, and also to Signalman and Mrs. Sayers.

Notices.—It is hereby notified that the Junior N.C.O.s of the Company have formed what they fondly term the " Lilley-Smith Youth Movement," the main purpose of which seems to consist of persistent long hikes across the moors. The remarks about who is fit and who is not fit make interesting listening to less ambitious " arm-chair wallahs."

Things Heard.—One enterprising youngster at a recent examination proudly claimed that a Signal Centre was a concentration camp for Operators.

Postage Due.—Al., 1st Ind. Div. " Okay, Frank."
F. G., Meerut. " They haven't taxed the stamps yet ! Pip."

GINTY.

"F" (Boys) Company, Training Battalion.

10th May.

General.—We have been fortunate this month in enjoying a spell of weather as foreign to Catterick as smiles are to N.C.O.s. It is true that several malicious-looking rain clouds have approached us with evil intentions, but, having cast their gloomy shadows on our marvellous show of forget-me-nots, tulips, dandelions and empty " Brasso " tins, they have hurriedly dispersed. The happy notes of skylark, blackbird, rook and trumpeter Keane joyfully proclaim the birth of each sunny day. The whole Company seems to have imbibed something of the spirit of spring, and even " Larry " was seen to emerge from the bath-house.

The Company returned from Easter leave looking little the worse for wear and seemed pathetically eager to get to grips with morse and bench once more.

The rumour concerning a P.T. Display by some of the boys has now become a definite fact. It is to be held at Darlington and Redcar in June. A Squad has already been selected and, if P.T. is as beneficial as Corporals Hoar and Ballard claim it to be, our lads will be good advertisements for Army cocoa. Phillips points out that the sudden increase in muscle has rendered most of his clothing so unfit for further wear that he has been forced to give his chinstrap to Newstead.

The Brigadier's Inspection, which is to take place this month, has unearthed a surprising amount of artistic talent. An order to distemper the walls of the huts has disclosed the fact that A/Ts can wield a brush as heartily as a knife and fork. Co-operation and an honest endeavour to make a decent show has resulted in an all-round brightening up, and anyone with half an eye can see the difference. Fourteen senior boys are now styled " Ex-Boys," and have decided to become gunmen. They seem to enjoy it, notwithstanding sore shoulders and a scarcity of " 4 x 2."

The results of the recent education examinations have proved very gratifying, for the Company continues to maintain its

high standard. We tender our congratulations to the following and express the hope that they will keep up the good work :

SPECIAL RESULTS.—Beattie, English "C"; Brown J. C., Physics (E. and M.); Barton, English "C"; Kite, Physics (E. and M.); Pavey, English "C"; Jordan, Physics (E. and M.); Holdsworth, Maths. "B" (Distinguished).

The following have gained 1st Class Certificates: Barker, Brodie, Brown R., Carr K., Cox, Emery, Erskine, Forsyth, Green, Harrison, Le Hardy, Martin, Mullin, Smith R. In addition, other boys have gained subjects towards the 1st Class Certificate. The distribution is 56 subjects amongst 43 boys; our black-coater, Signalman "(A/C/C)," gained a "distinguished" in Maths.

Two boys have recently arrived from different parts of the Empire. Boy Higley from Canada and Boy Ridgeon from Bombay. We offer them a warm welcome, and trust that they find little old England to their liking.

Miscellaneous.—Docker Brooks "bumps" his bedspace with milk!

"Emma" has sprained his ankle again.

Barton spent two hours one evening looking for a lizard on the roof of No. 17 Hut.

The recent Budget has had such a shattering effect on our particular brand of cigarette that we are all looking for some cheaper vice.

"Rabbit" puts blacking on his prayer book. Presumably, he reads his boots in church!

Razmak Joe emulates a swiss roll with his blankets.

Bazil and Ward no longer wear braces as they have been playing pontoon with buttons as stakes.

The N.C.O. Boys have been told to return all the food they could not eat. Algie still goes up for buckshees!

Footnote.—We have just been informed that something exciting is going to happen somewhere at sometime or other, so be sure to read next month's thrilling instalment in the WIRE.

A. JAY.

Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess

Training Battalion

May.

Promotions and Appointments.—A hearty welcome is extended to Lieutenant (T.M.O.) Sherman, and we congratulate him on his promotion to that rank. Congratulations also to C.S.M. Prior W., W.O.III Thorne, Sergeants Robinson A., Jones J. W., Fraser A. A. J. and Winder J. T., Lance Sergeants Walton S. C., Shorrocks L., Melmore L., Pearson R., Bailey N. and Purvis C. on their step up.

General.—Social events appear to be reviving. The Entertainments Committee, led by Sergeant Costick, arranged a whist drive and tombolo as a "try-out" for a regular Sunday night's entertainment, and the attendance was quite good for the first effort. S.S.M. Mills (P.M.C.), with the co-operation of the Entertainments Committee and members of the Mess, is arranging to vary these shows, and it is anticipated that all concerned will have an enjoyable time.

During the past few weeks we have said good-bye to S.S.Ms Laurie and Kelly, who have cast off the worries of Army life. According to a letter from Jock Laurie, he appears to have take to civilian life like a duck takes to water. Good luck to them both.

The Mess is having a spring clean at the moment, in readiness for the Commandant's inspection, and the usual smell of paint and polish is everywhere.

Perhaps former members of the Mess would care to know that a handsome profit is being made from the "pin" machine, and we frequently hear expressions like "Gate crash, you swine" and "Get in there, you blue beast," etc., during the course of a game.

MIDGET.

ALDERSHOT NEWS

"A" Corps Signals.

No. 1 Company.

Training during April was considerably affected by a number of cases of measles and the consequent isolation of barrack rooms. Nevertheless, training in P.A.D. was carried out and everyone is now well prepared in that direction. The lucky ones of the Company proceeded on Easter leave, and judging from conversations heard on return, all seemed to have enjoyed the welcome break.

Section Training and Schemes are now in progress in preparation for the forthcoming training season.

Congratulations are extended to C.Q.M.S. Sykes, Lance Corporals Lloyd and Edwards on their step up, and also to Sergeant Hodge, Lance Sergeants Dallimore and Baddeley on being awarded the Indian General Service Medal, 1936.

the first time in many years, has resulted in the Company being over Establishment in personnel.

A hearty welcome to the following, who have joined us from the Units stated: Sergeant Lambert, Palestine Force Signals; Drivers (I.C.) Bridge and Brooks, Mobile Divisional Signals; Signalman Irwin, 4th Divisional Signals; Signalman Baker D., India; Drivers (I.C.) Ashley and Bartlett, Depot Battalion.

On completion of their Vocational Training Courses, Signalmen Knott and McCaughey have gone to civilian life. We wish them every success. Signalman Mathieson proceeded to the Army School of Cookery on a Company Cook's Course. It is hoped he will take full advantage of the Course as vacancies on Cooks'

The arrivals this month exceed the departures, and, for Courses are at a premium, and results may be far reaching.

The following, having completed six months' attachment to the Post Office, have rejoined the Company: Lance Corporals Hardy and Harrison, Signalmen Jones F., Morton, Moor G. and Sharp.

Corporal Bracegirdle, Signalmen Morgan, Palmer and Loughlin have left us for six months' attachment to the Scottish Command Signal Company.

Here are the results of the Linemen's Upgrading Course: Lance Corporal Boldison and Signalman Moore T. were reclassified as Class I; Lance Corporals McGreevy, Lloyd and Edwards, Signalmen Arkell, Beckett, Dingle, Howarth, Fox and McFarlane as Class II. They have now received the extra cash, and realise that the little extra effort during individual training is well rewarded

No. 2 Company.

General.—Sorry about last month's notes; it took such a long time to write them that we missed the post.

The main topic at present is manœuvres. The first Unit Scheme went off very well on 9th May. After carefully examining the circuit of the D.3 with a microscope, we were disappointed when we failed to discover where the A.T. 250 was situated. A recruit had sworn it was on the Set. However, we have not yet given up hope and are still searching.

It is strange how the popularity of flowers moves in cycles. This year, in most gardens, the favourite is our old friend the dandelion; there are some real prize winners about.

Flash.—Can anyone tell me why the Guy radiator muff shrunk to the size of an Austin Seven radiator muff on the day No. 1 W/T Section had its equipment inspected? Maybe it should have been washed in Lux.

Arrivals.—Once more we cannot find room for all the individual arrivals, but we should like to mention C.Q.M.S. Storey, Sergeants Berriff and Marchant. To all we extend a hearty welcome and best wishes for a very pleasant stay.

We are glad to have Corporal Craik, Lance Corporal Parry and Signalman Redman back with us after their G.P.O. Course at Birmingham.

Congratulations.—To Lance Sergeant and Mrs. Bartley on the birth of a daughter, and to Corporal and Mrs. Launders on the birth of a son.

Congratulations also to Corporal Verlander on his marriage to Doris Verlander at Hatfield on 4th March, and to Corporal Pitney on his marriage to Helen Perkins at Paddington on 10th April.

Conclusion.—No. 2 Company wishes everyone au revoir and a pleasant Whitsuntide.

J. L. M.

No. 3 Company.

General.—These notes are short, but so is our Company roll. No. 1 Artillery Signal Section, under the command of Lieutenant R. E. Stoney, Royal Signals, has joined the 2nd Medium Regiment for training at Longmoor. Nos. 10 and 11 Artillery Sections are due to join their respective Gunner Regiments in the near future.

As a Company, we have hardly had time to get to know each other, for the majority of us are new arrivals. Captain J. G. F. Morton, Royal Canadian Corps of Signals, has been our O.C. for nearly two months now, and we hope that he and Mrs. Morton are enjoying their stay on this side of the pond. (Don't mention P.A.D. to Captain Morton.)

Promotions and Appointments.—Congratulations to the following: C.S.M. Thomas R., C.Q.M.S. Wright H., Lance Sergeant Dean S. and Lance Corporal Galloway J. Maybe it is a bit late for some of them, but we are pleased just the same.

Arrivals.—This month arrivals have been numerous, and we welcome them one and all.

Marriages.—Take heed, Malayan friends, and let the jungles from Fort Canning to the far outposts know: Lance Sergeant Taylor to Myrtle Gaze, both of Cambridge. We wish them both the best of luck.

Births.—Heartiest congratulations to Corporal and Mrs. Robinson, who are the proud parents of a baby girl.

D. X.

1st Divisional Signals.

15th May.

General.—Section training has started with enthusiasm, and the three Gunner Sections have now left us for the season. We hope to see them on Sports Day.

No. 3 Operators' Squad have now finished their operators' training, and have been posted to Sections within the Unit.

The following have arrived: C.S.M. Webster H., Sergeant Muir, Lance Sergeant Ross R., Lance Corporal Abbis, Signalmen Flint S., Fraser J., Patchell G., all from overseas; Sergeant Whalley J., Signalmen Beckley J., Noble J., March F., Paterson C., Cast E., Cox D., French A., Flatley C., Greenall L., Goss J., Harris A., Ward C., Bancroft G., Bates E., Charnock N., Douglas G., Mottram W., Jones J. from Catterick; and Signalmen Leggatt D. and Cotterell H. from 4th Divisional Signals.

Congratulations to the following on their respective promotions and appointments: Lieutenant (I.P.C.) F. H. Westwood; R.S.M. Minns C. B.; Sergeant Trew J., Corporals McClarron R., Thomas R. and Gulliford H., U/Lance Corporals Bush H. and Cooper H.

Well done, Sergeant Trew J., on your "Q1" for the last Gas Course. What is all this knees business? It reminds us of Mother Brown's days of long ago!

Old Nokey (S.S.M. Nokes) has decided to leave us for a smokier clime, and has gone to Birmingham on discharge, having obtained T.A. employment. We shall miss those oily yarns at camp, or wherever we may be. Driver (H.T.) Ward A., who has gone to pension, has obtained employment locally. He is the last of our Drivers (H.T.).

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Cricket has started and we have quite a good fixture list to get through. Captain E. S. Cole and Lieutenant B. R. M. Hayles played against the West Indies at Aldershot, and are also playing for the Command in various matches. A Company league competition has been introduced this year, and we hope to have much fun and see some good cricket. We are after the Rawson Cup.

New books shortly to be published: "The Blue Book" by C. Roster. I thank you. "The Drafting Roll" by R. McClarron. We thank you. "Tea for Two" by Strong-Smailley. All thank you.

2nd Divisional Signals.

Unit Headquarters.

16th May.

The age of miracles has not passed, for once again notes of Unit Headquarters' activities are taking their place in the Corps magazine. The absence of notes during the last few months has not been due to lack of interesting memoranda, but because of shortage of scribes. The usual correspondent has taken unto himself a wife, and, what with settling down into the sphere of married life, and moving from one home to another, little time has been available to settle down and think of the manner in which the passing of time has affected our own little community.

Postings.—Signalman Cowley (Our Dennis) has left us and, incidentally, the responsibility of training recruit clerks in the working of the mysteries of a typewriter. He has gone to the land of mosquitoes, sandflies and pyramids—Egypt! Oh, mystic land, do not leave thy mark on this youth of tender years! Good luck, Dennis, and don't forget that little talk we had in 33 West!

Two more of our recruit clerks, having completed their Course in clerical duties, have left us for 4th Divisional Signals. They are Signalmen Tait and Robin.

Departures.—It is with deep regret that we have to report the retirement of Major G. W. Odell. Major Odell was one of the oldest soldiers of this Unit, having been here since November, 1931. His loss will be greatly felt by all ranks who have had the honour of serving with him in past years. Good luck to you, sir, and to Mrs. Odell, in your new sphere of life.

C.S.M. Bradbury (our beloved "Umph" man) has left us to take up an appointment as Lieutenant-Quartermaster with the T.A. at Manchester. Since the beginning of the year, C.S.M. Bradbury has been our Regimental Sergeant-Major, and has not had an easy time. Maybe now, sir, you will have more time to sit back, and perhaps take up your favourite position in an easy chair with a glass of that brown liquid described by the lower orders as "wompo." With the departure of C.S.M. Bradbury, R.S.M. Willis—having recently been appointed to that rank—takes over the duties of R.S.M. Congratulations on your appointment, sir!

Education.—It is with great pride that Unit Headquarters notify the success of Lance Corporal McIvor at a recent examination. He obtained a " D " in three subjects for his 1st Class Certificate and only missed the fourth subject by seven marks. Congratulations, Mac ! We now lose his services as a Clerk so that the Unit can benefit by the Education Course he recently completed (and again obtained a " D "). For this purpose he has been appointed Education Instructor.

P.A.D.—This Unit, like every other organisation affected by P.A.D. measures, has had its full share of Exercises in that subject. On Wednesday, 3rd May, Mons Barracks held a Practice P.A.D. Scheme, under arrangements made by the C.S.O. Hooters hooted and whistles whistled ; men scurried to their posts, and those who did not take an active part in the Exercise had to take up their positions in trenches (or the sites allotted for them). The Exercise lasted from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., but whether it was a success or otherwise we cannot say.

Again, on Saturday, the Unit had another practice, but this time something on a more serious scale. It was, in fact, a black-out of the Aldershot Command, and all troops of the Command took part. The actual black-out was from midnight to about 3 a.m., Sunday morning. Luckily, this did not affect the married personnel of the Unit who lived away from barracks, except those who had specialist jobs to do. For this Exercise, the civilian population in the Aldershot Command were requested to dim or shut off all lights during the period of the black-out. Whilst these Exercises are necessary to bring to light any snags in the precautions taken against possible air attacks, we sincerely hope that the experience obtained will never be used beyond the precautionary stage.

Births.—We have to record the increase in the family of Lance Corporal and Mrs. Pitman—a daughter. Congratulations !

Marriages.—Whoever would believe it ? Former H.Q.-ites will be interested to learn that our draughtsman (Lance Corporal Brooks) has taken unto himself a wife. We wish him the very best of luck and will let bygones be bygones and not remind him of some of his past remarks regarding " married folk."

Sport.—Ex-2 Divites will be pleased to note that the Unit won the Mons Barracks Inter-Unit Soccer Tournament. We beat 1st Divisional Signals by four clear goals, and "A" Corps by 6—3. Another bit of silver for the Unit Office Orderly to clean. Cheer up, Roylance, it's all in a day's work.

The cricket season has commenced and, true to tradition, the first match arranged (only a Unit trial, but nevertheless a match) had to be cancelled owing to the state of the pitch. The " big watering can " had most inconveniently sprung another of those too-frequent leaks.

There is little to say about tennis. All junior ranks are anxiously waiting for the opening of the courts, and four good courts are available in Mons Barracks.

Finis.—Maybe next month we shall be able to say something about camp. The main body goes to camp at Thursley on 2nd June and stays under canvas until the 16th. We had a fortnight of the most glorious weather, the last time we were there, and it is hoped that Old Sol will be as kind this year.

TASHY.

No. 1 Company.

General.—Bad news has just come our way in the form of an advice note from Records to the effect that the Trooping Season, 1939/40, starts on 1st July, and, as a commencement, is taking quite a fair number of our budding operators for service in India. How is this going to affect our forthcoming camp at Thursley and the training season ? Great things were expected of these lads, but now alas, they must leave us. Why is it that just as the Company is getting in some sort of form and order, in comes a Posting Order or a Draft Order and away go our hopes !

The Unit moves out to camp at Thursley on Friday, 2nd June, and we hope the weather will be as favourable as it was during our last sojourn there. Thursley is not an ideal location in which to encounter floods and, with the weather we are having lately, anything is liable to happen, but more about Thursley in our next notes. There usually are many funny stories to publish concerning the activities of the lads, so keep your eyes on these columns.

The Sergeant-Major is very anxious to know what is to be the fate of his dandelions growing around the Company parade ground. Rumour whispers that they are very carefully watched and watered daily, and attempts have even been made to cross them with the daisies growing on the sports field, but, alas, success has not attended the crossers (or double-crossers).

Like other Companies and Units in Mons Barracks, we have been up to our eyes with P.A.D. Practice Schemes, and even turned to fight a heath fire in the surrounds of Minley Manor. The hooter sounded at about midday on Saturday, and our lads had a hot time until midday on Sunday. Strangely enough, the Quartermaster has had very few complaints about burnt clothing, etc. !

We are beginning to wonder at the cause of all the accidents lately. Some of the fellows try to get the better of big cars or stone walls (it does not appear to matter which), but invariably they awake to find themselves in hospital under the ever-watchful eye of those men in white. Do they realise the amount of work one little accident involves ? They are well and truly thanked in the Orderly Room !

Births.—Congratulations are due to Lance Corporal and Mrs. Pitman, who are now the proud possessors of a daughter.

Marriages.—Perhaps a little early, but unless we do mention Lance Corporal Oakley there will be little else to record. He has applied for leave to get married on Saturday, 20th May. Good work, Jack ! There is plenty of room at the ration stand, and ration bags and old bikes are going very cheap just now.

Arrivals.—To Captain F. S. Whiteway-Wilkinson we extend a very cordial welcome, and trust his stay with us will be both prolonged and happy.

Quite a few men have been posted to us from both overseas and the Depot Battalion. Although too numerous to mention individually, we trust that all will be happy with our little community.

Departures.—Here again they are too numerous to mention individually. Some have left us for " Civvy Street," others have been reposted ; but wherever they may be, we hope that their new sphere of life will be everything they want it to be.

Promotions.—Congratulations to Lance Sergeant Brunton on reaching full rank ; also to U/Lance Corporals Cleverley, Pitman, Longhurst and English on their appointments.

Sport.—There are many groans and moans at the moment in regard to athletic training, which is carried out each evening (except Wednesdays and Saturdays) from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. ; on Wednesdays and Saturdays it is from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. We are looking for some very favourable results when the Inter-Unit Championships take place.

We are pleased to record that the Company won the Inter-Company Soccer Cup, fairly and squarely beating both Nos. 2 and 3 Companies. It is about time that the trophy graced No. 1 Company Office !

Cricket is on its way but, as usual, the weather has not been too kind, so that we have no results to record.

TASHY.

No. 2 Company.

General.—With the absence of " E," " F " and " G " Sections, who are now with their respective Field Regiments, Company life in barracks is very quiet indeed. " H " Section still remains with us and, despite their nocturnal activities, helps in preventing the duty roster from altogether resembling a football coupon. This Section, by the way, delights in parading at the unnatural hour of 3 a.m., when it decides to co-operate with its A.T. Regiment.

From time to time news arrives from the Sections, and it is gratifying to learn that they are upholding the good name of the Corps.

Strength Through Joy.—For the purpose of athletics and sport in general the Company has joined forces with No. 3 Company. On most evenings of the week a strong muster will be seen going through its paces in preparation for tackling the athletic standards laid down. It is too early yet to attempt a forecast but we have every hope of producing a high figure of merit.

Promotions.—Our congratulations and best wishes to the undermentioned on their recent appointments: To Paid Lance Corporal: Lance Corporal Hutton T.; to Unpaid Lance Corporals: U/Lance Corporals Sanger, Walker, Webb and Verlander.

Departures.—This week sees the departure of C.S.M. Bradbury *en route* to Manchester, where he will take up his appointment as Lieutenant-Quartermaster in the T.A. Here's wishing him the very best of luck and all happiness in his new sphere.

Tailpiece.—There is in this Unit one who combines work with pleasure, or perhaps it would be correct to write that he makes work his hobby. It appears that he collects autographs, and I am honoured to think that my name will be found among the great. The astonishing thing about this collector is the subtle way he goes about it. I wonder how many times I really did sign his wretched bedding book!

C. P.

"F" Signal Section.

Attached 16th Field Regiment, R.A., Ewshott Camp.

On the morning of 17th April, the Section departed from Aldershot to spend the collective training season on attachment to the 16th Field Regiment, R.A. After the stores and equipment had been unpacked and straightened out, everybody set to and endeavoured to adapt themselves to the new surroundings and conditions.

We think it would interest readers, and especially those who have served in the Section, if the names of the personnel were published in these notes.

Section Officer: Sergeant McMillan; Section Sergeant: Corporal Thompsett; Operators: Lance Corporals Purkiss and Verlander, Signalmen Spurs and Green; Linemen: Lance Corporal Sanger, Signalmen Hunter, Fry and Owen; Drivers: Drivers Calder, Martin and McQuade; D.R.: Signalman Hall A.

Except for Sergeant McMillan, Corporal Thompsett, Signalmen Hunter and Calder, the Section this year is composed of entirely new personnel.

We welcome Lance Corporals Purkiss and Sanger and Signalman Spurs from the sunny East, and note that this trio, with the aid of other important members of the Section, make an ideal "Gripping" Association. Even I can now count up to ten in Urdu! We also extend a hand of welcome to the following: Lance Corporal Verlander and Signalman Green from "F" Company last January; Signalman Owen from "A" Corps Signals; Signalman Hall from No. 1 Company; Driver Martin from Bulford; and Driver McQuade from Catterick.

Departures.—Lance Corporal Staton decided that the Ewshott air did not agree with him, so decided to join "E" Section, who are attached to 10th Field Regiment, R.A., at Deepcut.

Promotions.—Signalmen Verlander and Sanger promoted U/Lance Corporals with effect from 25th April and 3rd May, respectively. We all wonder if the name "Plough and Harrow" conveys anything to these two growing lads, especially Lance Corporal Sanger!

Training.—Our activities to date have been mainly concerned with Section Schemes. We have only had a Skeleton Scheme with the Regiment, but our inactivity will be fully compensated during the fortnight's camp, which is being held at Westdown.

Sport.—The Unit Section Football Cup Competition took place during the latter part of the season. The Cup was run on a "knock-out" basis and, after many interesting games, "F" Section beat "J" Section in the final by 1—0.

Things We Want to Know.—Why such a thing as a "Stuart Turner" was ever invented! Maybe Corporal Thompsett knows?

Hebrews' Mail.—"Kenneth," 3450. "Thought you would visit Leeds! Dodger."

"Shorty," Jerusalem. "How about a line? Joe, 695."
"Paddy," "F" Company. "Stamp still 1½d.? Len."

And so readers, from the sunny climes of Ewshott we say *au revoir* till next month.

VERLY JUNIOR.

No. 3 Company.

Arrivals.—Due to the kindness of Mr. Records, we now have a C.Q.M.S. in the Company, or at least we will have when he returns from leave after a tour abroad. We think a little bird must have whispered in his ear that we were short of a C.S.M. He is C.Q.M.S. Wilkins T. We also welcome Signalman Bowler J. from Hong Kong; Signalmen Jackson and Eshelby from "A" Corps Signals; and Signalmen Denham and Fulton from Catterick. May their stay be a long and happy one.

Departures.—Signalmen Stubbs and Boulton will soon be leaving us for Vocational Training Courses prior to returning to "Civvy Street." We wish both of them the best of luck, and hope they will obtain good jobs.

Congratulations.—To Signalmen Notley F. and Johnson J. on appointment to U/Lance Corporals, and to Lance Corporals Mires H. and Cameron D. on their promotion to Corporal.

Births.—We congratulate Corporal and Mrs. Wright J. on the birth of a fine son on 8th May. We hope that Corporal Wright will take the advice given him by the A/R.S.M.

Marriages.—We understand that Signalman (Hookey) Walker will soon be taking the plunge, so make way for another one in the ration stand crowd, you chaps!

General.—The Company at present is in training for the Annual Physical Standard Tests, and we have seen the 100 yards done in just over half-an-hour. Nevertheless, we feel sure that everyone will pass the tests when the time comes.

Heard on a P.A.D. Exercise.—A certain Air Raid Warden was looking round for casualties in his area, when he came upon a chap with a ticket on him marked "SERIOUSLY WOUNDED." "Ah," he said, "you report to the First Aid Centre, and tell them to send a couple of stretchers up for these blokes." "These blokes" were labelled "SLIGHTLY WOUNDED"! They call him "Vic," we understand.

1st Anti-Aircraft Brigade Signals, Blackdown

North Frith Barracks, Blackdown, Hants.

15th May.

General.—Having successfully concluded local night runs and trials, the training season proper has set in and, with its arrival No. 1 Section departed to Northchurch, No. 3 Section to Weedon Hill, Aylesbury, and seven lucky individuals have proceeded to various camps all over the country.

Arrivals.—A hearty welcome is extended to those who have recently arrived in the Unit: Captain D. A. Campbell, Royal Signals; Corporal Lambert and Lance Corporal Barnett from Palestine Signals; Signalman Carmichael (ex-Reservist) from the S.T.C.

Departures.—C.S.M. Atkinson F. on appointment as Lieutenant (Q.M.), 51st Divisional Signals; C.Q.M.S. Kendall G. to "Civvy Street" on pension and a steady job at the Field Stores, Aldershot; Lance Corporal Buxton to the Army Reserve; and Signalman Blunt to the Army Reserve and a situation as a Fitter in Coventry. We wish them all the best of good fortune and success in their new spheres.

Promotions.—Lance Corporal Bowman to be Corporal; Lance Corporals Blake, Dixon and Brown J. A. S. are now interested in the Blue Book; U/Lance Corporal Middleton has commenced that long climb to Field Marshal. Congratulations!

Motor Cycle Trials, Aldershot Command.—Despite the Exercises, the team reached 19th place, obtaining 316 points. This position was ahead of any Signal Unit in the command. Team: Lance Sergeant Henshaw, Corporal Williams and Signalman Phillips. Better luck next year!

Trade Test.—We congratulate those linemen (recruits) who succeeded in obtaining a "C," Class III rating, and also Signalman Lloyd on obtaining his rating as Class II, I.M.

Education.—Lance Corporal Hobling passed in English and Geography; Driver (I.C.) Passey passed in English. Congratulations!

Courses.—Lance Sergeant Milligan has obtained a Q.2 at the A.G. School, Winterbourne Gunner. Well done!

I.G.S. Medals.—Medals have been awarded to Sergeant McBride, Corporal Stone, Lance Corporals Hobling, West and Dixon, Signalmen Wilde and Munden.

We Want to Know.—Was it the air or the uniform, Mike?

A.A.

Mobile Divisional Signals, Bulford.

Kiwi Barracks, Bulford Camp.

1st May.

Introduction.—Lest our fame has not yet spread abroad, we were desirous of publishing a kind of Who's Who, but as the labour involved was only equalled by the distressing shyness of our recruits, we have now decided on a fairly concise survey of our organisation.

Mobile Divisional Signals is composed of personnel from various Units of the Corps in the South of England, and the Unit is now flourishing at Bulford. No. 2 Squadron came from Aldershot, No. 3 Squadron from Tidworth, No. 4 Squadron from Perham Down, and Headquarters came from Andover. When it became generally known that Mobile Divisional Signals were to be stationed at Bulford, the good news so stunned the Bulfordites that they were rendered speechless with joy and gratification, with the result that our entry into Bulford was not so much a state reception as a moonlight flitting. In fact, immediately on our return from Christmas leave it was not unusual to observe a stranger in a barrack room after "Lights Out" in search of an unoccupied bed. The tirades of abuse which usually greeted the nocturnal visitor are more easily imagined than written.

Eventually the settling down process was completed, and we began to recognise ourselves as one Unit, instead of a series of Squadrons, and it is only the "old school tie cads" who still insist on the nice difference between a No. 3 Squadron man and one from Mobile Divisional Signals.

Our strength has also been increased by Despatch Riders and Driver Recruits, who come and go with such bewildering rapidity as to confuse in no small degree the more or less permanent staff. Nevertheless, we extend to all of them a very hearty welcome, and hope that the good old Bulford vintage (the water is hard) will keep them smiling in spite of everything (this is a crack at the weather).

A very hearty welcome is accorded to the newly-made Warrant Officers, Class III, and to all others who have come to help.

The Unit is divided into Headquarters Squadron, Training Squadron, and Nos. 2, 3 and 4 Squadrons, with detachments at Tidworth and Perham Down.

The following are the Officers and Warrant Officers on the strength of the Unit: Commanding Officer: Lieutenant-Colonel F. S. Straight, M.C.; Officer Commanding Training Squadron: Major G. S. O'N. Power; Officer Commanding Nos. 2, 3 and 4 Squadrons: Major W. G. L. Kennard; Adjutant: Captain D. M. Smyth; T.M.O.: Lieutenant B. A. Elsmore; Quartermaster: Lieutenant (Q.M.) M. J. Noonan; R.S.M. Field C. E., R.Q.M.S. Littlefield D. and C.S.M. Penfold A.

Appointments and Promotions.—Congratulations to the following: Lance Sergeant Marchant T. to be Sergeant; Corporals Cole E. and Linnington R., appointed Lance Sergeants.

Entertainments.—The two concerts given by the N.A.A.F.I. were extremely enjoyable. Before an appreciative audience of N.C.O.s and men (recruits as well), the vocalists, instrumentalists, artistes and prompters (if any) gave of their best, and were doubtless pleased at the warm reception which their efforts received. Indeed, we feel justified in voicing the general opinion by stating that what Bulford needs is more of these N.A.A.F.I. concerts.

Sport.—To close the football season we played 3rd Divisional Signals and beat them to the tune of 5—1. Lamont (2), Craig (2) and Tyas scored for Mobile Divisional Signals, whilst Stevens obtained the 3rd Divisional Signals' one and only goal.

With the advent of the cricket season, we are now practising nightly, coached by Lance Corporal Stanford and Corporal Edwards, and we have high hopes of turning out a good team.

BEEBEE.

4th Divisional Signals, Canterbury.

11th May.

General.—Congratulations are due to the Unit's motor cycle team who have been taking everything before them. Here is a list of the events in which they took part and the awards:

BIRCHINGTON AND DISTRICT M.C.:
Best Army Team (2nd Lieutenant Thompson, Corporal Bradshaw, Lance Corporal Walton)—Cups.

HYTHE AND DISTRICT M.C.:
Best Army Team (as above)—silver matchboxes.
Second Best Army Rider (2nd Lieutenant Thompson)—silver cup.

MAIDSTONE ACES M.C.:
Visitors' Awards—1, Lance Corporal Walton, "Aces" Cup; 3, 2nd Lieutenant Thompson, bronze medal.

C.S.M.A. SERVICES TRIAL:
Lance Corporal Walton, 2nd class award; 2nd Lieutenant Thompson and Corporal Bradshaw, 3rd class awards.

EASTERN COMMAND TRIAL:
Individual Winner (2nd Lieutenant Thompson), silver medal.

No. 2 Company.

General.—After a period of really hideous weather (most unusual for Canterbury), the sun is once more with us, endeavouring, no doubt, to make amends. The Squads on training are acquiring that tan which, according to advertisements, is all that is needed for real beauty, and we are glad to observe that there is still some optimism left in the world.

Now that the Inter-Squad hockey and football tournaments are over, the familiar goal posts have been sent into a well-earned retirement and have been replaced by cricket nets. The end of the football season causes real pain to some people, but we feel sure that the creating of some good cricket teams will do much to compensate the soccer fans. Judging by the recent trials, it seems obvious that we have more than our share of talent. (Modesty, we are told, is one of the few virtues.)

Squads are now in training for the Tabloid Sports, which are to be held in the near future, and details will be included in our next notes.

It is only fitting that we should congratulate and place on record the wonderful achievement of No. 5 Squad, under Corporal Froud F., in winning both the soccer and hockey Inter-Squad trophies. The competition was keen, and everybody played well. No. 5 Squad certainly deserved their victories.

Despite our modesty we cannot resist the temptation to tell the world that we beat No. 3 Company at both football and hockey. We are now prepared to meet No. 3 Company in the competition for the Inter-Company Athletic Shield, which has been presented to the Unit by our former Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel H. A. J. Parsons, M.C. Judging by the confident smirks on the faces of our rivals, we shall not have everything our own way, but time and obvious talent will tell.

Arrivals.—Lance Sergeant Milligan and Lance Corporal Hill from sunny Brighton, where they have been enjoying a Post Office Course. We also welcome Lance Corporal Packman P., Signalmen Booth A., Elliott G., Souter A. and Vickers J., who have rejoined us from "A" Corps as full-blown fitters.

Departures.—Corporal "Pinto" Pyne has left us in order to test his muscles out on the parallel bars at the A.S.P.T., Aldershot.

Tales.—We regret the absence of our usual feature, but the fellows have either become wise to our game, or have suddenly become exceedingly shy, so—none this month.

Howlers.—We offer the following as compensation :

Definition of radio-frequency : " The etherical speed of a continuous wave."

Definition of " F " Procedure : " I can make no more signals ; I am in the enemy lines."

Query.—Which brilliant N.C.O. suggested that the next time a P.A.D. Scheme was held we should " embrace " the N.A.A.F.I. staff ? We believe he meant it, too !

Agony.—To George Stoner in " Keang." " What about a line ? Dodger."

A. R. B.

No. 3 Company.

General.—Little has happened since our last contribution. The Company is becoming quite large, due to the continuous arrival of recruit operators from Catterick—there are now six Squads under training in this Company alone. No. 2 Squad successfully completed their B.III tests on 24th April, and are now posted to the various Field Units. Congratulations are due to Signalman Ward on obtaining the highest marks.

Two well-known faces are no longer to be seen around the offices owing to the departure of Corporal McNab and Signalman Hart, the former to civilian life by way of Hounslow, and the latter by the direct route. Lance Corporal Last has joined us from India, and Corporal Chambers has arrived from the Gas School.

Howler.—We have often wondered why the testing staff were looking so worried, but after hearing the following we begin to see daylight :

N.C.O. : " What is the range of a daylight signalling lamp ? "
Recruit : " Well, it's not so much the range of the lamp as how far the chap at the other end can see."

SLIM.

5th Divisional Signals, Catterick Camp.

18th May.

Training.—Nos. 104, 105, 106, 107 and 108 Squads were passed off the Square during the past month by the Commanding Officer, and have now departed to other Units for their technical training. We wish them good luck and all success. The whip winners were :

Squad.	Drill.	P.T.
No. 104 ..	Signalman Hinch.	Signalman Forbes.
,, 105 ..	,, Honeyands.	,, Hill.
,, 106 ..	,, Littlewood.	,, Hall R.
,, 107 ..	,, Salt.	,, Gittins L.
,, 108 ..	,, Simpson.	Driver Charman R.

Marriages.—Congratulations to the following on finding their life partners : Corporal Dugdale (Cheshire Regiment) at Richmond, Lance Corporal Nix at Scarborough, and Sergeant Kenny H. at Darlington.

Arrivals.—We welcome W.O.III Swatten from India and Lance Corporal Church from Malaya Signal Company.

Departures.—We are sorry to lose W.O.III Bramwell, who has departed for Mobile Divisional Signals.

Promotions.—Congratulations to Lance Sergeants Shipton, Allen and Barnicott on their appointment as temporary Sergeants, and to Signalman Whitwood on reaching the first step of the ladder as an Unpaid Lance Corporal.

Athletics.—The Unit was entered as a Company of the Signal Training Centre for the Inter-Company Team Championships, held on Scotton Ground on Monday, 1st May. In this competition no individual was allowed to compete in more than one event, so that almost all our runners were given a chance of competing in some event or other. Unfortunately, we were not quite up to the standard of our opponents, and finished last of the five teams competing.

OFFICERS

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Nevertheless, we have one or two successes to record : Sergeants Kenny and Stonehouse won the Hammer. Sergeant Heapy and Lance Sergeant Trout tied for first place with " D " Company in the Pole Jump. Signalman Rowley ran a good race in the Mile. When nearing the finish in the lead he looked a winner, but collapsed about five yards from the tape. Hard luck ! Signalman Renwick, in the Two Mile put up the best performance of the team. In spite of the fact that he lost a shoe half-way round, he carried on and won. Unfortunately, there was some confusion amongst the judges as to how many laps had been run, and the race was declared void.

Our thanks are extended to Corporal Dugdale of the Cheshire Regiment, who turned out regularly to help the runners train, and also ran the half-mile himself.

Sergeant Kenny (Hammer) and Signalman Renwick (Three Miles) represented the Corps in the Lambert Trophy, a triangular contest between Durham and Northumberland, Durham University and Royal Signals.

Motor Cycling Trial.—2nd Lieutenant D. R. Horsfield, Royal Signals, riding a Triumph motor cycle, was awarded a Bronze Medal in the Scottish Six Days Reliability Trial.

Northern Ireland District Signal Company, Belfast.

May.

Yes, here we are ! Sorry to have missed a month, but our scribe had a bad attack of writer's cramp. We are bursting with news and have been forced to drag ourselves from a blissful oblivion to deal with our huge fan mail.

We welcome C.Q.M.S. Pummell, Sergeant Adams, Lance Sergeant (F-of-S) West and Lance Sergeant Wainscoat from stations at home and abroad ; Lance Sergeant Brown and Lance Corporal Garton from G.P.O. Courses ; and a vast network of wires above the Signal Office from we know not where. The

blaze of stripes now in the Unit has necessitated an issue of triple-strength sun-glasses. This influx has brought about a spate of store checks.

The interference problem is being brought under control, and the phantom fault has been transferred from Hula-land to the N.I.D.

Considerable activity was observed at Magilligan Camp last month, where two 40 ft. masts and a No. 9 Set are now presided over by Lance Corporal Reece and Signalman Belcher, who burst their way through the ether at regular intervals.

Queen's University O.T.C. opened the training season with the Scheme reported by them last month, of which more anon, followed by the East Lancs. and S.W.B.s with W/T Schemes, not forgetting the Territorial R.A. Shoots. The lull which followed this burst of activity promises a busy season, and our D.R.s are busy tuning their bikes prior to burning up the roads of Ireland. They are meanwhile keeping their hands in by taking part in a Trial to be held by the Ards Motor Cycle Club on 13th May.

An innovation in Northern Ireland has been the wireless control of the Red Brae Motor Cycle Hill Climb on Easter Monday. Sergeant Masters officiated at the Start Control and Sergeant Double and Signalman Picken were at the Finish Control. Needless to say there was a pub at the top of the hill.

Sport.—A great fillip has been given to this branch of our activities, the barrack-room variety being well in the lead, with tennis making a poor second. Annabelle Jackson has actually been heard squabbling with Daffodil Fern for the privilege of "bumping" the floor, thereby giving McCusker palpitation, as this had hitherto been his preserve. This has already been diagnosed as Spring Fever, and a strong dose of Palace-cum-Plaza has been prescribed to bring things back to normal.

The urge to carry on the old tradition is strong within us, and our tennis and cricket bloodhounds, headed by the pride of Erin, are hot on the scent of new talent. The fixture list is growing steadily, and it is to be lamented that so many of the players still wear "L" cards.

Promotion.—Congratulations to Lance Sergeant (F-of-S) West on another jump in his headlong dash up the long ladder. If anyone has a spare pair of "Cutters, wire, folding, Mk. I," please send them along, as the "side cutters" the Foreman uses for trimming his moustache are showing signs of wear.

Romance.—Yes, it happens here, too. Congratulations to Captain H. D. Orr and Mrs. McKinney on their forthcoming marriage, to be solemnised at Belfast on the 16th of this month. After the ceremony, Captain and Mrs. Orr will take their departure from Northern Ireland, eventually finding their way to Catterick. They will take with them the whole-hearted good wishes of the Unit.

O.T.C. Bouquets.—On behalf of those who were with Queen's University O.T.C. for the Easter Schemes, Lance Corporal Gray, N.I.D.S.C., wishes to thank Captain Patton, Lieutenant McQuiston and all members for a very pleasant time, and also for the kind remarks about us in the May issue of the WIRE. Many thanks also to Captain Patton for his kind hospitality to us at Ballyspallen. We hope to be with you again in the future, gentlemen!

Addendum.—Watch this column for "Inside Singapore" and "Jungle Night" stories. The first one will be, "Tandok's Goat, Arrival and Departure."

SOAPY.

ROYAL SIGNALS CAR BADGE.

The above illustration describes a new Car Badge, which has been designed to meet the requirements of all Royal Signals car owners.

It is a highly finished production of excellent workmanship—Chromium plated with a central background of Royal Signals Corps colours in enamel—and can be obtained on application to The Secretary, Signals Association; 15/6 each.

LONDONDERRY DETACHMENT.

Well, here we are again, all ready for the monthly clutch. The Easter holidays (?) are over, and we are all looking forward to cricket, tennis, boating, etc., and are overhauling our waterproofs and umbrellas accordingly. Easter Monday was a beautiful day, and many a fellow felt like getting out into the pure air of the countryside.

We were honoured on Easter Monday by a visit from the C.O., Major Burns, who inspected the station. Other visitors included the I.P.C. and Sergeant Masters. The Magilligan party have also arrived and left at various times. On one occasion the "den" was so overcrowded that we were seriously thinking of slinging a couple of hammocks across the aerial, but Signalman Francis solved the problem by doing night exchange operator during his sojourn here. The C.S.M. is probably thinking how rummy it is that whenever Derry has a visitor, the only bed they can offer is that of the duty operator.

Apart from these visits, everything here has gone "swimmingly," very "swimmingly"—the locals called it April showers! We had a strong urge to build an ark or a submarine, but our fears were groundless, because the sun shone yesterday, but not in Derry! When we gaze out at the "Donegal sunshine" we can quite understand why people call us a "shower."

Non-Aryan Post.—To Tommy Denholme, Catterick. "Tobacco has gone up, but stamps are still the same. Dolly."

To Dolly. "Does the above mean that you can't afford to use smoke signals any more?"

REVILO.

INDIAN·SIGNAL·CORPS

Signal Training Centre (India), Jubbulpore.

General.—The third Squad of British recruits enlisted in India have now rejoined from their recruits' training with the 2nd Battalion, King's Own Scottish Borderers, prior to posting to Field Units. As the next Squad will be enlisted during the month of May, No. 3 Squad will now be able to use the past tense—"Now when I was . . ."—the hall-mark of the old soldier. We wish them well in their new Units.

And yet another marvel of science! A recent order tells us that "it has been discovered that egg-shell blue is a deterrent to flies." Dining-rooms, cook-houses, etc., will in future be egg-shell blue. As a further step we suggest that he could probably be kept at a distance from the tip of the nose, or prevented from using a bald head as a landing-ground, by the application of a mixed solution of camphor balls, bleaching powder and, of course, a liberal application of the now famous egg-shell blue. Failing this, some fly or other might be persuaded to sign a pact of non-aggression.

The weekly whist drives in the recreation room have been revived and help to break the monotony.

A "Stick and Dog" walk as part of the Saturday morning curriculum was a very welcome change.

The road to fame and fortune has been a bit overcrowded of late. Congratulations to all those who have participated in the move-up. Special congratulations to our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel G. H. Plummer, M.C., on his promotion. The other steps in the right direction are: Lance Sergeants Bush and Collett to Sergeant, and Corporals Dumville, Macey A. and Wilson G. to Lance Sergeant.

In the near future we are to lose a familiar figure in the S.T.C. (I.), namely, Major (Q.M.) J. Hawke, O.B.E., familiar not only to members of the Centre, past and present, but also to many other members of the Corps as the author of a very interesting book, *Private to Major*. As Officer i/c Records Section, Major Hawke did not enter into our general activities, but his efforts in connection with the S.T.C. (I.) Golf Club are very much appreciated, and we offer him our very best wishes for his future in England.

Colonel G. L. G. Pollard, M.B.E.—On 27th March we said farewell to Colonel G. L. G. Pollard, M.B.E., Chief Signal Officer, Southern Command, Commandant Signal Training Centre (India), and Officer i/c Records, Indian Signal Corps, who has proceeded on leave to South Africa pending retirement.

He was given a great send-off. The British and Indian other ranks of the S.T.C. (I.) lined the route, and the Colonel's car was drawn along the final stage of the route to the station by British warrant officers and senior N.C.O.s. A mounted escort of Indian officers also accompanied the car.

At the station Colonel Pollard received a great ovation from the B.O.R.s' families—children as well. Handshakes and a few words to them all in turn; an occasional suggestion for keeping husbands in order; and a word or two with the kiddies. A large crowd remained on the station to give a farewell cheer as the train steamed out to the strains of the Pipe Band of the S.T.C. (I.).

Colonel Pollard was commissioned from Sandhurst as a 2nd Lieutenant, India Unattached List, on 18th January, 1911. On arrival in India he was attached to the 2nd Battalion, Royal West Kent Regiment in March, 1911. By April, 1913, he had been promoted Lieutenant in the Hazara Pioneers, and in March, 1916, was seconded for service with the 33rd Divisional Signal Company, Sappers and Miners.

He proceeded to Mesopotamia with 32nd Divisional Signal Company, S. and M., in July, 1916, and whilst in Mesopotamia was promoted Captain as from 1st September, 1915.

In July, 1918, Captain Pollard was appointed as Commandant, XXI Corps Signal School, Jaffa, Palestine, with the acting rank of Major.

The year 1919 was a busy one for him. In January he was O.C., 60th Divisional Signal Company, at Alexandria; O.C., 75th Divisional Signal Company, Ismalia, in March; O.C., 10th Divisional Signal Company, Cairo, in September; and back in Palestine as O.C., 32nd Divisional Signal Company, S. and M., in December, 1919.

He returned to India as O.C., "B" Divisional Signals in 1921, and was appointed D.C.S.O., Waziristan Force, in January, 1922, as temporary Major. In October, 1923, he became Commandant, "B" Divisional Signals, followed by appointment as officiating C.S.O., Western Command. in April, 1925. In November, 1925, he was gazetted Company Commander, 4th Hazara Pioneers, and was eventually transferred to the Corps on 6th October, 1926, and promoted Major in December, 1926.

His next appointment was that of Commandant, "B" Corps Signals, Rawalpindi, in April, 1927, followed in February, 1928, by his appointment as Commandant, Army Signal School, Poona, until joining the Signal Training Battalion, Jubbulpore, in November, 1932.

In January, 1934, Major Pollard joined 1st (Indian) Divisional Signals, at Rawalpindi, and was promoted Lieutenant-Colonel on 31st March, 1934. A short stay at Rawalpindi and back, once again, to Jubbulpore—this time as Commandant, Signal Training Centre (India), and O.C., Signal Training Battalion.

On 31st March, 1938 he was transferred to the Half-pay List, and the following day was promoted Colonel to fill the new combined appointment of Chief Signal Officer, Southern Command; Commandant, Signal Training Centre (India); and Officer, i/c Records, Indian Signal Corps, which appointments Colonel Pollard held at the time of his retirement.

Colonel Pollard had, undoubtedly, a very extensive knowledge of the Near and Middle East, and particularly India. He knew the Indian soldier, and his understanding and keen personal interest in the military and social activities of the British and Indian ranks who served under his command, gained for him the high esteem of all his subordinates. Among the British ranks, Colonel Pollard is, perhaps, best known to members of the Special Roster, Royal Signals, the majority of whom have served under him during his many years in India. In recent years the ranks of the Special List have gradually diminished, but we feel sure that the WIRE is still a medium of Corps news to many of them, and the foregoing will recall pleasant associations. Even meetings "on the mat" have their funny side—afterwards.

As Colonel Pollard himself remarked, in his farewell talk to members of the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, he will always be pleased to hear from old friends, or to meet them again. Maybe at the 19th, sir!

In conclusion, we feel sure that all ranks—British and Indian—whether serving or back in civilian life, will join us in wishing Colonel Pollard many years of peaceful retirement.

W.

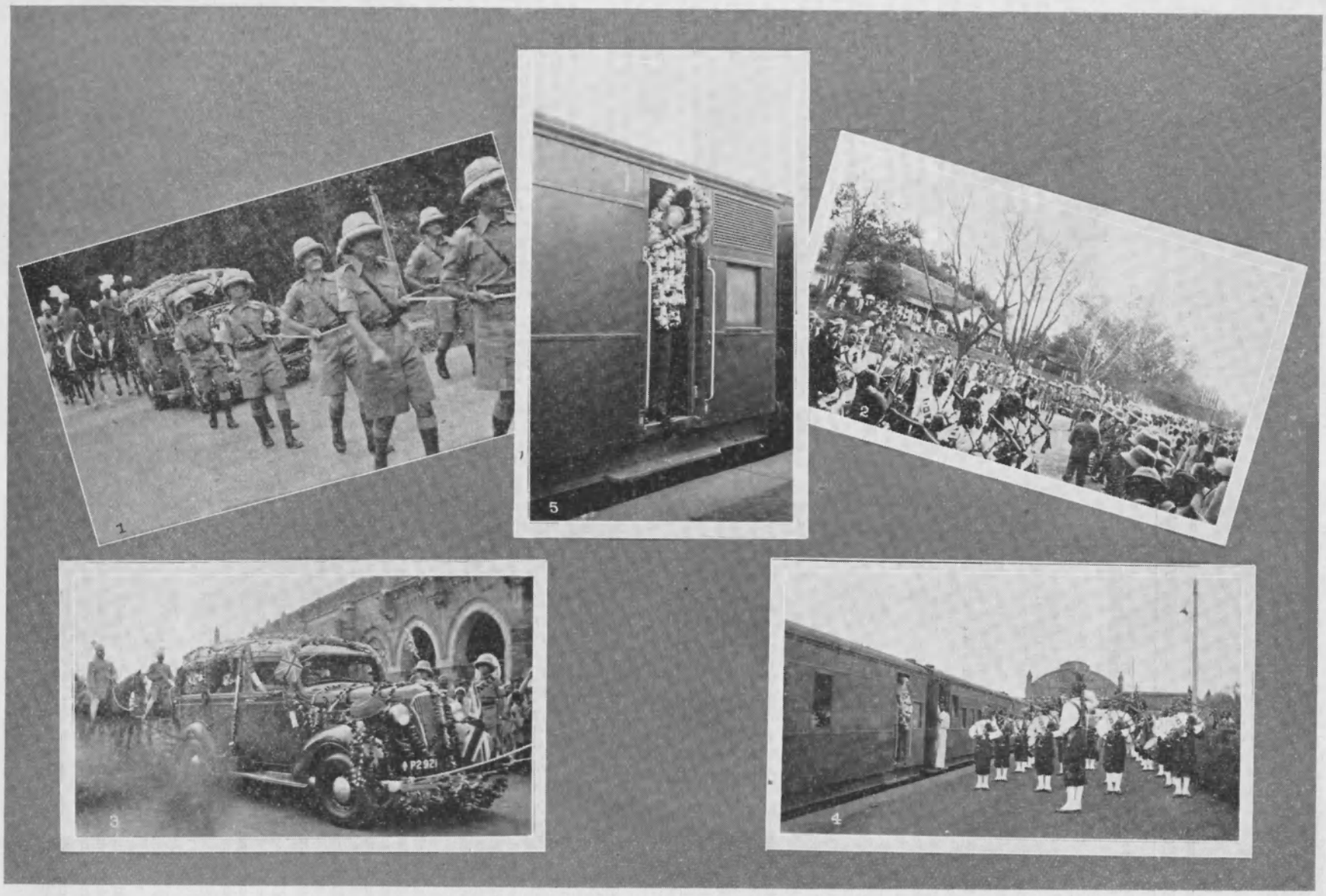
Sergeants' Mess.

The finals of the Tennis Handicap Singles and Handicap Doubles have now been played, and resulted in wins for Lance Sergeant Morhstadt in the Singles, and Mrs. Ellerton-Long and Sergeant Bush in the Doubles.

Tennis popularity appears to be on the decline these days, which probably accounts for the increase on the golf course. Unlike tennis, golf is an "all the year round" game, and although it is usual to take the shortest route to the next hole, there is no limit to where one may wander with a golf club.

Mess functions, as usual, are regularly held, with whist drives and a hand or two of "House" as the chief items on the programme. The coming of warmer evenings has enabled us to make them out-door affairs.

THE DEPARTURE OF COLONEL G. L. G. POLLARD, M.B.E. FROM JUBBULPORE



1. En route to Station.
2. En route to Station.
3. Colonel Pollard's car arriving at the Station.
4. A final salute.
5. Farewell.

In the near future we are to lose R.S.M. and Mrs. Nash, who are bound for the U.K. We shall be very sorry indeed to lose them, and take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Nash on his selection for a commission, and to wish Mr. and Mrs. Nash the very best of luck for the future. Even Catterick can be attractive.

W.

NORTHERN COMMAND ..... ***INDIAN ARMY***

"A" Corps Signals, Rawalpindi.

7th May.

General.—Apologies are tendered for the absence of notes from this Unit last month, but, unfortunately, this was unavoidable, as the writer was in hospital at the time they were due.

The hill season for 1939 has now begun, and we are again manning the wireless station at Northern Command Headquarters, Murree. The fortunate people who have been selected for the station have left for the hills, leaving those in 'Pindi sweltering in the heat, but most of the personnel who were selected for Murree have been in Waziristan for some months past, and they deserve the " break."

Although it is our turn for the plains this year, there are not many left in Rawalpindi, as, in addition to the Murree wireless station, we have supplied a number of men for staff employment in the Murree Depot, and quite a number are in Upper Topa attending an Upgrading Course, in addition to the large number of detachments which we are still maintaining in Waziristan.

Congratulations.—To Lieutenant-Colonel E. V. F. MacSwiney, our new Commanding Officer, on attaining that rank. To R.S.M. Todd D., M.B.E., on being selected for appointment as Lieutenant (I.P.C.) at Salisbury. To Lance Sergeant McKeer J., Corporal Stevens H., Lance Corporals Stewart D. and Trask F., and U/Lance Corporal Wilding T. on reaching the ranks and appointments stated.

To U/Lance Corporal Cooper C. on being awarded a " Distinguished " at the recent Educational Course which he attended at Belgaum. To Sergeant McFarlane G. on being awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, and on passing the trade test for Electrician Signals, Class I. To L/Corporal Bennett T. and U/Lance Corporal Parsonage B. on passing the Instrument Mechanic, Class I test, and to the numerous Operator Signals who qualified as Class II tradesmen at the April Trade Board.

To the Royal Signals, Rawalpindi, football team, who won the subsidiary tournament in the De Montmorency Competition at Lahore, after being defeated in the semi-final of the main contest by Mohamaden Sporting, the crack Indian team from Calcutta, the eventual winners of the competition.

Arrivals and Departures.—Signalmen Tonge, Woodcock and Haylock have been posted to this Unit, and we hope they find themselves quite comfortable with us. Farrier Corporal Sharvell has left us on posting to Peshawar District Signals; Signalmen Rowden W. and Thomson D. to the Wireless Experimental Section, Cherat; Sergeant Wedgbury A. to 1st Indian Divisional Signals; and Corporal Dillon L. to the Indian Army Ordnance Corps, Lahore, pending prospective transfer to that Unit.

Thanks.—From the Unit representative of the WIRE to the detachment of this Unit at Tal-in-Tochi for the notes which they have compiled for this magazine, and for the snaps sent in for publication.

PEDLAR.

Unit Headquarters.

Physical.—The advent of summer sees us gaily demonstrating the art of physical culture at 6.30 a.m. daily. We can't lie in these summer mornings—much.

Research.—The hot weather also brings with it the inauguration of a Messing Committee. We are ably represented on the committee by Corporal Jackson. Promising results have already been obtained, and all anxiety has now been removed.

Geological.—A happy band, numbering amongst them no less personages than Lance Corporal Bennett and Signalman Addlesee, left 'Pindi yesterday on a mountaineering expedition in the Ranikhet locality. We are hoping to secure authentic details of life (?) among the glaciers.

Courses.—Corporal Green is on an O.S. Course at Topa. May success literally attend his elbow. Lance Corporal Davidson is imparting the secrets of Messrs. Ohm and Kirchoff.

R. H.

Tal-in-Tochi Detachment.

22nd March.

Introduction.—" Here we are again, happy as can be; all good friends and jolly good company." The past month has been rather uneventful, and life passes by in a leisurely kind of fashion.

Last time we included a description of the personnel of the detachment, but on this occasion we go a step further and send a photograph, just to let readers see what he-men really look like (the " mistri's " flannels have been doing duty on the frontier on and off since 1934. He has had them washed several times, and is now thinking of having some new material sewn to the buttons.)

Sport.—At least once a day we engage the Rajputs in a game of basket ball-cum-soccer-cum-rugby, catch-as-catch-can fashion. Very rough, but very entertaining. After all, if it wasn't for this kind of thing the doctor sahib would never have any work to do; so it is an ill wind that blows no one any good.

Our Badminton Club hasn't quite materialised yet, due principally to the fact that the basket-ball pitch is our only sports ground, and basket-ball is so much in favour at the moment that someone always seems to be playing there. However, as the weather becomes warmer and energy lags we shall probably be able to step in, and then the feathers will fly!

While on the subject of exercise, we ought to record that the " mistri " has one convert to his " Be a Super-man " campaign. So impressed has Signalman Jardine become with the appearance of rippling muscles that he, too, wants to be in the news, and *tous les jours* now, its vests off and down to it.

General.—Our French students continue to make excellent progress, despite the intricacies of the verbs; the language would be quite simple but for these very necessary nuisances.

We take this opportunity of informing all visitors that " Tal Swear Club, Ltd." will cease to exist at the end of the month.

Some " he men " of the Section.

This decision was reached after a meeting of the " shareholders," when the " mistri " pointed out that he couldn't afford to remain in membership on a mere hundred and twenty per mensem, and so one good thing is coming to an end. However, the box is remaining in its appointed place, and in future will be used for contributions to Tal charities—four of them.

Signalman Langley is so enamoured of the East that he has signified his intention of remaining abroad for a further tour. It affects some people like that, but as he points out, it is just as cheap to live here as in Palestine.

Our " Bernard " is looking forward to an Upgrading Course in Topa this summer.

TAL SIGS.

1st Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Risalpur.

General.—The fact that no one appears to be anxious to take over the duties of WIRE scribe explains the absence of notes in these pages for the past few months. The defect has in the meantime been remedied, but only just, so here goes for my first attempt as a scribe.

The comings and goings since the beginning of the year are too numerous for individual mention, so to those who have departed we wish all the best, and to those who have arrived we extend a hearty welcome and trust that their stay will be a pleasant one.

Whitewash and red ochre are very prominent these days, as we have been in the throes of several inspections, all of which, we understand, have passed off O.K. Other things which are prominent at present are the " grippings " about riding and technical training. We have three rides under way, and the more advanced are rapidly becoming polo experts. Can any ex-Troopite visualise a ride advancing with polo sticks at the carry ? The other two rides, apart from picking " chips " and duckings in the river, haven't been in the news quite so much.

Technical training has been installed primarily for those who have visions of a higher rating and also as a refresher for those who already have their top ratings. At present there are four B.O.R.s on Upgrading Courses, and we hope that they will be successful in obtaining that extra bit of money.

Congratulations are extended to C.S.M. Gould G. and Sergeant Riando B. on being awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

In the Peshawar Hunter Trials we had quite a successful day. Sergeants Cowell and Lourie, on horses Nos. 8 and 46, carried the day in the B.O.R.s' individual event, and Havildar Mohd Yasin likewise carried off the I.O.R.s' event.

In the B.O.R.s' event, Lance Corporal Bolton unfortunately parted company with his horse at a big water jump. The course was very nearly under water, which made the going rather difficult. Was the water wet, Roddy ?

In the team event, our team—consisting of Sergeants Lourie and Cowell, and Havildar Mohd Yasim—did very well indeed and had a wonderful round. In the opinion of all except the timekeepers we won the event easily, but, unfortunately, the team went round so fast that they lost too many marks to be among the prize-winners. It was certainly hard luck that stopped us from collecting another prize.

Marriages.—This is rather an uncommon heading for these notes, but we actually have one to record, namely, that of Sergeant Lourie A. to Miss M. Angles, at the Risalpur Garrison Church, on 20th March. All ranks tender their congratulations and wish them all the best for the future.

Amendments—Blue Book.—The following are to be congratulated : C.Q.M.S. Cozens S. to be C.S.M. ; Lance Sergeant Cowell to be Sergeant ; Corporal Paling R. to be Lance Sergeant ; Lance Corporal Bolam F. to be Corporal ; U/Lance Corporal Egerton T. on discarding the " U " ; and Signalman Bolton R. on being appointed U/Lance Corporal.

Sport.—In the sports world we have not done so well in the tournaments, but have passed muster in our friendly marches. We were knocked out in the first rounds of the last two tournaments, but in the friendly matches we have had six consecutive victories, one of which we won by 9—0. This game was against Probyn's Horse, but we think they turned out their third XI against us. Anyway, there was a lot of talk about hat-tricks. How did you manage it, John ? This hat-trick specialist is due home this year, and any Unit that desires the services of a good forward should submit their applications.

With regard to hockey, the weather has put a damping effect on that sport in the form of large and unwanted quantities of rain. We even had to cancel our annual sports because the ground was more inclined to lend itself to swimming than riding.

Another sport well to the fore at present is causing several members of the Unit to walk around with arms extended. This attitude is not due to any dictator, but results from explaining the length of the one that got away. They do not always get away, according to Jonah. Was it one and a half or two inches, Jonah ?

Hatches.—At Risalpur on 1st May, four bouncing babes to Lassie. Perhaps it would be just as well to mention that Lassie is a dog.

Despatches.—Yes, we have even had some of these, but we will only mention one for the benefit of ex-Troopites. It was that horse No. 70. Yes, " Chiefie " has departed with the aid of a bullet.

Things We Would Like to Know.—When a certain N.C.O. took his ride into the river did he expect them all to come out dry ?

What it feels like to be a Cooks' tour wallah, Bonner.

Who asked the Piquet Commander what time the horses' " overcoats " went on ?

Scotch Mail.—" Squibs " Beal of " B " Corps, Karachi. " Congrats. ! 324."

325 G.R. Patient. " How about a line ? 324."

DIZZY.

Peshawar District Signals, Peshawar.

17th April.

Hello, cads ! P.D.S. opens again with a running and occasionally staggering commentary on recent events in this " not been flung far enough " outpost of the Empire.

The Weather.—We have had umpteen inches of rain during the past few weeks. According to the " met." explanation, it is a peak monsoon from Korea and, as the " Land of the Burning Sun," Peshawar has been somewhat off form ; indeed, Bank Holiday weather at Brighton can be as good. During the past week there has been a change for the better and it looks like continuing fine.

Complimentary.—The following is an extract from Unit Daily Order Part I, No. 60/4, dated 28th March, 1939 :

" The Commanding Officer wishes to bring to the notice of all ranks the action of No. 2321960 Signalman Bailey J., Peshawar District Signals, who on 23rd March, 1939, while engaged in carrying despatches from Peshawar to Landikotal was caught in a spate. Although washed into a nullah with his motor cycle, he rescued, dried out and re-started his machine, and although the road was unusable, he managed by using camel tracks and walking his motor cycle along the railway, to deliver his despatches the same night.

" This action showed initiative, grit and determination in the best traditions of the Corps, and is worthy of the highest commendation."

We take this opportunity of congratulating Signalman Bailey J. on behalf of all ranks of the Unit.

Promotions and Appointments.—Lance Sergeant Barron A. to be Sergeant ; Corporals Day W. and Bowyer W. to be Lance Sergeants ; Lance Corporal (Temporary Corporal) " Jock " Ormiston to be Corporal ; Lance Corporal Holder W. to be Temporary Corporal ; and Signalman Morrison F. to be U/Lance Corporal.

Collective Training.—" C " Set detachments have been to Landikotal and Nowshera for work with the Brigade Columns.

Individual Training.—Corporal Spence and Signalman Townsend have proceeded to Rawalpindi to study for their " C.I "

rating. The O/S 11 to 1 Course has gone to Landikotal in order to seek further technical knowledge and extra pice.

Movements.—Lieutenant M. H. N. Travers, Royal Signals, has left us on posting to 1st Indian Divisional Signals, Rawalpindi. Good luck in your new station, sir! We welcome Lieutenant M. A. Charlton, Royal Signals, who has arrived from 1st Indian Divisional Signals, Rawalpindi, and who has taken over the duties of Adjutant of this Unit. The best of luck to Captain W. A. K. Stodart, Royal Signals, who has left us on being seconded as Assistant Director of Intelligence at the Intelligence Bureau, Peshawar. Lance Corporal Buirski E. on six months' payment furlough to South Africa. We shall be listening for the tom-toms, Bobski. Bulbs electric, various, from Unit Buildings to places unknown? An "L" Section No. 1 Set, complete with mule from the top of a khud to the bottom—non-stop. Mule and Set still serviceable. (Pause for cries of *Certa Cito*.)

Musketry.—The Unit fired their Annual Course during March, when the new Table seemed to upset some of the locals. Nevertheless, the results were excellent and Lance Corporal Morrison obtained the top score with 70.

Without Comment.—Instructor: "Tell me three types of fouling."
Confident Pupil: "Superfluous, methylated and explosive."

Can You Tell Us?—Which "G" man has removed his name from the Roll of Honour?
If the "Bara D.R." is a tall Indian rank?
When the six-year plan comes into force? (We like to be different.)

Agony.—Habby, Quetta. "What about a line? 2030730."
Crumb, ex-N.I.S.S. "Post it unstamped—I'll pay. Elwood."
Patterson, S.T.C. (I.). "Keep off your chinstrap. Bagpipes."
Acock, Palforce. "N since '36.' Skim."

ODE TO A SORROWING STOMACH.

Tormenting, turbulent little tum,
What meanest all thy moaning?
Thou once wert comfortably dumb,
But now, thou'rt always groaning!

Because with salts thou hast been fed,
All other foods disdaining,
Thou heavest curses at my head;
Come, cease thy wild complaining.

The trouble all began with thee,
Thy work, I fear, thou shirked;
No sign thou gavest me that dysentry
Within thy portals lurked.

And now we two must pay the price,
And thou durst not complain;
Methinks for thee it is not nice,
But it is I who feels the pain.

Still, courage hold thee, little tum,
This purgatory will cease;
And soon again, sweet little tum,
Our sizes will increase.

I'll feed thee well, beloved friend,
With every tasty dish,
Right through the menu we shall go,
And end with chips and fish.

So cease, please cease, thy groaning ways,
And dream of meals to come,
Ere time has aged a few more days,
I'll feast you, little tum.

PATRICK ALAN HANSEN.

(Written after forty-eight hours on a fluid diet.)

Tennis.—The Unit Singles and Open Doubles Knock-out Tournaments were held during March and April, but space does not permit the publication of the whole of the draw. Here are the results of the semi-finals and finals:

SINGLES (played 5th and 6th April). Semi-final: Sergeant Mullins defeated Lieutenant Bradley; Lance Corporal Buirski defeated Lieutenant Stead. Final (played Good Friday): Sergeant Mullins defeated Lance Corporal Buirski 6—2, 6—2, 5—7, 5—7, 6—4.

DOUBLES. Semi-finals: Corporal Blaikie and Signalman Hogg defeated Lieutenant Stead and Corporal Abbott 4—6, 6—1, 6—2; Lance Corporal Forslind and Signalman Pratt defeated Major Younie and Lieutenant Bradley 6—4, 4—6, 6—4. Final: Corporal Blaikie and Signalman Hogg defeated Lance Corporal Forslind and Signalman Pratt 8—6, 6—3, 6—2.

Some very fine tennis was witnessed, particularly in the match between Lieutenant Stead and Lance Corporal Buirski. Mrs. Clapp very kindly presented the prizes.

Hockey.—Owing to the recent rains, grounds have been out of bounds for several days. Results of the last few matches are as follows: v. Edwardes College, won 4—3; v. Uberoi Club, won 3—1; v. R.A.F., lost 2—4.

Football.—A challenge football match between Nos. 1 and 2 Companies was played on the 1st Light Tank Company football ground on 3rd April. Speculation was rife during the preceding days, No. 2 Company being regarded as favourite (by "Two" Company). Unfortunately for both teams the fixture coincided with the Governor's Ball, so that none of our officers were able to play. The loss was keenly felt by both sides, but a glance at the final teams promised a good game. No. 1 Company: Signalman Ball; Sergeant Gibbons, Signalman Mulholland; Corporal Clements (W.E.S.), Signalman Garner, Signalman Stammers; Signalman Watson, Lance Corporal Brown, Signalman Hogg, Lance Corporal Legge, Lance Corporal Parker. No. 2 Company: Signalman Morrison; Lance Corporal Gorringe, Lance Corporal Buirski; Signalman Maden, Signalman Buchanan, Lance Corporal Hansen; Signalman Walker, Lance Sergeant Barron, Corporal Mills, Sergeant Devey, Signalman Morrice. Referee: Lance Corporal Thompson, R.T.R.

In the first half, "Onecoy" pressed hard. Their passes were very accurate, but they were unable to get the ball into the net. Hogg hit the bar with a hard shot, but was pulled up for "hands." The "Twocoy" defence was playing fine football. Although both sides had a number of corners, at half-time there was no score.

Eleven minutes after the interval, Devey got his head to a centre from Walker, and put "Twocoy" in front. He sustained a cut over the right eye but carried on. Ten minutes later, during a melee in "Onecoy's" goal-mouth, the ball was driven into the rigging from eight yards by Mills, bringing the score to 2—0 for "Twocoy."

The play now swung from end to end, and then a free kick was awarded to "Onecoy" just inside the "Twocoy" half. Gibbons took the kick and with fine precision sent the ball straight into the goal-mouth. Morrison was unable to see the shot and had no chance. Score 2—1 to "Twocoy."

"Onecoy" now pressed hard to get the equaliser—Garner coming up to inside-left, and Gibbons to centre-half—but they were continually repulsed by the sure kicking of Buirski and Buchanan. Morrice played nice football and continued to harass the "Onecoy" defence. Seven minutes before time Walker got the ball on the line and passed it back to Devey, who made no mistake with his shot. Score 3—1 to "Twocoy." Walker sent in a high centre five minutes later, which passed over Ball's head, bringing the final score to 4—1 in "Twocoy's" favour.

A good, clean game with Garner, Gibbons, Devey and Buirski deserving special mention.

Conclusion.—Having no desire to see my name on the "Shield," and as there is nothing further to relate, I'll quietly file away.

SKIM.

WESTERN COMMAND ..... INDIAN ARMY

"B" Corps Signals, Karachi.

Unit Headquarters.

5th April.

We are now a very small body of men, as the old " B " Corps is spreading around the Frontier. Still, we continue to send out reliefs.

Most of us are discussing the four-year plan and the possibility of a July boat, and youngsters to the country are saying " roll on."

The All-India Exhibition, which is being held in Karachi, provides some good sport in the evenings. The "All-in wrestling " is indeed very popular, and the redoubtable King Kong is a great draw among the lads. We notice that most of our wrestling fans are not too keen on ringside seats, but cries of " throw him over here " are often heard.

The Sind Boxing Championships were also held last week. Due to the recent postings, our entries were much below standard —only one of our representatives survived the first round. As a matter of fact, it was only a matter of a few seconds before two of our lads were horizontal champions.

News has reached us that the M.I. Room are providing little bags for the sick, and presume that the practice of carrying small kit in a haversack will now be abolished.

It is reported from a reliable source that a mosquito was seen yesterday. Surely this must be a sign of spring, or perchance this is one that has escaped from captivity. Our expert was not able to place the markings, although definite chaffings were noticed on legs and antennae, which seems to point to recent imprisonment.

There were great rejoicings here when Pompey won the Cup. They were not the favourites, but it was definitely in the bag, as they say on sick parade. Didn't the Wolves' supporters look sick ! Bets on the match are still to be settled !

A very enjoyable tennis "At Home " was held last Wednesday. This was run on " Tin and Bottle " lines with plenty of support from the families in the way of refreshments. We don't know how one of the committee managed to walk off with the prizes ; it was a " very crafty effort."

Nuts and Bolts.—Who is writing to a pen pal in Malir ?
Which budding cricketer tried to play himself in ?
Whose partner got lost during a twilight waltz at the Unit dance ?
Is " sandfly " contracted through drinking from a bottle ?

I No U.

No. 2 Company.

General.—The time for writing WIRE notes seems to come round so quickly that one finds it very difficult to keep track of events, although there is not a great number to report this month. The troopships have just gone or are coming. Our routine is quite normal, and training is the order of the day.

The Pack Section now go on a " hike " every Saturday morning and we have some fun. Somehow the mules seem to take a great dislike to the B.O.R.s of the Section. It very often happens that when loading up it is a case of "That is a mule, that was," but not exactly using those words !

Our open-air dances have commenced again and are held fortnightly. From the start they have been a great success and are becoming increasingly popular.

Arrivals.—Lance Sergeant Salmon from Meerut and six recruits from Jubbulpore. They are very welcome to the Unit as our numbers are so depleted, and we hope their stay in Karachi will be to their liking.

E DOUBLE U.

Corporals' Mess.

Departures.—Once more we have to report that more of our members have departed. They are Corporals Winter and Fox to D.I.K., and Corporal Lynam to S.T.C. (I.), Jubbulpore. The Mess wishes them all the best of everything in their new stations.

Marriages.—As forecast in my notes for the previous month, the wedding between Corporal Pullinger and Miss Maureen Bowen took place at Holy Trinity Church, Karachi, on 5th April. About eighteen members of the Mess, amongst other guests, were able to attend the ceremony, at the conclusion of which a guard of honour, using signalling flags, formed an arch-way outside the church for the newly-weds. Later, a reception was held at the Unit Club, where Corporal Carlyon, who was best man, made an excellent speech, and, incidentally, proved himself to be a worthy candidate for the " Gripper's Shield."

The Mess tenders its congratulations to Corporal and Mrs. Pullinger, and on behalf of the members, many thanks for the invitation, " Bing."

Promotions and Appointments.—Congratulations to U/Lance Corporals Rosbotham, Hopkins and Townsend on their appointments. It is hoped that the hiss has now ceased, " Rossie."

For Sale.—One coffee grinder-cum-egg boiler, in perfect condition. It will run on fresh air and very minute portions of petrol. The engine is believed to have been in use with the R.F.C. in 1916, and the owner does not guarantee that the infernal machine will remain on the ground when in action. Prospective buyers should forward their applications, plus rupees ten to R - c - a - d C - r - y - n c/o this Unit.

PEGASUS.

Corporal and Mrs. Pullinger.

EASTERN COMMAND..... INDIAN ARMY

3rd Indian Divisional Signals, Meerut.

Unit Headquarters.

3rd May.

General.—With regard to the packing business of last month. The boxes have arrived safely, and no complaints are recorded. Eventually the " edge of beyond "—Lower Lines, Kailana—was reached. And the quarters! Semi-detached, h. and c., drying cupboards, tiled fireplaces, and a real English bath. There is bound to be a rise in the sale of " Pears " and bath salts. All this is rather disjointed, but words fail me.

In Meerut there is very little to report. It is, of course, quite hot; there are mosquitoes, scorpions, snakes, a few Khus Khus tatties, and the fans squeak. The wireless is not good, and neither were the records purchased last month for the Sergeants' Mess. And so we go on. After the lapse of two years there is another big dig, but thank goodness it is not a severe one. Sergeant Holloway, please note.

No. 2 Company.

General.—The Company is now indulging in hot weather routine. On 6th April, the families left us for their annual sojourn in the hills, and now we are patiently waiting for our old friend " King Sol " to brighten things up.

Individual training proceeds apace, and it appears that everyone intends to increase their knowledge in addition to taking a rest period in the hills this summer. Our various detachments scattered around the Command seem to be the only ones who will not be busy cramming, but they probably think they know enough to get along with.

One subject has been well to the fore during the last few days. No, not rumours of wars, but something to do with the boat, and we hear murmurs from those who have done six months over their period for overseas service. It appears that someone has been talking about reducing this period to four years. This seems to be the only reason for the wave of optimism that the lads are wallowing in.

Since our last appearance in print we have had several inspections. The Brigade Commander, Chief Signal Officer and D.A.D.O.S., have paid us a visit, and we understand that we have earned praise from all three inspecting officers. The Brigade Commander was particularly pleased with the condition of our animals, and thanked everyone concerned for their share in keeping them in such an excellent condition.

The Company have been indulging in their usual games, but as these have been mainly local, and not in the nature of tournament games, there is little or nothing to say about the results.

AREFF.

Detachment, 3rd Indian Divisional Signals, Lucknow.

General.—As this detachment is so depleted in numbers, news is naturally scarce. Last month we reported that twelve of our B.O.R.s were in Cuttack. Since then, four more have left Lucknow for Kailana. The detachment now consists of seven N.C.O.s and seven other ranks.

With only a few men and also a severe shortage of I.O.R.s, the remainder of the detachment, while not exactly overworked, can only just cope with the work.

During the winter months, this detachment has the best military hockey team in Lucknow; other units, strange as it may seem, admit this. Unfortunately, with most of our stars away we cannot maintain the excellent form shown during the cold weather period, but we soon hope to regain our previous standard. With lots of practice there is no reason why we should not, for many of the new players are showing excellent form.

Much to everyone's satisfaction, the swimming bath in our lines has been opened. Incidentally, we have what is known locally as " the ninety thousand gallon mystery," or "who turned the tap on." May we add that the author is A. N. Onymous.

D. P. K. B.

6th (Medium) Regiment, R.A., Signal Section, Muttra.

General.—Owing to our depleted strength, due to the B.O.R.s' Upgrading Courses and the I.O.R.s' furlough, there is little of interest to report this month. This is usually a very quiet time of the year, but, for several reasons and rumours, Muttra is like a beehive. Although the weather is stoking up a bit, the Section garden is still a pleasant sight for sore eyes. The old tree, the pride of the Section, is still in full bloom.

Three of our M.T. drivers are undergoing instruction with the object of re-mustering to O.V., IV. We wish them the very best of luck.

Signalmen (Nick) Nicoll and (Jimmy) Fergusson have proceeded to Kailana. We hope they will enjoy themselves, and wonder if Nick has conquered the heights of Morrow's Neck. Signalmen Savoury and Aldridge have proceeded to Chaklala by train and will return by road with two new Norton motor cycles. We wonder why Donald did not bring back the dog's tail for " Werp."

And now to " Swede." The Section would like to know if you still have that pagal Darts Cup, and if any of the locals have been after your blood.

Things We Want to Know.—Who said the Equator was an imaginary line running round the globe, laid by a detachment from the Royal Corps of Signals?

BOLTON.

Signal Detachment, "Eastforce," Cuttack.

Peeping.—While on the subject of peeping, a habit that grows rapidly, unlike the accumulation of riches, permit us to give some of you a peep into the place we have made our abode for the present. As you probably don't know, Cuttack is a place all on its own, except for millions of other villages, hundreds of other towns, and dozens of other cities. We know this is wrong, but we should hate to have to write notes without the aid of a little imagination.

Where are we? Oh, yes, Cuttack. It is rather too warm here for personal comfort, being somewhere round the " 496 " degrees mark. The sun blares forth for something like eighty-six hours a day, when it fades away to collect more warmth for the morrow. As a sun it does fairly well, but as a pal to the Tommy it is a pest. About the only thing in its favour is the fact that one can drink a lot of—er—tea. Then, when it has found its way out *via* sundry little opres, one just hangs one's shirt out to dry, and so the dhobie bill is appreciably lessened.

We are now safely and snugly tucked away in a big airy room, where the fans whirl away in their orbit, and oblige the sufferers with the breezy feeling necessary in this kind of climate. We have another similar room, where, on the word " go," we all emulate the little boys we once were on their annual Sunday School treat, and for the space of a few hundred mouthsful of food complete silence is maintained. We exclude the hearty slapping of wet lips, the constant scraping of plates, the jangle of eating irons with a noise like a steel factory, and the plaintive sound of some poor unfortunate, who is endeavouring to dispose of his soup or a cup of particularly hot tea. We are pleased to report that these unfortunates are not allowed to drown as we have a good supply of lifebelts to hand and, if necessary, two or three fairly serviceable lifeboats ready to put out at a moment's notice.

The Red Cross Society has been supplying us with the handy reading material that can be seen decorating our—er—sitting room (*less* chairs and tables), and they have also sent us a gramophone and a good selection of records. Previously we had one which now takes only spasmodic turns at soothing the tortured soul. This one is the property of the notorious wit, Signalman Edmondson.

How we miss the social life to be found in the larger cities of civilisation. Yet to our rescue there comes one complete with gramophone and speakers, garden filled with easy chairs, plates laden with comestibles, glasses brimming with brewers' concoctions, a comfortable slippery floor and last, but not least, an armful of feminine loveliness for each and everyone complete with twinkling toes.

Cuttack itself stands or rather lies on an island, surrounded by water; nothing strange in that we admit, but there it is. Plenty of water, too; we get ours from a big tank, *tank you!* But what a blessing it would be if the water were handy enough to provide us with a good swim. There is a picture house. This is mere hearsay; the writer has never seen it. We have a football pitch, too, but please refrain from jealousy, as it consists of anthills, footpaths, four upright bamboo poles and a crossbar of string. Still, we get a fairly good caning every time we appear on it, so there must be something in it. Then there is a hockey pitch, some deck quoits and plenty of volley-ball pitches. Way back in the dim past, something like fifteen or twenty days ago, someone found he was too lazy to hunt for a razor blade, pocket knife or sharp sense of humour to cut a long piece of thick rope, and so we turned out about twenty men aside and tried to break it by lusty tugging, but to no avail. I think they murmured something about tug-of-war.

The most thrilling part of writing is, we think, the first instalment, and we hope you read our first one as it was particularly good, but by some misunderstanding it found its way into the waste paper basket instead of the post. We have a nice, large and airy office to work in, and sometimes we get some work to do. We would even go so far as to say that we once saw a letter come in and an answer go out.

There is a rumour in circulation that very soon the "Queen Mary" will be coming along and whisk away some of the older members of the detachment. There is, of course, the old fossils, who constantly remind us that a change is as good as a feast. What sumptuous fares we must be getting because the faces around us are constantly changing. First, some tire of our little community and move away to join the Corps. Then there are the out-stations, which change around like the English weather. Someone comes in from Talcher and someone goes away to fill the gap. Then Dhenkanal think it's time that some news from the outside world would be welcome, so, like the big footbal syndicates, they swop one of their operators for one of ours. Some find the constant social activity of Cuttack a little too much for them, and creep off into the wilderness of Ranpur or Itanati and that means someone has to come out to replace them. What a time the railway is having, to be sure. Talking of the railway, reminds us that they are thinking of retiring in Cuttack, as the lads will go down to their refreshment room every night, throwing money away like lords and singing the ditties which were sung by the Norsemen of old.

Thank you for reading so far, and, may we add, we are so bucked at being in the limelight that it is intended to have another go in the near future. Whatever you do, be it signing on, drifting into the laziness of civilian life or volunteering for foreign service, do not miss our next thrilling instalment.

KIT-KAT.

SOUTHERN COMMAND ..... INDIAN ARMY

4th Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop.

16th April.

General.—Since our last notes, nothing unusual has taken place. The No. 1 Set detachments are out at Rajnandgaon, and the remainder of the Troop have had their time fully occupied in stables and elsewhere. Technical training has been carried on with the remaining personnel as far as possible, but, with the extra duties caused by the shortage of men, this has been limited. As most of the men remaining with us are D.R.s and O/V who are desirous of changing to Operators Telegraph, reading, sending and procedure lectures have occupied most of the time.

The Troop took part in a District Exercise during the period 6th/8th February. As our numbers were depleted, and the No. 1 Sets were away, we supplied Neutral Signals, which entailed manning various telephones distributed along fourteen miles of D.II cable. Everything went well, and communication was maintained throughout, in spite of the fact that the line mysteriously came apart on several occasions, and the broken ends managed to hide themselves away out of sight under large stones.

A T.E.W.T., which was organised by the C.O., and held on 5th/6th April, was attended by the Signal N.C.O.s of the Brigade. The subject, "Communications in a Mechanised Army," was very instructive.

Sport has been rather in the background lately, but six-a-side hockey matches have been a regular feature every evening on the small pitch.

The No. 1 Set detachments returned on 2nd April, since when a report from O.C., "Chatforce," has been published thanking the detachment for their work, and congratulating them on their efficiency and keenness.

As "Forty" said when he came to the Jumping Lane: "This is the end!"

15th May.

General.—Well, here we are again. Inspiration—and lots of it—will be necessary this month, as outstanding events have been conspicuous by their absence.

Technical training is proceeding satisfactorily, now that the majority of the Troop (with the exception of those on leave) have returned, and it is hoped that we shall have quite a large number of candidates for the June Trade Board.

The first B.O.R.s' Wireless Course, comprising personnel from the 14/20th King's Hussars, terminated last week, and the second Course will start in a few day's time. In the short time allowed, it was only possible to give them a good working knowledge of the Sets, such as fault finding, etc., with two Schemes a week. Results were very good and communication was maintained throughout at a fairly high standard. These Courses are only of a preliminary nature, the real Courses being held at the S.T.C., Jubbulpore, on conclusion of the preliminary ones.

The annual inspection of animals of the Troop was held by the Remount Officer on 5th May, and a very good report was obtained.

Personal.—To Lance Sergeant Bain, Depot Battalion. "Had they included India in the free cable service, I should have heard from you, eh? What about it?"

To Walter, Aldershot. "Congratulations, and all your troubles . . ."

Sport has been well to the fore this month, what with the Inter-Section Tournament, comprising six-a-side hockey, volley and basket ball, and the hockey games arranged with the various Units of the garrison. In the latter, considering our team is still in the experimental stage and that we are handicapped by the absence of star performers, we have done very well indeed and, later on, we should be able to hold our own with any of the local teams.

Sports Results.—

18th April.	v. 4th Indian Div. Signals	Home.	Won	3—2
19th ,,	v. Military Detention Corps	Home.	Drawn	3—3
22nd ,,	v. I.M.H.	Home.	Lost	0—2
24th ,,	v. Hyderabad Training Sq.	Away.	Drawn	0—0
27th ,,	v. R.I.A.S.C.	Home.	Won	3—2
4th May.	v. Hyderabad Training Sq.	Home.	Lost	0—1
9th ,,	v. 4th Indian Div. Signals	Away.	Won	2—0

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OTHER STATIONS ABROAD

Palestine Force Signals.

Headquarters, Jerusalem.

May.

Recently we said good-bye to a draft of forty-seven returning to the United Kingdom—some after only a few months with us. Many notables, including R.O.M.S. Evelyn, W.O. IIIs Lockyer and Prees, Sergeants Turner, Boxall, Wintermere, Jack, Lambert, Newbury, McGregor and Pearsall. Several are proceeding to Vocational Training Centres, and we wish them all good luck in their new adventure. To those going to the Home Establishment, we just wish to say that we shall hold the fort until your return.

In their place we have received a draft of sixty-eight from the United Kingdom, and we welcome Sergeants Smith, Watt, Mundy, Cooley, and families; also Mesdames Higham, Kingdom, Fleming, Good, Hayes, Lomax, Pearce, Good and McAdie. We wish them all a pleasant tour.

Both new and old members are settling down to what seems to be a peaceful time with enjoyable weather. Trade tests appear to be the vogue at present, and many passes have been recorded up and down the country. Results are too numerous to mention individually, but figures will be published when the final results are through.

Recent additions to our Institute have produced a first-class billiards table, which, at present, is very popular and well supported. Miniature shooting in the evenings attracts a good number, and several good shots have come to light. Apart from cricket, the next best seller is "B" in "B," which usually commences about 8 a.m. every Friday morning. The record kill is not yet known.

Congratulations to Driver and Mrs. Fisher on their recent marriage.

Recent arrivals to the Unit were C.Q.M.S. Solley from India, Corporal Till from China, Lance Sergeant Allen from a Foreman-of-Signals Course, and R.Q.M.S. Wattley from U.K. Among very recent departures were the "Four Chickens from Prison." The case was ably investigated by Corporal Lambert, who missed the boat in consequence. Any reference to "A bird in the hand, etc." will be strongly disputed by the Cluckers.

Sergeants' Mess.

Headquarters.

A very pleasant outing was arranged to Tel Aviv on Easter Monday, and the majority of the members attended.

Several of the old members have left, together with those who arrived with 7th Divisional Signals. A smoker was quickly arranged, and we all wished God-speed to R.Q.M.S. Evelyn, W.O. III Prees, Sergeants Boxall and Wintermere. Their stay has been short but enjoyable, and we hope they are not so hard done by as some thought. The reinforcements include R.Q.M.S. Wattley, C.Q.M.S. Solley, Sergeants Watts and Smith with families, Lance Sergeant Allen, and Mrs. Higham and Mrs. Kingdom. We wish them happy days.

The weekly whist drive and dance still seems the most popular function and continues to be well supported, although the two corpulent Sergeants are missed in their capacity as lounge lizards. (Good points.) It is hoped to hold the first big dance in the near future, and arrangements are well in hand.

Tennis is very popular and the membership is quite good. At present we have played two tournaments against the R.A.M.C. of 5/C.C.S. and the N.A.A.F.I. staff. In the first we played on the Arab College courts and came away the victors by 10 games to 6. Four pairs in each team played each other. Against the N.A.A.F.I. we played at home and were victors by 8 games to 1—three pairs playing each other. The return games have been arranged. In this case, those who played in the first game are omitted in the second, to allow all members to play. This should indicate the strength of our team.

A shooting match between the Royal Signals members of the Mess and the attached members—R.E.s and R.A.O.C.—was held recently. The Signals won by 350 points to 315. The next suggested match will be between the old soldiers (18 and over) and the youngsters. It was a grand sight to see twenty glasses lined up as a result of a side bet.

No. 3 Section, Nablus.

11th April.

General.—We have been accused of modesty. That is the only reason why there has been no WIRE notes from this Section during the last three months. We have remained silent while the Sarafand detachment told everybody how long they had been out here. The dumb were garrulous compared with our attitude when Gaza detachment wrote of bullets and bombs. While No. 4 Section boasted about their Correspondence Course (it was our idea, by the way) we remained aloofly dignified. But now the time has come for the truth to be told.

The best thing about Nablus is the consolation that one cannot be sent to a worse station in Palestine.

Speaking of exercise, we desire to state that Signalman Hart J. beat both the Palestine Long Jump and the Palestine High Jump records, simultaneously, when a bomb was flung at him! The record has since been smashed by Signalman Dempsey, who was stung by a bullet in an—well, perhaps it is indelicate to say anything further. Incidentally, the number of bombs flung at this Headquarters last year is astronomical. The only reason we refrain from publishing the exact figures is that we should hate to embarrass No. 9 Section. There are many other interesting points about the town. Further information will be forwarded free, on receipt of a batch of furlough forms from Jerusalem.

Of Passing Interest.—S.S.M. Aitken has gone to Egypt, and taken his fiddle with him.

Sergeant Hunt J. has taken over the duties of Section Sergeant. His favourite song is: "I'm like a feather in the breeze."

The following recently arrived from England: Lance Sergeant Cottingham A., Corporal Fergusson G., Signalmen Meeds P., King E., Sikes J., Pegler E. and Cameron W. These unfortunates have not yet been permitted to take their collars off. This does not apply to Lance Sergeant Cottingham, who arrived without one.

The "Correspondence Course" is finished, much to the relief of more than one member of the Section.

Many operators, normally stationed at outposts, are in Nablus for trade testing. Tears of gladness, evoked by many reunions, mingle with streams of beer, also evoked by many reunions. Very touching!

CHIB.

No. 4 Section, Haifa.

General.—The past month has seen many changes in the Brigade.

Those who have left us include our Brigadier, who, in his farewell speech, made a special mention of our Section's exceptionally good work, tracing it from the time when we were in Nablus in 1936. The Royal West Kents, Royal Ulster Rifles and the Royal Irish Fusiliers left rather hurriedly, and the Sherwood Foresters have arrived.

Brigade H.Q. gave the Brigadier a photograph of ourselves before he left, and, if there is a spare one in the office, we shall be able to show the rest of the Corps our smiling faces.

Promotions and Appointments.—Congratulations to Lance Sergeant Allen, Corporal Spearman and Temporary Corporal Moore on attaining their respective ranks.

Trade Board.—At present our operators are walking around in a daze, and dreaming of sets, amps and, on occasions, of the

extra pay to be obtained if they can bluff the examiners into believing that they are worth the higher rating. At present the only sem-official result is that for Driver (I.C.) McKeown, who has remustered as Fitter Signals.

Arrivals.—Sergeant Cooley and wife, Lance Corporal Johnson, Signalmen Roach and Finnigan. We hope their stay will be more restful than ours has been.

Boats.—H.T. " Dunera " steamed into Haifa and steamed out again, and yet Sergeant Lambert, Signalmen Patchell and Campion missed it, but not willingly. They are hoping to make the grade after Easter.

MECURIOUS.

No. 6 Section, Sarafand.

6th May.

Despite misgivings of the pessimists and the experts on the European situation, the draft for the Home Establishment left on 17th April, and, we hear, arrived safely in England. Members of No. 2 Wireless Company threw a farewell party, from which they barely recovered in time to catch the train from Lydda on the Sunday morning. They are still missed by all who knew them in the days of 7th Divisional Signals and before, and their names will be heard when " grippers " foregather for many moons to come.

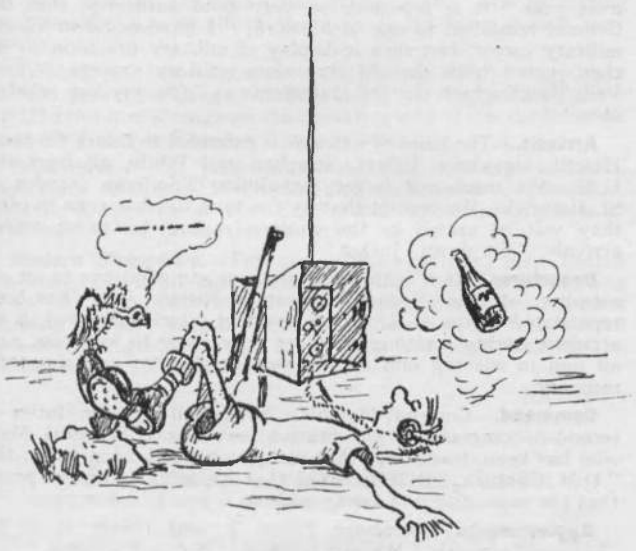
Arrival.—We welcome Corporal Till from Hong Kong, and hope he will enjoy himself in Sarafand.

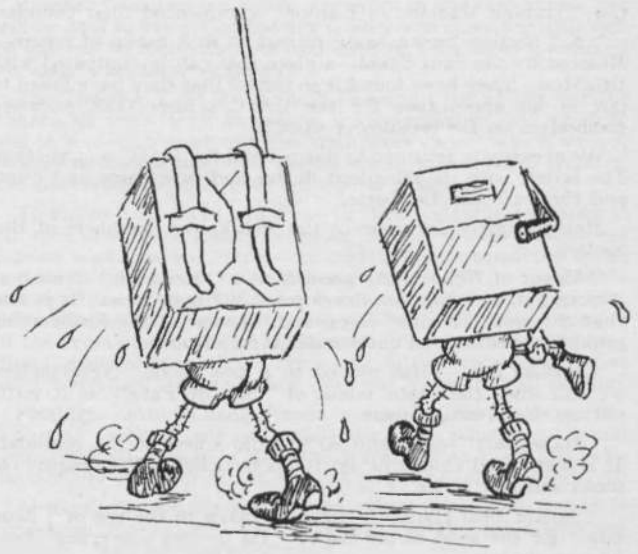
Promotions and Appointments.—We must congratulate Lance Sergeant Armstrong, Corporals MacTavish, Juniper and Cox, and U/Lance Corporals Harding and Phillips on attaining those ranks.

Sport.—Winter sport is just about over now, and we must take off our hats to " Palestine Signals " for winding up the season so successfully by winning the " Flowers " Hockey Cup.

The Fighting Packs.—Although things are very quiet in this area these days, the troops still manage to find us something to do. There are frequent reconnaissance columns into the hills and " showing of the flag " among the villages, and we provide communications for these formations with our Marconi Pack sets. They are very useful for this kind of work as there is practically no type of country in which they cannot be taken. They have a handset-type microphone with a relay to operate the " send-receive " switch by means of the pressel switch and can be used for R/T whilst actually being carried. We have not taken advantage of this very much, except when tracking railway saboteurs with the aid of police dogs, when there is no opportunity to stop and use the key. It is thirsty work, but in these days of mechanization a spot of exercise is welcome (sometimes).

P.F.





. . . . can be carried anywhere.

. . . . when trailing railway saboteurs with the aid of police dogs.

Egypt Command Signals.

No. 3 Company.

"E" SECTION.

16th May.

Introduction.—Egypt has been famous throughout the ages for the spectacular events which have occurred within her borders. Perhaps one of the most recent of these was the formation of "E" Artillery Section.

As already indicated, "E" is an Artillery Section. Up to the present our training with the R.A. has been very limited and, apart from Mersah last September, all we have seen of the R.A. has been confined to a few brief daily exercises in our local "Suburbia."

We can, however, claim the distinction of having contributed considerably to the general cleanliness of the Unit lines, and to the fact that under the able direction of our Section Sergeant, Sergeant Carnegie, the Section has gradually taken shape, and that we are confident that when the time comes—if ever it should—we shall be competent to perform our legitimate task in the field with the R.A., and will not be found wanting.

As youngsters in the country (one year for most of us), we are called "Joskins," "Ovaltinies," etc., but we do sit back and watch the strange antics of the more seasoned veterans of two or three years. We were very interested a short time ago when the "Verbose Madmen of Europe" commenced their thunder.

"K" Section beat a hasty retreat to that haven of refuge—Moascar by the Suez Canal—a place that can be compared with Brighton. They have found it so restful that they have failed to put in an appearance for the G.O.C.'s inspection, excusing themselves on the grounds of work!

We eventually returned to normal and the G.O.C.'s inspection. The latter, with its attendant flutter and fuss, came and went, and the least said the better.

May we introduce some of the well-known members of this Section?

"Mayor of Helio."—At present on a "Keep Fit" Course at Alexandria, and hopes to develop a "V" man torso. It is said that this gets the girls' votes, and, in view of the forthcoming municipal election, we quite understand his move.

"Madam Fifi."—Has moved to a new abode. Nevertheless, we still smell the exotic odour of "Soir de Paris" as it wafts out on the evening breeze.

"Hake Burt."—Has started to build a nest on the verandah. It is comprised chiefly of old tombola tickets, silver paper, old socks and oily waste.

"Square Deal Hank."—Has now taken to the use of "Zambuk" for the good of his health. He is very concerned about his complexion.

"Kantara Kid."—The black "Douglas" has found a very old and active branch of his clan. They seem to have spread to the village of Kantara at the same time when the other plagues were rife in Egypt. He has started to collect old M.B.O. tins, which will be sold to provide a new social welfare centre over which he will preside.

Hospital.—We are very pleased to report the return of Signalman McEvoy, who has returned to the fold after a very long spell in hospital with a broken leg.

Appointments.—Congratulations to Signalman Barker E., who has gained the first of those much-to-be-desired chevrons.

NOMAD.

"J" SECTION.

General.—After concluding three weeks of Brigade training at Mersa Matruh, we returned to Abbassia to face the horrors of the forthcoming G.O.C.'s inspection. Lance Sergeant Main soon saw to the preparations, and paint, polish, curses and stores were much in evidence.

"Dougie," the inimitable storeman of "E" Section, scrubbed the floor so often that he was expected to be on the sick list with "housemaid's knee"! As the result of his heroic efforts the floor sank at least two feet below normal level, and "E" Section stores developed a sharp list to port.

"K" Section were not to be outdone. Their Section Sergeant, Sergeant Davey, enquired, "Why all this 'bobbing'?" Has he forgotten about that coal tub at Catterick? "It simply isn't done; watch us." We did. The tales we could relate about their brazen hyprocrisy!

The inspection did not take place as it was interrupted by a splendid display of dictatorial international chess (political brand), which evoked deep sighs of relief from us all.

With all due speed "K" Section vanished in a cloud of dust and curses to their war-time funk hole—Moascar by the Suez Canal. This place is admirably situated as it is close to the Blighty boats in time of need.

"J" answered the call to arms, whose arms we shall not say, with their usual spirit and, in the manner of all true fanatics, with yells of "Have at them," "Odds fish," and bits of Arabic like "Englisee askari parlez vous Francais bardy bookra."

The Abbassia Defence Force, to wit, "E," remained in barracks with the utmost calm, wondering what all the fuss was about. This crisis fizzled out like its predecessors and, after a three days' wonder at the advertisements in "Billy's Weekly Liar," the situation returned to the normal three eggs per day per man, perhaps. The threatened inspection became a most painful reality, and the cause of much application of soldiers' breath, elbow grease and other cleaning gear.

The success of the inspection can well be measured by the fact that the General has decided to hold a similar performance next year. It is reported, on very good authority, that the General remarked to one of his staff, "I have never in all my military career seen such a display of military precision." He then quoted from the old chromium military experts: "Veni Vedi Veci," which the O.C. interprets as "Oh, my hat, what a mess!"

Arrivals.—The hand of welcome is extended to Lance Corporal Howell, Signalmen Billett, Strachan and White, all from the U.K. We must not forget Signalman O'Sullivan (shades of St. Pathrick). We predict that by the time this has gone to press they will be seated in the canteen saying to more recent arrivals, "Sit down, Joskin!"

Departures.—It is with regret that we say good-bye to an old member of the Section, Signalman Nisbit, who has been repatriated to the U.K. as the result of injuries received in an accident during training. We are very sorry to lose him, and all join in wishing him all the best in Blighty, and a speedy recovery.

Command.—Corporal Marsh G. has taken over the duties of second-in-command of the Station, *vice* Lance Sergeant Main who has been drawn into that inexplicable web of iniquity, the "Q.M." branch. It is believed that his main job is to prove that the expenditure of thirty millions a year is not in vain.

Appointments.—Signalmen Petrie T. and Fernie P. to be U/Lance Corporals. We say to them, "Sic itur adastra."

Pass Ball.—The introduction of this game has brought out an unexpected amount of talent, and even your humble scribe has been known to trip the light fantastic after the elusive ball.

Football.—The Section were runners-up in the Inter-Section Competition, but lost the last game against "D" Section. We hear that "Puncher" is still "gripping" about it.

Athletics.—The Section boasts two winners in the Command Athletic Sports: Signalman Mc'Glaughlin M.—"Throwing the Javelin,"—and Signalman Billett—the Command Champion in the "Shot Put" and "Discus."

Notes on Driving and Maintenance.—An oil ignition car without batteries cannot be started by hand. A D.P. holder should always have a D.P. bulb. The petrol dip stick should not be used to ascertain the amount of oil in the sump.

FLAP.

"K" SECTION.

Moascar.

General.—Instead of the normal excuse which follows the absence of WIRE notes, we of "K" tender one that should ring the bell, namely, lots of moves and plenty of work.

In this year of grace we have had a mixed but not energetic career. Until the Flap Mk.2 (1939 pattern) the complete Section had only been out twice. First to Fayid on a Scheme, in co-operation with the Egyptian Army. This was a Defence Scheme in very slow time. Our cable detachment had a good deal of work, and the D.R.s spent a lot of time maintaining the motor cycles of the Egyptian Army. Light entertainment was also provided by the Egyptian R.A.F. The second was at Mersa Matruh, when " K " and "A" Sections had to provide Neutral Signals for the Mobile Division Exercise. Again the cable detachment was overworked, and our D.R.s had ample opportunity of comparing " Rocks, Matruh pattern " with " Rocks, Fayid pattern." During the 2½ working days we handled about 1500 messages. Needless to say, on both occasions we had nice hearty sandstorms.

The aforementioned Flap Mk. 2 had the decency to occur at a reasonable time, and we were all at Moascar by 5.30 p.m., except for a faithless few, who preferred the delights of Alexandria and its Fortress Signals. We had some nice flaps, and now that peace of a sort is declared, we have moved to the Essex lines, where we are accommodated. By exercise of fearful skill we have missed the G.O.C.'s Inspection.

Our O.C., Captain M. A. Lloyd, Sergeant Davey, our esteemed Section Sergeant, and the remainder of the Section arrived here on 11th April, and took up residence in the Garrison Gymnasium, and were attached to the Royal Sussex Regiment. On 4th May we moved to our present address. How long we shall stay is not yet known, but rumour whispers (and we hope) permanently. Some members of the Section prefer it here, others would rather be back in their old homestead at Abbassia. The swimming facilities here are excellent, the Suez Canal being within easy reach.

Arrivals.—At last we actually have three to report : Signalman Metson joined our gang of dashing D.R.s, and Signalmen Gordon and Hunter now strengthen the operating side of the Section. We hope their stay in Egypt will be to their liking.

Departures :—On duty elsewhere : Lance Corporal Barr, Signalmen McHugh, Millington and Roberts at Alexandria ; Signalman German at Port Said ; and Signalman Lansom at Abbassia for the Command Athletics.

Modern Procedure.—This is pukka (pardon me, Indian wallahs). One of our lads was receiving on a Set : Upon receiving " X6 " he promptly grabbed the " X " Number Book and, after hunting furiously for a few minutes, bellowed in his best Walsall accent : " There ain't any X6 in this 'ere book, him on the other end is . . . !" Nuff said !

KAYITE.

"X" Troop, Cavalry Signals, Cairo.

May.

No doubt ex-" X "-Troopites missed our notes last month and we tender our apologies for their absence.

The Troop has once again returned to Egypt, much to the joy of some and the sorrow of others.

Signalman Perrin returned, loaded with souvenirs—old buttons, stones that had been thrown at him by rebels, coloured sand (he says the red is warriors' blood), and so on. His most brilliant effort is a caster-oil bottle full of Jordan water. From accounts to hand, it seems that he intends to have a share-out among the villagers of Chichester on his return to the U.K. To be quite candid, we have reason to think that the Jordan water was spilt on his way to Egypt—so villagers, beware !

Since our last notes, Corporal Lonton has attained the appointment of Lance Sergeant, Lance Corporal Slaymaker has become a Corporal, and Signalmen Dalton and Henderson are now U/Lance Corporals.

Mobile Divisional Signals, of which we are now part, sent Signalman Mark along to replace Signalman Eley, who has now joined another Troop. The former was unfortunate in having to be admitted to hospital a short time ago, and it is hoped that he will speedily recover, and once again take his place in the I.M.'s Shop. Corporal Reat has returned to the Troop from the School of Signals, and is, at the moment, away out in the blue.

A camp has been established at Mena, and the 11th Hussars, P.A.O., are holding the fort. Several of our operators, a fitter, and an I.M. have accompanied them.

Doubtless some will have read accounts in the Press of a route march through Cairo by the Mobile Division. The majority of the Troop ably took part.

G. A. D.

[Owing to pressure on space, a photograph and poem has been held over to a later issue.—ED.]

Malaya Signal Company.

Fort Canning Detachment.

2nd May.

We are sorry that last month's notes from this Section did not come up to our usual standard, but we think that this month's notes will do more than compensate our readers.

We are sorry to report that we have lost one of the finest sporting linemen that ever hitched up a belt, namely, Harris, of "Huguenot Line" fame, who has left us for the U.K. At football he represented not only his own Corps, but the Fort Canning team also. On many occasions he has entertained the men of Canning with his fine voice, and it is a well-known fact that he had one of the finest " sets of pipes " the Corps has ever known. Harris was the keeper of the well-known hound " Bismark," concerning whom we wrote in our last notes. He will be glad to know that the dog is very well cared for, although he has had to spend another four days in hospital as a result of his usual complaint—fighting.

The budding Field-Marshals at Canning have at last got the chance to show their metal on the honourable field of drill, and it was with great surprise that those orders which seemed so easy in the barrack room do not sound so well when given on the converted football field we use for a square.

To ensure that no ill can come to these valuable additions to our men of noise on their journey to "Alex.," a huge crate of our famous high-powered, super-war birds are accompanying them, and being released *en route* with messages of the progress made through Malaya's famous snake, insect and tiger infested jungles. On arrival at Alex., great interest will be taken in the releasing of the remaining powerful birds, and all eyes will be watching these beautiful streamlined birds soar in ever-increasing circles until their final disappearance over the palm-fringed horizon.

Postings.—From Changi, made famous for its jungle lure by " Tando," whom only old Malayans will remember, comes Corporal Hollingshead, a no mean performer on the fiddle, who has already entertained the Mess at one of our many functions.

Alexandra's contribution to our evergrowing detachment is Signalman Blackman, who is now learning the fine art of pen pushing. May his nibs never wear.

Promotions.—W.O.I Flynn G. H. R. to be Lieutenant (I.P.C.) with effect from 1st May. All ranks who know Lieutenant Flynn will join us, we feel sure, in wishing him the best of luck. We tender our heartiest congratulations.

Things That Annoy.—At Canning, our monthly " rebuilding " has taken place, and was accomplished at a time when, according to the G.A.'s orders, everyone should be asleep. This time it has taken the form of installing wardrobes-cum-lockers that have very nice drawers which will not open, nice sharp corners to catch the unwary, and nowhere to put anything.

During the installation of our friend Jones's locker, it was found that where one of the coolies had been working a nice assortment of ticks had been left behind. We might add that these ticks only live on animals. The finding of these ticks called for a thorough examination of the protesting coolie, who was found to be the sole source of supply. He was given a nice creosote bath and appeared to be quite pleased after the burning sensations had ceased. Before this bath, his best friend would not have told him.

And now we leave you, hoping that some day you may have the chance to spend a short time on this beautiful isle of Singapore, which lies at the southern extremity of the Malayan Peninsular.

RASOOL.

Alexandra Detachment.

The Unit has been very quiet during the past month. The Junior N.C.O.s are having a gay time twice weekly on their Drill Course, and even do home work. (Isn't their time for practising the " about turn " rather novel ?) We hear the results of voice training when we listen to Spriggs screaming advice from the bungalow verandah to the football field, and what a vice—sorry, my spelling—voice.

I.T. goes on apace. We congratulate Signalmen Conboy, Garner, Johnston, Moir and Pleavin on having a special paragraph in Part II's. Sixpence per diem is not to be sneezed at, and remember those of you who have just commenced your Course, it is no trouble to anyone when you pass. The more the merrier, so good hunting.

Corporal and Mrs. " Spud " Murphy arrived from Tientsin on 2nd May. Welcome ! What does it feel like to be popular, " Spud." It seems that you dived right into the middle of our chief topic of conversation. (See previous magazines—it never varies.)

Good-bye and good luck to Lance Corporals Church and Smith, Signalmen Harris A., Goldfinch and Dickson. Look in, Blighty, here they come. May they always be as successful as during April.

Sergeant Abraham is listening to a lot of " gas " about gas for a Gas Course at Tanglin claims him every day. Don't forget your A.R.P. badge, Abie !

Well done, Burgess and Walker, who obtained their Second Class Certificates of Education last month. Walker received a " D " for Maths., English and Map Reading. This has spurred the remainder of the Unit to even greater efforts. Six (?) have joined the school of higher thought, and are studying for their " Firsts." There's but one more after that—" Excelsior ! "

Congratulations to Lance Sergeant Jackman and T/Corporal Radford. The former on substituting " T " for " L," and the latter for dropping the " T." Also to Corporal Murphy and U/Lance Corporal Camp on their recent appointments. And best wishes to Lance Corporal Powell (Slosh) of 1st Divisional Signals on his marriage. Which one was it, old boy ? Don't say that I failed on dictation.

(Claiming a junior clerk's privilege, by virtue of typing these notes, I should like to insert the penultimate paragraph : " To all those who told me this place was the goods, I say, ' all my eye.' Knowing that most of you will have finished before I return, I wanted to get in first. 292.")

So we sail away from Singapore—the Isle of the Blest. Yes, that is what it was called in a recent picture. Horselaff !

TOMMIE.

Changi Detachment.

29th April.

General.—Here are *Salaams* again from Changi to all our readers. The Easter period has again passed over and the Section is slowly recovering from many hectic nights spent in the Wet Canteen and the beer gardens of Singapore. Work is still the order of the day, and linemen are constantly busy in the barrack extensions around Changi, messing about with the contractors concrete and pinching pitch to stop the leak in the Section boat.

Things are progressing well at present, and with the advent of the financial year we are once again in a position to knock our screws in with a hammer instead of the usual screwdriver method.

The Section now awakes daily to the " Pipes of Pan," played by Signalman Hunter, our head Goon. It is understood that they are to serve a double purpose, as he intends to pipe the admiral aboard at the yacht launching in the near future.

It is pointed out to car owners that the Changi Road is now open to all traffic, but a journey to Singapore in any type of car without floorboards during the monsoon season is certainly a hardship—at least so says one Orderly-Room Corporal.

Feuds.—Rather an unusual heading, folks, but this Uncle Zeke business is getting me down. The feuds in this area still continue, but with the posting of the " Otley Duke " we lose one of the combatants, and Lofty Darlow will have to look elsewhere for another feudal baron. That is the disadvantage of being so big ; you have to pick your men.

Moves.—Signalman Goldfinch to the U.K. after 3½ years of swimming and diving in our Pagar. Here's wishing you all the best, Don, and good luck in your new station. We wonder what the girls will say when they see that herring-bone suit.

Corporal Gatford and " Jimmy " to Tekong for one day's ration for " rissole treatment." What was it, a busman's holiday, Jack ?

Corporal Hollingshead to breakfast at the Cafe De Luxe and to Fort Canning to work. Canning should win the " Grippers' Shield " outright this year. Last, but not least, Signalman (Steve) Tatham, the " Otley Duke " to " Alex." With the posting of the Duke there has been a rush for tea flasks in Changi Village, and we can truthfully say that we miss both the old pint mug and you, Steve. Here are the best wishes of the Section, and we hope you will come up and see us some time.

Sport.—We have had plenty of practice at football recently. We played the 32nd Battery, R.A., but were beaten 4—1. Then the Manager picked a team from 34 Company, R.E., as our opponents and, wonder of wonders, we managed to beat them 2—0. This has rather encouraged the lads, and great enthusiasm now prevails.

At this point, we must congratulate Signalman Westmaas on his performance in the 41st Company, R.E., Sports. He was the winner of the 220 yards, second in the Hurdles, and third in the High Jump. Not a bad show, Doug. Keep it up !

Fogged.—It is understood that the P.O. is on the lookout for the key to the following letters on the back of an envelope with the Stockton-on-Tees postmark, H.H.O.L.W.N.D. (says you). What is it, Jock ?

SENG HUP.

Malta Signal Company.

9th May.

Officers.—Authority has been given for the appointment of a Chief Signal Officer to this Command. Hitherto the Officer Commanding Section has performed both jobs, but with the increase in work generally and in the strength of this Company a Command Signal Officer is badly needed.

Captain A. J. H. Masters has left us for a tour of duty at the War Office, and we wish him the best of good luck in his new appointment.

General.—Since the appearance of our last notes, Royal Signals personnel in Malta has been considerably increased and, in consequence, we acquire the new style and title of the Malta Signal Company.

The original Malta Signal Section is now styled No. 1 Section ; the W/T Group at Imtarfa is No. 2 Section, and we have an Infantry Brigade Signal Section under Lieutenant J. H. St. G. Hammersley, from Palestine, which forms the third Section of this Company.

No. 1 Section is now up to normal strength, due to the arrival of the following reliefs from the U.K. : Signalmen Atkinson, Hanlon, McSweeney, Reck, Roffey, Bates, Hunt, Paget, Ramm and Amer, and Driver Bedding. Signalman Williams has also returned to the fold after a spell at home and in Palestine.

Departures to the United Kingdom include Signalmen Conroy, Burton and Smith H. F., together with families. To those who have joined us we offer the hand of welcome, and those who have returned to the U.K. carry with them our best wishes for pleasant stations and happy reunions.

With the influx of troops of all branches, barrack accommodation is becoming quite a problem ; the Infantry Brigade Signal Section is at present accommodated in Casemate Barracks. One feature of our increased Establishment is the fulfilment of the dreams of our various sport secretaries who promise us unlimited successes in their respective spheres. We hope they are not over optimistic.

Promotions.—Congratulations are extended to Corporal Ward on promotion to that rank.

SKIP.

THE TERRITORIALS AND SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE

43rd (Wessex) Divisional Signals.

Headquarters.

The Priory, Exeter.

May.

Editorial.—In the brief space of a month so many things have happened, but our time at the moment is so fully occupied that a narrative of events must be postponed.

Recruiting has gone with a remarkable swing in all three Companies, and deficiencies were easily made up; each Company now has a good margin over Establishment. As all this has happened alongside a general reorganisation scheme, it is impossible to give fuller details at this stage.

The new-comers are shaping excellently, and there is every indication that a very large number will be fit to perform Section duties in camp.

MERCURY.

No. 1 (Plymouth) Company.

York Street Drill Hall, Devonport.

The Recruiting Boom.—We are still suffering from a Drill Hall in which it is very difficult to move, owing to the enormous influx of recruits into the Company during the last month.

In common with other Units throughout the country, No. 1 Company played its part in an intensive recruiting drive at the beginning of April. On Saturday, 22nd April, the Company paraded with their vehicles and toured the town, showing off its wireless sets, a "D" Section Office and cable wagon (combined with a display of the mechanical layer).

On the Sunday following, the convoy made its way out to Ivybridge to try and catch some of the D.R.s at the Motor Cycle Trials. The convoy returned once more through the populated parts of the town.

This, combined with press publicity and articles, an appeal at the Y.M.C.A. Dance, leaflets, posters, slogans on cars, and plenty of personal contact and gentle pressure, resulted in such a large queue in the passage, outside the Company Commander's Office, that those who had already joined the Unit before the rush found it very difficult to get into their own Drill Hall!

However, with a judicious extension of drill nights to include Tuesdays and Fridays also, and a Sunday parade for recruits, the congestion has been somewhat alleviated; added to which we now have three rooms in Raglan Barracks lent to us, and also the use of the Barrack Square.

Nevertheless, in spite of all inconveniences, we heartily welcome the new-comers to the Company. If their early enthusiasm and keenness is maintained they should make good progress in a short time. The Company Commander's right hand must be aching through signing so many documents, but he seems to be bearing up under the strain remarkably well.

Congratulations.—We heartily congratulate the following members of our Company on their promotion or appointment: Sergeant Northam C. R., Lance Sergeant McDonagh A., Corporals Farley F. W. W., Pawlby A. G. and Beasor S. F., and Lance Corporal Travers S. C.

Stop Press.—We have managed to obtain 215 new members during the period 17th April—2nd May, inclusive.

ONECOY.

HAVE YOU JOINED THE SIGNALS ASSOCIATION?

44th (Home Counties) Divisional Signals.

Stamford Brook Lodge, Ravenscourt Park, W.6.

15th May.

General.—In the past we have often made comments on the inadequacy of our H.Q. This state of affairs has not improved with the present expansion, and we have become exceedingly interested in finding out just how many more we can attempt to train in our historic building. At the moment it is so crowded with men and stores that any move between two points in the H.Q. Area, on any night of the week, is fraught with great difficulty, not to mention danger.

In addition to the existing Unit, we are struggling hard—and succeeding—in training 375 recruits. They are divided into fifteen Squads, and each Squad is given one of four drill nights, thus carrying out two hours training per week. We would very much like to double this, and did in fact commence on a four-hour week basis, but the congestion caused by lack of facilities, compelled us to revert to the two-hour week. When the powers-that-be decide to take action on their latest com-

promise against rebuilding, and give us some huts in the garden, we may be able to get back to a more satisfactory recruits' training programme.

Now a word or two about the influx of recruits. A few weeks ago, we sat on our haunches armed with a welcoming smile and a training programme in readiness to cater for 100 recruits. Last week we burst our way to the surface to find that we had 375 men all clamouring for training, T.A. badges, uniforms, and some one to fight. We can cope with the former, readers know who can supply the latter, and the powers-that-be are struggling to cope with the other two.

We are extremely pleased with the keenness, appearance and standard of our new men, and assure all the old hands that we are going to have a spanking " 2/44th."

The aforementioned 375 men are the product of " Stamford Brook " only. The Southgate Sections have raised 210 men, so if you'd like to come back from Egypt " Jerry " and take on a Regimental School of about 600 during this camp, you're welcome.

A great deal of credit is due to those N.C.O.s who are cheerfully performing two or more extra drill nights a week in order to train our new men, in spite of the fact that Section training has only just commenced, and that the Unit must be prepared for Staff Exercises this summer.

By the way, if one looks carefully around on recruit nights, a breast of medals will be observed floating about in a time-honoured manner that was last seen officially in March, 1937. If that isn't sufficient clue to the identity of the wearer, then think of the tale of the dirty bow and arrow.

In this quota of praise we must not forget the unfortunate staff who met and handled the rush of recruits, using an ingenious " suite of rooms " composed of respirator cupboards for the purpose. Now, now, Doc.; you must not swear, there are only sixty waiting. Famous last words, " WE ARE FULL UP."

Hon. Colonel.—On Thursday, 11th May, the officers were privileged to meet at dinner Lieutenant-Colonel C. F. Parkinson, who has been gazetted Hon. Colonel of the Unit. We most sincerely hope that he will have a long and happy relationship with the 44th.

W.A.T.S.—For some time past the A.T.S. have been making themselves more and more useful by their excellent work in the Stores, Orderly Room, Company and Musketry Offices, and have become so valuable that we hope the rumour of their imminent departure is unfounded.

Sergeants' Mess.—A few weeks ago another of the old hands, Sergeant Dick Condon, attended his farewell social. Sergeant Condon is perhaps best known (in spite of his very pretty spile work) as the leader of the Unit Band, that excellent institution which flourished years ago, when we looked and moved like soldiers, and were not just crinkly-trousered mechanics. Don't forget our address, Con. !

JOSIE JUN.

48th (South Midland) Divisional Signals.

Cateswell House, Hall Green, Birmingham 28.

May.

Problem for the Unit Scribe: To do no notes at all and say that it was due to " pressure of work " as a result of " expansion." To do notes and leave the harassed permanent staff to type them out. To do notes and type them himself, and to this end make them as brief as possible. Since the first two alternatives come to the same thing and our readers expect a lot for their sixpence, there is nothing for it.

H.Q. at the moment resembles a gold rush settlement, with four or five army huts and a marquee which have been set up in the adjacent field. Even so, as may well be imagined, the space is extremely limited.

The Unit reached its full first line strength a few days after the order came into force, and recruiting for the second line is now practically closed. The rush inevitably led to some disorganisation, which is now gradually sorting itself out, but the pressure of work on the officers and permanent staff must have been very heavy indeed. This experience must have been familiar to most Units, and there is no need to enlarge on it here.

Companies have just completed their four weeks of anti-gas training, and are settling down to Section training.

On 3rd May, a composite detachment took part in a Voluntary Services Demonstration, which was organised in connection with the Solihull Carnival, and a similar detachment will attend the Territorial Army Parade in Victoria Park, Small Heath, on Saturday, 13th May, on the occasion of the visit of General Dufieux and M. Ferry.

Despatch Riders.—The D.R.s have been particularly active during the past few weeks, the principal event being the Fourth Territorial Inter-Unit Team Trial, which fell to the lot of this Unit to organise. The work of organisation was most capably handled by Lieutenant J. F. Timings (Officer i/c D.R.s), in collaboration with Mr. Henry Laird (of *Motor Cycling*). A somewhat short but sporting course was deliberately selected, in order to allow the visiting riders, who had a long way to travel, to get away for home in good time and without being unduly exhausted. The course consisted of two laps, each of about four miles, lying on private land at Habberley Valley, near Kidderminster.

The visiting Units represented were: the 49th Divisional Signals (Leeds), 42nd Divisional Signals (Manchester), North Midland Corps Signals and 2nd A.A. Divisional Signals, both from Derby. All visitors arrived the evening before, and were entertained at a smoking concert, at the Colmore Depot Recreation Club, kindly placed at their disposal by the management, where a rousing evening was spent. We should have been glad to give a more detailed account of these events if space had permitted.

Special thanks must be placed on record to Mr. Henry Laird, who acted as Clerk of the Course for the Trial, and Mr. J. D. Woodhouse, A.C.U. Steward, and to Mr. Tibbits, who helped in arranging the course. Also to Mr. G. R. Morgan and other officials of Colmore Depot, who were instrumental in arranging the entertainment, and to Messrs. Norton Motors, whose staff supplied observers for the Trial.

Provisional results of the Trial are as follows:

1. North Midland Corps "A"	.. ..	131 marks lost.
2. 48th Divisional Signals	.. ..	160 "
3. North Midland Corps " B "	.. ..	179 "

The 49th were very unfortunate, after putting up a good show, in not having a team to finish.

Individual performances were:

Signalman Whitehead A. (49th)	..	7 marks lost.
" Wilson D. (N.M.C.)	..	17 "
" Wells P. A. (49th)	..	20 "

Signalman Dawes R. and Lance Corporal Smith H. gained special awards for 48th Divisional Signals riders: The C.O.'s Medal and Shirley Cup, respectively.

D.R. Notes.—The Display Team is hard at practice on the football field, loaned by Messrs. Colmore Depot. Displays open on Whit Monday at the British Legion Carnival at Witney (Oxon). Other fixtures are: Smethwick Carnival (30th May), Lucas Sports (3rd June), Coventry Carnival (10th June), Wythall Church Fete (24th June), B.S.A. Sports (1st July), Shirley Carnival (8th July), Handsworth Flower Show (21st and 22nd July).

A.T.S.—Sorry there is no account of the A.T.S. inspection, but no official details have been supplied. Perhaps in future some fair member of that Unit will collaborate so that the activities of the branch are duly placed on record.

GETCHER.

51st (Highland) Divisional Signals.

Fonthill Barracks, Aberdeen.

May.

At the time of writing, Fonthill Barracks is the scene of great activity. We are having new barracks sometime in the future, and the contractor is now busy pulling down the old buildings. At the same time, in consequence of the expansion of the Territorial Army to double War Establishment, the Company is busily building up its strength, and has now reached unprece-

dented proportions. We have completed both the First and Second Line Units, and have received a nice telegram of congratulation from the War Minister, Mr. Leslie Hore-Belisha. When the recruits (masses of them) parade for drills each Monday and Friday evening, the parade ground resembles Wembley during a Cup Final.

The Sections are well into their stride with Section training, and are also making great efforts to train sufficient operators to meet the demands of the new Establishment.

We congratulate the following on passing the test for Operator Signals B.III at a Trade Board held at Fonthill Barracks on 10th April: Signalmen Duguid J., Fyfe W., Greig C., Hay J., Hepburn C., McDonald D., Pearlman M., Stuart A. and Vincent J.

We are very sorry to lose our Commanding Officer, Colonel E. Birnie Reid, O.B.E., who retired from active command of the Unit during April, but we know that he will keep a kindly eye on the Unit's future activities. In his place we welcome Lieutenant-Colonel T. P. E. Murray, and hasten to assure him of our whole-hearted support in his work as Commanding Officer, and trust he will be happy in his new command.

ONECOY.

13th (City of Aberdeen) Company, A.T.S.

Fonthill Barracks, Aberdeen.

This month, during our gas-drills with another Company, we have at last been able to don real gas masks, which have certainly added to our natural beauty. We have one regret—that the gas chamber so far has not been available; but we hope soon to have the pleasant experience of shedding gassy tears.

Section drill has begun. Is it premature to congratulate Coutts on promotion to Senior Leader? We are sure she will do well in this capacity. We are very glad that Geddes and Wilkie are now Acting Assistant Section Leaders; our O.C. has certainly chosen most capable subordinates.

Recently, Wilkie distinguished herself by holding a lengthy and most amusing discourse on her visit to the Royal Infirmary to learn something of institutional cooking; it was a regrettable waste of talent that she and her companions were only required to peel potatoes. We must commend her on the inimitable way in which she entertained the Company.

Semple and Gadsby have been acting as First-Aid demonstrators. There is a rumour that Gadsby may have to leave us and go south; if she does, we shall lose one of our keenest members.

Angus continues to be indispensable; everything she undertakes in the office is carried out most efficiently and with no fuss; she is a great asset to the 13th Company. The parade of which we spoke last month, and which promised such interesting results, has been postponed. Angus says she must wait until a member, who has been conspicuously absent from the last few drills, is present to supervise.

Camp has now definitely been fixed for July, probably at Stonehaven. We are looking forward to this very much, for apart from the training and fun which camp will provide, we shall have the opportunity of getting to know each other better.

Our officer, "D" Company Commander Esslemont, is going on holiday for a few weeks, and we all hope that she will have a very pleasant time.

SIGNALIA.

No. 2 Company.

Goosecroft, Stirling.

13th May.

Command.—It is with regret that we have to record the termination of the tenure of command of the Unit of our popular C.O., Colonel E. Birnie Reid, O.B.E., T.D. Colonel Reid has been with the Unit eighteen years, and in command for the past five years, during which time he has spent every possible moment in studying and administering to the needs and welfare of the officers, N.C.O.s and men under him. All ranks of No. 2 Company join in wishing Colonel Reid all the best for the future, and trust, and we are sure that we shall not be disappointed, that we shall often see his familiar figure during annual training, especially this year, when we return to our "happy hunting ground" at St. Andrews.

No. 2 Company wish to tender their heartiest congratulations to Brevet-Colonel T. P. E. Murray on his appointment to the command of the Unit. Colonel Murray has proved his ability to command during the years he has been second-in-command, and we look forward to several years of progress under his able guidance.

Doubling Up.—This has been the main topic of conversation for the past few weeks, and mentioning it has been the easiest way of making the P.S.I. see "stars." We in No. 2 Company are proud to state that the Company was "doubled-up" by Monday, 1st May, and the Unit by the following day, and we were not open for recruiting on Wednesday, 26th April. The business of turning these recruits into efficient soldiers is now well under way. Our C.Q.M.S. has seriously contemplated taking a course of instruction under a successful music-hall magician, in order to try and conjure up a few more uniforms.

Courses.—By the time these notes appear in print, we hope to have back in the fold several personalities who are undergoing or contemplating various Courses. 2nd Lieutenant P. A. Dewar is at present enjoying a "well-earned rest" at Catterick on a Young Officers' Course, and we trust he will return with a clear account of this "pastime." Our C.Q.M.S. leaves on Monday for Aberdeen to investigate the mysteries of "Q" Branch, and four junior N.C.O.s are shortly leaving to renew old delights in the shape of Company Schemes with 1st Divisional Signals at Aldershot.

W.A.T.S.—Our P.S.I. has been studying the reports in recent issues of THE WIRE under the heading of the 13th (City of Aberdeen) Company, in regard to one R.S.M. Lewis, who appears to have such a way with the ladies. Being full of glamour himself, our P.S.I. has therefore instructed C.Q.M.S. Todd to investigate the possibilities, and to report on his return from Aberdeen as to the advisability of seeking a transfer to this city of fame with a view to cutting out the said R.S.M. Lewis.

TWUCO.

52nd (Lowland) Divisional Signals.

21, Jardine Street, Glasgow, N.W.

18th May.

Readers might imagine that, owing to the vast changes, which have occurred since January, we should have plenty to write about. Actually, there are plenty about whom to write, but nothing very exciting to say about them. In our last exciting serial we anticipated and hoped that our C.O. would have two complete Units to cope with within a fortnight. Well, it actually only took about ten days before we had to close our doors to recruiting, both first and second line Units being right up to war establishment.

As a result of this increase in numbers, our former reasonably peaceful training centre is now a hive of industry by day and almost a nightmare by night. Conditions are improving now that Glasgow Academy is being used by our second line Unit, and the new offices constructed.

Advertisements!

THOSE FIRMS WHO ADVERTISE IN THESE PAGES SUPPORT OUR MAGAZINE.

WILL OUR READERS PLEASE SUPPORT THEM IN RETURN?

★

Regarding general training; we have already held several Week-end Schemes at Gailes. One of the most interesting was a Scheme held by No. 3 Company in conjunction with the 157th Infantry Brigade. This week-end proved most interesting, and both Units concerned benefited considerably.

Camp this year is to be at Dunbar, and as there will be about 1000 men, it should at least prove very interesting.

One appointment has been made this month, and that is the appointment of Lieutenant R. Graham to be Adjutant of our second line Unit. Congratulations and the best of luck!

G.H.Q. Signals S.R.

21, Jardine Street, Glasgow, N.W.

8th May.

General.—The training season is now in full swing, and Tuesdays and Thursdays are our training nights. Recruits are busy learning how to slope arms and march about in a soldier-like manner, whilst the older hands are either at lectures or on practical training. The Linemen have something new this year in the Quad Cable, and detachments are out on each training evening obtaining practical experience in the new drill.

No. 21, Jardine Street, has been a busy place this last few weeks owing to 52nd (Lowland) Divisional Signals recruiting a second line Unit. This new Unit is now up to Establishment, and we congratulate our neighbours on being the first Unit in Scotland to do this. The new Drill Hall at Yorkhill Parade is progressing well and we are looking forward to having a home of our own. The date of our moving in is not yet known, but we are all hoping that it will not be long.

Week-end Camps.—The Unit held its first week-end camp of the season at Gailes on 29th/30th April. The week-end was devoted to cable-laying with the new mechanical layers. The next week-end camp takes place on 13th/14th May, and glancing at the number of names of volunteers so far received there should be a record turn-out.

Cookery Competition.—Our saucepan wielders have returned from Aldershot covered with glory. After winning the Scottish Command preliminary competition they have now taken third prize in the Army Championships. Signalman McLellan M. carried off the third prize in the Individual Class. Well done, Cooks! You will have to keep this standard up at camp, otherwise the boys will let you know all about it.

Social.—The Sergeants' Mess held a "Theatre, Supper and Dance" on 21st April. 170 seats were booked at the Empire Theatre, where "Big Hearted Arthur" and "Stinker" were there to entertain us. This was an excellent show, and everyone enjoyed seeing the funny little man in person.

Supper was held in the dance hall at 21, Jardine Street, and afterwards the tables were cleared in order to provide room for dancing.

During the evening two of the stars from "Band Waggon" paid us a visit and added greatly to the entertainment. Dancing terminated at 2 a.m.

This was the last of the winter entertainments, and we think everyone will agree that it was the best.

Cheerio, everybody, till next month!

TICH.

53rd (Welsh) Divisional Signals.

15th May

This month's special feature is the remarkable success of the recruiting efforts of members of the Unit. While it is true that world events have focussed the public eye on the necessity of supporting the Territorial Army, yet full marks must be given to all ranks for their part in bringing this Unit in particular up to War Establishment. Furthermore, since its second line was authorised, it is confidently expected that by the time these notes appear, this, too, will be up to strength.

It is intended to have U.H.Q., No. 1 and 2 Companies and 212 M.A.S.S. of the second line in Cardiff and No. 3 Company at Barry.

WINNING TEAM, *WESTERN MAIL* CUP COMPETITION, 1939. NO. 2 COMPANY, 53rd (WELSH) DIVISIONAL SIGNALS.

Standing (left to right): Sergeant Pinnell W., Corporal Fairchild V., Corporal Booth W., Signalman Cox A. J., Corporal Steel A.

Sitting (left to right): Sergeant Hawkins R., Captain A. W. Bartholomew (Officer Commanding), C.S.M. Matthews F. (P.S.I.), Sergeant Milton G., Signalman Mutter W., Lance Sergeant Rees J.

An all ranks smoking concert at Signal House, Park Street, on 19th April, was the occasion of a stirring appeal by Lieutenant-Colonel W. G. Trice for a maximum recruiting effort by the members. This appeal was received with enthusiasm and, in view of the foregoing, was not in vain.

During the evening, Lieutenant-Colonel W. G. Trice presented a chiming clock to ex-R.Q.M.S. Greedy J. on his retirement from the T.A. after approximately thirty-three years of continuous service. This W.O. joined the R.E. Volunteers in 1906 and was discharged two years later on reorganisation. Re-enlisting later in the same year, he served with that Unit until June, 1914. Re-joining in August, 1914, he served throughout the Great War, being demobilised in 1919. Not content, he joined this Unit on its re-formation in 1920, and has rendered valuable service on the administrative side of the Unit ever since.

C.S.M. Forse T. also presented ex-R.Q.M.S. Greedy with a Rolls razor on behalf of the W.O.s and N.C.O.s' Mess.

The formation of the second line Unit received a good send off when at midday on 26th April a Recruiting Bureau was opened at Barry by the Chairman of the Barry Council. The Signals formed the major part of the Mobile Column which toured the town in the evening, finishing up in the Market Square, where it received a great reception. This parade was responsible for a large number of recruits for the Barry Company.

Again, on 29th April, the Unit took part in another recruiting parade, this time through Cardiff. D.R.s, a cable layer, and a loud-speaker unit in a "15-cwt.," with Lieutenant F. C. Moon, C.S.M. Goble F. R. and Corporal French W. acting as commentators, attracted a good deal of attention.

There were dismounted detachments of the three Companies, commanded respectively by Majors V. W. and W. R. Hawkins and Captain A. W. Bartholomew, which certainly upheld the reputation of the Unit for good marching and smart turn-out.

Congratulations to Mr. G. L. Turnbull on his appointment to 2nd Lieutenant in this Unit. May his service be both long and happy. Also to R.Q.M.S. Cummings H. on his appointment. He succeeds ex-R.Q.M.S. Greedy.

Major V. W. Hawkins attended a Course of Instruction at the Senior Officers' School, Sheerness, from 2nd to 15th April, and obtained a satisfactory report.

The W.O.s and N.C.O.s' Mess held a social evening in their

Mess on Saturday, 6th May. The ladies were present, and, as usual, it was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Well done, No. 2 Company, in defeating the 244th Field Company, R.E., in the final of the *Western Mail* Cup Competition on Saturday, 6th May. They repeated their victory over the Sappers in the final of last year's competition. The Company scored 677 points to their opponents' 589. Mr. Frank Webber, deputising for Sir Robert Webber, J.P., D.L., presented the Cup, and congratulated the team on their consistently good record.

The Unit Association football team has had a successful season, finishing as runners-up in the Cardiff and District League. They lack nothing in enthusiasm, and are out to gain the coveted leadership of the League next season.

THE LEEK.

54th (East Anglian) Divisional Signals.

No. 1 Company.

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

May.

General.—First and foremost an apology is tendered to our regular readers for the absence of our notes in last month's WIRE. We must, however, plead that the process of "doubling up" has rather upset our normal routine. The notes were compiled, but did not reach our censor, so we have combined the notes for both months in this issue.

The new recruiting drive has resulted in the billiard room and the lecture hall being converted into Recruiting Offices, and the steady flow of recruits has enabled the Unit to complete its second line. This was completed within a few days after a telegram had been received from Mr. Hore-Belisha congratulating us on reaching war strength.

The Unit has been fortunate in securing the Water Lane School for instructional purposes, and lectures will be given here to the operators and linemen. Several of our N.C.O.s are blossoming into budding teachers but, so far, none have introduced those painful methods we all associate with our schooldays.

The Paid Evening Classes reached a climax with the Trade Board, which was held on Tuesday, 21st March. Our congratulations are tendered to the following, who have advanced a step further in their trades. Operators "B" II: Signalmen Allen and Oldaker; "B" III: Signalman Carson and Boy Salmon; Group "E": Signalmen Cook, Couldridge, Garrod, Hill, Hook Grover, Kirby, Moss, Phipp, Rodbourne and Treasadern. We also congratulate the Linemen, who are far too numerous to mention individually. To the few unsuccessful ones we can only say, "If at first you don't succeed, the next Trade Board is soon due, so now's your chance."

The second Trade Board is being held on 18th May, and the results will not be received in time for publication in this issue, but we take this opportunity of wishing the operators—good reading; the linemen—good jointing; and the rest—good luck.

Despite the increased accommodation which is available, the large number of recruits has necessitated the arranging of special recruit drill nights. Our training programme now makes interesting reading: Monday: Recruits; Tuesday: Normal Drill, Trained Men; Wednesday: Recruits; Thursday: Normal Drill, Trained Men; Friday: C.O.'s Lecture, Senior N.C.O.s; Saturday: Rifle Club Meeting; Sunday morning: Driving Instruction, Recruits' Voluntary Foot Drill, Wireless Instruction.

This month's query. "What does the R.S.M. and the other P.S.I.s do in their spare time?"

Departures.—It is with regret that we announce the departure of Corporal Atkins W., who has left us in order to fill the role of Sergeant Observer in the R.A.F. Bill Atkins joined us in 1936 and was one of the first members of "D" Section, where he quickly felt at home, and was appointed Lance Corporal in the following year. Success followed success, and, in 1938, he was promoted Corporal. We shall miss our Corporal "Bulleyes," even if it is only for his sweet tooth, and we wish him all the best in his new sphere. Keep your eyes open, Bill!

Sergeants Reed and Cook have also left us to take up appointments on the Permanent Staff. As they will still be with us, we can hardly look upon this as a departure.

Obituary.—It was with great regret that the Company heard of the death of the mother of Sergeant Hancock E. This N.C.O. was our P.S.I. for many years. The sympathy of No. 1 Company is extended to Sergeant Hancock.

Sergeants' Mess.—The remarks regarding the absence of notes last month apply under this heading as well, and our apology is extended to the member of the Mess who picked up last month's WIRE and then put it down with disgust when he found there was no contribution from this Unit.

The rearranged darts match with the Leyton A.R.P. took place in the Mess on Saturday, 25th March. Civilian duties had left one or two of our team rather the worse for wear, but a few brilliant throws and a final finish by one "out of the bag" by one of our number (modesty prevents my revealing his identity) enabled us to capture the first leg. Success was not destined for us as the A.R.P. wallahs refused to allow us within striking distance again and proceeded to win the next and final legs. We are looking forward to the return match, which is being played in the near future.

On Thursday, 6th April, we were paid a flying visit by ex-C.Q.M.S. Gaffney. His friends here, who knew him in the Service, were pleased to see him.

The Friday evening darts practice with the A.T.S. is becoming rather popular. Much more of this and we shall all be wearing kilts or calling Chippy "Mum."

A welcome was extended to Sergeant Hancock E., our ex-P.S.I., who paid us a brief visit on 2nd May. Unfortunately he could no stop with us for very long, but we were pleased to see him, and hope that he will pay us another visit in the near future.

ONECOY.

1st Anti-Aircraft Divisional Signals.

The tremendous increase in activity of the T.A., and indeed of all things military, during the past few months, accounts for the rather long interval since notes concerning the Unit were last published in the WIRE.

The 1st A.A. Divisional Signals is now completely up to strength and has a long waiting list. With this good news must also be coupled the passing of promotion examinations by Lieutenant Jack, 2nd Lieutenants Blair and Gibbs. The latter, incidentally, went even one better and became a father the same day. To all three (or should it be four) we extend our heartiest congratulations.

We welcome two new officers to the Unit: 2nd Lieutenants Peel and Hill, and wish them a long and happy future with us.

The Old Comrades' Annual Meeting, presided over by Colonel Wickins, T.D., scored its usual success. The whole of the business of the meeting, including re-election of officers, took 3 minutes 41 seconds by my watch, and, judging by the hilarity of the subsequent proceedings, it seems more than likely that even this time will be improved upon next year. The Old Comrades' Dance, held at Regency Street H.Q. on 15th April, proved no less enjoyable.

Easter camp this year, under the command of Captain Shrimpton, was made particularly attractive by the almost blameless behaviour of the weather. Captain Shrimpton must be congratulated on leading the officers' team to a 2—0 victory in the soccer match against the other ranks.

The efforts of Cadet-Captain R. S. Pitt-Kethley have now resulted in the formation of an independent Cadet Unit, the 1st A.A. Divisional Signals Cadet Corps, with 115 cadets on the roll. Colonel Wickins, who has shown immense interest and given much assistance since the inception of the Cadet Corps, has accepted the invitation to become Honorary Colonel.

There is always something rather sad in bidding farewell to a very dear friend and for that reason we must touch upon rather a sad note in recording the farewell dinner to Colonel Wickins. We have, however, not bade him farewell so much as au revoir, and in spite of the exigencies of his new appointment as Deputy Chief Signal Officer to the 1st A.A. Corps, he still finds time to visit us frequently at Regency Street.

2nd Anti-Aircraft Divisional Signals.

Drill Hall, Derby Road, Nottingham.

9th May.

Recruiting.—No apology is needed in again opening our notes with this heading for this has been our most important job during the past month. We are pleased to say that our No. 2 Company, with H.Q. at Rotherham, are up to strength. No. 5 Section at Leeds is the first Section to reach that happy state. The P.S.I. there (C.S.M. Benson H.) certainly had a busy time during this period. A waiting list is to be maintained for those candidates for whom there are no vacancies. No. 1 Company and Unit H.Q. here in Nottingham are now 151 strong, and many recruits are awaiting medical examination.

Training.—During this rush period of recruiting, the P.S.I.s have not been able to devote much attention to training, and this has been left to the newly-gazetted officers and the few available N.C.O.s. It has been very good practice for them. The first Teleprinter Courses at the G.P.O.s at Nottingham, Leeds, Rotherham and Hull have been started, and we shall soon have our first batch of trained Keyboard Operators. The only other technical training possible has been lectures on the various Signal trades.

Courses and Conference.—On 2nd May, all officers of the Unit met for the first time here in Nottingham. Three of them, Captain H. Hall and 2nd Lieutenant A. G. Smith from Leeds and 2nd Lieutenant F. E. Berry from Hull spent the day at H.Q. for a little instruction with regard to "Office and Pay Duties" by the R.S.M., "Operational Work" by the Adjutant, and "Q Work" by the Quartermaster.

During the evening all the officers met at the George Hotel for supper, which was followed by a conference on the general policy of the Unit, conditions for work by Sections during training, and the usual subjects which affect all Company and Section officers. After the conference a "three-handed" game of darts was played between H.Q., No. 1 Company, and No. 2 Company. Needless to say, H.Q. won. What a "nifty arrow" the Colonel threw, and what a glorious number of pints of beer followed from the losing teams. The party broke up at "elevenish," and by that time everyone was really acquainted with each other and are now discussing plans for the next informal meeting.

Gazetted and Promotions.—The following officers have been gazetted during the past month: Lieutenant D. M. Carson (Medical Officer), dated 8th March; 2nd Lieutenant F. E. Berry, dated 2nd May. Corporal Orton has been promoted Corporal with effect from 1st April. Congratulations to them all.

Trade Ratings.—The first Trade Board has been held and the following were successful candidates: Signalman (A/Sergeant) Taman F., Signalmen Sale H., Kidd E. and Adams F. as Operators Keyboard. Signalmen Cooper A. and Farnsworth T. as Instrument Mechanics. Signalman (A/Sergeant) Reed W., Signalmen Brown L. and Clark A. as Clerks. Signalman Grant R. as Lineman. Congratulations to these first tradesmen of the Unit. Another Trade Board is to be held in the near future for those candidates who are technically qualified according to their civil occupations.

Marriages.—Congratulations to Signalman Wallis J. on his marriage on 22nd April to Audrey Elston at Bulwell.

Births.—Congratulations to Signalman Roper W. on being the father of a daughter, born at Sutton-in-Ashfield on 8th March.

Social.—So far there is very little to say about the social life of the Unit, but a definite move is being made to form an All Ranks Club at the Drill Hall, Redoubt Street, for No. 1 Company. The following committee has been elected: Signalmen Smith W. A., Swindell G., Hill H. and Campbell J. It is hoped to open the Club on Thursday, 11th May. A similar Club is to be opened for No. 2 Company, details of which will be given later.

Camp.—The locality for the Unit camp is now Yarmouth and not Weybourne as was previously reported.

Permanent Staff Instructors.—It is pleasing to see the notice in the May issue of THE WIRE, on page 196, inviting applications for the appointment of P.S.I.s, and it is our sincere hope that this will bear fruit, and that all T.A. Signal Units will receive the P.S.I.s so urgently needed during this critical time of expansion.

One reason the writer definitely knows of which may account for the shortage of applicants is that the short period of re-enlistment is no inducement, and a longer period of re-enlistment would be an encouragement to would-be candidates. It is felt that many ex-N.C.O.s would be prepared to make the job of P.S.I. just an extension of their Army career, say to 55 years of age. Many ex-N.C.O.s will not give up their civil occupation for such a short period, unless there is a possibility of extension, if still suitable, at the end of the period of re-enlistment.

G. G.

5th Anti-Aircraft Divisional Signals

"Briarwood," Tilehurst Road, Reading.

11th May.

General.—As forecasted in last month's notes, the Unit has attained 100 per cent. Establishment, and the 30 per cent. authorised surplus. All newly-joined recruits are welcomed, and it is hoped that they will not only spend many pleasant hours at the Drill Hall, but that when their first four years' engagement expires, they will want to re-engage and so continue their association with the Unit.

Command.—Since last month's notes were submitted, the following officers have been gazetted: Captain N. V. Baldwin, 2nd Lieutenants T. W. Piggott, C. S. Wright, B. C. Skelly, J. S. Hill and J. C. M. Salter. All to No. 2 Company, Bristol.

Permanent Staff.—No change. We are still waiting for ex-Sergeant Shreeves L. to turn up so that training can receive the benefit of his long service in the Regular Army.

Training.—This is now well in hand. Operators Keyboard are attending G.P.O. Classes at Reading, Bristol and Southampton. Our Corporal in charge of the Orderly Room is hoping that he will have a number of first class touch typists to assist him in due course. (Who said he needs them ?)

The linemen are having plenty of practice with hammer and jumper. Our Headquarters are situated in what was once an excellent private residence, and no doubt its late owner would shudder a bit to see the lads thumping jumpers on the lawn with 16 lbs. hammers, but training must go on.

As our space in the Drill Hall at Reading is limited, the Reading Corporation have kindly consented to the Unit using a local park for drill. We have only taken advantage of this privilege on three occasions so far, but the standard of drill has gone up 100 per cent. It is like playing to a full house, as on these nights we have many spectators.

The personnel of No. 2 Company at Bristol hope to obtain permission to use the Downs there for training and so make up for lack of space at their Drill Hall. It is amazing to see the keenness of all ranks in an endeavour to take advantage of every hour's instruction in order to make the Unit efficient and ready to take its place in the A.A. Defences.

Annual Camp.—The Unit will be in camp during the period 30th July to 13th August. So far the site has not yet been fixed, although it is rumoured that it might be in the Isle of Wight. In this case we hope that this particular rumour will become a fact.

Claims.—The world's smallest T.A. soldier is now claimed by this Unit. As a special enlistment, Signalman Pidgeon C. W., a well-known local weight-lifter, is our entry at 5 ft. 1½ ins. We will match our "Pocket Hercules" against all comers.

SPORTS NOTES

School of Signals.

Mackworth Trophy Inter-Company Athletics.—After a grand display, the School of Signals was placed third in the finals of the Inter-Company Athletics. In the preliminaries, we crept into third place by half a point, and yet only lost second place by the same amount.

Army Motor Cycling Championships.—Again this Unit provided one of the very few teams from the Corps which competed in the Army Championships.

The course this year, on both days, was simple, compared with last year's event; this was due, to a great extent, to the dry weather. Fortunately, on the first day's ride, there were no freak obstacles requiring a combination of ignorance, brute force and luck, such as decided the Northern Command Trial. In the cross-country section, which we won last year, we had the misfortune to have one of our machines badly damaged as a result of a hidden ditch, and we were unplaced.

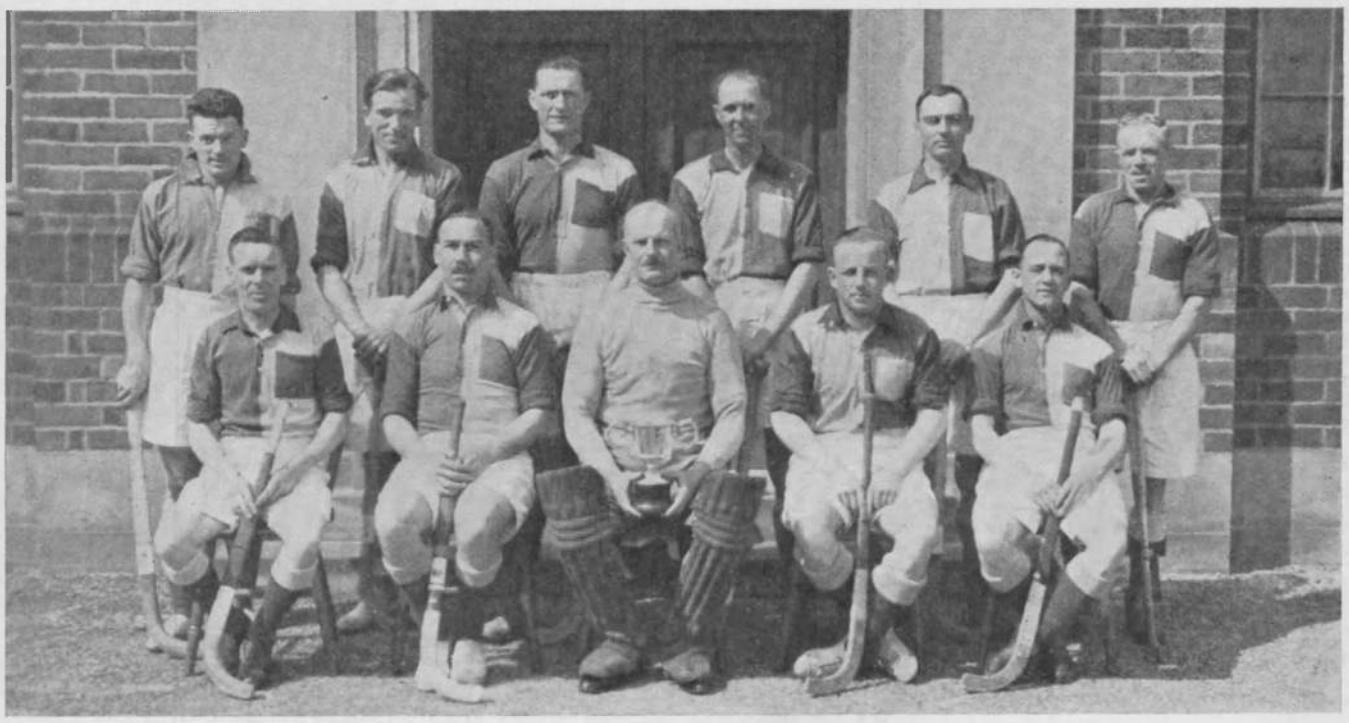
In the final result, the School was fourth in the Championships and fourth in the Road Riding Section; a satisfactory performance (or so we think) for a small Unit having no D.R.s, and considering that all practice must be done in the competitors' spare time.

Captain Dobson won the Norton Trophy for the best individual performance in the Trials—a great achievement.

Training Battalion Royal Signals.

Hockey, 1938-39.—The Training Battalion is to be congratulated on a very successful season, as can be seen from the following list of fixtures and results:

1938.				
10th Sept.	Darlington	Home.	Won	3—1
8th Oct.	Stockton	Away.	Won	5—1
12th ,,	2nd Battalion, Wiltshire R.	Away.	Won	8—1
15th ,,	*Redcar	Home.	Drawn	4—4
22nd ,,	Sunderland	Home.	Lost	0—1
26th ,,	2nd Battalion, Wiltshire R.	Away.	Won	2—0
29th ,,	2nd Battalion, Cameronians	Away	Won	6—0
5th Nov.	Bradford	Home.	Won	2—1
12th ,,	Darlington	Away.	Won	5—1
17th ,,	Depot, Green Howards	Away.	Won	3—1
1939.				
16th Feb.	2nd Battalion, Wiltshire R. (Garrison Cup Match.)	Neutral.	Won	2—0
22nd ,,	20th A.T. Regiment, R.A...	Away.	Won	3—2
25th ,,	2nd Battalion, Cameronians	Away.	Won	8—2
4th Mar.	Redcar	Away.	Won	5—1
15th ,,	R.A.F., Catterick (Garrison Cup Match.)	Neutral.	Won	5—2
17th ,,	20th A.T. Regiment, R.A... (Garrison Cup Match.)	Neutral.	Won	3—2
22nd ,,	2nd Battalion, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers	Home.	Won	3—1
25th ,,	I.C.I., Billingham	Away.	Won	6—2
15th April.	Thirsk	Home.	Won	3—2
19th ,,	Depot, Green Howards (Final—Garrison Cup.)	Neutral.	Won	4—1



TRAINING BATTALION, ROYAL SIGNALS. WINNERS CATTERICK GARRISON HOCKEY CUP, 1939.

Back Row (*left to right*): Corporal O'Hara, Signalman Richardson, Sergeant McDowall, Sergeant Warman, Lance Sergeant Burrell, Lance Sergeant Brunton-Douglas.

Front Row: Corporal Hayes, Captain J. D. L. Morris, Lieutenant-Colonel R. T. O. Cary, M.B.E., 2nd Lieutenant R. H. J. Rowntree, Signalman Baker.

* In this match we had to play ten a side, lending one of our players to Redcar, who were two short owing to a motor accident on the way to Catterick.

The team has been very much the same throughout the season, namely: Lieutenant-Colonel R. T. O. Cary, M.B.E.; Signalman Richardson, Sergeant Warman; 2nd Lieutenant R. H. J. Rowntree, Sergeant Burrell, Sergeant Brunton-Douglas; Captain J. D. L. Morris, Signalman Baker W., Sergeant McDowall, 2nd Lieutenant C. H. Golden (or Corporal O'Hara), Corporal Hayes.

2nd Lieutenant C. H. Golden has been laid up with cartilage trouble, but Signalman Fulham proved a useful substitute until he was displaced by the newly-arrived Corporal O'Hara.

The majority of these players will be here next year, so we can look forward with confidence to another successful season, with the Army Cup as our main objective. We understand that "E" Company have received at least two more hockey-playing N.C.O.s from abroad, so that the "old hands" will have to look to their places in the team.

"D" Company, Training Battalion.

It is with pleasure that we report the success of "D" Company in the Inter-Company Athletics, which were held on Monday, 8th May, on Scotton Ground. "F" Company finished a good first; and "D" Company was second with 19 points behind and a total of 55 points. Heartiest congratulations are tendered to the competitors, and also to the workers behind the scenes, who contribute so much to success. There is no doubt that many ex-Donites will join us in these congratulations.

In the 440 Yards Relay, Signalman Foy took the baton first, but was unfortunate in finishing some distance behind the leading man. Signalman Worsley took over, making very good progress, and when he handed the baton to Corporal Strutt, "D" Company were leading the field. Those acquainted with this N.C.O. will know what to expect during his part of the relay. He increased the lead considerably, and when 2nd Lieutenant H. Clive took over he had about fifty yards start on 2nd Lieutenant Philp of "F" Company. Mr. Clive maintained his lead and finished the race bringing six useful points for "D."

The Mile Team Race provided some excitement when our colours were continually changing places, one minute at the lead, another about the centre of the runners. It was noted that one of our representatives was keeping about the same position in the centre, and then, like a shot out of the blue, this individual made his way to the front on the last lap. It was Sergeant North (A.E.C.), who reached the tape first after running a very good race.

Lance Corporal Wood A. E. and Signalman Fox took part in the Pole Vault; the former finishing at 8 ft. 6 ins., and the latter dropping out at 8 ft. 3 ins. As a result of their efforts, we were second in this event. Signalman Woolgar gained a second for the Company in the High Jump. Putting the Weight was undertaken by Signalmen Scott J. and King D., and their work gave us five points. 2nd Lieutenant E. W. Lewis put in some very good work in the Long Jump. Signalman Meik did his share towards the success in the Hammer. The Javelin event was in the hands of Signalmen Underwood and Pettifer.

In the Two Miles Team Race, Signalmen Hazlehurst, Geddes, Preston and Jackson worked well together, and gave us five points. The 880 Yards Relay gained us four points as a result of the efforts of Corporal Dick and his team. Lance Sergeant Moore carried our colours into second place in the 120 Yards Hurdles.

If there are any names which have not been mentioned, it does not mean that their efforts were not worth it. Each man did very good work, and they each take an equal share of the laurels. If this spirit continues, other Companies will have to watch out at the other sports.

Heartiest congratulations are extended to the Boys' Company on their victory.

ACK PIP BEER.

"F" (Boys) Company Training Battalion.

Athletics.—Again we are proud to tell ex-Boys that we won at the Inter-Company Athletic Meeting. The team pulled its weight splendidly, and we won by 19 points with a total of 74 points. We can still say that there are some good athletes in the Company. Unfortunately, Captain Boileau, our O.C., pulled a muscle during training for the second Meeting and was unable to run.

2nd Lieutenants Shaw, Philp and Mallock, Corporal Ballard, Corporal Boy Smith, Lance Corporal Boys Robbins and Murray R., and Signalman Pavey have been selected to compete for the Corps against Durham University and Northumberland and Durham. It is gratifying to note that we have four ex-Boys—Lance Corporals McKenna, Hopkins and Barrett and Signalman Finnigan T.—also competing.

2nd Lieutenant Shaw ran for the Milocarian team against the T.A. at the White City.

Swimming.—Sandes' swimming baths have been opened, and the boys are already taking regular dips in the pond. We hope to discover some good swimmers.

Cricket.—We are looking forward to the season, and are anticipating some good cricket and a good season.

R. P. M.

"B" Corps Signals, Karachi.

Football.—The final of the Eduljee Dinshaw Trophy is still to be fought out. To-morrow, for the third time, the Unit team will take the field against Lasbella Sports, in the final of this competition. This well-known Karachi team has turned out to be a very hard nut to crack.

In the first game against them, our lads had obtained a two-goal lead by half-time—a goal from Rosbotham early in the game, and one from Jarvis from a penalty. It looked as though the Cup was as good as ours, and although Lasbella reduced the lead, we still seemed quite confident of making the grade. Towards the end of the second half a penalty was awarded against us. There was some considerable doubt about the infringement as the penalty was not awarded until the linesman had held up the game some time after the incident. The penalty was converted and extra time played, but without further scoring.

The replay took place a few days later, and provided a very keen game. A goal each was obtained in the match, Rosbotham again notching our contribution. Extra time was again played, and when the final whistle sounded the result was another draw.

Since this last replay, Lasbella have been playing in another competition and reached the semi-final. So it looks as though our lads will have to go all out to-morrow in order to secure the verdict. We want to make the total four for this year.

Cricket.—The opening match of the season was played against the Aircraft Depot 2nd XI, Drigh Road. Our team was rather weakened owing to several players participating in the hockey tournament. Our modest total of 70, of which Ghey compiled 27, was soon passed by the R.A.F. eleven, at the expense of five wickets, Ghey taking 4 for 34.

Palestine Force Signals.

Headquarters, Jerusalem.

Association Football.—At the commencement of the season it was not considered advisable by the Army Sports Board to organise any sort of competitive sport, in view of the difficulties arising out of the local situation. Nevertheless, the civilian police authorities took the initiative and, with the aid of the various Unit representatives, formed what was to be known in later weeks as the Services and Police League. From start to finish it was one great success, ending with the 2nd Battalion, Black Watch, as worthy winners and the Depot Police as runners-up. The Unit team, although not a tower of strength, put up a very creditable show and took seventh place out of twelve.

Late October found the country augmented by many more Units, and it was found possible to put the Chancellor Cup Competition into action. This Cup Competition is the blue riband of the year, and Signals, strengthened by many well-known players arriving with the "Emergency" Forces, were very optimistic with regard to their chances. The widely-scattered Units of Signals in Palestine were permitted to play as a Corps and so, at very short notice, a trial game was arranged.

Within forty-eight hours the selected eleven turned out for the first round.

ROYAL SIGNALS v. 2ND BATTALION, KING'S OWN REGIMENT —3rd Round.—Signals were represented by the following: Lance Corporal Hicks; Lance Sergeant Thornton, Signalman Acock; Signalman Campion, Lance Sergeant Cant, Signalman Guest; Lance Corporal Abbiss, Lance Corporal Evans, Signalman Dean, Signalman Ainsworth and Driver Scott. The match was played at the Y.M.C.A. Stadium.

Signals thoroughly deserved their victory, for their team work was superior, and Abbiss was outstanding on the right wing. Not only did he score a magnificent goal, but initiated most of the movements leading up to the others.

At the commencement, the King's Own started off strongly, but Signals soon got into their stride and opened the score through Ainsworth. This was followed by a short spell of attacking by the King's Own, but Abbiss secured the ball and, rounding the defending back, put in a great drive from long range, which completely beat the custodian. After the first "45" Signals led by 2—0.

On the resumption of play, the Regiment went off with rare dash in an effort to pull the game round, but Thornton, Cant and Acock repelled their frequent attacks very confidently. After ten minutes, play swung round in favour of the Corps, when Dean, snapping up another good pass from Abbiss, put on the third goal. An aggressive movement by the Regiment gave the visiting centre forward a chance to test Hicks, but he proved safe. Dean again found the mark when he neatly gathered a clearance from the halves and, without hesitation, crashed in a pile driver from a distance of twenty yards. Just before the final whistle, the fifth and last goal fell to Evans, who swung a quick one past Worsley, the King's goalkeeper. Final score: Royal Signals, 5; King's Own Regiment, 0.

ROYAL SIGNALS v. R.A.F. (PALESTINE)—4th Round.—Signals turned out the same team, with the exception of Lance Sergeant Vize for Lance Corporal Hicks, who missed the Sarafand convoy on the morning of the match; Driver Steward for Signalman Campion, in hospital; and Lance Corporal Thorpe for Driver Scott. The R.A.F., who are the holders of the Cup from the previous season, opened up in a very confident manner, and determined to repeat the previous season's successes. Play swung from end to end and the forwards of the Corps kept the R.A.F. custodian very busy. Many chances were missed by the Signals forwards and, although the opposition appeared to be weak, their methods of preventing the Corps from getting into working order were successful. Half-time arrived with the score sheet blank.

A different story is forthcoming about the second half. The airmen soon got into their stride and bombarded the Signals goal for a very warm ten minutes. The halves fell back in order to relieve the pressure and, after a number of shots at goal had been repelled by Vize, the airmen managed to find the net after a scramble. The Corps re-commenced the game midst much excitement and—encouraged by vocal support—Dean, after a perfect bout of passing, sent in a low, oblique shot which left the goalkeeper looking in the other direction. The airmen retaliated and once again tested the Signals' defence that now seemed anxious to clear the ball as quickly as possible in any direction.

With five minutes to go, both teams were all out to win, when once again, midst increased excitement, Dean repeated the movement and scored the winning goal.

"B" CORPS SIGNALS, KARACHI.

Back Row (left to right): Signalman Baker, Signalman Ingham, Lance Corporal Evans G., Signalman Yeats, Signalman Owen-Thomas.

Middle Row: Lance Sergeant Jarvis, R.S.M. Bevan, Lance Corporal Rosbotham, Major J. E. F. Paton, Lance Sergeant Connor, C.S.M. Coombes, Lance Corporal Murray.

Front Row: Signalman Spall, Signalman Symonds.

ROYAL SIGNALS v. 2ND BATTALION, BLACK WATCH—Semi-final (Jerusalem Area).—With the exception of Signalman Cox, who came in for Lance Corporal Thorpe at outside left, the team turned out as for the second round. This eagerly-awaited tie was staged once again at the Y.M.C.A. Stadium before a very large gathering, and proved to be a game of lost chances on the part of the Corps. From the start of the game the Corps took control, playing excellent football, and the spectators were speculating as to the margin of goals by which the Corps would win. Time and time again, with perfect combination, the ball was carried into the goal area, only for the forwards to balloon the ball over the cross-bar or just past the uprights. Abbiss, however, took the ball into the goal area on one occasion, and when favourably placed and about to shoot, his feet were taken from under him by the Jock's left back. The referee had no hesitation in awarding a penalty, and from the resulting "spot kick" Thornton made no mistake.

With a goal in the lead and the Black Watch at sixes and sevens, it seemed impossible for the Corps not to increase their lead. Half-time eventually arrived with the score at 1—0. Signals should have crossed over with a four-goals lead.

Once again the second half revealed a different story. The Black Watch pulled themselves together and for quite a considerable time had most of the play, and the equalising goal came very unexpectedly from mid-field. Play was carried to the right wing and a shot, which was intended for goal, fell at the feet of a Black Watch half-back and was promptly placed into the net.

Still playing picture-book football, the Corps could not force home the many advantages that our halves obtained and gave to the forwards, and later Dean—with an open goal and nothing to get past except the back of the net—put the ball wide. From the goal kick, the Black Watch outside-left gained possession and speeding along the wing put over a perfect cross shot from near the corner flag to the Jock's inside-left, who was waiting in the centre; making contact with his head, he gave Hicks no chance whatsoever. This proved to be the winning goal, which was scored three minutes from full time, and so ended our interest in the Chancellor Cup for another season. The Black Watch eventually met and beat the 2nd Battalion, H.L.I., in the final by 1—0, after a replay, when the score was 3—3.

THE SMALL UNITS KNOCK-OUT CUP COMPETITION.—This competition is run on a Company basis, so that only Lance Corporal Thorpe and Signalman Guest, who played in the Chancellor Cup, were eligible to assist the very game triers who played in the Services and Police League.

In the first round the Unit met "C" Company, Black Watch (holders), and, after a tame game, the score was: Black Watch, 3; Signals 1.

The final was played between "D" Company, Black Watch, and H.Q., 16th Infantry Brigade, Haifa. The result was a draw (2—2) and the replay is to take place in the near future.

ON THE SPOT.

Malaya Signal Company, Singapore.

Football.—Here are the league tables for matches up to 25th April. So far we have had a full programme, playing the league fixtures.

The only friendlies have been between the Junior N.C.O.s and the men. In both cases the N.C.O.s won.

GILLMAN AND ISLANDS AREA.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Goals. F.	A.	Pts.
31st Heavy Battery, R.A.	11	6	1	4	46	18	16
H.Q. "B" Loyals	9	4	2	3	34	13	11
11th Heavy Battery, R.A.	10	4	3	3	18	14	11
"D" Company, Loyals	9	4	2	3	18	15	11
"C" Company, Loyals	10	4	4	2	16	13	10
Malaya Signal Company	9	3	2	4	19	21	10
"B" Company, Loyals	7	3	1	3	18	22	9
H.Q. "A" Loyals	11	3	5	3	24	42	9
7th H.K.S. Battery, R.A.	9	2	4	3	13	15	7
"A" Company, Loyals	9	3	5	1	14	21	7
R.A.O.C.	7	2	4	1	11	16	5
R.A.S.C.	7	1	6	0	9	20	2

Water Polo.—Only one match this month, v. H.Q., R.A.F., which we won 3—1.

Corps Golf.

(*Continued from page 243*)

Here are the detailed results of the Corps Meeting:

ROYAL SIGNALS CHAMPIONSHIP.

	1st Round.		2nd Round.		Total.
Major M. Duke	86	+	80	=	166
Major C. K. Thursby-Pelham	88	+	82	=	170
2nd Lieutenant P. T. S. Brown	84	+	91	=	175
2nd Lieutenant R. T. Harris	89	+	86	=	175
Major W. J. D. Harries	86	+	92	=	178
Captain H. D. Orr	93	+	89	=	182
Lieutenant-Colonel W. R. C. Penney	96	+	89	=	185
Colonel L. G. Phillips	93	+	92	=	185
Colonel G. E. Sampson	91	+	96	=	187
Captain J. F. Longfield	92	+	96	=	188
2nd Lieutenant E. N. L. Brown	98	+	94	=	192
2nd Lieutenant P. E. S. Mansergh	100	+	97	=	197
Major C. A. H. Chadwick	88		—		—
Colonel C. H. H. Vulliamy	93		—		—
2nd Lieutenant B. R. M. Hayles	—		94		—
Major E. McD. Burns	104		—		—

ROYAL SIGNALS HANDICAP.

	1st Round.		2nd Round.		Less Hdcp.		Total.
2nd Lieutenant P. T. S. Brown	84	+	91	—	24	=	151
Captain H. D. Orr	93	+	89	—	30	=	152
Major W. J. D. Harries	89	+	86	—	24	=	154
Colonel G. E. Sampson	91	+	96	—	32	=	155
Major M. Duke	86	+	80	—	8	=	158
Major C. K. Thursby-Pelham	88	+	82	—	10	=	160
Colonel L. G. Phillips	93	+	92	—	24	=	161
Captain C. A. Bridgland	89	+	86	—	8	=	167
2nd Lieut. P. E. S. Mansergh	100	+	97	—	30	=	167
2nd Lieut. E. N. L. Brown	98	+	94	—	24	=	168
Captain J. F. Longfield	92	+	96	—	14	=	174
Major C. A. H. Chadwick	88		—				—
2nd Lieut. B. R. M. Hayles	—		94				—
Major E. McD. Burns	104		—				—
Colonel C. H. H. Vulliamy	93		—				—

ROYAL SIGNALS BOGEY SINGLES.

	Score.
2nd Lieutenant P. T. S. Brown	6 up.
Major M. Duke	2 up.
Colonel C. H. H. Vulliamy	All square.
Major C. A. H. Chadwick	2 down.
Captain C. A. Bridgland	2 down.
Captain J. F. Longfield	3 down.
Colonel L. G. Phillips	3 down.
Captain H. D. Orr	3 down.
Lieutenant-Colonel W. R. C. Penney	5 down.
2nd Lieutenant B. R. M. Hayles	8 down.
Major W. J. D. Harries	No return.
2nd Lieutenant R. T. Harris	"
Major E. MacD. Burns	"
2nd Lieutenant P. E. S. Mansergh	"
2nd Lieutenant E. N. L. Brown	"
Colonel G. E. Sampson	"
Major C. K. Thursby-Pelham	"

ROYAL SIGNALS BOGEY FOURSOMES.

	Score.
2nd Lieutenants Brown and Hayles	1 up.
Captain Bridgland and 2nd Lieutenant Harris	2 down.
Colonel Vulliamy and Major Harries	3 down.
Major Duke and Major Chadwick	4 down.
Colonel Sampson and Major Thursby-Pelham	4 down.
Colonel Phillips and Lieutenant-Colonel Penney	5 down.
Major Burns and Captain Orr	No return.
2nd Lieutenants Mansergh and Brown	"

H. S. LEWIS-BARCLAY, Major,
Captain Corps Golf.

THE WIRE

THE CORPS MAGAZINE OF THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

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VOL. XX.—No. 233. JULY, 1939 PRICE—SIXPENCE

Editorial Notes.

Felicitations—We extend our cordial congratulations to the undermentioned, whose names were included in the recent Birthday Honours List :

Colonel G. C. WICKINS, **C.B.E.,** T.D., Deputy C.S.O., 1st A.A. Corps, T.A.

Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. R. STEWARD, **O.B.E.,** M.C., Palestine Force Signals.

Lieutenant-Colonel J. CAMPBELL, **O.B.E.,** T.D., Air Formation Signals, T.A., Leeds.

Lieutenant-Colonel A. H. READ, **O.B.E.,** T.D., 44th (H.C.) Divisional Signals, T.A.

Lieutenant-Quartermaster G. H. SMITH, **M.B.E.,** 50th Divisional Signals, T.A.

C.S.M. CREIGHTON F. O., **M.B.E.,** 1st A.A. Divisional Signals, T.A.

C.S.M. WHITTINGHAM L. A., **M.B.E.,** 1st A.A. Divisional Signals, T.A.

Obituary.—We regret to announce the death of Ex-2306457 C.Q.M.S. Reuben Henry Collyer, M.M., who passed away after a brief illness on Tuesday, 6th June, and was buried at Milton Cemetery, Portsmouth, on Friday, 9th June.

" Dick," as he was more familiarly known to his associates, enlisted at Chatham as a Boy Telegraphist in the Royal Engineers on 23rd June, 1913, and was discharged to pension from Royal Signals on 28th January, 1937, after nearly twenty-four years' service.

A strong supporter of The Corps Association, " Dick " Collyer gave much of his spare time towards the furtherance of Association activities both at home and abroad, and will be well remembered by a wide circle of friends and acquaintances for his cheery disposition and his ever-ready willingness to help and advise others in times of difficulty.

The staff of Area Signals Southern Command, where he was employed as a Grade IV Clerk, and also the Portsmouth Branch of Signals Association, were represented at the funeral by Major F. A. S. Atterton, M.B.E., C.Q.M.S. (F-of-S) Spafford J., Messrs. Pearce, Squibb, Moore, Mewett, Chaplen, Willmore and Hooper. Major E. J. Murphy, Royal Signals, was also in attendance.

The floral tributes included wreaths from : " The Staff of Southern Command Area Signals," " The Portsmouth Branch of Signals Association," " The Salisbury Branch of Signals Association."

We extend our deepest sympathy to his widow and family in their sad bereavement.

[A photograph of the late C.Q.M.S. R. H. Collyer, M.M., will be found on page 286. Difficulty was experienced in securing a suitable photograph for reproduction and the one depicted is the best that could be obtained at short notice.—ED.]

Unit Correspondents.—There has been a very pronounced decline in the quantity of Unit Notes submitted during recent months for publication in the Corps Magazine, and we bring this matter to the notice of Unit representatives with the object of soliciting their co-operation in maintaining a consistent supply of copy.

The inclusion of regular contributions is considered to be of paramount importance, not only to all ranks of the Corps at present serving, but also to our ever-increasing circle of WIRE readers now in civil life, who anticipate news of their old Units and personal friends with each monthly issue.

A

It is realised that the exigencies of the Service may not always provide opportunities for lengthy or descriptive contributions, but we venture to hope that those who can do so will continue to chronicle and submit their usual monthly articles and so assist the Editorial Staff to produce a faithful record of Corps activities, without any serious break in continuity.

The collaboration of all concerned in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

List of Officers who Attended the Royal Signals Annual Dinner.

The Annual Dinner was held on Friday, 26th May, at the Junior United Service Club :

Major-General E. A. OSBORNE, Representative Colonel-Commandant, presided, and the following were present :

Lieutenant-General W. K. Venning (guest).

Major-Generals : E. V. Turner and H. C. B. Wemyss.

Brigadier-General H. A. Vernon.

Brigadiers : R. Chenevix Trench, H. Clementi Smith, R. F. B. Naylor, G. G. Rawson and R. H. Willan.

Colonels : R. E. Barker, J. Waley Cohen, J. W. Danielsen, O. P. Edgcumbe, R. Elsdale, W. M. Emley, C. W. Fladgate, R. A. Henderson, H. Lloyd Howard, Sir George Lee, G. E. Mansergh, G. D. Ozanne, F. Parkinson, L. G. Phillips, G. E. Sampson, A. C. Sykes, J. A. S. Tillard, T. W. Vigers, C. H. H. Vulliamy, G. H. Walton, G. C. Wickins and B. K. Young (guest).

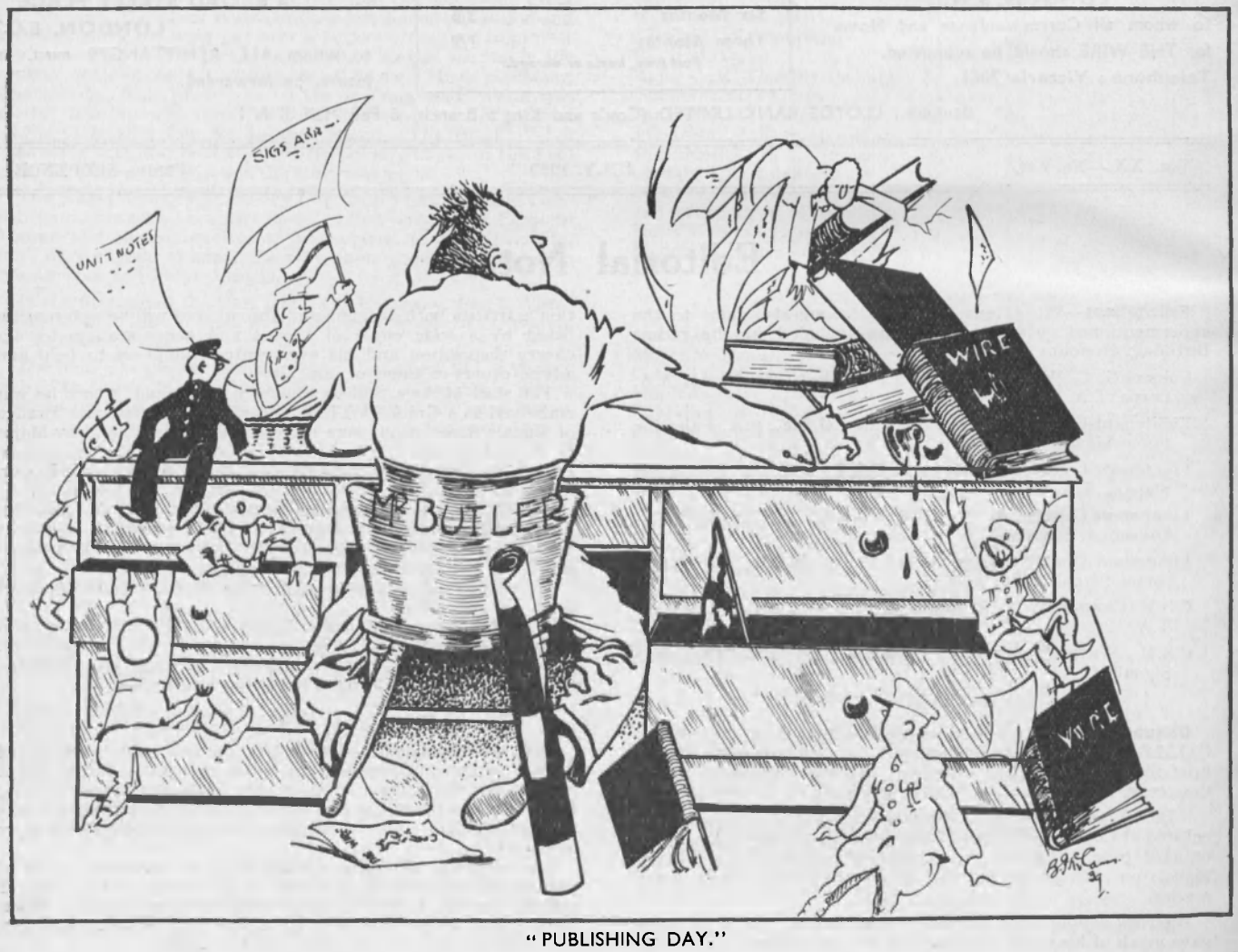
Lieutenant-Colonels : D. Arcedeckne Butler, C. J. Aston, R. T. O. Cary, F. A. Cortez-Leigh, F. H. Dallison, A. L. Harris, C. L. H. Humphreys, W. F. Jackson, C. V. L. Lycett, L. F. Messel, W. M. Miller, J. C. McDonald, R. H. R. Neale, F. W. Nicholls, J. W. Orange-Bromehead, M. F. M. Parkes, W. R. C. Penny, W. G. T. Pope, C. P. Prescot, H. E. Rance, A. Howard Read, B. G. Rowley, G. S. Sale, M. V. Smelt, F. S. Straight, H. V. v. S. Thorne, Julian Watson, A. C. C. Willway and J. S. Yule.

Majors : F. J. Allen, H. H. Anthony, R. A. Bagnold, A. E. Barton, C. A. H. Chadwick, J. J. Duvivier, W. V. G. Fuge, L. D. Goddard, W. D. J. Harries, A. V. D. Hort, J. S. Judd, H. S. Lewis-Barclay, R. Maguire, F. S. Morgan, E. J. Murphy, L. B. Nicholls, C. A. Oliver, J. R. Patten, W. A. Peachell, R. H. Rayner, G. Rooker, C. Leyson Ruck, J. Ryan, W. A. Scott F. S. Thompson, G. M. Welsford, V. J. E. Westropp, M. S. Wheatley and G. C. Winckley.

Captains : F. W. P. Bradford, D. W. R. Burridge, H. R. V. Cooke, R. H. O. Coryton, J. C. Cree, T. H. L. Crichton, A. B. De Lisle, E. D. Good, J. W. Gordon, A. J. Hamilton, W. L. Hey, K. E. Holmes, D. St. J. Heysted, P. R. Hyde, H. L. Lewis, F. J. Longfield, A. J. G. McNair, Viscount Malden, C. G. Moore, E. Y. Nepean, J. H. E. Panton, H. O. Pargeter, J. S. Potter, J. F. Prideaux, N. de la P. Tate, A. Tozer, W. G. Tucker, J. F. B. Vidal, H. E. F. Wakefield and R. G. Yolland.

Lieutenants : E. F. Lyne and H. Prince.

Mr. G. Owen.



"PUBLISHING DAY."

Sports Clothing and other Articles in Corps Colours.—The following articles are held in stock at this office, and can be supplied by return of post at the prices quoted :

BLAZERS : BARATHEA—In Corps colours	from	47/6
SWEATERS : White woollen with Corps colours neck and cuff	from	12/6
JUMPERS : White woollen with Corps colours at neck (sleeveless)	each	12/6
SCARVES : Woollen, Corps colours	each	7/6
SILK SQUARES : Corps colours	each	10/6
TIES : Silk, double-ended, Corps colours ..	each	2/6 and 3/9
CORPS RIBBON : ½ inch, for Christmas cards and decoration purposes	per yard	6d.
CAR BADGES : In chromium plate, with Corps colours, in enamel	each	15/6

Postage extra. Cash with order.

EMPLOYMENTS.

Situations found during the preceding month with the co-operation of the National Association for the Employment of Regular Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen :

1	Ex-Signalman, Stoke-on-Trent	Miner
2	Ex-N.C.O., Devonport	Recruiter
3	Ex-Signalman, Essex	Handyman
4	Ex-N.C.O., Portsmouth	Clerk
5	Ex-Signalman, Brighton	Postman
6	Ex-Signalman, Derby	Labourer
7	Ex-Signalman, Bury St. Edmunds	Motor Driver
8	Ex-Signalman, Yorkshire	Postman
9	Ex-Signalman, Wolverhampton	Sheet Metal Worker
10	Ex-Signalman, Preston	Mechanic
11	Ex-Signalman, London	Postman
12	Ex-Signalman, London	Labourer
13	Ex-Signalman, London	Postman
14	Ex-Signalman, London	Postman
15	Ex-Signalman, London	Messenger
16	Ex-Signalman, London	Messenger
17	Ex-Signalman, London	Labourer
18	Ex-Signalman, Newcastle-on-Tyne	Postman
19	Ex-Signalman, Newcastle-on-Tyne	Postman
20	Ex-N.C.O., Croydon	Instrument Mechanic
21	Ex-Signalman, Reading	Postman
22	Ex-Signalman, Portsmouth	Labourer
23	Ex-Signalman, Portsmouth	Clerk
24	Ex-Signalman, Portsmouth	Labourer
25	Ex-Signalman, Sheffield	Machinist
26	Ex-Signalman, Sheffield	P.O. Engineering Dept.
27	Ex-Signalman, Shrewsbury	P.O. Engineering Dept.
28	Ex-Signalman, Hull	Air Warden
29	Ex-N.C.O., Devonport	Clerk
30	Ex-Signalman, Shrewsbury	Labourer
31	Ex-Signalman, Wilts.	Lineman
32	Ex-Signalman, Wilts.	Switchboard Operator
33	Ex-Signalman, Bulford	M.T. Instructor
34	Ex-Signalman, Dorset	Wireless Operator
35	Ex-Signalman, Bulford	Electrician Fitter
36	Ex-N.C.O., Dorset	Wireless Operator
37	Ex-Signalman, Salisbury	Labourer
38	Ex-N.C.O., Bulford	M.T. Instructor
39	Ex-N.C.O., Hants.	Wireless Operator
40	Ex-N.C.O., Hants.	Clerk
41	Ex-Signalman, Wilts.	Clerk
42	Ex-N.C.O., Somerset	Lineman
43	Ex-Signalman, Somerset	Mess Waiter
44	Ex-N.C.O., Wilts.	Clerk
45	Ex-N.C.O., Scotland	Wireless Operator
46	Ex-Signalman, Wilts.	Messenger
47	Ex-N.C.O., Wilts.	Instructor, Territorial Army
48	Ex-N.C.O., Wilts.	Clerk
49	Ex-N.C.O., Wilts.	Clerk
50	Ex-Signalman, Scotland	Storeman

31 to 49 inclusive : Salisbury and District Branch Signals Association.

GENERAL SECRETARY AND EDITOR.

Benevolent Fund Notes.

The Administrator gratefully acknowledges receipt of the following :

BANKERS' ORDER INSTRUCTIONS from :
Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Pocock.

CASH SUBSCRIPTIONS from :
Commandant, S.T.C., Catterick.
Officers' Mess, S.T.C., Catterick.
W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess, Depot Battalion, S.T.C., Catterick.
W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess, London Corps Signals (T.A.).
3rd Indian Divisional Signals.
Mr. G. G. Aves.

APPEALS dealt with :

1	Ex-Signalman, Scotland	Loan	£3	0	0
2	Ex-N.C.O., South Wales	Loan	£5	0	0
3	Ex-Signalman, Bournemouth	Grant	£2	0	0
4	Widow of Ex-N.C.O., London	Grant	£2	0	0
5	Ex-Signalman, Norfolk	Grant	£5	0	0
6	N.C.O., Catterick	Loan	£5	0	0
7	Ex-Signalman, Glasgow	Grant	£2	10	0
8	Ex-Signalman, London	Grant	£4	0	0
9	Ex-N.C.O., London	Loan	£3	0	0
10	Widow of Ex-N.C.O., Portsmouth	Grant	£2	0	0

(Signed) T. H. L. SPAIGHT, Lieutenant-Colonel,
Administrator, Signals Association Benevolent Fund.

Signal Unit, Glasgow University O.T.C.

Headquarters, University Avenue, Glasgow.

14th June.

Many and varied are the questions being asked as to what will happen to the Senior Contingents of the O.T.C. In reply to queries concerning a hospital patient's welfare, the authorities say, " he is as well as can be expected." The questions concerning O.T.C. Contingents are answered in a more definite manner : " We don't know." Rumours concerning disbandment are common, and should they come to pass there will be much weeping and gnashing of teeth among the cadets. Not all are eligible for service with the Militia, and those who are not are anxious to continue training. Those who are eligible for service are looking forward to the six months' regular training. The P.S.I. has painted a glowing picture of life in the Army.

This month it was hoped that announcements would be made concerning sundry commissions in the T.A., but the powers that be have not made this possible. Several very keen cadets have been prevented from taking commissions by being under twenty-one.

The fact that no camp, voluntary or compulsory, is to be held this year has caused much sorrow among the members of the Unit. Many were prepared to pay a considerable sum towards the expenses incurred.

We are carrying on with our training, and wonder if practical examinations for Certificates "A" and " B " will be held this year. There are many of us who have passed the written part of the examination, and only want the practical to secure the coveted badge.

The outstanding feature of training since our last notes was a Floor Scheme run by 2nd Lieutenant Thomson. This had not the excitement of a real outdoor Scheme with real lorries and real lunches, but it was in some ways more instructive, and we trust that we learned from our blunders. The chief advantage of a Floor Scheme is that everybody present has to think about every job, and for O.T.C. training we think, reluctantly, that it is probably more useful than going out with tons of equipment.

We congratulate our former C.S.M., 2nd Lieutenant Alex. Reid on being gazetted to a commission. He will do us credit.

STONE AGE.

"Open Letter to the World."

[The following has been culled from the *Royal Canadian Signals Monthly Bulletin*.—ED.]

" If we may be allowed some comment on the present conditions of a somewhat troubled world, we can find no more apt or timely article than that included below, which we beg leave to borrow from the current issue of *The Legionary* :

OPEN LETTER TO THE WORLD.

Please be kind to Britain,
She isn't very strong,
Her Navy's inefficient,
Her Army's all gone wrong ;
Her A.R.P. is useless,
Her Air Force far too small,
Her people so degenerate
She's no morale at all.

She doesn't want to fight you,
She's so convinced you'll win ;
She'll let you take her Empire
If it will save her skin ;
She's old, decayed and senile,
And you have strength and youth.
So please be kind to Britain,
Don't keep abusing Britain,
Be nice to poor old Britain—
Or you may learn the truth.

T. W.

Plain Tales.

June 7th.—It is only by a remarkable effort of will that I am writing to you at all for July, but vindictive as ever, here I am. I have a free evening (sensation), the sort of thing that P.S.Is of the Territorial Army remember as being fairly common in the Regulars. For two pins earth small I would go out in to the garden and gaze idly at my very fine show of buttercups and daisies. The man next door has to WATER his garden but my forethought in not planting or cultivating anything now reaps its reward. If the dandelions perish who cares ? If the hollyhock withers and falls down, serve it right. I don't like them anyway, but they are difficult to dig up. They tell me it requires a spade or a fork. These technical terms bewilder me. So far as I remember, a spade is like a fork but with all the prongs in one piece and a fork isn't, or something. So I set me down in a cool room with a " 20 " packet and a bottle of beer to play with my typewriter for just so long as the sleeping Elizabeth can stand it.

For a Living.—I read my June WIRE with more than usual interest and I am glad to note so many old friends going up, especially those to commissions. Others have grasped their opportunities and have gone into the T.A. as Quartermasters. I wonder if they have discovered what they are letting themselves in for. Someone expresses the hope that his late C.S.M. now Lieut & Qmr (TA) will be able to sit back with his pipe and a pint. If he can do that for more than a few moments, he must have been appointed to a peculiar unit. The T.A. does not maintain a full time staff for the Quartermaster. With the exception of a storeman, if he is lucky, he soldiers alone. There are embodiment schemes, home security schemes, P.A.D. schemes, Camp, Technical, M.T., Clothing, Messing, Petrol, accounts, letters, figures, silly questions, breakages, deficiencies, good ideas, fool suggestions and good company. Oceans of work before annual Camp and a deluge afterwards. If you ask the War Office they will explain that it is a spare time job. Quite right too. If a man can nip home for tea and stagger home again to sleep for a few hours where's his case ? I spend my spare time in the garden explaining to my wife how it is that the lawn can easily go another day without mowing.

Optical Confusion.—Once again the age old question occupies the front pages of all the toffee-nosed tuppenny magazines in the country. Which would you rather be—"As big a fool as you look, or look as big a fool as you are ? " I asked a man with one leg named Throglemon (he didn't mention the name of his other leg) from Warley Woods. " It's all according," he said without hesitation and shot off in a car with a man called Pickering. I never found out why. Unless you have made a study of it, you will find that looks are somewhat deceiving. That man with the pale blue pop eyes and no chin might be a sergeant-major in the Guards though the chances are a million to one against. They don't come that way. If your eyes are too close together, you are probably forgetful about things you have difficulty in remembering, and so forth. And now I have forgotten exactly why I started this, so with a blow the man down and a hi de ho we will pass on to something of interest.

Lisle Stockings.—As soon as I wrote that I thought how much nicer if I had written Silk Stockings. I ran after the postman like anything but he wouldn't let me have my envelope back. I haven't heard much about No 11 Company A.T.S. just lately but I can tell you that they are nearly all supplied with their uniforms. They are not coming to Camp with the 48th Signals this year, which is a great pity because I know that they would have handled the office jobs very efficiently. This year, we are to have a party of V.A.D. with us to form a small hospital. Someone I know would regard this arrangement with more enthusiasm if obtaining and being responsible for all the stores necessary for a hospital could be undertaken by someone else. However, fear not ladies. The troops will rally round and you will have such a hospital as never was. Full of tables, scapels, stethoscopes, horoscopes, lances, iodine, bandages, buckets and mixtures as before. There may be a lot of sickness in the Camp this year. We'll let you know.

Society Chat.—Recent arrivals in the Territorial Army at Birmingham are Lieut & Qmr V. J. E. Bardoe to 2/48th Divnl Signals lately RSM of the 48th and more recently on Salisbury Plain. SSM, H. S. Nokes (the eminent authority on mud) from 1st Divnl Signals to be Sergt i/c M.T. 48th Signals. Birmingham is glad to have them. Sergts Bartlett and Ready are with the 48th Signals as P.S.Is though I do not remember seeing that mentioned before. CSM H. Walker who was once a trumpeter, and Sergt C. Clutterbuck, better known as " Huckleberry " have gone over to the 2/48th Signals which unit is, for the time being, located in the hutments at Cateswell House. RSM E. Offord and Sergt L. Robson the other P.S.Is remain with the original unit.

Uncle Alf Brooks has fled the country and writes to me from a strange land about which I shall not gossip because he has a nice job with mademoiselle Colette or her equivalent, and one doesn't talk about it, I hope he will let me know if he comes across Ukann Larfe & Co for at the moment I haven't the faintest idea where they are. Or maybe I am just plumb lazy.

BARLEUX.

Corps Promotion Roster.

Subsequent Amendments.

[The figures in the last column indicate the pages in the *Corps Promotion Roster* (published in April, 1938), on which the respective names may be found. This information cannot, of course, be given in the case of Lance Corporals appointed since that date.]

Appointed Superintending Clerk.

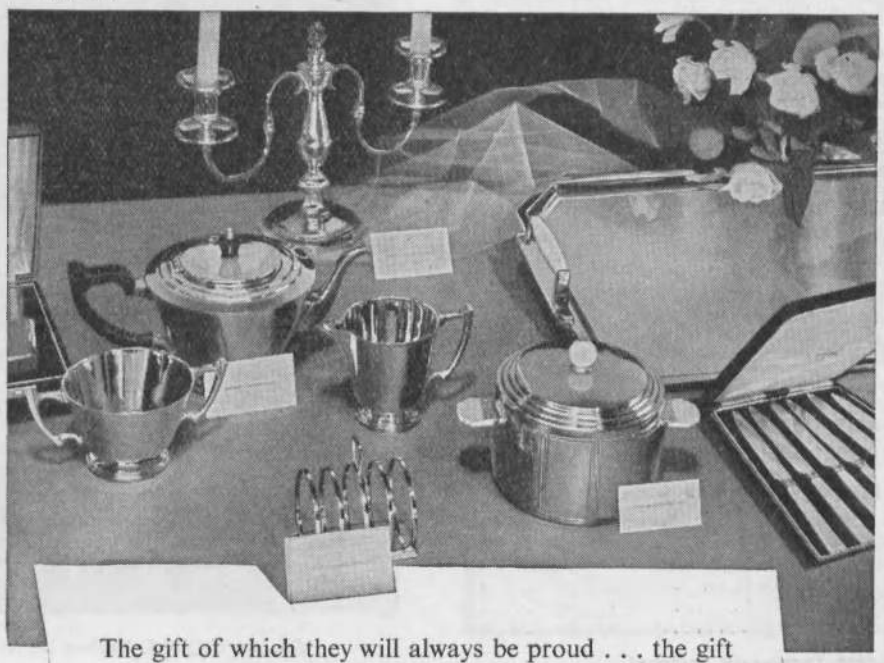
2307033	R.S.M. Harris F. C. V.	11/3/39 ..	3

Promoted Warrant Officer, Class I (R.S.M.)

2306851	C.S.M. Minns C. B.	11/3/39 ..	7
1856959	C.S.M. Shilton E. D.	11/3/39 ..	7
2311694	C.S.M. Laing J. M.	11/3/39 ..	7

By Appointment to the late King George V

GIFT FOR A WEDDING



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Foreman of Signals Roster.

Promoted Warrant Officer, Class I (F-of-S), Sergeant-Major.

2314016	Q.M.S. (F-of-S) Montgomery K. G.	1/4/39 ..	10

Promoted Acting Warrant Officer, Class I (F-of-S) Sergeant-Major.

2314083	Q.M.S. (F-of-S) Walker A. R. ..	1/4/39 ..	10

Promoted Warrant Officer, Class II (F-of-S), Q.M.S.

2746102	C.Q.M.S. (F-of-S) Emsley C. W.	1/4/39 ..	10

Promoted Temporary Warrant Officer, Class II (C.S.M.).

1850421	C.Q.M.S. Pathyjohns C.	1/2/39 ..	19
2312645	W.O.III Farmer F.	1/2/39 ..	19

Promoted Warrant Officer, Class III.

2314487	C.Q.M.S. Mills J.	1/2/39 ..	22

Promoted Temporary Warrant Officer, Class III.

2310575	C.Q.M.S. Richardson J.	1/2/39 ..	21
2313600	Sergeant Lewis G. L.	1/2/39 ..	24

Promoted Company Quartermaster-Sergeant.

*1042634	Sergeant Madeley T.	24/1/39 ..	93
2306747	Sergeant Hall H. P.	1/2/39 ..	23
2309640	Sergeant Dunningham S. C.	1/2/39 ..	24
*2312950	Sergeant Woolhouse A. M.	1/2/39 ..	93

Promoted Temporary Company Quartermaster-Sergeant.

2310925	Sergeant Wright H. A.	1/2/39 ..	24

Promoted Sergeant.

6455310	L/Sergeant King F. A.	1/2/39 ..	42
2309857	L/Sergeant O'Brien A. P.	1/2/39 ..	43
2317503	L/Sergeant Gordon N. C.	1/2/39 ..	43
2311336	L/Sergeant Sherrington F. G. ..	1/2/39 ..	43
2309016	L/Sergeant Hipwood S. F.	1/2/39 ..	43
2316527	L/Sergeant Maddison J.	1/2/39 ..	43

Promoted Temporary Sergeant.

2316013	L/Sergeant Knight E. R.	1/2/39 ..	43
2311293	L/Sergeant Cooke W. G.	1/2/39 ..	43
2316122	L/Sergeant Ray G. J.	1/2/39 ..	43
2313693	L/Sergeant Smith E. B.	1/2/39 ..	43
2310680	L/Sergeant Adams R. W. J.	1/2/39 ..	43
2310501	L/Sergeant Gibbs F. A. R.	1/2/39 ..	43
1417389	L/Sergeant Pink R. F.	1/2/39 ..	43
2309494	L/Sergeant Muir W.	1/2/39 ..	43
5042471	L/Sergeant Wootton W. T.	1/2/39 ..	43
2312649	L/Sergeant Bush W. J.	1/2/39 ..	43

Appointed Lance Sergeant.

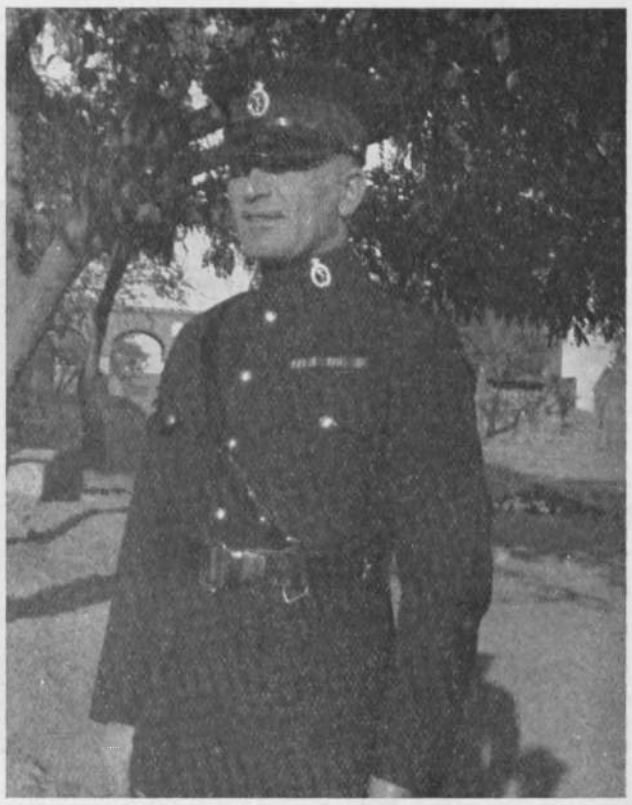
2315192	Corporal Howard J. W.	1/2/39 ..	53
2318424	Corporal Webster R. T.	1/2/39 ..	53
2318817	Corporal Honor V. T. C.	1/2/39 ..	53
2316175	Corporal Hawkins R. A.	1/2/39 ..	53
2318833	Corporal Snell J. W. T.	1/2/39 ..	53
2319811	Corporal Allen C. H. G.	1/2/39 ..	53
2318966	Corporal Mitchell H. R.	1/2/39 ..	53
2310946	Corporal Richardson F.	1/2/39 ..	53
2321567	Corporal Allen A. A.	1/2/39 ..	53
2319743	Corporal Burton R.	1/2/39 ..	53
2322308	Corporal Paling R.	1/2/39 ..	53
3523061	Corporal Robinson B. L.	1/2/39 ..	53
2314318	Corporal Manning C.	1/2/39 ..	53
2319847	Corporal Fielding G.	1/2/39 ..	53
37493	Corporal Berry W. F.	1/2/39 ..	54

Appointed Temporary Lance Sergeant.

2319948	Corporal Dumville H.	1/2/39 ..	54
2319478	Corporal Brakenberry B.	1/2/39 ..	54
2317763	Corporal Brett H. G.	1/2/39 ..	54
2317716	Corporal Talbot F. A.	1/2/39 ..	54
1058960	Corporal Marsh E. F.	1/2/39 ..	54

Promoted Corporal.

2321463	T/Corporal Ball R. S.	1/2/39 ..	
804485	L/Corporal Ross L. G.	1/2/39 ..	76



The late C.Q.M.S. Reuben Henry Collyer, M.M.

2317938	L/Corporal Murphy T. G.	1/2/39 ..	76
2318059	T/Corporal Spearman G. C.	1/2/39 ..	76
2322110	L/Corporal Eggett J. W.	1/2/39 ..	76
2322017	L/Corporal Crammond W.	1/2/39 ..	76
2309051	L/Corporal Roberts A. H.	1/2/39 ..	76
2323071	L/Corporal Copping G. E.	1/2/39 ..	76
2320835	L/Corporal Leith A.	1/2/39 ..	76
46562	L/Corporal Walters W. G.	1/2/39 ..	76
2321867	L/Corporal Donaghy P. R. P. ..	1/2/39 ..	76
2322278	L/Corporal Dunlop F. P.	1/2/39 ..	76
2322421	L/Corporal O'Brien H. P.	1/2/39 ..	76
5150857	L/Corporal Stanley G. A.	1/2/39 ..	76
2319657	L/Corporal Smith H.	1/2/39 ..	76
2323444	L/Corporal Till E. A.	1/2/39 ..	76
2320498	L/Corporal Kiely R. G.	1/2/39 ..	76
2321263	L/Corporal Cutter R.	1/2/39 ..	76
2733114	L/Corporal Wilson P. T.	1/2/39 ..	76
6710632	L/Corporal Chambers W. G.	1/2/39 ..	76

Promoted Temporary Corporal.

2322042	L/Corporal Malone F.	1/2/39 ..	76
4970194	L/Corporal Shepherd G. W.	1/2/39 ..	76
2321301	L/Corporal Radford H. G.	1/2/39 ..	77
2321695	L/Corporal Clark V. G.	1/2/39 ..	77
2323518	L/Corporal Lamb J. J.	1/2/39 ..	77
2564842	L/Corporal Bolam F. G.	1/2/39 ..	77
2324097	L/Corporal Booth F. S. D.	1/2/39 ..	77
2317976	L/Corporal Turner H.	1/2/39 ..	77
2321876	L/Corporal Wiseman H.	1/2/39 ..	77
2317020	L/Corporal Ormiston W. R.	1/2/39 ..	77

Appointed Lance Corporal.

2323059	Signalman Bennett T.	6/9/38
5946172	Signalman Bagley P.	6/9/38
2323531	Signalman Feather F. P.	10/9/38
2323320	Signalman Beal C.	10/9/38
2321474	Signalman Pritchard L. A.	12/9/38
5669050	Signalman Robins J. L.	14/9/38
2323742	Signalman Evans K. M.	14/9/38

2320464	Signalman Dale A.	14/9/38
2654325	Signalman Huggett F.	15/9/38
2323193	Signalman Bowman J.	17/9/38
2321914	Signalman Wood P.	19/9/38
2318751	Signalman Lowe W. T.	19/9/38
802861	Signalman Griffiths E.	24/9/38
2323921	Signalman Bedford G.	27/9/38
2322410	Signalman Tomlinson J.	27/9/38
2321732	Signalman Banham D.	27/9/38
2321846	Signalman Garfield L.	27/9/38
2323331	Signalman Scully J.	27/9/38
2324218	Signalman Smith W.	27/9/38
6083230	Signalman Holland W.	27/9/38
2323514	Signalman Parsons A. J.	27/9/38
6746367	Signalman Truscott M.	27/9/38
2323977	Signalman Ryan J.	28/9/38
2323126	Signalman Williamson E.	28/9/38
2323940	Signalman Athow W.	28/9/38
2323491	Signalman Macdonald W. P.	30/9/38
2320323	Signalman Fleckney T. W.	1/10/38
2320728	Signalman Marshall G.	1/10/38
2322361	Signalman French	1/10/38
2322489	Signalman Strafford C.	1/10/38
2321917	Signalman Smith A.	1/10/38
768039	Signalman Morris W.	1/10/38
2323250	Signalman Bott C.	1/10/38
2320461	Signalman Moase R.	1/10/38
2321578	Signalman Scott L.	1/10/38
2322163	Signalman Smith F.	1/10/38
2322126	Signalman Hudson F.	1/10/38
2320690	Signalman McQuade J.	1/10/38
2321805	Signalman Billingsley E.	1/10/38
2322387	Signalman Phillips R.	1/10/38
2323005	Signalman Healey T.	1/10/38
2308443	Signalman Blackburn R.	1/10/38
2322040	Signalman Sorfleet H.	2/10/38
2320818	Signalman Wyers L.	3/10/38
2323056	Signalman Randle A.	4/10/38
810290	Signalman Williams F.	4/10/38
2324217	Signalman Burrow E.	4/10/38
2323959	Signalman Jones I.	5/10/38
2323350	Signalman Paterson A.	6/10/38
837990	Signalman Newnham B.	6/10/38
2321911	Signalman Chetwynd C.	7/10/38
2323918	Signalman Simpson J.	7/10/38
2320096	Signalman Rockall G.	9/10/38
2317004	Signalman Fall R.	10/10/38
2323016	Signalman Philmore E.	13/10/38
4442129	Signalman Dobing L.	13/10/38
2323805	Signalman Smith G.	14/10/38
2322469	Signalman Howard W.	15/10/38
2565527	Signalman Burrows J.	17/10/38
2315643	Signalman Richards W.	17/10/38
3593339	Signalman Tinkler J.	17/10/38
2323299	Signalman Gray G.	17/10/38
2322167	Signalman Munslow J.	17/10/38
2321944	Signalman Legge P.	17/10/38
803526	Signalman Tansley J.	18/10/38
2323429	Signalman Hankin G.	19/10/38
2751821	Signalman Cameron J.	20/10/38
2324294	Signalman Usher C.	22/10/38
2322341	Signalman Davies J.	22/10/38
2319323	Signalman Self F.	23/10/38
2322476	Signalman Howell S.	23/10/38
2323082	Signalman Jones R.	25/10/38
2321982	Signalman Capp C.	30/10/38
2568211	Signalman Thompson F.	1/11/38
2316224	Signalman Thomas L.	1/11/38
3523908	Signalman Hopwood T.	1/11/38
2322196	Signalman Millett W.	1/11/38
2321836	Signalman Stoner G.	1/11/38
2323789	Signalman Seager D.	1/11/38

* Special Roster.

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BOURNEMOUTH

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Corps News—Officers.

Extracts from "The London Gazette."

[London Gazette, 16/5/39]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Captain C. P. S. Denholm-Young is restored to establishment, 26/4/39.

ESTABLISHMENTS.

Major J. B. Hickman, M.C., to be Assistant Commandant and Chief Instructor (temporary), 12/1/39.

REGULAR RESERVE OF OFFICERS.

Captain R. C. Conway-Gordon (R. of O., H.L.I.) to be Captain, 16/5/39, retaining his present seniority.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

2nd Lieutenant D. E. Ross to be Lieutenant, 15/2/39.
Captain A. H. Read to be Major, 24/4/39.
Captain A. V. D. Hort to be Major, 20/4/39.
Lieutenant A. G. David, from 53rd (W.) Divisional Signals, to be Lieutenant, 14/4/39.
Lieutenant J. H. Morgan to be Captain, 20/4/39.
J. P. Heenan to be 2nd Lieutenant, 17/5/39.
Captain P. G. Goodeve-Docker to be Adjutant, 26/4/39.

[London Gazette, 19/5/39]

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Lieutenant-Colonel and Brevet-Colonel E. B. Reid, O.B.E., is appointed D/C.S.O. for T.A. duties, Scottish Command, 24/4/39.
H. P. F. Campbell to be 2nd Lieutenant, 20/5/39.
C. P. Glennie to be 2nd Lieutenant, 20/5/39.
2nd Lieutenant P. N. L. Hackforth-Jones to be Lieutenant, 7/4/39.
J. G. Gibson to be 2nd Lieutenant, 20/5/39.
L. L. Goodman to be 2nd Lieutenant, 20/5/39.
F. W. Stoneman to be 2nd Lieutenant, 20/5/39.
D. A. J. Place to be 2nd Lieutenant, 20/5/39.
V. A. J. Bardoe to be Lieutenant (Quartermaster), 20/5/39.

Captain J. N. Armstrong to be Adjutant, 20/5/39.
The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants, 20/5/39 :
P. A. Richardson, N. Melrose, J. G. Butler, V. S. Swift, P. S. Whaley, G. F. M. Roberts, D. B. B. Vickerman, J. A. H. Bray, C. E. Smith, J. S. MacLachlan, R. P. Munro, H. J. Rae, M. M. Pennell.
Captain A. T. Wood to be Major, 25/4/39.
C. F. Andrews to be Lieutenant (Quartermaster), 20/5/39.
2nd Lieutenant R. C. K. Baron to be Lieutenant, 22/4/39.
H. D. Maidment to be 2nd Lieutenant, 17/5/39 with seniority 17/11/37.
Lieutenant W. E. Gill from S.R. of O. to be Captain, 2/5/39.

TERRITORIAL ARMY RESERVE.
Lieutenant-Colonel C. B. Delaney to be Lieutenant-Colonel, 20/5/39.

[War Office, 23/5/39]

REGULAR ARMY—COMMANDS AND STAFF.
Major V. J. E. Westropp, from D.A.Q.M.G. to be G.S.O., 2nd Grade, 9/5/39.

ROYAL SIGNALS.
Captain H. O. Pargeter to be Major, 22/5/39.

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS.
Major G. D. Ozanne, M.C., having attained the age limit ceases to belong to the R. of O., 2/4/39.

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE—ROYAL SIGNALS.
2nd Lieutenant F. J. Darby resigns his commission on appointment to a commission in the T.A., 24/5/39.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
Lieutenant J. A. F. Bowring resigns his commission, 24/5/39.
R. H. Ironmonger to be 2nd Lieutenant, 24/5/39.
H. M. Green to be 2nd Lieutenant, 24/5/39.
F. Atkinson to be Lieutenant (Quartermaster), 25/4/39.
C. M. MacLennan to be 2nd Lieutenant, 24/5/39.
W. H. Mcnro to be 2nd Lieutenant, 24/5/39.
D. H. M. Thompson to be 2nd Lieutenant, 24/5/39.
2nd Lieutenant F. J. Darby (late S.R. of O.) to be 2nd Lieutenant, 24/5/39.

[War Office, 26/5/39]

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS.
D. S. Hancock (late R. of O.) to be Captain, 31/5/39, with seniority 25/10/32.
J. B. Ellis (late Royal Signals) to be Lieutenant, 27/5/39, with seniority 24/2/34.

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE—ROYAL SIGNALS.
G. W. West to be 2nd Lieutenant, 27/5/39.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
R. R. Evelyn to be Lieutenant (Quartermaster), 27/5/39.
J. E. Blake to be 2nd Lieutenant, 27/5/39.
Major E. R. Sutton to be Lieutenant-Colonel, 5/5/39.
R. A. A. Robertson to be 2nd Lieutenant, 20/5/39.
R. G. Sankey to be 2nd Lieutenant, 20/5/39.
Lieutenant L. N. Norris-Rogers (from T.A. Res.) to be Lieutenant, 19/4/39.
Captain R. B. Williamson to be Major, 1/5/39.
Captain J. Cockran to be Major, 2/5/39.
Lieutenant J. J. Donald to be Captain, 24/4/39.
Lieutenant D. J. Bogie to be Captain, 25/4/39.
The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants, 27/5/39 :
D. C. MacDiarmid, R. T. Ellis, D. Reith.
Major A. H. Lennie, M.M., to be Lieutenant-Colonel, 1/5/39.
F. H. Boland to be Captain, 27/5/39.

[War Office, 30/5/39]

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS.
The undermentioned having attained the age limit cease to belong to the R. of O. :
Major V. W. H. Duke, O.B.E., M.C., 24/5/39.
Captain W. M. Beresford, M.C., 1/5/39.

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE—ROYAL SIGNALS.
Lieutenant F. C. Norton resigns his commission, 31/5/39.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
P. P. Ayre to be 2nd Lieutenant, 31/5/39.
W. Yates to be Lieutenant (Quartermaster), 31/5/39.
W. McD. Porter to be 2nd Lieutenant, 31/5/39.
W. H. Hobby to be Lieutenant (Quartermaster), 19/5/39.
Major A. E. James to be Lieutenant-Colonel, 31/5/39.
The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants, 31/5/39 :
H. Dudley, P. R. Jones, E. A. Laugher, R. B. Laugher, W. M. Lebrun, J. W. Barty, D. Heilbron, D. M. Forsyth, A. M. Reid, C. A. H. Thellusson, J. Annan, F. R. Alenander
Major V. W. Hawkins to be Lieutenant-Colonel, 31/5/39.
A. L. Kaplowitch to be 2nd Lieutenant, 13/4/39.
H. M. Wombwell to be 2nd Lieutenant, 30/4/39.

[War Office, 2/6/39]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
Captain P. G. Goodeve-Docker is seconded, 26/4/39.

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE—ROYAL SIGNALS.
2nd Lieutenant J. H. Russel resigns his commission on appointment to a commission in the T.A., 13/5/39.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
Lieutenant A. R. Marshall from T.A. Reserve to be Lieutenant, 27/4/39.
Lieutenant S. J. Williams to be Adjutant and is granted the local rank of Captain, 1/5/39.
Lieutenant R. Graham to be Captain, 12/12/38.
Captain R. Graham to be Adjutant, 8/5/39.
D. R. Thompson to be 2nd Lieutenant, 3/6/39, with seniority 3/9/38.

[War Office, 6/6/39]

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS.
Captain C. H. Martyn, M.C., resigns his commission, 6/6/39.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
Lieutenant-Colonel and Brevet-Colonel G. J. Underwood (from T.A. Reserve) to be Lieutenant-Colonel and Brevet-Colonel, 5/5/39.
Captain W. P. Doyle to be Lieutenant-Colonel, 7/6/39.
R. H. Priestley to be 2nd Lieutenant, 7/6/39.
Lieutenant D. de la P. Tate (from T.A. Reserve) to be Lieutenant, 21/4/39.
Lieutenant P. W. Shaw to be Captain, 27/4/39.
The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants, 7/6/39 :
2nd Lieutenant J. C. Runge (from R.A.S.C.), P. J. St. C. Webber, A. J. Barnard, R. S. Ouvry, R. H. A. Hossall, V. H. Woodrow, W. Butters, E. W. D. Richardson, M. F. Dutton, D. E. Finch, J. L. Ouston.
Major F. White to be Lieutenant-Colonel, 7/6/39.
Lieutenant H. Entwistle (from R.A.) to be Lieutenant, 27/3/39.
The date of appointment of Lieutenant-Colonel J. F. Darby to command the unit is 11/1/39 and not as stated in the " Gazette " of 28/2/39.

[War Office, 9/6/39]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
The undermentioned are seconded :
Major L. A. E. Tozer, B.A., 8/4/39.
Major V. J. E. Westropp, 9/5/39.

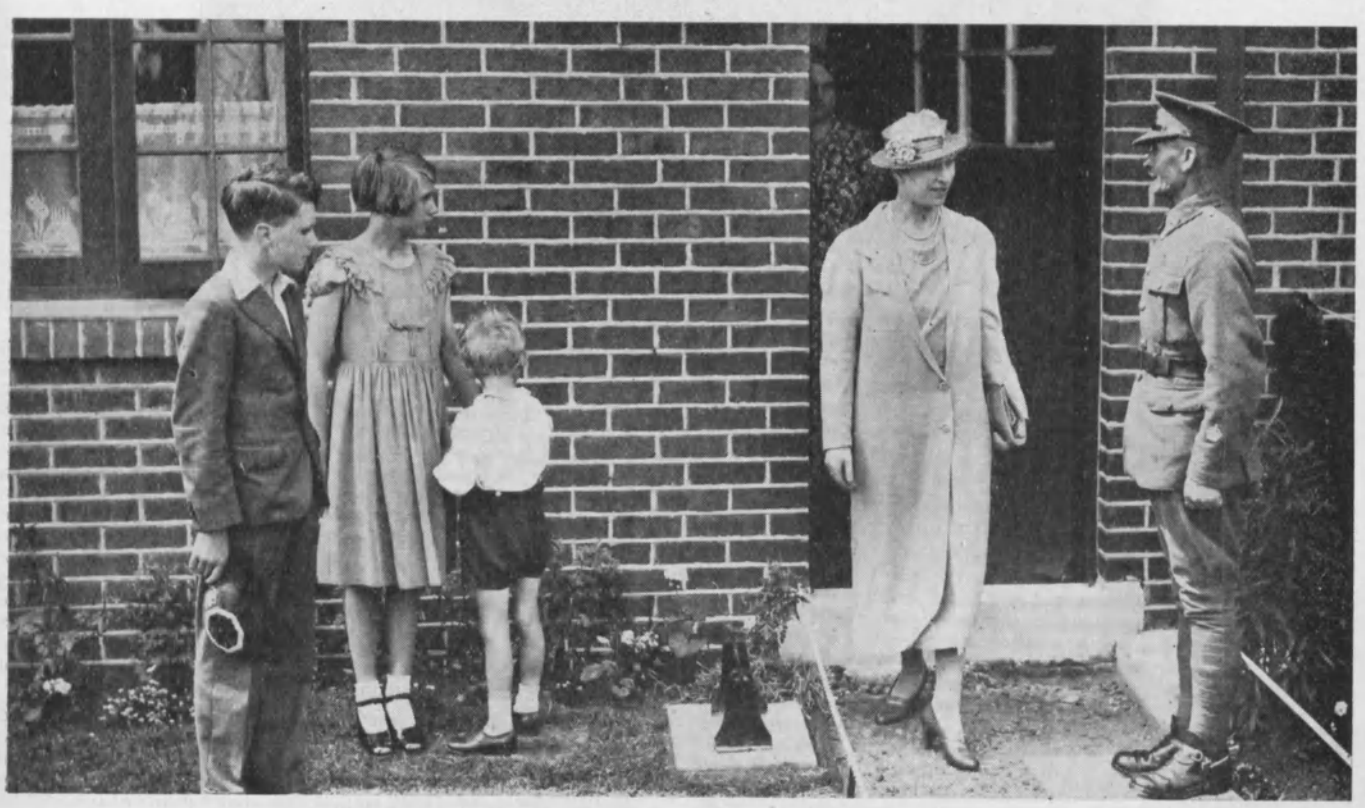
TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS
Major C. A. Oliver, M.C. (ret. pay) to be Lieutenant-Colonel, 10/6/39.
J. R. Willis to be 2nd Lieutenant, 10/6/39.
G. L. S. Brown to be 2nd Lieutenant, 10/6/39.
W. B. Layton to be 2nd Lieutenant, 10/6/39.
B. F. M. Franks to be 2nd Lieutenant, 10/6/39.
G. M. Carleton-Paget to be 2nd Lieutenant, 10/6/39.
Captain C. N. Stafford to be Major, 9/5/39.
J. C. Fletton to be 2nd Lieutenant, 10/6/39.
L. T. Huddle to be 2nd Lieutenant, 10/5/39.
R. T. Lightoller to be 2nd Lieutenant, 10/5/39.
W. J. T. Stewart to be 2nd Lieutenant, 10/5/39.
J. H. Bagshaw to be 2nd Lieutenant, 10/6/39.
Lieutenant H. J. Boyle (from T.A. Reserve) to be Lieutenant, 10/6/39, with seniority, 18/5/36.
Captain R. M. Percival to be Major, 22/5/39.
2nd Lieutenant W. A. R. Howie to be Lieutenant, 10/6/39.
C. Maughan to be 2nd Lieutenant, 10/6/39.
D. C. D. Renwick to be 2nd Lieutenant, 10/6/39.
D. J. G. MacLeod to be 2nd Lieutenant, 10/6/39.
L. G. Goddard to be 2nd Lieutenant, 10/6/39.
G. Ratter to be 2nd Lieutenant, 10/6/39.

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE—ROYAL SIGNALS.
Lieutenant F. Jones, from Reg. R. of O., to be Captain, 10/6/39.
The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants, 10/6/39 :
J. W. Porter, N. Waddleton.

[War Office, 13/6/39]

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
Lieutenant G. S. Davison to be Lieutenant, with seniority, 6/11/35.
I. F. Fulton to be 2nd Lieutenant, 14/6/39.

DO YOU REMEMBER ?



Prelude to Adventure.

By CAPTAIN W. A. PURSER, Royal Signals.

(*With acknowledgments to the "Royal Signals Quarterly Journal."*)

Dreams seldom come true and it is not every one's good luck to realise a long-cherished ambition. Mine was to build a boat. That I only had a humble share in building one in no way detracted from the sense of achievement; quite the reverse, for the fun of working with a team, each of whom was "shipwright," owner and crew, had not entered into even my wildest dreams. But then I was very fortunate to join up with this particular team. It consisted of Millis Jefferis, a Sapper, a friend of his in London, Brian Passmore and another Sapper, Jim Gavin. I was to miss the excitement of the early discussions, in which a fourteen-foot dinghy grew to a five-ton yacht, of the visits to designers and of the eventual arrival of the "lines" and construction plan from Laurent Giles. In fact, I was still only an interested spectator while Jim was expanding the lines to life-size on the floor of the "mould-loft." Thereafter, I was mustered as one of the crew, and was able to participate in perhaps the most satisfying of all occupations, that of the shipwright.

In one respect, at least, we were ideal owners from the designer's point of view. He was asked to produce a fast and seaworthy boat, unhampered by any conflicting conditions imposed by us. We would suit our accommodation to whatever space he allowed. Again, as owner-builders we could keep a strict eye on the workmanship, and see to it that every rivet was well and truly driven. We never heard the builders say: "Let that go, it will never be seen when she is finished." She was designed 25 feet long on the water-line, to allow her to enter for the small class in the Royal Ocean Racing Club's events. Her overall length was 36 feet and draught 6 feet. To find a building to house a boat of this size in Aldershot, where we three soldiers were stationed, seemed rather an obstacle. But, characteristically, Millis was over this fence before he reached it, and before long the oak keel was laid in a disused carpenter's shop. An epic journey was performed by Brian and Millis one wintry night, to fetch the 16-foot curved oak stem from a Solent yard. Soon the backbone (stem, keel, sternpost and horn-timber) was set up and bolted together, and something could be seen for our labours.

By this time we had the invaluable services of a master shipwright, Mr. Lewis, who stayed several weeks. From him we learnt some of the tricks of the trade. He would discourse on the comparative merits of "butts" and "scarphs"; would explain the use of "grommets" and "stopwaters," and hint darkly as to the meaning of "sny." Among his many virtues were an inexhaustible fund of songs, his ability to use an adze and, above all, his apparent confidence, not shared by us, that our wood-spoiling efforts would eventually result in a boat. While he, with flying strokes was adzing down the stem to its final V-section, we would tear ourselves away from an admiring circle, to busy ourselves with making wooden moulds, each shaped to a different cross-section of the hull. These were set up vertically, in their correct stations, along the length of the backbone; stout wooden "stringers" were bent round them longitudinally, and all was ready for steaming in the ribs. These, some seventy a side, were coaxed into position round the stringers, their lower ends being notched and fastened into the backbone. Then began, perhaps, the most intriguing part of all, the planking. Brian had found us some perfect Honduras mahogany, three-quarters of an inch thick, for the planks. We employed the "close-seaming" method, after the manner of a cooper making a barrel, in which all depends on the accurate fitting of the staves. To ensure extra security, a length of caulking cotton was laid in a groove between each plank.

When the hull was finally planked up, some six thousand copper nails had been driven home, and each had to be hand riveted over a copper rove. This was a two-man job; the man inside impersonating an Indian faquir, sitting on a veritable *chevaux de frise* of copper spikes; the man outside disconsolately wondering whether or not he was holding up the right nail.

(*By courtesy of the "Royal Signals Quarterly Journal."*)

Stout wooden stringers were bent round the moulds. Mr. Lewis and his adze.

Three weeks later, when the last rivet had been driven, we had the fun of knocking out the moulds and temporary stringers, their period of usefulness over. There followed a spell of varied and interesting work ; fitting the deck beams, the " carlings " that ran longitudinally between them, such things as " hanging knees " and " lodging knees," and finally the deck. We had a host of helpers, of whom Ruth Jefferis deserved the greatest thanks. She must have derived considerable amusement from the endless arguments that took place. These mostly concerned the interior accommodation which now began to engage our attention. We all had decided views on what *not* to have in a small boat. Millis wanted a deck that would not leak whenever a heavy weight was dropped on it ; Jim had a horror of wet oilskins and sea boots cluttering up the cabin ; we all insisted on being able to sit upright in the cabin, on an open lay-out below and good ventilation. We shared a loathing of flimsy fittings that would accidentally come adrift when trodden on. The galley had to be well aft, where the cook had easy (and rapid) access to the open sea ! So the interior grew, each owner making sure of his pet idea, with the result that at least her accommodation could be described as unique and possessing character. After one season's experience, we have not found much wrong with it. We cooked in comfort ; could sit without cracking our skulls ; blankets remained reasonably dry, and the oilskin locker fully justified its presence. I have a theory that a designer would produce a very practical interior, were his drawing office arranged to roll, say, forty-five degrees each side of the vertical, with a little combination of pitching thrown in. It is impossible, on terra firma, to bring oneself to realise the antics a small boat can perform at sea.

Brian was unable to take part in the building except at week-ends, and his main pre-occupation was the rigging. On him depended the accurate fitting of the numerous lengths of wire that go to make up a boat's standing and running rigging. He enlisted the very man to help him with the splices, an ex-coastal sailor, who took immense pride in the job. Brian also discovered various items of gear in ship-chandlers' stores, which went far to simplify the running rigging. He must have breathed an atmosphere of patent snap-shackles, snatch blocks and bottle-screws. Many weeks were spent in painting. Ruth and her helpers were responsible for the interior, no mean undertaking, for the area to be covered was far greater than the outside surface. Coat after coat was duly applied and rubbed down till the hull took on quite a professional gloss. Meanwhile a multitude of jobs was being completed ; cleats and other deck fittings appeared, hatches, lockers and deadlights were fitted and everything possible done before the boat left the shed. We even had to think of a name, so that it could be painted on her stern in gold-leaf. It is always difficult to find a good name, and this was no exception. A well-known boat by the same designer inspired one suggestion, " Maid of Mahogany." The perpetrator of this pun was at once set on and nearly met his death from the commercial end of an adze. " Maid at Home " was summarily dismissed as too facetious, and finally *Prelude* came to stay. We soon became used to the sound.

(By courtesy of the " Royal Signals Quarterly Journal.")

Prelude's slippery lines : ashore for scrubbing.

At last came the day when *Prelude* emerged into the open. The end of the shed was knocked down, an improvised winch set up and the hull supported by many willing hands was moved out alongside her lead keel. This had been cast in Aldershot and weighed two tons. Nearly every one who passed it succumbed to the temptation of trying to lift it. *Prelude* was jacked up and perched on the lead, and the process of boring the bolt holes began. This was one of many problems that confronted us during the building. Experts assured us that it would be impossible to bore the holes in the lead, as the drills would bind. Other experts disagreed, and said the holes could on no account be made during the casting process as, owing to the shrinkage of the lead on cooling, the holes would not register correctly with the hull. With such conflicting advice we just had to take a chance. The right kind of drill was eventually found, and the six large manganese bronze bolts were screwed home. The rudder, shaped from an eight foot baulk of elm, provided Millis with enough planing to last a lifetime, but was finally finished and hung, and the hull was complete.

Prelude's journey to the sea and her launch was a great occasion for us. She was towed along the road during the small hours, and in the early dawn was trundled down to the water's edge at low tide. Waiting for the tide to come in and float her

off her cradle was almost a case of the "Watched Pot." Quite a crowd assembled to see the launch. At the critical moment one of our helpers arrived from Aldershot and kindly presented Ruth with a bottle of champagne to break over the bows. It was a great moment to feel *Prelude* water-borne, and to hear the water lapping against her sides. She was taken to her mooring lower down Chichester Harbour, and in the afternoon her fifty-foot hollow mast was stepped with the aid of a local boat builder's barge. The mast was beautifully made, being built up of pieces of silver spruce. This and the sails were ordered from professional firms, as they were beyond us.

At long last we were going to enjoy the fruit of our labours. It is impossible to give any idea of the thrill of that first trial sail. How would she handle? Would she turn out a real thoroughbred? These questions were in my mind as we rowed

(By courtesy of the "Royal Signals Quarterly Journal.")

***Prelude* was stepping out.**

out to *Prelude*. Conditions were ideal for sail stretching. Every little act in preparing for sea seemed to bring unusual joy in execution. Unshipping the boom crutch, reeving the staysail sheets and even the simple business of rolling up the mainsail cover were invested with a feeling of expectancy. The staysail hanks were slipped to the forestay, the sheets were made fast. A glance aloft to see the halliards clear; a cry "Up main'sl!" and the white canvas went fluttering up the mast, the halliard was hauled hand-taut and belayed. A touch of helm sheered her head over in the tide. "Let go!" The mooring slipped slowly past. *Prelude* took a slight heel and gathered way as the main sheet came in. "Up with the stay'sl!" The stay'sl sheet duly trimmed, *Prelude's* speed increased, with still hardly a sound from her wake. "By Jove, Millis, she slips along well; come and take her." Thus each in turn took the helm, and the verdict was good. She was as light as a feather and answered every touch. Could we really be moving? There seemed so little fuss, but a glance at the bank soon reassured us. "Time to go about," I said, and round she came in a fine sweep on to the other tack. Thus we dodged to windward through the mass of boats moored at Itchenor, until in the wider reaches of the harbour she heeled to a fine breeze, which made the water sizzle past. Now she was travelling!

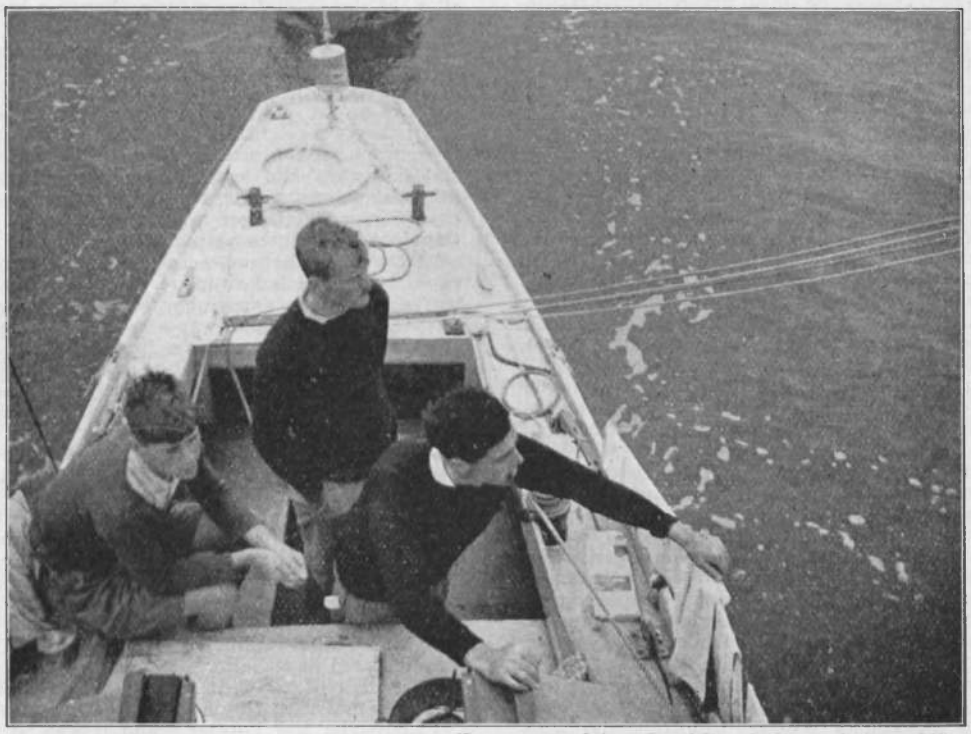
Thoroughly pleased with *Prelude's* performance, we looked forward with no little excitement to our first cruise from the Solent to Chatham. Just ten days after the launch, we were slipping over Chichester bar and heading up channel into an easterly breeze. Ruth, Millis and I were crew and the other two were to join the ship at Dover. We sailed past the Owers light-vessel off Selsey Bill as dark fell, making good headway in spite of the light wind. What more could one ask than this? It was a beautiful night to be at sea. I remember huddling in a blanket at the helm, for it was early May, and being almost lulled to sleep by the steady hiss of the water as *Prelude* rose and fell to the scend of the sea. Once a battleship passed fairly close and presented a fine silhouette. On two occasions the signal "P" was flashed from passing ships, meaning "Your lights are out or burning badly." This was certainly deserved the first time, when they had not been lighted, but it was rather annoying on the second occasion when they appeared to be going perfectly well. The following morning a soldier's wind gave us an opportunity of trying out the spinnaker. Before this was attempted, the halliard had to be unravelled and in a misguided moment Millis and I hit on the idea of hauling up a kit-bag (as a weight), the intention being to lower away again when the halliard was clear. We had reckoned without the whip-like action of the masthead as *Prelude* wallowed in the swell, and no sooner was the kit-bag at half-mast than it went berserk. It described the most incredible antics. Millis and I were reduced to hysterics at this formidable sight. I wondered vaguely what dire signal of distress we were flying. A glimpse of Ruth at the helm, steadily regarding the compass, reduced me to a complete state of helplessness, for it was her kit-bag, and she was blissfully unconscious of the impending doom that awaited her shore-going clothes aloft! At last the inevitable happened. The lanyard broke, and the kit-bag came hurtling down, and by an amazing fluke dived through the narrow opening of the main hatch. It was some time before we had pulled ourselves together sufficiently to regain the end of the halliard and set the spinnaker, but once set and drawing, this sail pulled us along in fine style. We entered Dover at 6 p.m. to be greeted by Brian and Jim.

We went ashore for a few hours, and then the urge to be sailing was too much for our newly-joined crew. Provided Millis and I could sleep, we were quite happy, and I remember dozing off

in my bunk to the accompaniment of the voices of the two on watch, as they identified the various lights off the Goodwins. When I awoke in the early morning a pitying look was directed at me from the helmsman, as much as to say, "How could you sleep through such a grand sail?" Our progress had been so good that we decided to make full use of our leave, and Chatham was given a miss. *Prelude* was stepping out and we were soon across the Thames Estuary making for West Mersea. We passed the Whitaker light-vessel at great speed and finished with a ten-mile beat to windward, storming up the Blackwater Estuary, to come to an anchor in Mersea Quarters. After a peaceful night at anchor we were astir early in the morning and weighed anchor to catch the tide. It was a delightful sail, and very sad we were when the Nore light-vessel showed up ahead and we knew the end of our cruise was near. Jim and Millis knew the Medway well, and all too soon we dropped anchor off Upnor. In a fortnight we were to be at Burnham for our maiden race. Jim was now stationed at Chatham and was able to do the manifold jobs on board that needed attention. We had a sail the following week-end that ended in disaster, for we succeeded in cracking a bone in Jim's ankle with a turn of the anchor chain, and he spent the rest of the time till the race in hospital. By some miracle we all foregathered at Burnham on Whit Friday in time for the start of the Maas Race, although Jim was unable to walk, and Millis had had a severe buffeting in bringing *Prelude* round in the tail end of a gale.

There was an animated scene at Burnham where thirty boats were ready to race; the large class to Heligoland, the small to the Maas light-vessel and back. This course was very much curtailed owing to a gale warning, and took us, in a strong SW. wind, round the Sunk light-vessel, to finish at Harwich. We fetched up after dark, making our number to the Judges at Felixstowe, having done nothing startling in the race. Our entry into Harwich with its mass of lights was not made easy by the absence of a proper chart on board, but, once inside the harbour, we soon stole up to a snug berth in the River Orwell. What a delightful contrast it was after the ceaseless pounding to windward of the last twenty miles! The following day we sailed over to Old Harwich and anchored. Ruth joined us in the evening, and, as we had spent a quiet day, we set sail before dark with the intention of getting as far west as possible in the two days left to us. By the time we had cleared the harbour entrance it was dark. I remember Jim was busy down below with parallel rulers and our small-scale chart, and he came up and announced that we were quite safe on our present course for several miles. So Brian, he and I sat out in the cockpit and are our supper as we bowled along. It was grand sailing; the lights of Harwich a mile or two away on the starboard quarter made a fine sight, and we settled down to pipes without a care in the world. Suddenly we ran aground, and though this, I regret, was nothing new to us, there followed the best piece of unrehearsed and spontaneous co-operation that I had ever witnessed. For without a word from any one, Millis appeared from below with the dinghy paddles; Ruth hunted for the rowlocks; Brian jumped to the fall of the stay'sl halliard, cast it loose and gathered in the sail; Jim cast off the lashings of the dinghy while I overhauled the cable and prepared the anchor ready for the operation of "kedging off." It was as good as a well-drilled "panic party." We all realised that the tide was ebbing fast and that in speedy action lay our only hope. We had been sailing close-hauled and at a good angle of heel, thus drawing considerably less than our normal six feet. So we were well aground. The gentle pounding on what sounded like gravel gave an insistent spur to our actions. The anchor was taken out in the dinghy and laid broad off the port quarter, and we gradually succeeded in hauling her head round, hardly daring to hope she would come off. But this she did, and we were soon off on a safe course. To the uninitiated our anxiety might appear to have been excessive. But quite apart from the discomfort of spending a night listed over at an angle of 50 degrees, we ran aground well off the land on an exposed coast, and had we been there when the tide came in and the wind got up (as it did later) *Prelude* might have pounded to bits before floating.

We had a very uncomfortable night beating to windward on a south-easterly course, and none of us was feeling too strong in the morning. We tacked in order to make the land again off the North Foreland. All the morning we experienced a vile sea. We beat down through the Gull channel, between the Goodwin Sands and Ramsgate, and here the tide was running



(By courtesy of the "Royal Signals Quarterly Journal.")

The leisurely trip home.

strongly in our favour and against the wind. There was a very steep sea necessitating three reefs, but *Prelude* behaved splendidly, and we stormed past the Brake light-vessel, whose crew gave us an encouraging wave. Poor Jim, straight from hospital was feeling really ill down below, where conditions were chaotic. We had hoped to reach Dover, but the tide would soon turn against us and we decided to run back to Ramsgate. Safely moored in the outer harbour, *Prelude* soon looked more cheerful down below, and a little later five very dishevelled human being, crusted in salt, were to be seen seeking shelter in the Royal Temple Yacht Club. Never before had we appreciated such hospitality, and not least of our happy memories are the luxurious baths we were given.

For the next month, during delightful week-end sails, *Prelude* was sailed back to home waters. She experienced many adventures down to Falmouth and back, and in the Channel race in which she finished sixth. This race, starting and finishing in the Solent, took the boats round the Royal Sovereign and Havre light-vessels, a distance of 220 miles. When I next joined *Prelude* she was lying in Haslar creek, in Portsmouth Harbour, having just finished the Channel race. Arriving in the evening as I did, I must have been an unwelcome intruder to Jim and his friend David, who were looking forward to a good night's rest. I had a fortnight's leave, however, and time was previous. We wanted to reach our mooring in Chichester Harbour, some fifteen miles distant. A study of the tides indicated a midnight start, which gave us ample time to have dinner ashore in Portsmouth. We were looking forward to this sail as Chichester Harbour is unlighted, and we would have to depend on the sailor's three "L's"—"lead, log and lookout." "Lookout" was, indeed, necessary, not only in worming our way out of the creek but in avoiding the massive mooring buoys in Spithead. These were unlighted and David, crouching in the bows, was soon drenched to the skin with spray knocked up by the short Solent seas. I fear for "log," or distance run, we substituted "guess," but in turning in towards the shore the lead was very much in evidence. The entrance to the harbour is 200 yards wide and the coast shelving. Two efforts at standing into the shore were unsuccessful, the lead giving ample warning. However, we had "bracketed" the entrance and our third shot took us in deep water, Jim barely getting the bottom with the lead. As having a certain amount of local knowledge, I was the pilot, and with constant use of the lead and a slice of luck we covered the last four miles of the narrowing channel in safety. The night was pitch black, and it was quite uncanny to be home again on our moorings, having traversed the distance as it were blindfold.

For me, the following fortnight of uninterrupted sailing was the climax of the season. There were to be three races, arranged in a round trip and taking the boats over to Brittany. A few days went in preparing the ship and pottering about in the Solent. Our first night was spent in that delightful spot, Newtown River, in the Isle of Wight. Unfortunately Millis was absent from the crew, and my brother made a fourth. There was a fine array of boats at the start of the race at Cowes. The finish was at Dinard, 170 miles, the course being outside the Channel Islands. From now on, till sighting England again, we experienced nothing but head winds, but the weather was splendid. Soon after the English coast had dropped astern we were rather perturbed at losing our nautical almanack, on which we depended for all our information as to tides and lights. I was blamed, of course, as possessing a natural gift for dropping things overboard, and a sigh of relief went up when it was discovered stowed away in a sail. The light sou'west wind and calm sea favoured such a small boat as ours. During the night, the lights off the north coast of France showed up in turn; Barfleur, Cap Levi, Cap de la Hague. In the morning we were pleased to see plenty of white sails spread over the horizon astern. Slowly Alderney appeared. The wind began to take off now and we became anxious. Would we be able to save our tide round the Casquets? It would be a race against time. Soon the wind died altogether; we were still three miles off the Casquets, but the wrong side, and the tide had set in hard against us. There was nothing for it but to anchor. We were in the deepest part of the English Channel but dropped our kedge anchor, scarcely expecting it to hold. Every warp and rope in the ship had to be impressed into service, for we were in forty fathoms, but the anchor held well except for one spell during the height of the flood tide, when it dragged three or four miles. At least we got in some much needed rest. The tide turned as dark fell, and we weighed anchor. *Prelude* glided along through the night but visibility was very poor, making steering very tiring for the helmsman. I know in the morning I felt utterly lost as I came on deck, being greeted with a thick morning mist. Two lighthouses were booming; they gave consistently good bearings. Someone did some work with the parallel rulers, but came out of the cabin looking distinctly perplexed. "I make our position dead in the middle of Guernsey," he said. This was stoutly denied by the helmsman. A little later we were relieved to see *Phryna*, one of the big class, ghosting along like a wraith not two hundred yards distant. Next moment she was swallowed up in the fog, but we knew we must be fairly close to the course. *Prelude* had a happy crew consisting entirely of skippers! The helmsman was responsible for the correct trim of the sails, a matter of some importance in light winds. After two or three hours at the helm, there was no doubt he had the sails drawing to their best advantage. It was, therefore, amusing to watch a relief take over, and solemnly alter the sheets, first out a little, then in a little, but invariably to get back to the same trim as before.

As the mist retreated before the sun Guernsey lay revealed, spread out ahead. Even now, two days from the start, we were in close company with several of the small boats, so much so that we forced one Frenchman about in crossing tacks. Sark and Jersey were sighted in the evening, and about midnight the lighted buoys appeared marking a dangerous patch of rocks and islets, the "Minkies." We sailed into Dinard in the morning, at about noon, finishing nearly 70 hours after the start, so we hardly expected to get a place. It was a pleasant surprise, therefore, to be greeted by members of the local Yacht Club with the news that we were the first boat home in the small class. On corrected time we were second. Great hospitality was shown to us, and we spent a very amusing evening in St. Malo. Later, there was a race of 50 miles westwards along the Brittany coast, to Ile de Brehat. With only a small-scale chart on board, the finish of this race gave us some anxiety, and immediately after crossing the line there was an ominous jar. *Prelude* had struck a rock. All eyes peered anxiously into the cabin, expecting to see an inrush of water; but luckily there was no damage, as the lead keel had taken the shock.

As we came to an anchor shortly after, still a little shaken from this incident, a French boat came storming past and one of her crew suddenly fell overboard. Unlike the occasion when we launched the dinghy in record time, we just stood gaping for several seconds. It transpired that we had each had the same thought: that if we threw him our life-belt, away would go our valuable flare, which by the rules had to be carried! The idea of wasting a four-and-sixpenny flare was not to be considered! The man drifted rapidly away in the tide. Our dinghy almost disintegrated in our efforts to launch it, but before we reached him another boat picked him up, and he looked in a bad way.

My memories of Ile de Brehat are summed up in the words "Champagne and Lobster," and it was with this foundation that we set forth in the final race to Brixham, Devon. It was a clear course of one hundred miles and, starting in the evening, we ran straight into a fresh breeze, and spent the night beating to windward in quite a big sea. We had hauled down two reefs. The champagne and lobster were soon regretted, but steering was most exhilarating; *Prelude* responded beautifully as she took each dark sea in her stride. Plenty of spray was flying, and every now and then a lump of water would come on board and cascade into the cockpit. The wind eased in the morning, leaving us in an uncomfortable sea, and it was nearly midnight before we crept into Brixham. In the morning we heard we were sixth. There remained but the leisurely trip home, during which we spent a night at Swanage at anchor. Next day we had a magnificent sail, storming along before a westerly wind and with a strong tide under us. The familiar Solent landmarks seemed to flash by. We covered the fifty miles to the mooring in six and a half hours.

In writing this account of *Prelude's* first season, I have attempted to describe the various incidents that stand out against a background of happy memories. This background is a curious medley; the smell of fresh-sawn oak, of hemp and paint; the familiar sounds of veering chain, of halliards tapping on the mast; of conversations, some shouted, snatched away by the wind and lost, others spoken peacefully at anchor; the feel of driven spray or the caress of a summer breeze; new friendships made; strange harbours and happy landfalls; and, above all, the endless wonder of driving a boat against the very elements that give her life.

HOME STATIONS

SIGNAL TRAINING CENTRE NOTES

School of Signals.

Messines Lines.

14th June.

The Annual Inspection is over and we have once more settled down to a quiet life. The weather clerk has been exceptionally kind, and there has been much sunbathing during the last two weeks. Several of the " fresh-air " fraternity have been walking around looking just like negroes.

We regret to announce the departure of Signalman Williams A. E. to "A" Corps Signals. Our loss is "A" Corps Signals' gain for " Willie " was an excellent athlete and we shall miss those bursts of speed at the next athletic meeting. We are shortly to lose C.Q.M.S. McKee (Mac), who is leaving us for the A.A. Militia Training Unit. All the best in your new sphere, Mac. ! *Au revoir* and *bon chance* to C.S.M. Minion R., who has left us for the Training Battalion.

We welcome C.S.M. Farmer F., who has returned to his old home again from " E " Company, Training Battalion. Perhaps we shall keep our tennis trophies after all, sir ! We also extend a welcoming hand to Lance Corporals Purkiss and Owen and Signalman Strasser.

We congratulate Signalman (Trumpeter) Baker C. F. G. on his excellent performance in the Edinburgh Trial and his gain of a premier award. How many medals is that now, Ace ?

Agony.—Signalman (holding up nipple from cycle spoke) : " Can you tell me what this is, ' Q ' " ?

C.Q.M.S. : " Yes, of course ; it's out of an ' F ' Set."

(Collapse of the entire office staff.)

Things We Want to Know.—The object of Signalman Saville's visit to Scarborough.

Has Driver Bullman got any more " grannies " who are likely to have golden weddings ? If so, we want to borrow one so that we can go on leave.

Why does Driver Blain walk around with two suit-cases ?

Will Signalman Fotheringham please tell us the secret of his cricket success ?

POOPDECK, S.O.S.

Sergeants' Mess.

Changes in Mess personnel are very frequent these days. We have said good-bye to C.S.M. Minion and family and C.Q.M.S. Packman and family to the Training Battalion ; and also to C.Q.M.S. McKee and family to the Militia Training Battalion. We wish them all the best of luck in their new Units. C.S.M. Farmer did not stay long with the Training Battalion, and has now returned to the old home.

We went for a mystery tour on Whit-Sunday evening. The Scardrow Falls and the Butter-Tubs proved well worth the visit. Everyone voted the tour a great success.

There are no promotions or marriages to report this month, but we have to congratulate C.Q.M.S. and Mrs. Lafford on being presented with a daughter, June. Doesn't this just make five pounds a week, Ted ?

NOBBY.

"A" Company, Depot Battalion.

June.

General.—We have had the pleasure of a minor heat-wave during the past fortnight, and our lawns and gardens almost assume the aspect of miniature Lidos when the sun-bathing experts are in evidence. Taking advantage of this ideal spell of sunshine, a number of cricket matches have been played. The most recent was the game between "A" and " C " Company N.C.O.s, when a lot of hidden talent was discovered.

The new barracks—Sandhurst Blocks—are rapidly nearing completion.

Promotions and Appointments.—"A" Company heartily extend their congratulations to R.S.M.s Carpenter A. J. and Beverley E. on their promotion. R.S.M. Carpenter A. J. is to remain in the Depot. R.S.M. Beverley E. is due for overseas in the very near future. We also congratulate Sergeant Hopwood C. and U/Lance Corporal Wright B. A. The former on dispensing with the " Lance," the latter on his first step up the ladder.

Arrivals.—Lance Sergeant Bain A., posted from " C " Company, Lance Corporal Martin S. L. and U/Lance Corporal Wright B.A. for employment as Drill Instructors.

Cricket.—"A" Company have so far played three matches, the first of which was against the School of Signals. The result was a win for the Company. We lost the game with " E " Company, and a week later lost to " C " Company after a very good game.

"C" Company, Depot Battalion.

General.—Another month has passed by and events have been happening all around us. The Commandant's Annual Inspection went off very well indeed, everything looked spick and span, and everyone was ready for a well-earned rest afterwards. The march past of the M.T. and M.C. Sections was particularly good and very favourably commented upon.

The Company seems to be a little upset about accommodation when the Militiamen arrive, not forgetting the old soldiers who are returning. But why worry ; we shall have a bed of some sort, we hope.

The weather at the moment seems to be all wrong somehow, for we have had a fortnight of hot weather. Someone must have treated the weather clerk to a drink. Several of us wonder how much longer it will last.

The new training syllabus for M.T. training is progressing well, and, from reports received from our hard-worked Driving Instructors, they seem to be writing " XN so and so " in their sleep. In spite of the full pressure at which we are turning out M.T. Drivers and D.R.s, Field Units still cry out for more. Many stories trickle back as to where Drivers and D.R.s go in the winter time ; and even if only a small percentage are true, we sometimes wonder whether the hard work put in by the Instructors in training these men is fully appreciated.

Arrivals.—As usual they have been too numerous to mention individually, but we wish them the best of luck during their stay, also to those who have come and gone. Mr. Records has started off Militia training with our C.S.M., and also the Pay Sergeant. The Militia will find them two good men, and we are all sorry to lose them.

Promotions and Appointments.—We are all wondering when and for whom the next batch of promotions will be posted on the notice board. Several of the seniors are using quite a lot of handkerchiefs, and we wonder whether it is the hot weather or promotion that is responsible.

ROYAL SIGNALS CAR BADGE.

The above illustration describes a new Car Badge, which has been designed to meet the requirements of all Royal Signals car owners.

It is a highly finished production of excellent workmanship—Chromium plated with a central background of Royal Signals Corps colours in enamel—and can be obtained on application to The Secretary, Signals Association; 15/6 each.

We congratulate the following on their promotions to the ranks stated: R.S.M. Carpenter A., Sergeants Walker C., Wood R. and Hopwood C., Lance Sergeants Robson F. and Hesford J., Corporals Lowman B., Burke C. and Horne F., U/Lance Corporals Stenner and Evans C.

HAVE YOU JOINED THE SIGNALS ASSOCIATION?

"D" Company, Training Battalion.

15th June.

Having shaken off the rain which I encountered whilst swimming my way to the office in order to type this bulletin, I propose to see what there is in the way of news. Splash! Oh, dear, that went down my neck; now I can sign the Bath Roll!

Yes, playmates, Catterick weather is playing its pranks once again. A little while back our "Ponky-wallahs" thought they were out East again; and then two days ago everybody thought they would have to indent for a fur coat. At the time of writing, Lance Corporal Parry should be overwhelmed with applications to teach life-saving in some of our floods.

We send our good wishes to those who have left us: Sergeant Harries to 49th Divisional Signals; Sergeant Whalley and Signalman Abbott L. W. to 1st Divisional Signals; Signalman Lambert to Armoured Divisional Signals, Bulford; and many recruits. It would be impossible to include all the names of these recruits, but our wishes are none the less sincere.

Office staffs have altered somewhat during the past few days, with the result that Lance Corporal Holdsworth has left "D" Company Office to take up the duties of Pay N.C.O. of "E" Company. Signalman Fudgell, who worked in the T.B. Office, has joined the office staff of the Militia Training Battalion; Signalman Methven, who had the honour to wield a pen at the Kremlin (H.Q., S.T.C.), will also join the Militia Training Battalion.

C.S.M. Prior, after a comparatively short stay with the Company, is also joining this new-fangled idea called the Militia Training Battalion. (A stencil would be useful with that title at the moment, wouldn't it?).

The stork, which paid a visit to the house of Signalman and Mrs. Fountain, left them with a son, Christopher Ronald Charles, on 3rd May. Mother and son are doing fine. Congratulations!

Wedding bells seem to be popular about this time of the year. We congratulate Lance Sergeant Poole on his marriage to Irene Waddington, at Darlington, on 6th May, and also Driver (I.C.) Sanderson on taking Clara Agnes Welby as his partner for life at Warmfield, Yorkshire, on 29th April. May both parties, like the Fairy Prince and Princess, live happily ever after.

Hearty congratulations are tendered to the following on attaining the ranks stated: W.O. III Thorne (now with Armoured Divisional Signals), Sergeant Wright H., Corporals "Bill" Gee and Robertson. To Corporal Fairclough on dropping the "T" and so making his rank permanent. Good wishes to each one of you.

Corporal Hales W. left us for the sunny climate of Egypt on 6th May. He had already been due to embark about a month previously, but was taken off the list at the very last minute. We trust that he will enjoy his service beneath the Sphinx; we have not visited Cairo, but expect it is somewhere in the vicinity.

Several of our men (one clerk, two drivers and two cooks) are attached to "F" (Boys) Company during their stay at Gandale Camp. We hope they were able to swim about and trust they enjoyed their short life under canvas. (They will be back by the time these notes are published.—ED.) (That is quite O.K., we only want everybody to know that someone has to give a helping hand to "F" (Boys) Company now and again.—A.P.B.)

After diving through Part II Orders for all this information, we propose to finish the history lesson and get on with the news; so let us look into the magic crystal and see what the future holds for us. There is a four-lettered word in capitals beginning with a W. You've guessed it—WORK. Yes, readers in the four corners of our Empire, the hand of fate is against us and, for the first time since last September, we have to earn our daily rate of pay for the Militia will join us very soon.

As this copy of the WIRE may probably fall into the hands of a militiaman, may we take this opportunity of giving him a welcome. "Dear Signalman Militiaman, you have started a life for six months which you may or may not have cared for. In spite of various little things which are likely to crop up at any new place of employment, we sincerely hope that you will enjoy your stay with us. When you rejoin your friends at home afterwards we hope that you will take back memories which you will treasure all your life. Sincerely yours."

The writer hopes readers will forgive the request but he would like to have your opinion about WIRE notes. Each and every one of you have one, or perhaps two, suggestions which may improve the notes. Drop a letter or a postcard (don't forget to put stamps on) to "Ack Pip Beer," " D " Company, Training Battalion, Royal Signals, Catterick Camp, Yorkshire, and let him know what you would do if you were writing these notes. Criticism is welcome, but not too strong, please. One point must, however, be borne in mind—the information obtained from Part II Orders cannot be dispensed with, because this is one of the main reasons for WIRE notes. You pay for this magazine, so don't forget to let the writer have your opinion !

ACK PIP BEER.

"E" Company, Training Battalion.

13th June.

Once again your faithful scribe takes up his pen in order to reveal the activities of " E " Company.

The usual " General " paragraph concerning the arrival and departure of recruits may be taken as read every month ; they appear to come and go in a never-ending one-way stream. We can only give the names of the Cadre personnel when they arrive or depart. Readers will doubtless appreciate that we could not give the names of all the recruits who pass through the Company ; it would require more space than the Editor could possibly allow. Nevertheless, our welcome to all the new recruits is none the less sincere, and our best wishes to all those who leave us is just as whole-hearted, although their names are not mentioned.

Arrivals.—Two arrivals to report this month. A welcoming hand is extended to C.Q.M.S. Packman from the School of Signals and to Signalman Constantine from the Depot Battalion.

Departures.—Our best wishes go with W.O. III Adams to 5th Divisional Signals. We only had him on Command from 5th Divisional Signals, and are sorry to see him go.

Transfers.—Congratulations to Pte. Forbes of the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders on getting through his six months' probationary period and becoming a fully-fledged Signalman. There's no telling what you can't do now, Jock.

Education.—Another select and hard-working little band of men have secured a hold on the First Class Certificate. Corporal Hurst passed in Map Reading, Corporal Lilley in Geography and Map Reading, Signalman Barritt in English with a " Distinguished " in Mathematics and last, but by no means least, Signalman King passed in English, Geography and Map Reading. Signalman Symonds has passed in Map Reading and, possessing a certificate exempting him from the " Special," is now regarded as holding the Army Special Certificate of Education. Congratulations !

Courses.—Signalman Smith has returned from a Course at the Army School of Cookery, Aldershot. It is amazing how this new " Cook—B—Trade " idea has brightened up the Cookhouse Staff.

Marriages.—Corporal Summers has now admitted that he has been holding out on us. While perfectly sane and in full possession of his faculties he informed us that he was a married man, and, in substantiation, has furnished official proof. This is the only occasion when our Secret Service has been at fault. Congratulations, Geordie, even if they are rather belated.

Medals.—Best wishes to Signalman Rowe on his award of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. Eighteen years of blameless (?) service takes some doing, and we metaphorically doff our hats.

Discharges.—We are sorry to lose Signalman Ever-Swindell, who has taken his discharge on payment. He has our best wishes for a successful civilian career.

Promotions.—Congratulations are extended to the following on attaining the ranks stated : Sergeants Winder and Hunt, Lance Sergeants Pickett and Hayes, Corporals Summers and Spence, T/Corporals Scott and Smith.

Extensions.—Lance Corporal Diball likes the Army so much that he has completed twenty-one years and has now continued for a further year. Good luck to you, " Ging."

Sport.—Only two branches of sport are prominent in the Company at the moment. Baseball is in its painful infancy, under the combined tutelage of Corporals Baker and Smith. Cricket is much further advanced, and we entertain high hopes of winning the Inter-Company Competition this year. We lost to " D " Company, but beat "A" Company, the "School," and vanquished " C " Company.

Tailpiece.—The King's Birthday Parade was celebrated in the normal manner on 8th June. Everybody appreciated the break in training, and also the holiday afterwards.

And now, having laboriously compiled these notes, we defy critics to do their worst.

GINTY.

"F" (Boys) Company, Training Battalion.

June.

General.—Once more the drums of the dreaded " Tele Bolo " thunder their awe-inspiring messages across the area that submits to their terrible rule. Once more with bated breath and sickly grins we listen to the increasing rumours of drastic changes. This state of suspense prevailed until the O.C. finally enlightened us by saying that we were to move into camp at Gandale. Readers who have had the good fortune to be acquainted with this particular part of the world will recollect that Gandale is a delightfully situated spot about half-a-mile from the Training Battalion.

With one accord we fell to and shifted the Company lock, stock and bottle, into the wide, open spaces. The calm efficiency with which we handled mallet and tent peg was a lesson in organisation. We do not wish to indulge in empty boasts, but the thoroughness of our co-operation was such that even Lance Sergeant Fearnley soiled his noble hands with honest toil, and the result of this sudden burst of activity on our part is the cutest and cosiest camp imaginable.

Visualise the combination of rugged out-door life, surroundings of natural splendour and plenty of spud-bashing, and readers will have a picture of the life we shall lead for the next six weeks. The cooking arrangements are being admirably handled by Corporal Hatton, who falls for that old crack, " The best compliment one can pay a cook is to ask for more." One or two cases of German measles in the Company have given rise to mild speculation as to the symptoms of this particular malady. The junior boys are quite convinced that the sufferer will break out in swastikas and do the goose step in his sleep.

The P.T. display team, who have been in training for some time, have now completed their tour of the north. The shows in which they took part were voted a great success ; they were also partially successful from the point of view of those Romeos, Pellant and Moseley.

Nickey Warren, who fancies himself with a rifle, has returned from Darlington with two dogs—" Popeye " and " Snow White." He considers them a wise investment.

Heard on the Duck Boards.—Buster's pyjamas are beginning to shrink, and the laundry refuses to add any extensions.

One of our champion pole-vaulters has found pedestrian progress too slow ; he now travels all over Yorkshire on a contraption that looks like a 7—3 after the I.M.s have repaired it.

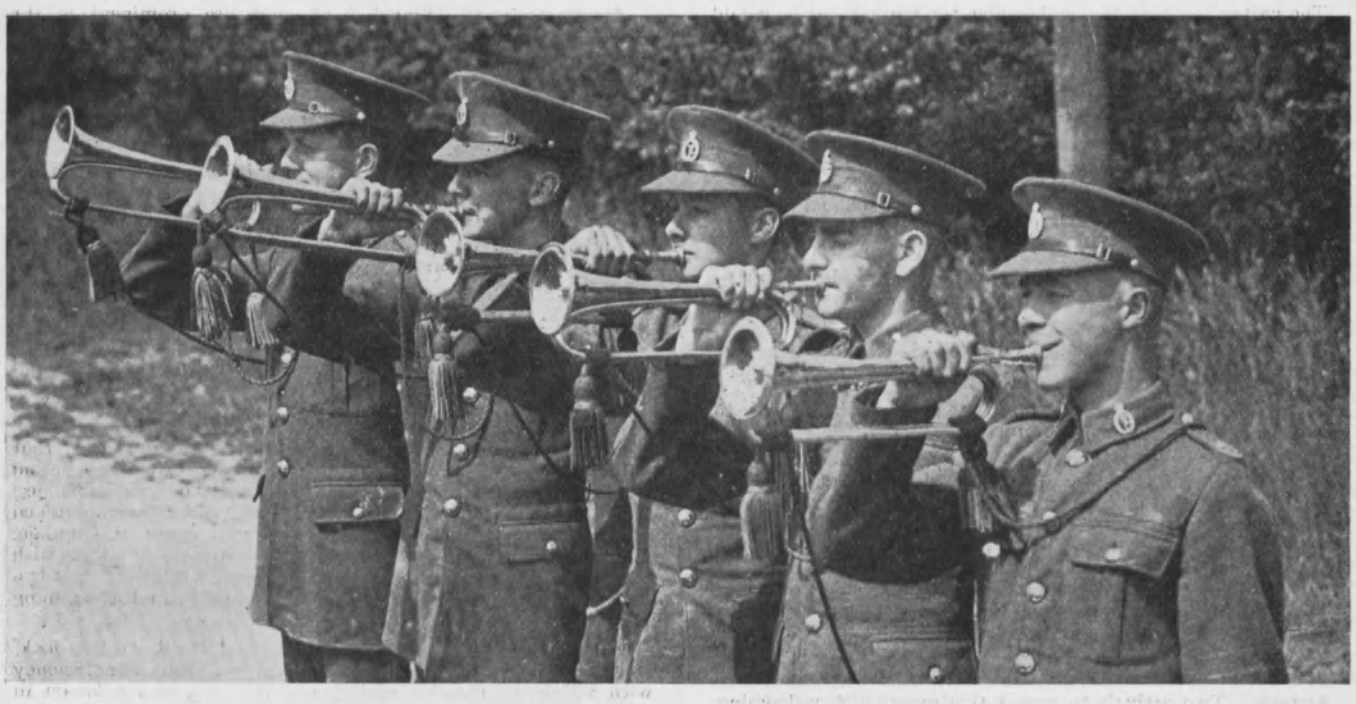
" Weeks," said Marlow, speaking to one with the large proportions, " it must have taken a lot of grub to get a figure like that." " Yes," quoth our hearty one, " but it takes a jolly sight more keeping it in repair."

A rendering of the Mess Call by Trumpeter Kneebone has convinced us that even jitterbugs have their virtues.

Griffin, who is now the O.C.'s batman, refuses to do mess-room fatigues on the plea that it is unbecoming to a " gentleman's gentleman."

The club wireless is not by any means assisted by Betts, who accentuates its discrepancies by rendering " atmospherics " on the piano.

Lofty Black is " B " teams' scientific discovery as wicket keeper. If he was allowed to use a butterfly net Mr. Ames would probably have to take up knitting for a living.



"F" (BOYS) COMPANY. TRUMPET PRACTICE.

Departures.—Time, that silent and irresistible thief, has stolen more members of our happy band: S.S.M. Pack to the Depot Battalion; Signalmen Beattie, Grainger, Keane and Holdsworth. So many ex-rats are going the 2nd Divisional Signals lately that their address will soon be "F" (Mens) Company.

Here is an open letter to the gentleman who wrote, "If the rain goes pitter-patter it really doesn't matter."—"Dear Sir, You obviously have never experienced this particular element under camping conditions. Yours reproachfully, 'F' (Boys) Company."

Tailpiece.—The evening stars scintillate sleepily through the gathering dusk. The struggling moon sheds its gentle light almost coyly on a tiring world. A bold figure strides manfully towards the standard. Reaching it, he turns to face a ghostly mass of billowing canvas. There is a flash of golden light around him as he raises something to his mouth. A sudden pause—in the momentary stillness every living thing seems to await some great happening. Then—with a mighty crescendo of glorious harmony—Dixon A. sounds the Last Post.

A. JAY.

Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess
Training Battalion

June.

Social.—The social Sunday evenings in the Mess have proved to be quite successful, and we have already had two whist drives and tombolas, a "paggled" whist drive, which caused endless amusement, and also a Greyhound Meeting.

The Greyhound Meeting was quite a change, but when the dogs were auctioned for one particular race, one or two hubbys had to get their hands into their pocket and dig deep. Anyway, it was nice to be an owner for once, and the winner certainly showed a very appreciable profit. Tommy Deftford and Mrs. Deftford had a slice of bad luck with the dogs, but could they play tombola? S.S.M. Mills, who ran the tote and ably auctioned the dogs, also backed a winner or two. I thank you.

C.S.M. Prior caused quite a stir when calling out the numbers for "Housey." We heard "one and nine" described as "seventy-nine," and poor little number three was "blind" three. Gertcher!

On the lawn at the back of the Mess, a deck tennis set has been erected and provides a good deal of exercise and fun. Some of the members of "A" Corps Signals Sergeants' Mess who were in Bannu, especially Jim Wedgbury, will immediately say, "I'll bet J.M. is 'champ.'" Well, he is!

W.O. and N.C.O. instructors for the new Militia Battalions are due here very shortly, so we are expecting an increase in the Mess at any time now. We hope to give further details in next month's notes.

Advertisements!

THOSE FIRMS WHO ADVERTISE IN THESE PAGES SUPPORT OUR MAGAZINE.

WILL OUR READERS PLEASE SUPPORT THEM IN RETURN?

★

ALDERSHOT NEWS

"A" Corps Signals.

No. 1 Company.

13th June.

The month of May was a busy one for the Company. It was devoted to Unit Schemes, recruit training, entries in connection with the Tattoo, which included the provision of two mechanical cable-layers in the march past of the New Army, and, of course, line maintenance and line diversions.

An outstanding item of news for this time of the year was the detailing of the following to proceed to India on or about 1st July. It is hoped that they will not find the Red Sea passage too trying, as it is inclined to become rather warm there during that month: Signalmen Whalen, Cormie, Baker E., Cave, Dunn J., Whitehead, Anderson, Campbell J., Howe, Thomas, Barker, Powell, Rattray, Browne L., Lund, Smith W. (771) and Riddoch.

Due to the exigencies of the Service, it became necessary to change the command of the Company. Major S. J. Fielder reported one day and Major J. H. Cameron-Webb left the following day to re-assume the duties of second-in-command of the Unit. Owing to the high efficiency of the Company administration, this quick move was carried out without a hitch.

A welcome is extended to the following who have arrived: Major S. J. Fielder; W.O. III Storey from No. 2 Company; Lance Sergeant Taylor from No. 3 Company; Drivers (I.C.) Gotobed, Morris and Rathbone from Mobile Divisional Signals; Corporal Turner H. from Gibraltar Signal Section; Signalmen Hext, Murphy, Sims, Waddington, Waring and White from A.A. Brigade Signals; Signalman Williams from the School of Signals; and Driver (I.C.) Gray from the Depot Battalion.

Our best wishes are tendered to the following who have left us: Major J. H. Cameron-Webb to U.H.Q. Company; W.O. III Maynard to A.A. Militia Training Unit, Catterick; Signalman Cook R. to the Depot Battalion; Lance Sergeant Cairns to No. 3 Company; Driver Strasser to the School of Signals; and, by the time these notes appear in print, C.Q.M.S. Sykes to 3rd Divisional Signals, Bulford.

Lance Sergeant Peake, Signalman Newnham and Driver Lowe were discharged during the month and we wish them every success in civilian life. Signalman Morley is heading in the direction of civilian life by way of the G.T.C., Handsworth.

Congratulations are extended to the following on their promotion or appointment: T/C.Q.M.S. Sykes to C.Q.M.S.; Lance Sergeant Harbury to Sergeant; Lance Corporals Boldison and Trusselle to Corporals; U/Lance Corporals Hewitt and McGreevy to Lance Corporal. Also to Signalmen Campbell A., Sharp J., Burch L. and Moore T. on their appointment to U/Lance Corporals.

No. 2 Company.

Phew! We wonder if all our readers are feeling as stewed as the majority of this Company are, at the moment. The weather here has been grand for the past four weeks and the most has been made of the bright spell in the way of Night Schemes, Physical fitness tests, Whitsun leave, and now the Tattoo.

Physical Fitness Tests.—We think that Wooderson would have contracted a perpetual "shake" had he seen some of our flying milers tearing round the track in the most incredible time of 5 mins. 30 secs. Mind you, our fellows were in bottom gear all the while and had they got into top we feel sure they could have cut the time down to 5 mins. 29⅘ secs.

Whitsun Leave.—Although only very short, this break was very welcome indeed, and came along just at the right time. Next stop, August—we hope!

The Aldershot Tattoo.—Ask any of the men of No. 1 W/T Section which is the most interesting item at the Tattoo this year and, naturally, they will reply, "The No. 3 Sets, of course; these wonderful looking Sets are on view to the audience for a whole minute in Item No. 1."

One of the scenes at the Tattoo this year includes a reproduction of medieval Tilbury Docks, complete with water effect and a little cottage on its banks. It is so realistic that one dear old lady was heard to remark, "How lovely it must be to live in that place when the Tattoo is over!"

Arrivals.—We welcome to the Company S.S.M.s Lockyer and Storey, Sergeants Neal and Boxall, and numerous other arrivals from the Depot and overseas. We also greet the Reservists who have signed on once more. (Strange how the Army gets into a man's blood.)

Departures.—We feel sure that No. 2 Company would be most indignant if we failed to mention our sorrow at losing C.S.M. Napper. Our loss is the Depot Battalion's gain, and we wish him all the success and happiness he so richly deserves. Lance Corporal Manley has been transferred to the Army Reserve and "A" Corps has lost another good fitter. Good luck to Signalmen Chappell and Brider on their Vocational Training Courses.

Promotions and Appointments.—Our congratulations are tendered to Lance Sergeant Shove and Corporal Parry on attaining their respective ranks, and to the following Lance Corporals on dropping the "U": French, Baldwin, Mainprize and Lumber. Also to the following on their first step up the ladder: U/Lance Corporals Owen, Powell, Walker, Weedon and Doris.

Congratulations.—To Signalman Lunn S., Mentioned in Dispatches by the Commander-in-Chief in India on 25th July, 1938, for gallant and distinguished services in the field.

To Corporal and Mrs. Craik J. on the birth of a son and heir—David Sandeman—born on 17th May at Birmingham. Another recruit for the Signals!

To U/Lance Corporal Powell K. on securing his First Class Certificate of Education.

Conclusion.—And so, gentlemen and chappies, my contribution has once more drawn to a close, and may Dame Fortune smile on all the noble members of the finest Corps in the Army. Au revoir!

J. L. M.

No. 3 Company.

Information.—Far away from coal fatigues, cleaning areas, M.T. details and the usual chores to be found in the barracks called "Mons," are the three little Regimental Gunner Signal Sections comprising No. 3 Company, and we hope they are getting some enjoyment out of doing their job.

2nd Lieutenant R. E. Stoney and Sergeant McKenzie, with their No. 1 Section, are at Longmoor, having just returned there from the Gunner Practice Camp at Rochester, Northumberland. This Section is doing well and having an enjoyable time with the 2nd Medium Regiment. Their representatives, who visit us from time to time, take care to let us know this fact.

2nd Lieutenant J. B. Birkett and Lance Sergeant Cairns, with No. 10 Section, moved off to join the 32nd Field Regiment at Brighton last Saturday. Being a newly-formed Section, no doubt there have been a few difficulties at the start, but we feel sure that by now No. 10 is a good team.

Sergeant Turner commands No. 11 Section, which left barracks last week-end for Colchester. They should now have settled down with the 27th Field Regiment.

Our remarks about No. 10 Section perhaps apply even more so to No. 11 Section, which, when it left us, was completely "in the raw," as it was not possible to form these Sections earlier owing to lack of N.C.O.s and men.

Intention.—A full driving licence for everybody in July and higher ratings at the next Trade Testing Board for all who get the urge to study NOW.

We asked Comrade Throup to tell us his intentions. He declared that it is too late for anything to be done as he is due

to pick up his bowler prior to being permanently " rolled " in the near future.

Method.—This is what our C.Q.M.S. uses nowadays when he wants to find something. He hasn't got all his eggs in one basket, and must find life just one darned shift after another, since the local A.R.P. Office is occupying what was once his store. He is due for " Civvy Street " soon and we wonder if he knows what is in store for him.

LANKA MK. II.

1st Divisional Signals.

14th June.

General.—Lieutenant-Colonel A. L. Harris, M.C., our Commanding Officer, has left us on a month's leave. Good luck and a good leave, sir ! Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel R. F. H. Nalder has taken over the command of the Unit, and Major Bushby is now second-in-command on rejoining from privilege leave from India.

We have had two very instructional " potted " Schemes, one on the " Dust Heap," known by those who bit the dust in the horsey and other days ; the other in the vicinity of Crookham cross-roads and the " Forresters," which revived old memories of "A" Corps Signals days at Crookham for some of us. A good deal of work was got through and the Unit learnt a lot.

An Approach March Scheme was held on Monday, 12th June, commencing at 9 a.m.—or rather 4 a.m. scheme time—in the Petersfield area. The approach march was made along two roads with three bounds and finished in the Alton area at about 6 p.m. scheme time, the Unit arriving back in barracks between midnight and 1.30 a.m. B.S.T. What time is it, and what day ?

We are now busily hurrying and scurrying in order to receive the Reservists, the Old Comrades, and to prepare for Signals Week. Tents have been erected to take the overflow from the barrack-rooms until accommodation is built. The Western Parade Ground is gradually making way for more huts, and the Sleepy Valley area will soon resound to the Sergeant-Major's voice from the new parade ground which is taking shape in front of No. 3 Block, Rawlinson Quarters. What a change !

May we congratulate the following on their promotion or appointments : R.S.M. Leath G. V., Sergeant Muir, Lance Corporals (Paid) Warren R., Irving A., Melhuish A., Rainford R., Wright C., Cocking A. and Bowler J., U/Lance Corporals Trott W., Jones A., Barry F., Brooklyn H., Rae A., and A/U/Lance Corporals Westbury A., Wilmshurst J., Willis V., Beckley J. and Strong S.

The following have been awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal with gratuity : Sergeants Gibbs F., Muir W., Sherrington F. and Lance Sergeant Choulerton. Congratulations !

A hearty welcome is extended to C.S.M. King F. of I.U.L. fame. We wonder if he knows India after nineteen years in that country, and if he has not forgotten his L.R.C. Also a welcome to Corporals King A. and Knight A., Lance Corporal Marshall G., Driver (H.T.) Dennis H. and Signalman De La Porte from Egypt ; Driver Allison S. and Signalman Canning from Catterick ; Driver Woolston from 2nd Divisional Signals ; Drivers (I.C.) Howlett I. and Newton J. from Mobile Divisional Signals ; and Signalmen Allen R., Brewer A., Dawes S., Duckett H., Etheridge I., Hart J., McGregor A. and Tull D. from 1st A.A. Brigade Signals.

The following have re-mustered as Linemen, Class III : Signalmen Archer F., Batt L., Bancroft G., Bates E., Charnoch N., Douglas, McLoughlin T. and Mortimer T. Signalman Ward C. has passed the trade test for Clerk, Class III b.

Farewell has been said to R.S.M. Hamlin H., who has been posted to "A" Corps Signals after a stay of five years. Shalom ! Also to R.S.M. Leath G. to the Militia Battalion, Catterick ; Corporal Burdes, who has done great work here in the Educational Room, to Catterick ; and to Driver (H.T.) Valentine to 2nd Divisional Signals.

A/U/Lance Corporal Strong S. has decided to soldier for another four years and has extended his service to twelve years with the Colours.

Congratulations to Corporal and Mrs. Willcocks G. on the birth of a daughter, Pamela June, at Aldershot, on 2nd June ; and to Signalman and Mrs. McKinnon W. on the birth of a daughter, Maureen, at Darlington, on 8th May ; and also to Signalman and Mrs. Noble J. on the birth of a son, Geoffrey Anthony, at Shirley, Southampton, on 5th June.

Our deepest sympathies are extended to the relatives of the crew who were lost in the sinking of the " Thetis."

2nd Divisional Signals.

Unit Headquarters.

16th June.

General.—There was great activity in the Unit for a few days prior to 4th June, on which date the Unit moved out to camp at Thursley, a delightful locality (remembered very well by Corporal White and Signalman Read), about two miles from Elstead. Apart from " elbow exercise " (and quite a number of our fellows reached a very high standard), there was little amusement, although on Friday and Saturday spirits were very much improved by the appearance of a Fair—a country affair—but, nevertheless, a source of amusement for a couple of nights.

During our stay at camp, the Unit took part in three Signal Exercises, and many thanks are due to "A" Corps Signals for the loan of a very willing and tireless Cable Detachment under the command of Lance Corporal Wilding. The Exercises, from our point of view, were a success, although with an entirely re-organised Unit there are still many minor points to be watched, all of which were pointed out at conferences held after each Exercise.

During the second Exercise, we had a detachment from the Royal Marines with us, and for the third Exercise a detachment from the Royal Air Force. One rather amusing incident occurred in connection with the Marines. It appears that the Marines sent a call for assistance from the workshops to the camp. The Light Aid Detachment went out, complete with breakdown lorry, only to discover that all the Marines wanted was the loan of a couple of batteries !

During the second Exercise we had a " real " gas attack. We write " real " because two persons of the Unit found things very uncomfortable. One was a member of " Q " staff, and the other from the Orderly Room. " There's a tear in your eye, Roylance, darling ! " Cheer up, worse things happen in war !

During this Exercise, the " cable reserve truck " lost his " Column." After wandering about for some time, a " Column " was spotted and was thought to be the missing one. Greatly relieved, our friend made after it, only to find, after sticking to its tail for some time, that it was not his " Column," but an entirely different Unit !

During the camp the usual outing for the families was arranged, and many thanks are due to the organisers, R.S.M. Willis, and his committee, for a very enjoyable afternoon. It appears that one of our S.S.M.s has missed his vocation, so much so that the kiddies mistook him for the Pied Piper. It is rumoured that he is applying for the appointment of P.S.I. to the W.A.T.S. since he passed with flying colours as Instructor to the ladies' " O'Grady class."

Back in the Unit.—After a hectic ten days at camp we are preparing for the reception of about 200 Reservists ; they are due to arrive on the 15th. We extend a welcoming hand to all of them and hope that their stay with us will be most enjoyable.

Promotion.—Rumour whispers that promotion of a very rapid nature is pending, so rapid in fact that youngsters are beginning to wonder if it will be worth while having single stripes sewn on their arms. Suggestions to avoid this inconvenience would be thankfully received by the Master Tailor.

Smacks.—Our R.S.M. has been rather troubled trying to discover his rates of pay. Whilst at Thursley his name was placed amongst those of the Recruits and, worse still, was paid out as a Recruit. Ten shillings does not go far, does it, sir ?

Cheerio for the time being !

TASHY.

No. 1 Company.

General.—We cheated the weather clerk at Thursley this year and had some fine weather; indeed, some of our youngsters have been observed in quiet corners lavishly applying olive oil!

After an early morning shower which made us wonder, the elements decided in our favour, and the Families Day (11th June) went off according to schedule. The old hands said, "First time for years. What's happened?"

Internal.—Our trucks have all been christened with names from fairy tales and the Walt. Disney "funnies." The personnel who man "Dopey" have been meticulous in explaining to all and sundry that the name *applies to the vehicles only*. "Romeo" lives up to the popular conception of the name and may often be found wandering down dark and shady lanes—presumably looking for a girl friend.

"A" Section failed to win the tug-of-war. Perhaps this was due to their marking time in "slow time," whilst their coach was calling out, "left, right, left, right, left" in "double time." Anyway, they tried hard and put up a good show.

Technical Try-Outs.—The Sergeants' Mess had great pleasure in entertaining the officers and, on another occasion, the Junior N.C.O.s, at Games Tournaments. As an onlooker in the vicinity of the darts boards and shove ha'penny arena, one was particularly struck by the difference in technique in the play between the light-handed operators and the administrative staff as opposed to the heavy-handed fitters, linemen, etc.

Hard Graft.—The Company has been issued (not by the Q.M.) with a large quantity of this commodity. We have all buckled-to cheerfully, and can report good progress in each of our tasks. Our biggest job has been to prepare for the arrival of our Reservists and, after a certain amount of pencil-sucking and scratching of heads, even this problem has been solved.

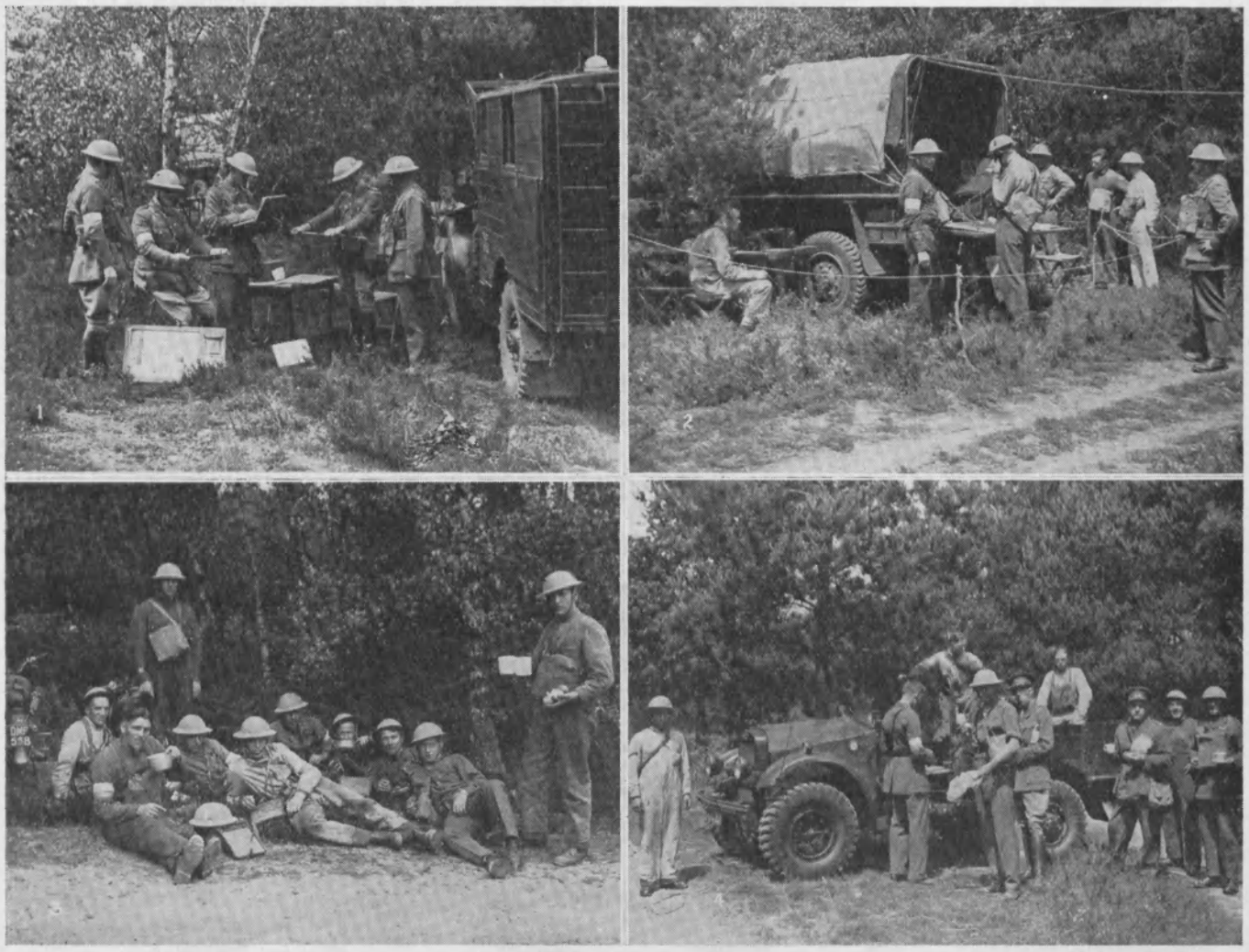
Cheers.—Loud and sincere to all the numerous arrivals in the Company. We are glad to see you all, and hope that the feeling will be reciprocated.

No. 2 Company.

General.—There is a time for all things, and to-day can hardly be called an ideal day for writing notes.

Thursley Camp is now a memory and a very pleasant and instructive one, too. The weather was ideal and so was the site of the camp.

2nd DIVISIONAL SIGNALS.



Photographs by kind permission of Messrs. Gale & Polden.

1. Issuing of verbal orders by Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. R. Neale.
2. A Relief of "D" Section in Action.
3. A Relief Off-Duty.
4. The Tea Wagon Arrives.

We were very happy to welcome an old comrade in Tich Adams. He will be remembered no doubt for his activities in the Riding School during the old R.E. days.

Riding around the country lanes on our various Schemes, we were afforded splendid opportunities of enjoying the beauty of the finest countryside in England. There was some work to be done as well, not forgetting our activities as fire fighters. Some of our journeys along certain Surrey country lanes could hardly be termed joy riding, as one had to be prepared to think and act quickly. At least one " i/c group " wished for the wings of a dove or the tracks of a whippet tank when he met a brewers' lorry in a lane which would not allow a fly to creep by without doing damage to its eyebrows. Incidentally, this meant a detour of several miles.

Humour—plenty of it. We have a water diviner with us. It was a pity that he decided to exercise his ability whilst sitting in a tree, when the branch he was sitting on crashed under his weight and deposited him in a very wet and deep stream. Bad luck, Vic. !

Horse Show.—During May an event was held for the best-turned-out Officer's Charger. The winner was the Commanding Officer's " Betty," groomed by Driver Lambert ; the runner-up was Major Gem's " Odessa," groomed by Driver Perring. To Drivers Lambert and Perring, both of this Company, we tender our congratulations.

Re-engagements.—To Signalman Strong our very best wishes on his re-engagement to complete twelve years with the Colours. Here's wishing him the very best of luck and the best of stations.

Departures.—C.Q.M.S. Holness insists on being a bird of passage for he does not like to become a fixture in any station. It is said that he paid Egypt a visit at one time, and rumour whispers that he passed through India. It is very definite that he did come to us for did he not awaken camp daily with his Irishisms long before his son had time to get up to sound Reveille ? He is still running true to form, and has now decided to drop in on Catterick for a while. Best of luck, Paddy, and we hope the W.O. III's there will take more than a parental interest in you.

We still have to learn why a W.O. III ought to wear an " L " plate !

C. P. R. S.

"F" Section, Attached XVI Field Regiment, R.A.

West Down, Wilts.

Since our last notes the Section has moved to West Down Practice Camp for twelve days' shooting. We left Ewshott at midday on 2nd June and, after a very boring trip, arrived at the camp. We had to park outside the camp until the previous occupants had departed, and so missed meeting gallant " G " Section. After a very hectic evening, spent in drawing camp stores, bedding and grub, peace descended upon the Section.

Next morning, work began in earnest. Wireless has been required every day—and what a day ! The wireless personnel start work at 8 a.m., return at about 5 p.m., and then, after a meal, start on M.T. maintenance. Up till now, communication has been perfect, and they are to be congratulated on their good work.

The Line personnel have not been idle, for they have been laying cable every day with a view to getting out a new drill due to the introduction of the 15-cwt. truck as a cable vehicle for R.A. Regimental Signals. The verdict of the linemen is, " It is in the bag."

The weather clerk has been very kind to us since we arrived here ; we have had at least eleven hours of sunshine every day. The Section is now ninety per cent. " tanned gorgeous brutes " ; the other ten per cent. have pimples. (It is rather sad to write that it is now raining.)

We return to Ewshott on Wednesday, 14th June, but with what degree of pleasure it is difficult to say, as the powers that be have decided to dump our tired bodies into " tents, circular, soldiers," owing to the fact that our portion of the Army Reserve is to join us this month. They are certain to get a big welcome from the Section, and we hope to meet some of our old friends of former days. The sole topic of conversation at the moment is, " I wonder if Joe Whatsisname will be coming up."

Lance Corporal Verlander may be seen out in the fields these days throwing a discus about. We understand he is in training for the Junior A.A.A. and the Army Young Soldiers' events. We all wish him the very best of luck.

Departures.—Lance Corporal Purkiss (i/c M.T. Accounts, Section Office and Signal Office Superintendent) departed in great haste on 31st May. He packed his kit, collected his *lettres des amour* (pale blue, received every morning at 7.30 a.m.) and left us for Unit H.Q. Sorry to lose you " Peggy " and best of luck in your new job.

Arrivals.—Lance Corporal Hopwood on 1st June. Welcome to the gang, " Badgy " ! He fills the vacancy caused by the departure of " Peggy," and is filling it very well. Ex-India " wallahs," they have brought to a fine art the method of shattering young soldiers' experiences. India is not what it was, and Lance Corporal Verlander has some rather caustic comments to make about " grippers."

Signalman Dunkley (D.R.), who joined us about Whitsuntide, has returned to us from the Reserve, and is assured of a welcome to the fold. He has settled down nicely, thank you.

Information Wanted.—Why does Corporal Thompsett insist that the Army is paid for a twenty-four hour day. We hear that he is preparing to get married soon.

(By kind permission of *The Evening News*)

Reservists of the Royal Corps of Signals being measured for uniform on reporting for duty at Mons Barracks, Aldershot.

Are we having a summer break this year ?

Tailpiece.—And so friends, until next month we say *adieu* from the vast wastes of Salisbury Plain.

VERLY JUNIOR.

No. 3 Company.

General.—The Company has been perspiring and "sun-bathing" at Thursley Camp for a fortnight, and the general opinion is that the camp was a great success. The weather held good for the whole period, and several are almost as tanned as their friends who are serving under tropical suns.

Sport.—"K" Section are to be congratulated on winning the Inter-Section tug-of-war. Their coach, Lieutenant D. A. Dickson, must be given a word of praise for the manner in which he coaxed that extra "little pull" out of his team.

Marriages.—Dame Rumour was right for once in the case of Signalman (Hookey) Walker, who took the plunge and married the lady of his choice, Miss Phyllis Irene Chiswell, at Hammersmith, on 13th May.

Welcome.—We are at present suffering from tired hands and wrists through shaking hands with so many old friends, who have been recalled to the fold for Reservist training. We hope they will enjoy themselves whilst they are with us, and we shall be sorry to lose them when their training is over. This is definitely the opinion of all the old soldiers of the Unit.

W. S. M.

1st Anti-Aircraft Brigade Signals, Blackdown.

15th June.

General.—The old order changeth for, after so many years as an attached Unit, we are becoming self-contained. The old Garrison Engineer's yard and stores are being converted into offices, M.T. and Section stores, mess-room and cook-house. The work is steadily progressing, and we should be installed in our new home before the next notes are written. Former members of the Unit will realise what a great improvement this will be. No more long walks to look for a Section store or the M.T. Office.

The Sections at camp continue to enjoy life, especially as the weather is so good. It is rumoured that some want to stay there until the winter !

We look forward to seeing some well-known faces when the Reservists rejoin the Unit on the 15th. It is hoped thatthey will enjoy their spell of service after civilian life.

Cupid's Corner.—Calling Malaya, Egypt and India. Congratulations and the very best of good wishes to the following married couples for a happy future : Lance Corporal Cave to Miss Ivy Murfitt at Stoke Poges, Bucks. ; Lance Corporal Newton to Miss Dorothy Eileen Kershaw, at Chadderton, Lancaster ; and Signalman Anderson to Miss Catherine Hamilton Brown Kirkwood Chambers, at Edinburgh.

Courses.—Congratulations to Lance Corporal Jackson on obtaining a "First Class" at the Army School of Education, Shorncliffe.

Education.—Congratulations to Driver (I.C.) Kempton on obtaining his Second Class Certificate of Education at Catterick.

Accidents.—Lance Sergeant Milligan was unfortunate enough to come off second best in an attempt to push a private car off the road. Luckily he sustained no serious damage, but only a very painful bruising, which will keep him quiet whilst he is undergoing repairs at Queen Alexandra's Hospital, Millbank. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Arrivals.—Lieutenant Nicks, Royal Signals (S.R.) ; Signalmen Slaughter and Yates from the S.T.C. ; Signalman Easdown from 5th Divisional Signals ; and Signalmen Rowlands and Stembridge from Delta Area Signals, Egypt. We hope they will enjoy their sojourn at Blackdown.

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Departures.—Captain J. C. Hardy, Royal Signals, as Adjutant of the Militia Unit, Harrogate. Their gain is our loss, for in him we have lost an officer who took the keennest interest in our work and sport. Corporal Snowball to Somaliland as instructor to a Native Unit. *Bon voyage* and pleasant hunting. Signalman Preston to the A.V.T.C., Leeds. Signalman Hunt to 5th Divisional Signals. The recruit linemen Squad to 1st and 2nd Divisional Signals, "A" Corps, and Mobile Divisional Signals. Good luck and best wishes to them all.

Promotions.—Congratulations to the following on promotion to their present rank : Sergeant Shove, Corporals Dewhurst and Sweeney.

Agony.—Did Millie lose his grip ?

Cricket.—Two practice matches have been played prior to the Unit games. In the latter we have not fared too well, having played 3, lost 2 and won 1.

v. "D" Company, Royal Berks. "D" Company, 107 for 8 ; A.A. Signals, 112 for 5 (Signalman Whitehead 34, Corporal Aldridge 36).

v. "H.Q." Wing, 1st A.A. Battalion, R.E. R.E., 123 (Dawson 32) ; A.A. Signals, 61 (Bloom 13).

v. Garrison Sports Club. Garrison Sports Club, 120 for 8 (W.O. Collins 36 not out) ; A.A. Signals, 108 (Aldridge 57).

Armoured Divisional Signals.

Bulford Fields Camp, Bulford.
11th June.

Pity the poor writer who has to leave the glorious sunshine in order to compile a few notes for publication. See him plaintively wailing and tearing his hair—his few sad last grey hairs—in an endeavour to think of something to say. It may interest readers to know that we have moved into a holiday camp in Bulford Fields. This move was preceded by a week of real hard work

on the part of those who put up the camp. Working in the heat-wave has ruined the complexions of some of our recruits, and has raised tender red blotches on their more or less manly backs, and the idea is to approach from behind, deal them a hearty clap on the back, and salute them with a " howdy." The infuriated roar which greets this manœuvre causes some amusement ; one competent linguist, who was greeted in this way, almost made the water boil for tea.

Seriously, the weather here has been splendid. Day after day of glorious sunshine, with never a hint of it finishing. (Touch wood.) Indeed, it is so enjoyable that the Office staff can hardly cope with the appeals from those who want to join us. We understand that the summer camps in the Isle of Man and elsewhere are being forced to reduce their prices !

Arrivals.—We welcome Major E. W. J. Hobkirk and Lieutenant G. E. G. Brown, who have arrived here for duty. As their coming coincided with the good weather, our welcome is doubly emphatic, and we trust that their stay with us will be enjoyable.

5th Divisional Signals have decided to exude another batch of recruits, who were planted in our happy midst, together with a few trained men from the Training Battalion to act as a kind of ballast. Too numerous to mention individually, we take this opportunity of welcoming them all to Armoured Divisional Signals, and trust that their stay with us will be a happy combination of pleasure and profit.

Promotions.—Sincere congratulations to Lance Corporals Harvey and Rotheram on going a stage farther in the Promotion Stakes Handicap. They have now dropped the " U " and substituted a " P." This must be the result of minding their p's and q's !

Looker-on.—The junior members of our Club—sometimes described as the N.A.A.F.I.—do much in their little way to lighten life's burden for all of us. For instance, the one who wanted to know how much debits he had in his credits ! And the chap from Caithness who innocently remarked, "Ah canna mak oot phit they folk ur sayin' ; they canna talk thir ane tongue." And, finally, our friend who wished to be issued with gloves when on coal fatigues, " because his hands would get dirty, Sergeant." We wonder what the Sergeant said, or can readers imagine ?

Tales from the Corporals' Mess.—Will Danny, last heard of in Bulford, kindly confine his attentions to less susceptible ones ?

How many goods can be bought for 1s. 4d. ?

Why are Corporals ?

Departures.—" We who are about to die. . . ." We wish the lucky ones *bon voyage* on their trip to India in July. Our weather expert has guaranteed fine weather out there, so the bright lads will be able to get sunburned after all. Don't catch cold, boys.

Change of Name.—This sounds like a Marriage Bureau, but nothing so romantic is forthcoming. What we want to say is that henceforward Mobile Divisional Signals becomes Armoured Divisional Signals. The unfortunate part about it all is that our N.C.O.s still insist on telling us to " get mobile " because they think that " get armoured " sounds like an invitation to a fight, and the poor darlings might get hurt.

Sergeants' Mess.—Activity in the Sergeants' Mess led to a challenge games tournament against the 2nd Battalion, Royal Northumberland Fusiliers, who came from Warminster to play. Although the evening's play ended in a draw, the standard on both sides was high, and we look forward eagerly to a re-play. We were assisted by the 3rd Divisional Signals' Mess ; indeed, many attribute the result to this fact. (This can be taken either as a compliment or . . .)

BEE BEE.

Wireless Wing, A.F.V. School.

June.

General.—The absence of notes from this section in the last issue of the WIRE is regretted ; an effort will be made to avoid this in the future.

Much dismay was caused by the non-appearance of the " Subsequent Amendments " paragraph in the magazine last month, but many of the " Blue Book " fiends are hoping that the next issue will compensate them. At the same time there is a feeling that this paragraph will soon disappear when the extension beyond twenty-one years comes into effect. Problem : Will Friday mornings in future be observed as a holiday for the purpose of drawing Old Age Pensions ?

The fine spell of weather which accompanied the Whitsun break gave the motoring fraternity a long-awaited chance to head for more civilised spots. Records again went by the board. One car left Aldershot as the 6 o'clock news was being broadcast and arrived here before the sports news. (N.B.—We refer to the sports news in the late news summary.)

Promotions.—Congratulations to Sergeant Little V. R. on his promotion to T/C.Q.M.S. to complete Establishment.

Education.—Congratulations to Sergeants Wilbraham and Locke and Corporal Lightbody on obtaining their First Class Certificate of Education at the March examination, and to Sergeant Coy on obtaining a pass in English.

Agony.—Lea, 4th Ind. Div. " Still awaiting the news. W." Ross, Sudan. " How about the picture of a camel attached to the north-east corner of an envelope ? "

Smiff, Aldershot. " Body blow. The H.T. battery in the old suitcase was well run down. W."

In closing, we should like to add that our best tennis player got the shock of his life when he was well and truly beaten 6—0 in semi-darkness, when using 1920 vintage balls and two " store " racquets. However, revenge will be sweet !

WEEPIN' WILLO.

4th Divisional Signals, Canterbury.

No. 2 Company.

14th June.

General.—Was it Socrates or Plato who said that there is a limit to everything ? We are just wondering when we shall reach our limit with regard to this accommodation question, which is becoming something more than important ; it is vital ! Catterick, apparently, has no mercy, for we are now receiving Squads at the rate of one per week and, eager as we are to contribute our share of kindness towards humanity by taking our new arrivals under our protective wing and showing them Merrie England (Canterbury), we really do feel that it is time that we had a breather.

Forgive us, dear readers, if we appear to be grumbling ; to the contrary, but we do feel bound to protect our " Q " staff, for we heard the Quartermaster say that his hair was falling out at an alarming rate, and it is obvious to all and sundry that his assistant has aged ten years during the past month. We have now adopted that famous motto, *Nil Desperandum*, which means, " Let 'em all come, we shall triumph."

In addition to our weekly Squad of recruits, the Unit has been blessed with the arrival of fifty-three Reservists, who were posted to Companies. When the writer, who is a comparatively young soldier, saw the greeting between old friends, he was touched to the quick—whatever that means—and fled to the sanctuary of his bunk, in order to shed a few tears of pure emotion. He realised, perhaps for the first time, that there is something in this Army after all. It is impossible to give the names of all the Reservists, and it would be unfair to mention only a few, but stamps are still only three-halfpence, and we are credibly informed that hope is not yet dead.

En passant we would like to let the world know that our beautiful square has been desecrated ! A gang of civilians are working furiously (that is because they are civilians) erecting two new barrack blocks. We are told that they will be " modern" and, although accurate information is lacking, we find that there are plenty of optimists who have decided that nothing can be lost be getting " well in " with the Quartermaster.

Band Week.—The Corps Band visited us from 28th May to 4th June and although the weather rather let us down towards

the end, their many performances were greatly appreciated, especially the " daily music hour." The Company desires to thank all members of the Band for their good work; we only regret their stay was so short.

Tabloid Sports.—As we said in last month's notes, the Unit intends to hold a Tabloid Sports Day, and here are the promised details. First and foremost, allow us, with pardonable pride, to record that No. 2 Company (Cadre) won the Inter-Cadre Trophy. In fairness to our rivals, the inimitable " Stinkers " (No. 3 Company), we will say that it was a close thing; but we didn't really exert ourselves.

Both Cadres and all Squads had to participate, and points were lost for each individual failing to complete the event in the time laid down. Everyone entered with a will, but towards the end there were many who thought that half-an-hour would not be too long in which to do the mile! In spite of the unfeeling officials, the mile was done by many in the prescribed time. After all, remember our motto!

We regret to say that No. 10 Squad of No. 3 Company won the trophy for the Best Squad. We congratulate them most heartily, but we leave the world to judge whether or not it is not offside to get up before the lark in order to indulge in surreptitious perambulations. We don't really know, but we have our suspicions!

Arrivals.—It is with tender feelings and sincere hopes for their future that we welcome to our ample bosom the following: Nos. 13, 15 and 17 Squads from Catterick Camp *en masse*, and our share of the Reservists. *Salaam!*

Departures.—No. 3 Squad to various Field Units. Good luck and don't forget us.

Promotions and Appointments.—Congratulations to C.Q.M.S. McIntosh W. and Lance Sergeant Milligan R. on their promotion. Many are seen wandering about the lines muttering, " O, how slow ye move, ye weary hours." To them we say, "Any moment now," for it really won't be long.

Things We Ought to Know.—Why Bill spent so many hours (moonlit) by the riverside whilst on leave? Whether he really likes light literature, or is it really a blind.

If it is true that " Satch " suffers from hallucinations, or that he is merely psychic?

Jews' Mail.—" Bunny " (Sarafand). " How about a line. Bob."

" Spiffy," Mobile Divisional Signals, Cairo. " Going to Bulford. Chunky."

A. R. B.

No. 3 Company.

Undoubtedly the most popular event of the past month was the Whitsun leave, although quite a number of Recruits were left behind, due, no doubt, to a shortage of the needful; but even that isn't a serious thing, because who would want to leave beautiful Canterbury and the lure of the Old Park? Looking round the barrack-rooms a couple of times supplied the answer to that question, because nowhere could the usual occupants be seen, and only the few who had to remain behind were to be found.

Having put the subject of leave behind us, thoughts are once more jolted back to earth by the arrival of eighteen stalwarts from Catterick, who go to form No. 16 Squad. The Company bid you welcome, and may your stay here be a beneficial one.

Coinciding with our return to duty was the beginning of Band Week.

On Wednesday, 31st May, a cricket match was played against the Buffs, resulting in a win for our opponents. The match was followed by tea in the various Mess tents and a dance in the Canteen from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Training recommenced on Thursday, 1st June, when the Unit was visited by the G.O.C., Eastern Command, who inspected the Squads under training and also the various offices.

The Inter-Squad Tabloid Sports were held on Tuesday and Thursday, 6th and 8th June. We have to hand it to No. 2 Company Cadre, for they beat us by just so much and no more, although we had them licked in the 8 x 220 Relay Race, with a time of 3 mins. 39 secs. No. 10 Squad won the Squad Cup, with Nos. 14 and 8 Squads as runners-up.

This month we also have two marriages to report. On Saturday 20th May, Lance Corporal Pickles led, or was led, into slipping a yoke on Miss Nancy Pratt. He was followed along the tricky path by the one and only Benny Leach, who was sent to his doom by a direct hit from Miss Elsie Coombes of Canterbury. It is only fair that we should tell the world that he was held down by Hiram P. Peck and Silos B. Bradshaw. Best of luck to both happy couples, and let us hope that the ration bag will not get too heavy.

On Tuesday, 6th June, we bade farewell to our Company Commander, Captain L. W. J. Dryland, who has left us to take up the appointment of Adjutant, Militia Training Battalion (Royal Signals), Catterick. Our best wishes go with you, sir! 2nd Lieutenant H. J. Thompson has again taken over the reins as our Company Commander.

Corporal Thorpe has returned from the Educational Course, recently held at Shorncliffe, having upheld the Company's tradition by bagging a " D." Congratulations are also tendered to Corporal Last on attaining that rank, and to Lance Corporal George on successfully passing his Class I Draughtsman's test and on completing the examination for his First Class Education Certificate.

It may be of interest to former 4th Divites to note that two new barrack blocks are being built between Waterloo Block and the sports ground. These will provide accommodation for approximately 112 men.

Also on this month's departure list are C.Q.M.S. Wells and

his assistant, Signalman Sawyer; the former to take up a post at Whitehall and the latter to civilian life.

So for this time we draw in our horns, but next month readers will probably be told the innermost secrets of No. 3 Company by another one-time Singapore "WIRE-notist," none other than "Ould Ireland '17."

SLIM (R.H.S. II).

Northern Ireland District Signal Company, Belfast.

June.

The laurels this time go to the M.T. Section, who have added two more trophies to our already imposing array. Signalman Clark brought home an outsize one from the Ards Motor Cycle Club Trial as winner of the individual prize, and before mamma had time to show it to all the neighbours, Signalman Mulderig presented us with another from the Knock Motor Cycle Club. To these must be added the team prize won jointly by Signalmen Clark, Ivinson and Mulderig. There are a lot more trophies awaiting collection in Northern Ireland and, notwithstanding the vintage of our bikes, we hope to win a few of them. The team have suggested that for the next Trial the B.S.A.s should be equipped with tracks and alpenstocks.

As far as routine work is concerned, everything is under control. The Greypoint-Belfast group are coming through the "interference" very well; Lance Corporal Garton and Signalman Outhwaite, who are holding this fort, rival the Signal Office in battery consumption. Rumour whispers that another imposing antenna will shortly appear above the Signal Office roof, making it an ideal bird sanctuary.

Signalman Clark negotiates a tricky bend in the Ards Trial.

[Photo: *Belfast Telegraph.*

Wireless Control at the Red Brae Motor Cycle Hill Climb.

Reliability??

Arrivals.—Corporal Fraser from the Coffee Bars of Cairo. We hope he will enjoy the local brew as much as he did the "Blue Niles."

Departures.—C.S.M. Bishop and family, who have basely deserted us in favour of the joys of a soft job with the Militia at Harrogate. We fear that with the departure of the C.S.M. our chances in the local tennis championships this year will be remote as our learners are still very "L."

Sport.—We have only a small paragraph for these activities as our cricket team have lost their first two matches, the first to the local Police by 25 runs, and the second to the R.A.F. by an innings. Judging from the large number of pairs of white flannels purchased, the team seem determined to try again and may probably bring the bacon home next time.

Comment.—Several interesting personalities have been absent from the streets of Belfast during the last week or so, and we wonder if this accounts for the increased feminine attendance at the Garrison Church. Could Jacko or Maxie explain!

Coming Events.—Watch for the second of our "Jungle Night" stories, "Smells of Singapore," contributed by Lottie.

SOAPY.

Signals Unit, Queen's University (Belfast) O.T.C.

Belfast.

14th June.

Past.—During the last month outdoor work, other than preparation for classification, has consisted of two evening excursions. The first, a Scheme to illustrate the action of a Battalion Signalling Platoon in defence, involved visual and cable work at Sentry Hill, east of the road Belfast-Templepatrick (nearest landmark, the "Crown and Shamrock"). The cable business

was done so thoroughly by two parties of recruits, each led by an Aldershot veteran, that recovery of cable was a slow affair, and kept us out till long past closing time at the "Crown and Shamrock." Two W/T sets were also out on this Scheme.

On 2nd June a party of recruits tried their hands on an Apparatus, Cable-laying, No. 2, carried in a Transport Board lorry (very sticky, as the previous load was obviously tar-macadam) near Rushy Hill.

We almost forgot to mention that some of us have been trying to become proficient on our one motor cycle. There is no immediate prospect of our producing a display team.

Present.—The Military Training Act has caused the cancellation of arrangements for camp at Girvan and, at the moment, we do not know what form our annual training, which is due to begin on 8th July, is to take, or where it will be held.

Future.—We are completely in the dark as to what happens next. The operation of the Military Training Act is bound to alter completely the way in which Senior Division O.T.C.s in Great Britain carry out their work. Will an endeavour be made to pour us into a mould designed for Contingents, whose younger members, unlike ours, will do six months' Militia service either before or after their University years? Will we, because of the impossibility of producing, without six months' Militia training, results equal to those which can be obtained with such a period, be added to the roll of disbanded Irish units? Will some means be found whereby we may be allowed to fulfil some useful purpose outside the general scheme for O.T.C.s? No one seems able to tell us.

Congratulations.—To our P.S.I., A/R.S.M. McDonald W., on his substantive promotion to W.O. III, Royal Signals.

To C.Q.M.S. Henderson, Sergeants Baird, Neeson and Handforth and new Corporals and Lance Corporals too numerous to name.

Q. Q.

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NORTHERN COMMAND.....INDIAN ARMY

"A" Corps Signals, Rawalpindi.

8th June.

Obituary.—It is with much regret that we record the death of No. 2324259 Signalman Lock A. A., who died on 29th May at the British Military Hospital, Murree, after a short illness of only five day's duration. He was admitted to the British Military Hospital, Rawalpindi, on 24th May, and was transferred to Murree the same day.

General.—During last month we had several enquiries from potential recruits. Two were enlisted, and they are now at Jubbulpore doing their recruits' training.

The results of the Rawalpindi District Hockey League have recently been published, and it was a very agreeable surprise to find that Unit Headquarters topped the League and were awarded the Cup. The League, which was inaugurated last winter, has been a definite success. Our two teams found themselves playing practically every night towards the end of the cold weather season, and members of the teams admitted that they were enjoying the games very much.

The re-introduction of bearers in the B.O.R.s' Mess Room has made a considerable difference to the messing arrangements; not a word against the system has been heard.

Arrivals and Departures.—Signalman Robinson L. and family left us for the United Kingdom at the end of last month, and Signalman Preston has gone to Risalpur. Signalmen Hughes F. C., Booth J., Cadman A. and Grainger R. have been posted to us. Signalman Hughes is no stranger as he was formerly a member of this Unit.

Congratulations.—To Lieutenant G. A. Dutton, who passed the Higher Standard Urdu Examination. To Lance Corporal Davidson A., on passing the British Service Urdu Test and obtaining the Army Special Certificate of Education. To the following, who have partially qualified for the award of the Army Special Certificate of Education: C.Q.M.S. MacCulloch, Corporals Jackson A. and Terrey F., and Lance Corporal Barnett A. To Corporals Spencer P. and Cox J., Lance Corporals Bennet T. and Taylor K. on being awarded the Army First Class Certificate of Education; and to Sergeant Marchant M., Lance Sergeant Kerr G. and Signalman Barnes J., who obtained subjects towards the award of the same Certificate.

Promotions and Appointments.—The following have been promoted to the ranks stated during the past month: Sergeant Houghton H., Lance Sergeant McKeer J., Corporals Stevens H. and Butler F.; Lance Corporals Davidson A., Parsonage B., Ireland A. and Cooper C., and U/Lance Corporals Hewitt J., Cracknell A., McCormack J. and Jardine W.

PEDLAR.

Headquarters.

Rawalpindi.

7th June.

We Barge In.—Another month has gone by, and if the proposed "Four Year Plan" materialises we shall not even have the opportunity of accumulating a respectable debt, let alone make provision for the proverbial rainy day.

Our activities alternate between the Swimming Bath and the Hills. Each week end sees the exodus of the faithful to their respective Meccas.

Departures.—Our former R.S.M. (now Lieutenant (I.P.C.) D. Todd) has left us for the home country. We wish him every success in his new capacity.

Promotions and Appointments.—Congratulations to Sergeant Houghton H. and Lance Corporal Davidson A. on attaining their respective ranks.

It Happened on Manœuvres.—The Infantry Commander had just led his Battalion through a particularly muddy river, when a Cavalry Squadron approached and crossed the bridge.

Infantry Officer: "Are you aware, sir, that according to the Scheme that bridge is blown up?"

Cavalry Officer: "Are you aware, sir, that according to the Scheme, my horses are swimming?"

To an Optimist.—No; you can't have a big pay this week, I'm going on leave.

Good hunting, cads!

R. H.

1st Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Risalpur.

2nd June.

General.—This is the coolest May we have had for the last ten years, according to Ernie and we are not yet wiping our fevered brows. There are one or two damp foreheads, however, but we think they are mostly due to the coming Trade Boards.

Of late the Troopites have been "Bulling and Bearing" the markets, and we understand that Eastman Kodaks are a gift at £900. In fact most people are now "Something in the City."

A week-end visit to Cherat was paid recently. We had a very enjoyable time and received a hearty welcome, in fact, too hearty, as we were beaten by 5—0 at hockey and by 21 points at tennis. Of course, the dance had nothing to do with it, but this weather does make one dry. Many thanks are due to W.E.S., Cherat, for an enjoyable week-end.

Now that most of the ladies are enjoying the Murree air, entertainments here are a bit slack, but we hope to arrange a few socials during the summer months.

We have a weekly event, sociable enough, to while away a few hours which takes place every Wednesday night in the form of a night march. The marches were uneventful until the last one when, besides getting caught in a dust storm, half the Troop were wandering over the maidan most of the night calling, "Bill, Bill." Our William had run out of juice. (No, he was not lost—ask him). If his bike was as thirsty as he was when we came in at

Standing (left to right)—Signalmen Roake, Lester, Hanson.
Seated: L/Corporals Duncan and Bolton, Signalman Clarke, Corporal Strong.

Corporal Strong, Chief Cook and Bottle Washer.

3 a.m., it must have been out of oil as well as petrol. Bill was thirsty and the " Bill " cost a bit of " Go(u)ld."

On Whit Monday we all grabbed our towels and costumes and went for a swim. We went to Chakdara but, unfortunately, on arrival found the water was a bit too fast and a lot too cold for us, so after a spot of potato peeling (not to mention potato eating) by our voluntary cooks, we packed up and moved homeward to Jalala where we found an ideal spot which actually had grass on the banks. A wonderful time was had by all and thanks are due to the organisers and workers on the trip. The weather was excellent, a fact that was borne out by the cries of " Don't touch my back," " Oh, my legs," and " Turn on the punkahs " the following morning. All handsome men are slightly sunburnt !

Our C.O. had rather a long spell of illness in quarters followed by a short spell in hospital. We are glad to say he is now fit and looking forward to his leave in England.

Hatches.—This month nil. Last month's have diminished by two but, from what I hear, the other two will not reach a ripe old age.

Matches.—Also nil, but our duty D.R. reports that the recipients of most of the fan mail are contemplating wedlock.

Despatches.—Poona has wrested from us a fixture in the form of Corporal Hargreaves. Without our fan dancer we are seriously at a loss. Never mind, Jack, Poonaah in '39 you know !

The Farrier Staff Sergeant's boat has been launched at last. He and his family left us for the promised land where Sergeant Townley is to undergo a Vocational Training Course in order to become used to these new fangled " motty " cars. Signalman Hughes of " Cabby " fame left us for Rawalpindi at the beginning of June. He says that he will come back when we get fans in the stables.

Amendments to the Blue Book.—If we carry on at this rate our annual allotment will be greatly exceeded. Congratulations are extended to Corporal White C. (yes, Blanco by name) on attaining that rank. Not long now, Blanco, and it will be F.-of-S. we hope. Congratulations to Lance Corporal Bolton R. on dropping the " U." The back pay tasted good, straight off the ice, too.

Things We Would Like You To Know.—Our storeman lost ten pounds in weight whilst struggling to take the lid off a packing case. His efforts were successful, but the wireless station had to close down owing to " Xs " when he found it had no bottom.

Our ride has been swimming again. Three this time. Applications have been received to the effect that they wish to be excused the annual swimming test.

Signalman Taylor has been keeping the Kohat colours flying (or should we say falling). He has found enough " chips " to swell the A.S.A. Fund considerably.

Note :—Kohat colours are registered here as yellow patches on a black and blue back(ground).

Some members of the Unit are taking Glucose D. The reason has not yet been solved. Perhaps there are some hidden attractions ?

One I would like to know myself. What did the Senior N.C.O., Junior N.C.O. and the solitary Signalman feel like after saluting the Sergeant-Major on pay parade ?

Stop Press.—Before going to press there is one more Blue Book amendment to be made and that is the promotion of C.S.M. Gould to R.S.M. Congratulations, sir ! We are all thirsty, so I suppose it will cost you a bit more Go(u)ld.

DIZZY ROA.

Waziristan District Signals.

Headquarters.

Razmak.
1st June.

General.—Since our last bulletin to the outer world, we have evacuated D.I. Khan in order to enjoy the more invigorating climate of our summer residence, Razmak. The photographs were taken during a halt in the move. The group around the Rolls is fairly representative of the M.T. and D.R. Section, and they appear to have enjoyed the trip. (Not having, at the time, reached the more gruelling portion of the route.)

As usual, we have been allotted a different section of the camp for our residence, and wireless masts and a new Remote-Control Room and Charging Shop have sprouted on new sites. The site of the R.C. Room is, incidentally, on ground that three years ago was well outside the perimeter. Most of the sports grounds, too, are now inside the camp. The sprint to safety in the event of sniping has thus been largely decreased. There are rumours in diplomatic circles that the tribesmen have lodged a formal protest at being deprived of some of their national sport.

If the Town Planning Committee do not curb their ambitions, some of our more recent residents may yet see " H.M.S. Razmak " locked in. Old Wazirdistites would reasonably be excused for not recognising the camp.

There are individuals who are longing for the time when we shall return to D.I. Khan for the winter season. It is not the scenic splendour of the place so much as the fact that it is the starting point for homeward drafts that is responsible for these sentiments. " Roll on " is an ever-popular motto. It is much more pleasant in the meantime to acquire a " Razmak Tan " than " D.I.K. Prickly-heat."

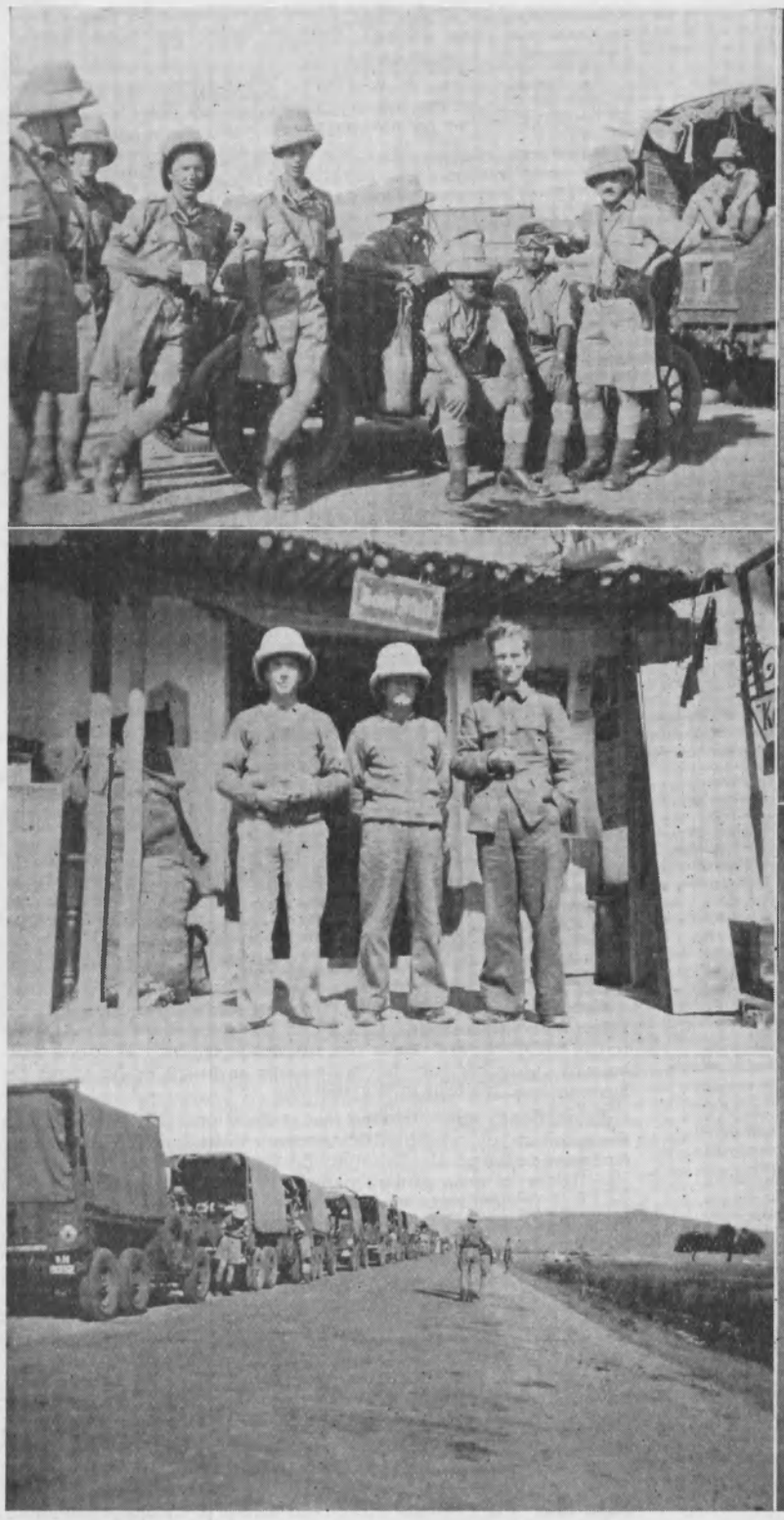
Departures.—Captain E. J. C. Harrison, Royal Signals (our Adjutant), whilst on leave in the U.K. received a Posting Order to the S.T.C. (I), and, therefore, did not rejoin us. We hope that he will enjoy his stay in Jubbulpore as much as he seems to have enjoyed his tour in Waziristan.

Promotions.—Our belated congratulations are tendered to the following on reaching their present status : W.O. II (C.S.M.) Gudgeon ; Corporals Crammond, Grant, Booth and Stanley (the latter is now probably recounting his epic deeds to an awe-stricken audience in Aldershot) ; Lance Corporals Webster, Fowler and Morrison ; Unpaid Lance Corporals Dyson and Moore. We also congratulate other members of the Unit who have been promoted and whose names are to be seen in the notes of our Brigade Signal Sections.

Medals.—Congratulations to all those who have received the India General Service Medal, 1936, and Clasp " North-West Frontier, 1936-37." The recipients are too numerous to mention by name. It is a comforting thought that our personal assets have risen to combat a possible " rainy day."

Sport.—The Razmak Brigade British Hockey Tournament is scheduled to begin early in June and, consequently, strenuous efforts are in progress to produce from the combined H.Q. and Razmak Signal Sections the two most formidable teams. We hope that " A " versus " B " will afford a thrilling final, but we have not entirely discounted the theory that some other Unit may produce a dark horse. Anyway, we hope to uphold our reputation as hockey champions.

AUCEPS.



A PAGE OF PHOTOGRAPHS FROM WAZIRISTAN DISTRICT SIGNALS.

W.O.s and N.C.O.s Mess

We are sorry that no notes appeared in last month's WIRE from this Mess. This omission can be put down to the Unit move from D.I. Khan to Razmak.

Social.—On 15th April, we held the last dance of the season. The ladies provided the refreshments, and very good they were, too. On the following day, Sunday, we had a Mess picnic at D.I. Khan-on-Mud, when, once again, the ladies provided the "goodies." Before tea we played rounders, some of the ladies showing a fine turn of speed when sprinting between bases. We returned to the Mess about 8 p.m. After a wash and brush up and powdering of noses, we rounded off the day with a social evening. Everyone agreed that it had been a jolly fine day.

General.—On 19th April, the families moved to the Murree Hills for the summer season, so now there are quite a number of grass-widowers in the Mess.

On 10th May, the Unit moved to Razmak. We are now settled down in our new quarters. Quite a number of members have been heard to say, "Roll on D.I.K."

Congratulations.—To C.S.M. Gudgeon and Corporal Grant on taking a step further up the ladder of fame.

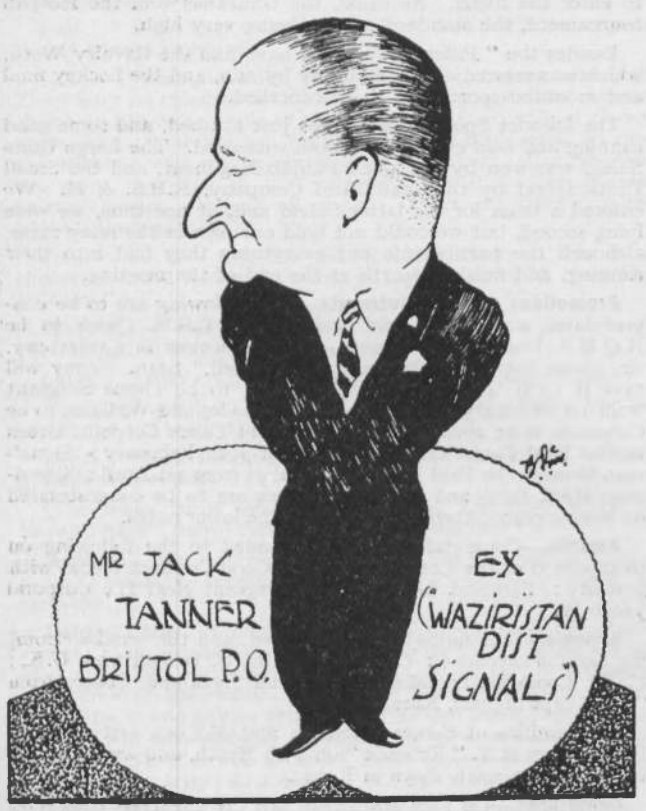
Question.—Did the train shunt on the last journey, or was it plain sailing, Shoey ?

KIKO.

Razmak Signal Section.

31st May.

General.—During the last few weeks there has been much speculation amongst old Wazirites as to when the boat will be due. Minds were set at rest with the news of the new "four-year plan." Despite the good news "Old Warrior" has decided to stick it out for another tour.



Promotions and Appointments.—Dame Fortune has done a bit of overtime on the Corps Roster. The lucky lads include Corporal Hamblett (since departed for Bannu), Corporal (Buck) Taylor, Lance Corporal Happy Waite, the P.T. expert, Lance Corporal Sam Madin, and last, but not least, Taffy Thorne has got his foot on the first rung of the ladder.

Arrivals and Departures.—Lieutenant P. O. J. Nicholson, Royal Signals, has assumed command of the Section vice Lieutenant D. C. Lyall, Royal Signals, to Unit Headquarters. Lieutenant B. D. Kapur, I.L.F., has decided to try Quetta, hence the arrival of Lieutenant Bhagat, I.L.F. T/Sergeant Bennet spent a week or so with us before deciding that Wana was his station.

Sports.—The Section football team did not get very far in the Brigade Tournament. Better luck next year! The final of the basket ball (B.O.R.s) has yet to be decided. We hope for a win. The Section hockey team has receded into the background with the arrival of Unit Headquarters in Razmak. The combined forces are endeavouring to produce teams to bring home the Cup. U.H.Q. can depend on our laddies giving of their best on the hockey field.

Heard on "Column."—"This is a new hookum, Sergeant," said the new Razcolite, pointing to a chagul filled with water. "What is that, is it a marker for the Advance Guard No. 1 Set ?"

Another new Razcolite, when given an order to supervise the water fatigues said, "Right, I fill the Bhisties first and then put them in the yakdans." We shall omit what the Quarter bloke said.

We introduce or re-introduce "Uncle Brutal," alias Chinky, to all past and present Wazirites. We are not quite sure whether he contemplates transferring to the Gurkha Rifles.

UNCLE BRUTAL.

Bannu Signal Section.

May.

We apologise for the absence of notes for the last two months or so, but with most of the Section out on detachment at Latamber Domail and Bahadur Khel—well—we are afraid that news was anything but startling. Now that we are all together again, however—here goes. The detachment is still at Mir Ali.

We welcome to Bannu: Lance Sergeant Voice W. and Corporal Winter F., both from the U.K., and hope their stay will be a pleasant one. Cheerio, Corporal! Was that sore throat contracted at the Glasgow Exhibition ? (There are plenty of "Zubes" about.)

Congratulations to Lance Corporals Brown R. and Furtado R. on their "jaldee" move to rung No. 1. According to rumours we understand there are others who are hoping.

Sports are still played in large chunks nightly, and now that the hot season has started, swimming is a welcome break in lieu of P.T. before breakfast. It gives us an appetite; ask the chap i/c messing!

"Pechi" small parties will be wending the weary road to places of leave, and we hope that the magician who manipulates the credits will do his stuff. Is it right, Lofty, that mazri makes spanking civvies ? Cheap at half the price. Why pay more ?

The school from the "Blue Room" now do it in style on the lawn and large sittings gather nightly to indulge. It is understood that Pilsener is grand for night starvation. Is that right, Dave ?

Stranger than Fiction.—When asked about a convoy the "Local Lad" said he had never been to the "place"!

Who told the darzi to put a dhurrie on his topi ?

A chattie is a bloke who chats!

Backsheesh.—McKiver (Inverness), Driver (I.C.), somewhere in Egypt. "N.W. Mac. Ow Abt It ? Rogers, ex-Radio Club, c/o this Section."

Ex-Sectionites might like to know that Toddy is now a Mrs. The snap shows her with child (Foo) and two very old friends.

All for now, folks!

WILJON.

Wana Brigade Signal Section.

11th May.

Arrivals.—Lieutenant C. T. Honeybourne, Royal Signals, from RZK Section; Corporal Fox A., Signalmen Neve, Henderson and Colman, all from "H.Q." Section (ex-"B" Corps Signals, Karachi). We hope they will have a very pleasant stay.

Departures.—Lieutenant A. F. McGill, Royal Signals, to "H.Q." Section, after a very happy stay in Wana. All ranks of the Section were very sorry indeed to see him go, and our very best wishes go with him for the future. Teak Ha! Signalman Jarvis to "H.Q." Section. So long, Jorv!

General.—The Section was out on a six-day "Column" during April, the circuit being the same as for March, 1939. The officers were: Lieutenant C. T. Honeybourne, Royal Signals, Brigade Signal Officer, Lieutenant A. F. McGill, Royal Signals, and Lieutenant D. Yearsley, Royal Signals (who was attached from "H.Q." Section for the period of the "Column").

On 6th May, the B.O.R.s of the Section (under the capable directorship of Signalman Towson E. J.) presented a Dramatic Entertainment, "The Road-diggers of 1939," in the Signals Lines, for which hearty congratulations are tendered to him and the remainder of the crew—Corporal Ogden, Lance Corporals Piddington, Cass, McWilliams and Bond H., Signalmen Feakes, Carter and Small—for the very excellent show. Well done, Tow!

On the same night, after the entertainment, the B.O.R.s entertained Lieutenant A. F. McGill, Royal Signals, and other officers of the Brigade to a smoking concert in the B.O.R.s' Institute. The evening was thoroughly enjoyed by all, especially the feature in which Lieutenant A. F. McGill won the "swindle."

Sport.—The B.O.R.s have so far entered the semi-final of the Brigade Inter-Company Football Tournament, 1939, and are due to play No. 3 Field Company, Sappers and Miners. Our spirits are high!

By the time these notes appear in print, the B.O.R.s' swimming bath will be open, and we are all hoping to keep reasonably cool.

New Wana.—At last some signs of the Signals Lines are appearing. The Section offices and I.O.s' quarters are already in view, and by about October the Section should be moving. Shall we shout hurrah! or otherwise? (I'm not worrying, I'm going home.)

Walter Winchell's Corner.—Who wanted to know if the S.X. and D.X. Board was high frequency?

Who thought that "2045" was the same as quarter to nine in the morning. (A.M.)

Trade Testing Board.—The following were successful in obtaining ratings as shown at the May Trade Board: Signalmen Markendale and Stubbs J., O.S. I; Signalmen Smith R. (026) and Stanger J., O.S. II; Signalman Feakes G., I.M. III (additional qualification).

SIGS. WNA.

Kohat District Signals, Kohat.

30th May.

General.—Apologies are due for the non-appearance of our notes for the months of March and April owing to a very busy time which the annual inspections of the G.O.C., Kohat District and the C.S.O., Northern Command, entail.

On 2nd March we said goodbye to Major G. C. Winckley, M.C., Royal Signals, who has been posted to the Home Establishment on medical grounds following a severe illness which commenced the day after he performed the duties of Father Christmas at the kiddies' Christmas Party. For a considerable period Major Winckley was on the S.I. List, during which time his condition gave rise to genuine concern, but he pulled through. Now that he is again in England, we hope that he will soon regain his good health. No doubt you will read these notes, sir, so here's wishing you the best of health and happiness.

During the past month we said goodbye to Captain R. B. Gray, Royal Signals, who has been transferred to the U.K. on medical grounds. At present he is on medical leave ex-India, and we wish him all the best of luck and a speedy recovery.

Within the next few days we shall be saying goodbye to Lieutenant and Quartermaster H. L. F. Fegan, M.M., Royal Signals, I.A., who is leaving us on permanent posting to 1st Indian Divisional Signals, Rawalpindi. Mr. Fegan has been with the Unit for five years, during which time he has put in a tremendous amount of work, not only for the Unit but outside as well, and he will be greatly missed in many spheres.

With the departure of Mr. Fegan goes the record of the Quartermaster's Office staff of having a hundred years' service and nineteen medals to its credit, which must be a record for any similar office with a staff of four, not only at the present time but since the days of Bedford, Crowborough, and Maresfield. We remember the H.Q. Office at Maresfield used to harbour a few old soldiers, and perhaps "BARLEUX" of *Plain Tales* fame may have something to say about this record. Remember, Bob, only a staff of four, and all working in the same office. Our Q.M.'s Office staff record is made up as follows:

	Years' service.	Medals.
Lieutenant Q.M. Fegan, M.M.	31	7
C.Q.M.S. Meredith (Q.2)	25	4
C.Q.M.S. Steed (Q.1)	25	7
Corporal Jacob (Q.3)	19	1
Total	100	19

On Wednesday, 5th April, a farewell social evening and dance was held in the Sergeants' Mess in honour of Mr. Fegan, which, everybody declares, was befitting the occasion. The Unit wishes Mr. and Mrs. Fegan continued good health and happiness at Rawalpindi, and trust they will always remember the happy times spent with Kohat District Signals. Goodbye, sir, and the best of luck.

During the past two months there has been plenty of sporting activity in Kohat. The Piffer Football and Hockey Tournaments were, as usual, successful. The 5/13th F.F. Rifles won the hockey tournament. The week previous, this team had won the Punjab Army Tournament at Jhelum, and were the favourites, but they had to play very hard against the 2/6th Rajputana Rifles in order to enter the finals. As usual, the Ghurkhas won the football tournament, the standard of play being very high.

Besides the "Piffer" Week, we have had the Cavalry Week, which was marred on the final day by rain, and the hockey final and mounted sports had to be cancelled.

The District Sports Meeting has just finished, and some good running and field events have been witnessed. The Large Units Shield was won by the 5/8th Punjab Regiment, and the Small Units Shield by the 22nd Field Company, R.B.S. & M. We entered a team for the latter Shield and, at one time, we were lying second, but we could not hold our own in the relay races, although the participants put everything they had into their running, and finished fourth at the end of the meeting.

Promotions and Appointments.—The following are to be congratulated on their recent promotions: C.S.M. Quick to be R.Q.M.S. from 14th January—as you are now in Canterbury, sir, please leave one for me in "The Bell," Stan. Money will save it until '41; Corporal Berry W., to be Lance Sergeant from 1st February; Lance Corporals Fowles and Williams to be Corporals from 26th February; Unpaid Lance Corporal Green to the Paid Lance Corporals' Roll on 26th February; Signalman Bruce to be Paid Lance Corporal as from 1st April; Signalman Hunt (229) and Signalman Peers are to be congratulated on having placed their dainty feet on the lower rungs.

Awards.—Congratulations are extended to the following on their award of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal with gratuity: Sergeant Mansfield F., Sergeant Neal H., Corporal Jacob W.

Arrivals.—The following have arrived, and the usual welcoming hand is extended: Captain and Mrs. G. B. Bell from U.K.; C.S.M. Coombes, Signalman Jones and Signalman Coates from "B" Corps Signals, Karachi.

The families of Sergeants Smith and McLean arrived from England per H.T. "Etterick" on 25th March, and we hope that they will soon settle down in Kohat.

Departures.—On 12th March, we saw the departure of several warriors to the U.K.—some to stay and some to return after

six months' leave. Those who are fortunate in staying are Sergeant Neal and family, Lance Corporal Murphy, Signalmen Greenwood, Cook, Clarke J., and McIntyre. Those due to return in October are Sergeant Saunders, Corporal Carver, Signalman Riley and Signalman Eames (less family).

The following left us on 15th April for a spell of duty with our very good friends at 1st Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Risalpur. May they never get bow-legged : Signalman Taylor and Signalman Farry.

Tennis.—The following are the results of the annual Unit Tennis Tournament, held during the first two weeks of May :

OPEN SINGLES : Lance Sergeant Berry beat Lance Corporal Green. OPEN DOUBLES : Lance Sergeant Berry and Signalman Jones beat Captain Worrall and Sergeant Worth. HANDICAP SINGLES : Signalman Eichert beat Corporal Lawrence.

The sponsor of the tournament has been heard bemoaning his luck, as he only won two *pialas* instead of three. You are a cad, sir. Pip ! Pip !

Births.—To Sergeant and Mrs. Brewster one very small, dinkie daughter—Helen.

Line Leave.—Mush, Pineapple, Tognevald, McPhail, Seatter, Swerver, Dodger and Little Willie. Trim those sails, George !

Things we have to put up with.—The following is a record of a conversation in the Turkish Bath between one able-bodied Orkadian and one John O' Groation :

Lakri. " Who is that chust gorn in there with a rechuvenated chersey, and chet-black hair ? "

Toni. " Who wants to know ? "

Lakri. " Lakri."

Toni. " Well, choin up and come out. You chump up and down like a chack in the box. What do you think you're on, a choy ride or something ? "

Lakri. " Now, chust a minute. Don't exacherate. I've a good mind to get my chack-knife and make a nice chuicy slit in your gorchous gizzard."

Toni. " You chust come out of there, and I will twist your chaket around your neck."

Lakri. " Wait a munite, Toni, I was only choking with you. There ain't no chustice in this world. Let's go over the canteen choint and have a couple of nice jugs of char, a couple of chuicy apples and a limechuice. We shall have to be careful, because the slightest slip means seven days' chankers. Can ye heer the coins chingling in my pocket ? No, the other pocket. In my chacket. It isn't all money. There are some chimmie buttons there as well."

Toni. " O.K. Let me get this limechuice. I'm in a chenerous mood to-day. Feeling on top of the world, chust like a Chuke."

(They totter away, board a tonga and go for a nip around. Having had enough, Lakri gives voice.)

Lakri. " Home, Chames, and don't spare the Chee-Chee."

Toni (*en route*). " Dekko that chane over there. She reminds me of Chessie Matthews."

Lakri. " You mean Chincher Rochers, don't you ? She's gorcheous reeeeeely."

(The tonga turns into McQueen Lines and they decide to have another " limechuice." We leave them to it.)

Honkers.—Did anyone ever hear the saddish tale of " Gripper's " military bootings ? Ask him, someone. Don't be spineless.

Danger Zone.—A member of the local *ogpu* has reported a rumour is in circulation regarding activities in progress for the blowing up of Charwala bank. This is not by way of a warning or a threat to the civilian community, but Paddy Kelly is being trailed night and day on principle. Any one seeing him snooping around without boots is requested to communicate with the C.S.M.'s clerk who will, as usual, make copious notes, file them, and promptly forget all about it. (C.S.M. to note.)

Jewish Mail.—54th Divisional Signals. " Beat you to it a couple of months ago. Have a look higher up. Fred."

JACQUES.

WESTERN COMMAND ..... *INDIAN ARMY*

"B" Corps Signals, Karachi.

Unit Headquarters.

6th June.

Except for those who are anxiously awaiting the July boat, which no longer appears to be a myth, things have been very steady. Training progresses quite peacefully in the case of the recruits, with only an occasional howler to brighten the ever-gloomy I.T. " How is solonoid acid made, Corporal ? " or " Is back E.M.F. a kind of lumbago ? " are frequent posers.

The best laugh of the month arose out of a Map Reading Test. The question asked was, " Describe the watch method of finding grid north." The following effort was the result : " First take off the second hand, if the watch possesses one, then remove the minute hand. Having done this, hold the watch in the direction in which it is being tested to find grid north ; the hour hand will then immediately swing or turn in the direction of grid north." Remarks by the Examining Officer : " Then send watch to jewellers for repairs." The individual concerned has now been presented with a sundial and a heap of silver sand, and has assumed the duties of Unit Egg-timer.

A brighter morning break movement has been put into force, and " Gripping " Schools are now to be found on the Mess Room verandah instead of inside as formerly. The fact that M.E.S. cocktails have been put on the menu at tiffen time has caused some unrest. Why should " grippers " need a stimulant at this time of the day ?

A very pleasant afternoon was spent at the Unit Club last Wednesday, when a tea party was given by the Contractor in honour of Lieutenant-Colonel Roberts, M.C., on relinquishing command of the Unit. About 200 guests, including the families, sat down to a tea on the lawn. After everyone had taken their fill, and some even more, the C.O. took the opportunity to say farewell to the families. (The C.O. said he had one more parade with the men.) He said how sorry he was to be going, and how much he felt the thought of leaving the Service after having spent his lifetime in it.

VOCATIONAL TRADES ILLUSTRATED

" Tile Fixing."

A few days later the C.O. took his farewell of the Unit. He spoke of the way in which the fellows of " B " Corps Signals had played the game, and how they had always done their utmost when occasion demanded. He said he was sorry to leave the Unit and felt considerably the break of leaving the Army on retirement.

A party from the Unit, together with a number of I.O.R.s, went down to Keamari Docks to see this popular, well-garlanded officer depart.

Major J. E. F. Paton has once again taken over command of the Unit.

Nuts and Bolts.—Who Hussain't rode a winner for years ?
Is it a Trooper we're expecting or a sugar boat ?
S.O.S., Blackdown. " Mind the A.R.P. (Fannies), Soapy. Phone Karachi, 1 stop 2 stop 4."
" Congratulations, Joe (025). Does Mother McCrea like Duncan Bars ? "

I NO U. (SIGNAL WALLAH.)

No. 2 Company.

General.—The Company has not returned from any of those " leaves " common at this time of the year to Units at home, but about half of the Company hope to take a " one-way trip " this autumn or winter to that land of seasonable and long week-end holidays on completing their four or five years' tour in India. We said " hope," but some bright lads are very sure of themselves.

Individual Training.—The mysteries of " E. and M." are now being explained to our last Squad of recruits, who commenced training for their Group " E " rating a week ago. This now brings the total to four Squads, with the first Squad well on their way to B.III standard. Good luck to them all when the time comes to pass the test for that rating and extra pice.

Congratulations.—To Lieutenant (I.P.C.) Bevan on his promotion to that rank ; and to Mr. R. Hyder, late of this Unit, who is now employed as a wireless operator with 2nd A.A. Divisional Signals, Nottingham. A few of us who remember him in this Unit do not think he is unlucky ! But we should like to know what is the matter now !

Arrivals.—Signalman McKie has returned from duty at Quetta. Signalman Heap has been reposted to this Unit from Western (I.) District Signals, Quetta. Signalmen Pearce, Thurley and Dawson have joined from Jubbulpore for training as Operator Signals. The first two have sampled Karachi air before, and so to the latter we hope their stay here will be to their liking.

Departures.—We have just said good-bye to our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel A. W. Roberts, M.C., who has returned to the U.K. The Company wish you the best of luck, sir. Our best wishes are also extended to Lieutenant (I.P.C.) Bevan, who has left us for Malaya Signal Company.

Nobby's Little Two Spot.—W/T Stations, Western Command, India, 1935, '36, '37 and '38. " Bear up, O.B., even you can become Company Clerk after finishing your apprenticeship (Company Clerk to U/Lance Corporal)."

Conclusion.—That seems to be all for this month, and so, for the present, cheerio !

E DOUBLE U.

Sergeants' Mess.

General.—Well, folks, we have been asked to take over the job of Reuter's correspondent for the Corps magazine.

As readers probably know, our numbers have been depleted for some time, and we have now only about twenty members—happy and otherwise. Nevertheless, we have been keeping our end up in most directions. About twice a week we have a Mess whist drive and dance, and talking of dancing reminds us that even our Tim has been seen shaking a " nifty " foot. His best one is the Valeta ; he can do the Gaby Glide for that. Every Sunday we have a Lido party, which is thoroughly enjoyed by all—non-swimmers included. It is a good thing that the Water Inspector does not attend these parties or some people would have a big bill to pay for over-consumption. However, we expect that by the end of the season all the non-swimmers will be able to obtain their certificates for the " 30 yards."

On 29th April we held a farewell dinner party for R.S.M. Bevan, now Lieutenant (I.P.C.). (We nearly wrote P.C.I. by mistake, which means " Prevention of cruelty to Indians.") A very good dinner and a slap up time was had by all present. The dinner was, of course, a " stag party," but the ladies were present afterwards for the social and dance. We said good-bye to Mr. Bevan and family on the 29th, when they left by train for Calcutta *en route* for Malaya. Our best wishes go with them for they will be sorely missed by all of us at Karachi.

On 27th May the Mess gave a farewell dance in honour of Lieutenant-Colonel Roberts, our C.O., who has since left us for England and civilian life. Most of the civilian and military element of Karachi attended. The function went with a swing and was voted a huge success. The only thing that did not go with a swing was the bar ; that went with a huge lift ! The running buffet was, as usual, very popular ; we are noted for that, even the pickles caused some sparks and a huge thirst. The lighting was carried out by Messrs. Brice, Brice, Brice and Brice, and was an exceptionally good concentrated effort. Even our Scotch friends let the moths fly out and spent money " by the firstful," instead of calling for the usual " split soda and four glasses, please." Everyone voted it a real tip-top show, and the various committees are to be congratulated on their combined efforts.

We are hoping to hold one big dance a month in future ; we have a great name, and there is no reason why we shouldn't keep it up. Mr. Heinz, do your stuff !

Sport.—We have had the usual seasonable tournaments and, at present, tennis is in full swing. The only game we haven't a trophy for is darts. It is a pity that there isn't one, for the ladies would stand a very good chance.

Arrivals.—Lance Sergeant Salmon and family from Meerut. We wish them a long stay and a happy one.

Departures.—Mr. Bevan and family to Malaya ; Sergeant-Instructor Harrison, A.E.C., and wife to U.K. Never mind, the world is a very small place.

Pressure of time, not space, causes us reluctantly to abandon our efforts in order to catch the post. We hope to be on the same wavelength next month.

HEINZ (57).

Corporals' Mess.

Departures.—It seems nowadays that there is very little else to write about other than departures from the Unit. Just recently we said good-bye to our C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel A. W. Roberts, M.C., who has relinquished the command of the Unit. The members wish you the best of luck, sir !

Corporal Ridley has left us for 3rd Indian Divisional Signals, Meerut. Good luck, Bill, but beware of that horse's hoof, which is likely to strike at an unexpected moment.

Promotions and Appointments.—Congratulations are tendered to our ex-member, Corporal " Tim " Cole (at present attached to "A" Corps Signals, Rawalpindi) on his appointment to Lance Sergeant.

Activities.—The Mess has sprung into life once more, and is holding a Tin and Bottle Tennis Tournament with the Sergeants' Mess. Being our first effort—other than the Christmas one—for about a year, it went very well, and it is hoped that the Entertainments Committee will keep up the good work with others. We observed that one member of the other Mess took the Tin and Bottle part of the Tournament quite literally, turning up with a bucket of whitewash as his entrance fee.

The tournament proved that we have some ladies in the Mess who had hitherto been unknown. They are the " Misses " MacNain and Derrick, and " Mrs." Ambury. Members are interested in the latter, and wish to know if she is a tennis widow.

Atmospherics.—A new method of promotion has been discovered, judging by letters received in the Mess during the past month. Amongst our members we have a Captain, a Lance Captain, and a Lance Corporal Signalman. I wonder how many Unpaid Generals we have hiding their lights under bushels.

Was a certain Company Clerk getting affectionate with the remainder of the Company when he typed a series of " Xs " along the foot of a recent issue of orders, or did it merely indicate the amount of outside interference he was experiencing.

PEGASUS.

EASTERN COMMAND..... INDIAN ARMY

3rd Indian Divisional Signals, Meerut.

Detachment, 3rd Indian Divisional Signals, Lucknow.

1st June.

General.—Since our last plunge into the realms of journalism life has not been very hectic. Practically all the B.O.R.s are away and not much hope is entertained of seeing them again this summer, but we still have enough of the Courting 8th and the Gliding 6th to uphold the spirit and tradition demanded.

Training.—With practically all the B.O.R.s and I.O.R.s away on Courses, leave, and furlough, very little training can be carried out. We are still horse-drawn and so there are plenty of spare friends to be put to bed.

Arrivals.—A hearty welcome to Corporal Marjoram.

Accidents.—Our O.C., Captain G. U. Finney, Royal Signals, is considering the advisability of holding cycling classes in order to train B.O.R.s to fall elsewhere than on their faces. Signalman Collins has applied for the post of Chief Instructor.

Sport.—Our hockey team continues its conquering way and can acquit itself with credit against the best in the station. Last week we beat No. 2 Company, I.H.C., the Lucknow champions for 1937 and 1938, and drew with the present champions, the 3rd/2nd Punjab Regiment. During the latter part of this game we played with only nine men and were unlucky not to win.

W. G. L.

Signal Detachment, "Eastforce," Cuttack.

Repetition.—We remember the saying that a criminal always returns to the scene of his crime. Quite correct! After the audacious outrage committed in this magazine last month, the criminal is back in an attempt to cause the suicide of a few more readers. I have no pity, no scruples, no heart.

Alteration.—The kids say, " Give us Madge Evans, and I'll give you two Ginger Rogers and a Clive Brook." 3rd Div. says, " Give us a good man, and we'll give you one in return." The exchange duly completed, we find that one of our brothers went out one fine morning and, after that, he wasn't. Follow? No names no Benji and, of course, we were mad, but he was Madder. A matter of enlarging the barrack-room door and we managed to squeeze Tubby Tyers into the happy home. Between you, me and the boat, we think he is wasting away.

Reception.—A right royal reception was planned for Lance Corporal Lewin of 4th Divisional Signals, but we were forestalled in this respect by the lemonade wallah who promptly, gently and neatly slammed the dear old Lewin between the eyes with half the bottle. As things turned out the old adage, " A stitch in time, etc." came in useful. He got the stitch, we got the laugh. Oh, how these M.O.s enjoy life!

Publication.—The last issue of the WIRE has not been received here so we cannot assess it. But I will say that page one was just too devastatingly homicidal. Don't you think so, too? And that other page, you know, the one from Cuttack. Really I never laughed so much in all my life. Who is writing this, you or me? We know what is appreciated.

Motion.—The mere matter of umpteen morns ago, some of the lads heard the call and heeded. They were awakened in the middle of the night to trek off into the wilds of Gangour. We are a bit hazy as to where the boys came from, but they went. Thereby hangs the birth of another little gang called " Gangcol," whose present location is doubtful. It is also doubtful if any news about them will appear in these columns as they refuse to submit their grist on the grounds that it will give their hide-out away. You see, it is rumoured that they owe a chip for messing, and that is what comes of messing around and chipping in. (Borrow a mule and enjoy a horse laff).

Mastication.—Our B.T. Cook, a country-born kiddie, went to see a man about a sick report not so many hours ago, and ever since there has been great fun and a lot of secrecy in the vicinity of the chuck wagon. The lads are taking it in turn to offer the others pot luck, and mysterious dishes are appearing like fish-cakes out of the hat. They are tasted and lumped and, in the meanwhile, further dark and deadly dishes are being concocted. The childhood game of " Mothers and Fathers " seems to have caught on. Father does the work and mother offers the advice. Isn't it just like mother—ask Hancock, he knows.

Evacuation.—The lads, whom we forgot to mention and were stationed at Talcher, are to heed the call, or rather the recall, as the station there is closing down, and so, dear readers, those of you who were looking forward to some words of consolation from them are to be disappointed. It is rumoured that half will be subject to the " Dhenkanal Dithers " while the other half will partake of a little " Cuttack Clinging Cluster." These diseases, sad to relate, have been totally ignored by the medical profession, but you can take it from us that three months of either and a man is permanently ruined. We have it on unreliable information that the only cure for this appears to be either a sulphuric bath while it is hot, or a nice quiet pint of prussic.

Conscription.—Well, you boys who were unfortunate enough to go to Blighty a mere matter of months ago, perhaps even weeks, we must say how nice and enjoyable it would be to see your faces when the above heading applies to you. Still, cheer up, it is just what you have been looking for. Free board and lodgings, football, hockey, snakes and ladders, ludo, and, perhaps, even the romance and glamour of the East. Would that I were given the chance. I'm here, but the only glamour seems to be on the screen.

Cessation.—We will now conclude our little meeting with the " Orissa Ode to our 'opes." Something about leave and some unknown object called a boat. Still, for those who are not yet due, there is always the lovely thought that there are some who are only just on their way out, some who have just arrived, and others you will be able to pass on the way to the docks.

Gratification.—We are grateful to you all for reading so far. Send all doctors bills to us; we shall wait for them to become court cases.

KIT-KAT.

Detachment, 3rd Indian Divisional Signals, Kailana.

General.—Approval has been given this year for four parties to proceed to the hills instead of two as hitherto. Each party is having a period of five to six weeks, which is regarded as a semi-holiday. Three hours' training is being done on four mornings per week. The afternoons and Thursday and Sunday mornings are devoted to sport and individual trekking.

The detachment is approximately fifty strong and occupies Lower Lines, Kailana, a good distance from any other troops. It has its own Institute, with a well-equipped recreation room, and an indoor deck-tennis court has now been fitted up in anticipation of the monsoon. Hockey and football are played on the Depot ground which is allotted to the detachment almost every day. There are also two Depot tennis courts. The detachment teams in their matches in the first league against other detachments in Chakrata and Kailana, unfortunately failed to win. This is hardly surprising, as other detachments are all about two hundred strong. Nevertheless, some good games were played.

A few enthusiasts have undertaken long treks to Mussoorie (forty miles) and Simla (eighty miles). Others have contented themselves with local walks in the neighbourhood. The families are occupying brand new Quarters with long baths, fitted basins, hot water laid on from the kitchen, and even brass curtain rails.

Kailana is about 7000 feet high. We say " about " because there are so few level spots, and the roads and paths are steep. The journey from Meerut is by rail, and comprises a night journey from Meerut to Dehra Dun and then about sixty miles by bus, the last half being over a picturesque mountain road which constantly twists and turns. The scenery is mostly open hills, covered with coarse grass and interspersed with many wild

flowers and rock plants. Near the scattered villages are crops grown on terraces, reminiscent of the mountainous parts of Southern Europe and Palestine. Kailana itself is well wooded with oak, chestnut, walnut, pines, firs and many other kinds of trees.

HILSIGS.

3rd Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Meerut.

30th May.

General.—Strange though it may seem to those who religiously peruse our estimable magazine, there exists a Unit which goes by the above-named title. Our WIRE notes have been noticeable by their absence for many months now, but if this driving force which has inspired us to write continues, then readers can be sure of an account of our activities every month in future. There is now a great deal to relate, and it is difficult to know where to start. Needless to say, we still possess horses, but like the personnel of the Troop, there have been many changes. One departure among our four-legged friends, which will come as an unpleasant surprise to many, is that of horse No. 88, better known as " Dempsey." The old faithful must have been trying to live up to the reputation of his namesake, for one evening in stables he was found with a broken leg and, putting two and two together, it was decided that his next door neighbour was to blame. All that we could do was to wish him a fond farewell and move the suspect to another standing.

We have adopted a few more remounts and hitherto unknown " remount-busters " are appearing in our midst. Lance Corporal Hounsom, Signalmen Hockley and Moysey are three of the men whose fame is in the ascendancy. Already, the remounts are showing certain characteristics. One horse, being unable to speak, continually breathes down its nose, another pulls horrible faces and is for ever trying to make its way into the " Div." stables after Retreat, whilst another has developed a roll and the gait of Popeye.

The Troop has also taken beneath its wing a fearsome-looking brute by the name of " Bonzo." To be more explicit, a bulldog now snuffles its way around the stables, but as it only possesses two speeds, namely, stop and lie down, no one takes any notice of its fierce countenance. Any arguments about it being anything else than a bulldog should be addressed to us for onward transmission to the waste paper basket.

Hill Parties.—This year there is a new idea for providing men with relief from the heat of the Plains. Instead of two parties for the season there are now four. One batch of eight men has been and returned, and eight more are at present in Kailana. This gives everyone a chance to escape the heat for six weeks and, if this plan continues, the phrase, " Three full summers on the Plains to you," will be a thing of the past.

Owing to this new plan, technical training is being carried out on the Plains instead of in the Hills as hitherto, and if anyone suffers from insomnia, try listening to a procedure lecture with the thermometer reading 110 degs. in the shade. It is more effective than chloroform.

Anxious Moments.—The " four years in India " plan has caused a great flutter among the doves, and advance information about the probable contents of Unit orders was to the effect that men who had served four years in India would proceed home during May of next year. But, as usual, rumour was wrong, and the order read, " Men who have served four years in India MAY go home next year." But hope still springs eternal, and several men are preparing complicated " charts."

Part II Orders.—We apologise for the omission of any promotions which have occurred since our last WIRE notes as we cannot recall who was last mentioned. Nevertheless, we offer our sincere congratulations—although somewhat belated—to the following on attaining their present ranks : C.S.M. Applegate, C.Q.M.S. Madeley, Lance Sergeants Mitchell and Marsh, Corporal Gedney, Lance Corporals Leebrick and Craggs (minus the " U ").

Departures.—Captain McVittie has left us to spend what we hope will be an enjoyable three months' leave in the U.K. The undermentioned are also on six months' recuperation (?) leave in the U.K. : Corporals Gedney, Turner, Godly and Douglas-Beveridge, Lance Corporals Rainbird and Kelly, Signalmen Hills, Forrest and Thackray. By the way, this constitutes a record for the Troop as regards U.K. leaves in any one season.

Signalman Davison G. left for the U.K. for a Vocational Training Course and then discharge on 26th May. Lance Sergeant Mitchell (Badgy) has joined our neighbours, the " Div."

Courses.—Lance Corporal Craggs is at present on a P.T. Course at Kasauli and we expect him back, slightly muscle-bound, on 1st July. Ginger Leebrick has also had a bout of rissole wrestling at Poona. More anon. Jock Hounsom thinks that he will have a go at this A.R.P. business at Belgaum next month.

Gymkhanas.—A gymkhana is held every Thursday and each N.C.O. takes it in turn to make out the programme. Up to now we have not picked out our Olympic Jumping Team ; we find it hard to choose between them—they are *so* good. Seriously, it makes a very pleasant change from the daily riding and exercising routine, even if we have got to be tough in order to take it sometimes.

Awards.—Two weeks ago was an occasion for the throwing out of chests, when the C.O. presented I.G.S. Medals for the 1936-37 Operations. Though there are a great number of these medals in circulation, we are proud to possess one. The medals will certainly confirm the yarns that are going to be spun in the " Prince of Wales " next year, won't they, Willie.

Marriages.—We tender our congratulations to Wilf. Gedney on his marriage to Miss Emily Walker whilst in the U.K.

Education.—A clap on the back for Signalman Goodall on passing in English for the First Class Certificate of Education.

By the Way.—Captain Ponsonby's horse, " H.M.V.," is doing well this season, and we have great hopes of it doing even better in the Meerut Races. Shades of " Kissing Time " !

P. O. P.

SOUTHERN COMMAND ..... INDIAN ARMY

4th Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop.

15th June.

General.—On Thursday, 8th June, the Troop took part in the ceremonial parade, held by the Commander, 4th (Secunderabad) Cavalry Brigade, to celebrate His Majesty The King Emperor's Birthday. Brigadier A. G. O. M. Mayne, D.S.O., Brigade Commander, took the salute at the March Past. The parade was a great success, and the Troop was later complimented on its turn-out and drill. This will probably be the last " horsed " parade of the Brigade, as most Units are now being mechanised.

The weather has broken at last, and we had our first real rain on 13th June. We hope that the rain has proved to be a " sure-cure " for those sufferers of prickly-heat.

Preparations are now underway for the Troop Equitation Competition, and also for the Secunderabad Horse Show. It is intended to run fortnightly handicap jumping competitions with the hope of giving novices opportunities to take some of the prizes in future shows.

Congratulatory.—To Sergeant Hylands and T/Lance Sergeant Robertson on their promotion to their ranks.

To Sergeant Dilworth on passing in English towards his " First." (Sergeant Wagg, please note.) To Corporal Glover on passing in three subjects.

Members of the Troop wish to congratulate an old member, " Boy " Hare (2033588), on being awarded his First Class Certificate of Education, and in passing the British Service Urdu Test in so short a time in this country.

Sports.—A six-a-side Inter-Section Hockey Tournament was held between this Troop and 4th Indian Divisional Signals on Empire Day. Two Divisional Signals teams qualified for the final.

The tournament was keenly contested, and the winners were presented with hockey sticks by Mrs. W. M. Clapp at the conclusion of the game.

Here are some other results :

Troop 2nd XI	..	1	v. Divisional Signals 2nd XI	..	1
Troop ..	..	1	v. Hyderabad Lancers ..	..	2
Troop ..	..	1	v. H.Q., Deccan District ..	..	1

OTHER STATIONS ABROAD

Egypt Armoured Divisional Signals.

"W" Troop.

10th June.

Flash.—"W" Troop back in the news after a month's absence and still helping to keep the wheels of the Armoured Division moving. I.T. and Education are still in full swing, and many can be observed with puzzled looks on their faces.

The Troop took part in the "Showing the Flag Parade," which took place on 18th May.

Lance Corporal Adam, Signalman Goslin and Driver (I.C.) Fothergill returned to barracks after six weeks of wireless duties with the Camel Corps on the Western Desert. You'll get the M.M. yet, Bertie!

Our Troop Officer, Lieutenant B. J. Walker, returned from the U.K. after a well-earned leave.

Marriage.—The wedding took place at St. George's Church, Abbassia, on 8th April, of Corporal Burdon and Miss Christina Gardiner. The bride was given away by Sergeant Dunn. The bride's gown was of white parchment satin in the Tudor period style, the veil of tulle with satin lovers' knots worked on it, and was surmounted by a halo of plastic orange blossoms. The bouquet was of deep red roses. The duties of best man were in the hands of "Bing" (Lance Corporal Byron).

On leaving the church the bride was presented with a horse-shoe, bound in Corps colours, by five-year-old John Dunn.

The reception was held later at the house of Sergeant and Mrs. Dunn, and the honeymoon was spent in Cairo and district.

Corporal and Mrs. Burdon.

Appointments.—Congratulations to Signalmen Bowen P. and Dxon M. on their appointment as Lance Corporals with pay. The first of the thirty-nine steps!

Departures.—Signalman "Ace" Wallace to the U.K. on a Vocational Training Course. Also a much-liked ex-Troopite—"Bing" Barrow. Last, but not least, Corporal "Banger" King. May they all enjoy the fruits of A.R.P. and khaki uniforms.

Arrivals.—We welcome Lance Corporal Redmond T. from Canterbury and hope his stay will be very happy.

Sport.—The Troop supplied the following personnel for the Squadron six-a-side hockey team: Signalmen Brown J., Rowlands R. and McGiveron. (And are they doing well?)

Troop tennis is on the way; it is in the hands of our own Fred Perry—Lance Corporal Bowen P.

Jews' Mail.—611, Landi Kotal. "Is there a shortage of stamps? 127."

John Briggs, last heard of in "Punki." "Please drop Pip Bowen a line."

Little, Tientsin. "Write; will refund postage. Dick."

MAC.

"Z" Troop.

Several changes have taken place since our last notes were published. Some of them, such as the formation of the Mobile Divisional Signals, have already been mentioned, but the real hot news is the fact that we have changed our name once again to "Egypt Armoured Divisional Signals."

The Section is now commanded by W.O. III Andrews E., who recently arrived from India. A hearty, although belated, welcome is extended to both him and Mrs. Andrews. The second-in-command is still the very able Sergeant Ivison, of whom we do not see as much as we should like; he is very busy teaching would-be operators of the 7th (Q.O.) Hussars a little Navy (sorry) Army procedure.

George is in the news again. After pretending for over twelve months, he has at last been made a — well, congratulations to Lance Sergeant Surfleet G. on his appointment. Did we report that George had broken a finger whilst playing cricket?

We must close on a note of genuine regret. After making history as part of No. 5 Tank Signal Section, later No. 6 Tank Signal Section, and finally as "Z" Troop, two of our bright boys—Cross and Blenkinsop—are to be posted to "W" Troop. Our loss is their gain, and all that.

Spread, who is anxiously awaiting the boat, will soon be leaving. Who was it said, "The old order changeth"?

F. A. C.

Palestine Force Signals.

Headquarters.

June.

General.—The absence of WIRE notes from this Unit for a considerable period is regretted but, having taken over the duties of scribe again, we shall try to contribute our quota of news from the Holy Land each month.

Palestine Force Signals is now up to strength, and we assure readers that nobody is idle these days, especially in our Section at Nablus. We must mention No. 3 Section, otherwise we should hear something from the "Fighting 3rd."

The country is once again overflowing with cordite and fuzes. A good indication of this took place at the G.P.O., Jerusalem, where all the windows were broken and a letter box "moved" to the opposite side of the road. (Should we mention that a soldier accompanied it?)

Ex-Palestinians please note that Scale "A" is now a thing of the past. We now move about without anybody playing "gooseberry."

Promotions and Appointments.—These are too numerous to mention, but here are some of them. Congratulations to the following U/Lance Corporals: Guest R. (Reggie of Talpioth fame: No. 2 W/T Company, please note, especially Taffy), Russell, Lomax and Boozer (not really). To the Paid "Lancers," who got off so lightly in the Canteen: Lance Corporals McAdie, Lonergan and Filmer. To Sergeant Miles ("Smiler" to the Mess) on promotion to "Quarter Bloke." To Lance Corporals Bennett and Stewart (Roy) on promotion to Corporals, and to C.Q.M.S. Higham on promotion to C.S.M. To Corporal "Dick" Lavender on appointment to Lance Sergeant. Records have been very kind to this Unit of late, and still more are hoping for good news in the near future.

Leave.—We said good-bye to Captain J. Vickers and family for three months. We hope to see you back feeling fit for work soon, sir, and just in case the fitters lose their enthusiasm. Major F. K. Morton (our P.R.I.) also goes on leave shortly. All the best to both of them and plenty of sunshine.

Honours.—We sincerely congratulate our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. R. Steward, M.C., on being awarded the "Order of the British Empire." This is his second honour, as he has already been *mentioned* for "Devotion to Duty."

Outings.—Under the very able guidance of C.S.M. Tebbey, we organised an outing to the seaside on Whit Sunday, and a very enjoyable day was spent by the families and the troops. We wonder why our two W.O.s suffered the indignities of being buried in the sand with buckets on their heads, and with so many undesirable witnesses about. Perhaps the organiser can explain!

Sport.—Tennis and cricket have just started, but there is nothing of importance to report yet. The Sergeants' Mess can boast a very strong tennis team, and one of these days they will, no doubt, be challenged. The Men's Mess, unfortunately, cannot sport a "Set," but seem to have quite a good cricket XI, under the able captaincy of Lieutenant G. S. K. Maydon. We are hoping to have some good reports for next month, so look in.

Casualty.—We are sorry to hear about the illness of Master J. Vickers, the son of our second-in-command, but very pleased to know that he is doing fine.

Repatriations and Leaves.—No so many of the former, but 150 of the latter, all asking "when?" All those who came out with the 7th Division have been warned for a normal tour abroad, and all hope to obtain the leave that was not given them before they left England. We wish them luck.

The usual signs of "Roll on" are prevalent, but when postings do arrive nobody appears to want them, which goes to prove that there must be something attractive here. Is it the dark Eastern beauties?

Things We Simply Must Know.—Why a certain man disappears when he hears the "Lambeth Walk." They say the trouble originated on the outing to Tel-Aviv.

Which "Chota" chap was seen running up the road in his night attire? Was he really looking for "Bob," or shouting for good old "Bill"?

Howler.—The clerk who bought a packet of potato crisps and was heard to remark that the blue one wasn't 'arf salty!

Congratulations.—Best wishes to R.Q.M.S. Evelyn, who was commissioned on 27th May, and is now with the 2nd London Divisional Signals.

For Sale.—One electric bed-warmer on charge to Barrack Room III.

Jews' Mail.—Who was Corporal "Dick" Honor, and where is he now?

BUCK.

No. 4 Section, Haifa.

General.—During the past month there have been several Operations in which the Infantry have been seriously engaged. The White Paper on Palestine was anxiously awaited, especially by those stationed in this Arab-Jewish town, but, apart from some Jewish mobs thronging the streets and not behaving at all like gentlemen, we had no serious incidents. Of course, there was that occasion when the O.C. was driving through the Jewish main street, but, as Kipling might say, thereby hangs a tale.

Those warriors (?) of Mersa Matruh fame (*sic*), who remained with us, have been provisionally warned for repatriation, which just goes to show how time flies.

Promotions.—Once more Records have remembered us, and we congratulate the following on attaining their present status: Lance Sergeant Potts, Corporals Moore M., Spearman G., Patient G. and Donnelly T., Lance Corporal Smith J. and U/Lance Corporal Walton.

Postings.—To keep pen pals informed, here are our latest movements: Sergeant Lambert J. to "A" Corps Signals, Aldershot; Sergeant Cooley, Lance Corporal Johnson, Signalmen Finnigan and Roach from U.K.; Lance Corporals Johnson, Nicholson and McKay, Signalmen Acock, Allen, Dobby, Ford, Roach, Temme, Wood H. and Laing to Malta; Signalman Flowers from Jerusalem.

Leave.—Lieutenant J. F. Campbell and Signalman Salmon are enjoying life across the water. A cheery party of seven had a few days in Beyrouth a short time ago. They were cheery when they went, but oh, the aftermath!

Outing.—The families were fortunate in having their outing to Tel-Aviv before the publication of the White Paper, because it was placed out of bounds shortly afterwards. Everyone enjoyed themselves in spite of the breakdowns on the return journey.

No. 6 Section, Sarafand.

6th June.

Upgrading Course.—Having settled down after so many changes, and finding a lot of spare time on hand, our B.IIIs are becoming ambitious and we are starting a Course for Class II ratings. As so many are holding them back in remote outposts, Corporal Juniper is conducting the "E. and M." and "Procedure" part of the Course in the form of a Correspondence Course. Watch these notes for howlers.

Cricket.—Despite the fact that our only practice net somewhat resembles a buckshee bunker left over from a golf course and is not always available, our willow wielders have managed to get into sufficiently good form to beat R.A.F. Station H.Q., Ramleh, in the only match we have played. The score was: R.A.F., 46 all out; No. 6 Section, 78 for 8. A cheerful start to what we hope will be a very good season.

The White Paper.—Things had become very quiet during last month and restrictions were beginning to be dispensed with. The politicians said it was due to the anticipated White Paper; the old campaigners said it was because the local lads were busy with the harvest. But, whatever the reason, we sat back for a spot of well-earned rest, turned our eyes from the East where Salami's warriors lurk, and dug out our bathing costumes and flannels. A Jewish bus service started to run from the camp to Tel-Aviv twice daily.

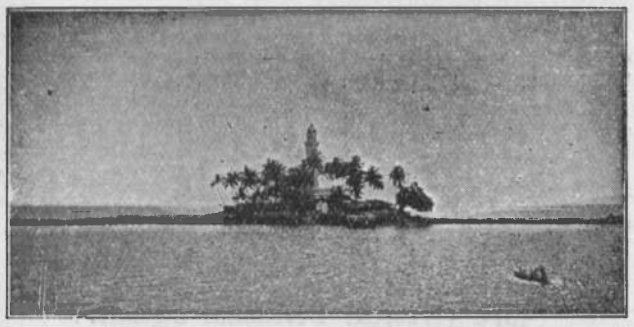
Then, with the publication of the White Paper, it began to look as though our pack sets would have some real work to do again. The day after the Government's announcement was made, we had five Marconi Sets in Tel-Aviv and Jaffa, with troops and police standing by in case of riots. Apart from the burning of the Municipal Offices and a few minor incidents, all was quiet and peaceful and, within a week, everything returned to normal.

Now it looks as though the "you-wait-till-after-the-harvest" sages were right after all for the locals are having a little quiet fun with landmines and rifles as relaxation after so much hard work on the threshing floors.

Marriage.—We hear that Lance Corporal Abbiss, who left us for Blighty in April, has " signed on " for life. Congratulations, Joe ! You certainly wasted no time. We wish Mr. and Mrs. Abbiss every happiness and success in their partnership.

Yehudis' Correspondence.—Lance Corporal (Taffy) Cleaver, India. " How about a line ? Mallins 006."

P.F.



Malaya Signal Company, Singapore.

Alexandra Depots.

1st June.

General.—Practice parades for the King's Birthday Parade have been the high spots of this month. We were sorry to lose the Canning Detachment so soon ; the pigeons were just getting used to the journey, too, although complaints about the wireless aerials and air lines obstructing the view were being received.

The Company is providing the centre-piece on the big parade and, naturally, we shall give the usual Signals' display as good as ever. Tallest on the right ; Johnston on the left !

Expeditions.—On 21st May the first party of pioneers, Sergeant Penny, Signalmen Allison, Leah, Conboy and Moir, proceeded up country by one route with our latest W/T Sets. The aerials were " lengths, wood, scrounged, homemade." On 22nd May, the second party—Corporal Howland, Lance Corporal Penman, Signalmen May and Wilks—departed to hack their way by another route. The tests, judging by the happy faces in the W/T Station, were very successful. Alex. bungalow resembled Broadcasting House. (Two more aerials and Puck's boast would have been fulfilled.) The linemen, of course, did make some nasty cracks, but Keeling's remark—that if there had been ten more yards of cable we should have been through by line—was entirely uncalled for.

However, the young operators gained some valuable experience in working under bad conditions. Now that the pioneers are back, references to " up-country " are quite normal. We are still trying to decode an address written by a native of Kluang. It appears that he lives in some place called " Tuansclub " and writes in the language of " Whitbreads."

Congratulations.—To Sergeant Abraham on obtaining 83 per cent. marks on the Command Gas Course at Tanglin. What, no A.R.P. badge ? To T/Sergeant Jackman on making the final change, and promotion to Sergeant on 26th March. To Corporal Hollingshead now L/Sergeant, and to L/Corporal McDonald promoted Corporal. To Lance Corporal Jones on passing in English and Geography and being awarded the First Class Certificate of Education. To the following on passing in the subjects as shown towards their " Firsts " : U/Lance Corporal Burge (Geography and Maths. (D.)) ; Signalman Stuart (English and Maths.) ; Signalman Darlow (English and Maths.) ; and Signalman Fox (English). Remember, " a little education is a dangerous thing," so press on.

And, lastly, congratulations to Lieutenant (I.P.C.) G. H. R. Flynn, M.B.E., on his commission to that rank.

Discharges.—2320531 Signalman Barrett D. left the Unit on discharge by purchase to take up employment with Wearnes Bros., the aircraft and motor firm. Best of luck ! Maybe you can do something about speeding up the air mail !

Extensions.—Lance Corporal O'Callaghan has extended to complete twelve years with the Colours. Our Albert will be next !

Following the lead of other Units, here is a nominal roll of the Unit. At Alexandra : Major F. T. Pope, O.C. Company ; Lieutenants E. W. Townsend, M. D. Price and A. G. Paris ; C.S.M. Harvey C. ; C.Q.M.S. Lawrenson and C.Q.M.S. (F-of-S) Nix. More names next month.

Wisecracks—So Called.—To Bing Harris, 1st Div. Sigs. " Portsmouth 4, Wolves 1. Poor ole Major Buckley ! Sailor." To Hag and Ricardo. " Still queueing ! "

TOMMIE.

Sierra Leone Signal Section

Tower Hill, Freetown.
18th May.

After being closed down for some eight years, Sierra Leone was reopened as a Royal Signals Station on 23rd October, 1938, by the arrival, per M.V. "Aba," of the Foreman-of-Signals, two linemen and one I.R. This number was added to on 25th March, 1939, when two more linemen and four operators arrived on M.V. "Apapa." Signals in West Africa are now represented by the following : C.Q.M.S. (F-of-S) Harris, Sergeant Davis, Corporal Howcroft, Lance Corporal Powell, Signalmen Nation, Prior, McNulty, Bethune, Belcher and Smith.

For the benefit of old " coasters " and those to come, we should perhaps say that conditions have changed a great deal for the better since the old days. Swamps have been drained, quite good roads made, and the medical services are good. A cold storage plant is in operation in the town, thus making English eggs, meat, fish, vegetables, fruit, etc., available. The length of a tour is now settled at eighteen months, with one week's leave for every month served on the coast. Wives, but not children, are now allowed out here. The writer (his wife is with him) would not at present advise anyone below the rank of C.Q.M.S., or Sergeant with no children, to bring his wife out owing to the very high cost of living.

The newest super-cinema is two or three days' boat trip away. There are two hotels in the town, but they are definitely third class. There is a golf club at Lumley, and also a very fine bathing beach, about 2½ miles long, but swimming a good distance out is not advisable owing to the presence of shark and other dangerous fish.

Tennis is very popular, and there are three courts at Tower Hill and three at Freetown Club ; all the Sergeants' Mess members are members of the Club. A football league has just been started, but only one match has so far been played. Occasional whist drives and dances help to pass the evenings, and a visit from the Navy is always looked forward to, for beside the usual festivities we invariably receive an invitation to a cinema show aboard—something which is really appreciated by all. A rediffusion service is in operation and for a modest ten shillings per quarter a loudspeaker is installed and we can listen to the Empire programmes from 10.30 a.m. to 10.30 p.m.

The temperature does not vary a great deal, usually between 80 degs. and 90 degs., but humidity is very high. The rainy season is between May and September, really heavy rain falling in July and August, when strong umbrellas and " macs." are the order of the day.

Mails are not so frequent as one could wish, sea-mails averaging five in two months, and taking ten days. An air-mail service connects *via* Bathurst—Stuttgart and operates weekly (*sic*), but at the moment is very unreliable. When working, letters posted on Thursday night are received in England on the following Monday.

We shall be very pleased to give more detailed information to anyone posted here, if they will write.

Casualties.—Signalman McNulty has recently undergone an operation for appendicitis, but, unfortunately, has not made such a good recovery as could be wished for, and is being invalided home. Good luck, " Mac.," and a speedy recovery in the Blighty Cantonment.

Stampless Mail.—Will " Busty " Bevans, last heard of in 'Pindi, reply to some outstanding correspondence to the above address.

PIPESS.

THE TERRITORIALS AND SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE

1st and 2nd London Corps Signals; Affiliated S.R. Units and 28th (London) Company, A.T.S.

Fulham House, High Street, Fulham, S.W.6.

June.

General.—Since our last notes, much has happened to us. Within a very short space of time we completed our Second Line and the two Units are now known as the 1st and 2nd London Corps Signals, T.A., and before these notes appear in print, the new Unit will have taken over their own (temporary) headquarters. It is very pleasing to note that their Commanding Officer is Lieutenant-Colonel C. A. Oliver, M.C., at one time Adjutant of the 47th (2nd London) Divisional Signals, T.A. At present they are using Fulham House for training, and have been allotted Friday evenings for that purpose. As these headquarters are decidedly on the small side, it would, of course, be a matter of impossibility for their 500 men to be accommodated here, and, in consequence, many instructors take their Squads away to the quieter streets near Fulham House. One Sergeant Instructor, on his return to Headquarters, was heard to remark, " I marched my —— Squad about Fulham for half-an-hour before I found a vacant street."

Nevertheless they carry on, and in doing so amuse the children, annoy the inhabitants, dislocate traffic and excite the dogs, but all the time transforming their Squads into really soldier-like formations.

This Second Line Unit of ours, in common with most others, is very fortunate when compared with their First Line Units. They start off at full strength, commence their training together, and so gradually develop into a complete Unit of trained personnel. They have not, for instance, the bother and hindrance of having continually to train numerous recruits as has happened in the case of the First Line Unit for a long time past, and which inevitably results in Sections always being made up of trained and untrained men. Both Units are going on annual training together this year, but in separate camps, which will not be very far apart.

The First Line Unit has had several recruits and musketry weekends lately. We have a very nice field near Chertsey, to which place we proceed on Saturday afternoon. We pitch our camp, and manage to do a spot of training before tea. On Sunday, those for musketry proceed to Pirbright, and the recruits are taken over by their instructors for training, which includes a route march.

This is the first year we have used the Pirbright Ranges; they are certainly a more pleasant spot than Purfleet.

On 6th May we held a very interesting and instructive T.E.W.T. This time we operated in the area around St. Albans, a place of memories for many Signals personnel during the Great War.

Sergeants' Mess.—There is nothing much to report from this department. For several weeks past members have been busily engaged in attestation duties, and training in connection with the formation of the Second Line Unit. We did manage to steal an hour or two on the evening of 19th May on the occasion of the annual Inter-Mess Games Tournament with the officers. The officers failed to win the Cup by a very handsome margin.

We congratulate ex-R.S.M. Evelyn on being gazetted Lieutenant (Quartermaster) to the Second Line Unit and wish him luck in his new venture.

We also congratulate C.S.M. Abercrombie H. (S.R.) on his promotion to that rank (Badge " Ten saxpences in wreath ").

The formation of the Second Line Unit has caused a wave of promotions, and we also have to congratulate Sergeants Fisher and Griffiths on their promotion to W.O.s II, and Sergeants White, Burrows and Pettifer on their promotion to C.Q.M.S. As the First Line Unit has been made up to War Establishment, we have ceased to be eligible for a R.Q.M.S., and R.Q.M.S. Wrightson has, in consequence, decided to revert to C.S.M., and has accepted a vacancy in that rank with the Second Line Unit.

Blowing Our Own Trumpet.—We are very pleased and naturally proud to report that our football team won the Richmond and District League Championship and the Junior Divisional Cup.

Our three D.R.s who competed in the London-Lands End Trial last Easter put up such a good performance that each of them was awarded a bronze medal.

EFF EMMA.

43rd (Wessex) Divisional Signals.

Headquarters.

The Priory, Exeter.

15th June.

Times change, and fresh events crowd upon each other with increasing rapidity, that it can almost be said that what is news today is history tomorrow.

Consequent upon reorganisation, we are likely to be known as " East " and " West." This being so, recruiting has ceased in Devon, at least, temporarily, and we now only require a number in Salisbury to be " doubled."

Training proceeds apace in all stations, and the new personnel are well maintaining their excellent start by consistent parades and progress in learning the intricacies of Signals. In many cases we find that Recruits' obligatory drills are almost completed. Also, they have, for the most part, lost little time in mastering the initial stages of operating, lineman's duties, and map reading. Some are advanced to such a stage that a little Signal procedure has been absorbed with keenness.

" The old order changeth." This seems likely to prove very true, in that the ground work, which used to take up six months' training, is now likely to be covered in almost six weeks.

We heartily congratulate Captain P. W. Shaw on his promotion and extend a very warm welcome to the recently gazetted and transferred subalterns. May their tour with us be very pleasant.

MERCURY.

No. 1 (Plymouth) Company.

York Street Drill Hall, Devonport.

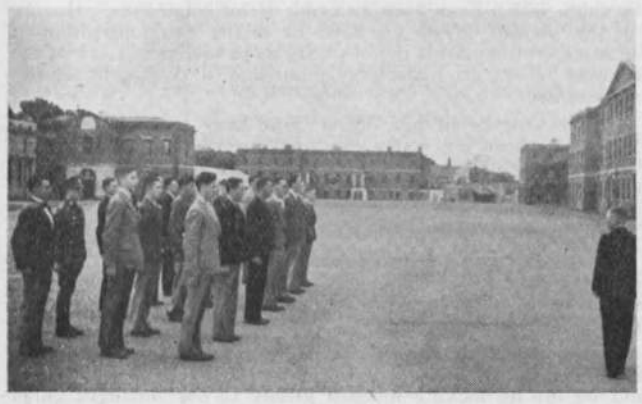
Training.—The past month has been mostly marked by the intensive training of recruits, and everything is going with a swing. The recruits have been divided into four Squads, and drills are being held four times a week as well as on Sunday mornings. The rooms and parade ground at Raglan Barracks present a scene of great activity, and officers and N.C.O.s are working at full pressure.

It is regretted that funds and time do not, so far, permit the development of our sporting or social activities, but we hope that will come later.

Meanwhile the Sections are plodding along. (They intend to show the recruits at camp what real soldiers can do; or will it be the other way about ?) "A" and " B " Sections have already been afield on one or two evenings, and " D " Section is waiting its chance to do so when their re-wired tables have been completed.

Congratulations.—To Captain P. W. Shaw on attaining that rank. Also to the following N.C.O.s and men on successfully passing the following trade tests: B.II: Corporal Pawlby A. G., Signalmen Hookway J. H. and Skinner P. C.; B.III: Signalmen

A Recruits Sunday Morning Parade at Raglan Barracks.



A little instruction in foot drill. A Recruits Sunday Parade at Raglan Barracks.

Colmer J. W., Hodge H. H., Luke A. R. and Newcombe S. R.; C.III: Signalman Addelsee E. C. Signalmen Skinner and Hookway require special mention as they rose from N.F.R. to B.II in one move, and Signalman Addelsee E. C. moved from N.F.R. to C.III, with the added distinction of being the only lineman to quality at this Trade Board. Well done, all of you!

Welcome.—We accord a very hearty welcome to Mr. W. McD. Porter on being gazetted to us on 31st May.

ONECOY.

No. 3 (Exeter) Company.

The Priory, Exeter.

Much has happened since the activities of No. 3 Company at Exeter were last recorded in the WIRE. The Company was then a relatively small body of men, whose training was a comparatively easy matter for most of them had considerable experience of Signals procedure and work.

The doubling of the Territorial Army has changed all that. No. 3 Company has blossomed out to full strength and now includes a Section attached to the 250th Light A.A. at Exeter. The Second Line Unit was brought up to War Establishment about a month ago. All of which has brought many problems for those under whose direction the new recruits will be trained and, indeed, to those whose job it is to train them. However, the work is proceeding apace. The personnel are keen, and already the first N.C.O.s have been appointed from those who joined only in April last. It seems likely that by the annual camp in August, the majority of the first batch of recruits will have passed their initial tests.

Much was learned at a Whitsun weekend camp at Dawlish Warren, which was also attended by members of Nos. 1 and 2 Companies, who gave assistance with equipment and wireless detachments. A Demonstration Squad from No. 3 Company was in action, and Recruits saw, for the first time, the working of the various methods of communication—radio, line telegraphy, the D.R.s and Runners—and had their first experience of Signal Office procedure and of the working and maintenance of radio transmitters and telegraphs.

The camp was under the command of Lieutenant P. A. Totterdell, and a visit was paid by Lieutenant-Colonel A. F. S. Fane, the Commanding Officer, and Captain R. Webb, the Adjutant. Lieutenant-Colonel Fane expressed his approval of the training in progress. Between now and annual camp there are to be a couple of field days, for which we hope there will be the glorious weather the Company had for their Weekend Camp.

THREECOY.

No. 32 Construction Section, L. of C. Signals

5, Springfield Road, Brighton.

June.

Having been appointed Section scribe for the WIRE, I hope those who appointed me will not be disappointed.

We regret missing our contribution last month, due to the move to our new Headquarters, where the surroundings are much more pleasant than those we have left. Our drill night is now Tuesday.

Arrivals.—On Sunday, 7th May, we welcomed our O.C., Lieutenant C. W. Millard, to the Section, and hope his stay with us will be a pleasant one. Our strength seems to be increasing, and, in the near future, we hope to be able to say "Full up."

"Fill up" is often heard on a Saturday night in the Mess. This is our Guest Night, and the ladies on these occasions have been a surprise. We always thought it was a man's game until I paid my threepence and saw the winner—Miss M. Smith. Other winners were: Miss J. Wilson, Mrs. Reeves and Mrs. Sinnock. Much could be said about our darts shark—Signalman May—especially when he went away with the booby one night.

On Saturday, 27th May, we were honoured with the presence of C.S.M. and Mrs. Guile W. from Headquarters.

We extend our congratulations to Signalman Appleford B. B. on his marriage to Jean Mary Cameron, on 20th May, at St. Matthew's Church, Worthing. He kept it very quiet! He is the first member of the Section to get married since we were formed, so Worthing is running away with all the honours—the first recruit and the first to be married!

A party from this Section attended the boxing match of No. 2 Company, 44th (H.C.) Divisional Signals, at the Drill Hall, Gloucester Road, on 29th April. We should like to congratulate them on their success by beating the Royal Engineers, T.A., Brighton. Keep it up, No. 2 Company!

Next month we hope to have some promotions.

JUMBO.

49th (West Riding) Divisional Signals.

Gibraltar Barracks, Leeds, 2.

13th June.

Apologies.—We have been absent from the pages of the WIRE for two months and for this lamentable breach our apologies are offered and, we trust, accepted.

Owing to the tremendous amount of work which has been done lately by both the P.S.I. and members of the T.A., we are afraid that quite a number of things which in the normal course of events are considered of major importance have been sidestepped, but we seem to have got things pretty well in order and have settled down to the job in hand of training our new-comers. The impression one gets after seeing our newly-joined recruits is that the future of the Signals in Leeds is distinctly bright.

Leeds Recruiting Week.—This Unit held a Recruiting Week prior to Conscription being enforced and, in our effort to " Double Up and Double the T.A.," we had the distinction of being the first Unit in the provinces to form our Second Line, and we were duly congratulated by the Secretary of State for War, The Right Hon. Leslie Hore-Belisha, and numerous others.

The R.S.M. and a large staff were working at high pressure for about two weeks, and on the night that Conscription came in for the twenty-year-olds, the rush was so great that we had a queue four abreast, stretching for fifty yards, but by that time we had completed our Second Line and had a waiting list of 150 ; so the R.S.M. made the would-be recruits a pretty speech, advised them to join other local Units which were in urgent need of recruits, and then retired gracefully to bed for a few days, no doubt murmuring to himself, " Something attempted, everything done." The rush of recruits was a fine public testimony to the popularity of Royal Signals.

From Chaos to Order.—The first job after doubling our strength was to fit each man into the Section to which he was best suited, and to this end our Colonel undertook the formidable task of giving each man a personal interview, the result of which proved very plainly that we had enlisted into our Unit men whose civil qualifications would be welcome in the Royal Signals.

Major Richardson, T.D., was appointed Lieutenant-Colonel and C.O. of the Second Line Unit and took with him several officers and N.C.O.s from the First Line Unit. Training commenced forthwith and because space is at a premium the First Line Unit drills on Tuesdays and Thursdays and the Second Line Unit on Mondays and Wednesdays and on Sunday mornings. Both Units will attend annual camp together at Skegness on 30th July, and the competitive spirit which has till now been an Inter-Company one, will, for a change, be an Inter-Unit affair.

Recruits' Camp.—Whitsuntide saw the recruits of the First Line Unit under canvas at Arthington, a glorious site midst scores of lilac trees in full bloom by the River Wharfe. One hundred and fifty turned out to get a first taste of Army life and were kept so busy at squad drill, arms drill, musketry and gas drill that they had little time to enjoy the scenery. Major Bray, who was O.C. Camp, had a tent fixed up as a gas chamber, and every man got a good whiff of gas, presumably to take his mind off the lilac ; judging by the number of times Major Bray went into the tent, we got the impression that he eventually became immune.

The Arthington Camp is a regular feature in our training and every week-end sees some Section or Company reclining luxuriously in West Yorkshire buses bound for Wharfedale from Saturday noon to Sunday evening.

On 24th/25th June the whole of the First Line Unit will be there for a Night Exercise, but more of that anon.

AQUA.

51st (Highland) Divisional Signals.

Headquarters and No. 1 Company.

Fonthill Barracks, Aberdeen.

June.

Now that we are well into the month of June our annual camp at St. Andrews looms large on the horizon. Sections are still busy with their training in preparation for some real work at camp.

The week-end camp, to be held in the Lairhillock District, has, for various reasons, been postponed until 1st and 2nd July.

We wish to express our appreciation of the lecture and Floor Scheme given by Colonel Harris at St. Andrews during the Officers' Weekend Exercise on 29th/30th April. It proved very interesting and valuable training for our officers.

Three officers and six other ranks of this Company spent the week 22nd to 27th May on attachment to 1st Divisional Signals at Aldershot. We would like to thank that Unit for the arrangements which were made for the entertainment and instruction of our representatives during the Course. They returned to Aberdeen full of new and bright ideas.

Recruits' training is proceeding steadily and over half have succeeded in getting " off the square." Those who have mastered the technique of arms and foot drill are now engaged in solving the mysteries of morse and electricity, and we hope to produce some future Marconi's.

"A" Section have been busy with Wireless Exercises during the last two weekends. The latest effort was particularly successful, communication being maintained at " R9s " between Dundee, Stirling, Aberdeen and Inverness.

Promotions.—We extend our heartiest congratulations to the following on their respective steps up the ladder of fame : Majors R. B. Williamson and A. H. Reid, Captain J. J. Donald, Sergeant Moonie J. H., and Lance Sergeants King A. L., Hardingham B., Flett J. M. and Walker A.

ONECOY.

13th (City of Aberdeen) Company, A.T.S.

This month we have very little to say for ourselves ; possibly the recent heat-wave has affected our energy.

An outstanding event of last week was the distribution of the shoes which have been awaiting us for some time. Having for the present given up hope of seeing the long-promised uniforms, we thought it might pacify us to take possession of the footwear. They are really very smart and, of course, fit for any road surface.

In the absence of our officer, who may return this week, Coutts has been efficiently carrying out the duties of Acting Senior Leader. We admire the serious spirit in which she tackles her responsibilities. Coutts has also sacrificed herself as the long-suffering patient for First-Aid Lectures. Once, we fear, the victimisation went rather too far.

Gadsby has now decided to leave us in September. It is to our advantage to have this keen Assistant Section Leader with us during the summer activities, although we feared she might leave Aberdeen much sooner.

Last month we mentioned that camp was more or less definitely fixed for 15th July at Barry. This has now been decided upon, and we are all looking forward keenly to our fortnight under canvas.

The member who has been in hiding for so long apologises for neglect of duties. After this week, she will either come forth to the daylight again, or withdraw to permanent obscurity.

SIGNALIA.

No. 3 Company.

Kirkcaldy.

12th June.

General.—Apologies are tendered to readers for the absence of our notes for the past two months. Without a vestige of doubt this time, we submit the old excuse—pressure of work. Phew ! And what a pressure ! Recruits to the right of him, recruits to the left of him, recruits all round him, and still the P.S.I. kept going. Name ? Age ? Occupation ? Parents both Scottish ? He went home murmuring to himself, " Blue eyes, brown hair, fresh complexion."

Prior to these questions the recruit was given a little general knowledge test, which brought forth some amusing replies. Question : " Name three members of the present British Cabinet ? " Answer : " H.R.H. The Duke of Kent, Mr. Anthony Eden, Mr. Winston Churchill." Question : " Well, what does Mr. Neville Chamberlain do ? " Answer : " Oh, he just sits in the House of Commons answering questions." Question : " Name one of the chief industries of Aberdeen." Answer : " Growing fish ! "

There were many queer answers which considerably brightened the proceedings.

However, we doubled our strength in a couple of days, and, by the process of elimination, have without doubt the pick of the young men of the town in this Company and they are as keen as mustard.

Training.—Although our limited accommodation is heavily taxed we manage to keep going with group working with the

No. 1 Sets, and the setting up of Signal Offices, etc., in the case of the trained men. Recruit training is proceeding apace. We have the use of Kirkcaldy High School grounds and a couple of class rooms, which are needed, too, when three Units, comprising about 400 men, try to train on the same evening in the town's only Drill Hall.

Voluntary Operating and Despatch Rider Classes on Sunday mornings are doing much to maintain the interest of the recruits, and knowledge of the technical side of the Unit's activities is eagerly sought after.

Inspections.—These usually take place outside the recognised training period, but, recently, we were visited by representatives from the C.I.A. and C.I.E.S.S., and also by Lord Elgin, the President of the Fife County T.A. Association. The former found everything satisfactory and the latter remarked how cramped we were when it came to training, but, unfortunately, nothing is being done in the immediate future to relieve the situation.

Musketry.—Two Saturday afternoons were devoted to firing our annual Rifle Course, and out of all the fine days we have been having lately we had to pick a couple that were cold and wet. The scores were well up to standard, although no comparisons can be drawn as this year the trained men fire on the open range and not on that of the recruits as in the past. Whilst on the subject of shooting, congratulations to No. 2 Company on winning the Inter-Company Miniature Rifle Shooting Cup.

Congratulations.—To our former O.C., Major A. T. Wood, and Captain D. J. Bogie on their promotion to those ranks. (The latter now commands the Company.) To Lieutenants A. Fraser and D. L. Campbell on passing their promotion examination for Captain. To Signalman Reid T. W. on being gazetted a 2nd Lieutenant in the Royal Engineers, and to all the other officers recently promoted.

Welcome.—We extend a welcoming hand to 2nd Lieutenant W. G. Leburn, who has recently joined the Company, and to all the recently-joined recruits; we trust they will all stay with us for a long time and enjoy every day.

Courses.—Our C.Q.M.S., one Gregor J., has been at Unit H.Q. for two weeks, delving into the mysteries of ledgers, vouchers, camp messing, pay lists and various other jobs delegated to " Q " Branch. He is looking round for several assistants now that he knows what being a Quartermaster involves.

Sergeants English R. and Cook A., and Corporal Brooksbank J. paid a flying visit to our affiliated Unit, 1st Divisional Signals, Aldershot, and returned very tanned and tired ? (Yes, the query mark should be there.) They want to know when we shall be getting Telephones " D," Mk. V, Switchboards Universal Cord, and Telephones " F." The answer, of course, is " When " ?

Lance Corporal Bannerman D. collected a Q.1 at the P.A.D. and Anti-Gas School, Tregantle. Well done, Donald ! Does anyone else want to go on a Gas Course ?

A/Corporal Brown G. returned with rippling muscles from the Command Gymnasium, Edinburgh, where he renewed an acquaintanceship with the P.T. Card. He passed " Qualified to Instruct."

Staff.—Sergeant English R. has decided to forsake a life of ease as a Joiner working ten hours a day and become a P.S.I. working all hours of the day and part of the night. Well, well ! We thought you knew better, Bobbie. Still, it's not too bad after the first four years, providing you don't want any spare time. (It has been decided that he will compile the WIRE notes next month—and succeeding months, if the writer has anything to do with it.)

Back to routine !

THREECOY.

52nd (Lowland) Divisional Signals.

21, Jardine Street, Glasgow, N.W.

13th June.

It is usual for the writer of these notes to visit the P.S.I.s at the eleventh hour before submitting them to the Editor in order to find the latest news. This time he has paid the visits, but unfortunately, little was forthcoming, as the staff are busily engaged, and their hands are " full " of new recruits, or ground sheets for the weekend Schemes.

Several Weekend Schemes have been held, all of which have been both successful and instructive. We have lost our happy hunting ground at Gailes as the A.T.S. are now in residence there, and it is feared that we might cramp their style !

The " Duplicate " (note the new way of expressing it) Unit is gradually beginning to take shape, and Major Warren has recently taken over the responsibility for its training. Promotions are not yet being made here, but when the time comes there will be a great number of newly-made N.C.O.s; so stick in chaps, now's your chance !

May we take this opportunity of tendering our sincere congratulations to Captain R. Graham on his promotion to that rank, and also congratulate all the young officers who have featured in the " Gazette " on becoming 2nd Lieutenants in the Duplicate Unit. Their worries now commence, in particular those of 2nd Lieutenant A. M. Reid, who has been transferred to the Original Unit and been given command of " J " Section in No. 3 Company.

The Annual Church Parade took place recently on what is said to have been the hottest day for thirty-three years in Glasgow. Nevertheless, we were well represented, and the Playhouse roof shook with the sound of our voices, combined with those of the A.T.S. and V.A.D.s.

We are becoming apprehensive about the Divisional Exercise which is to be held at Dechmont on the 24th of this month, one week after the T.E.W.T. to be held by the officers at North Berwick.

Before concluding, may we make an appeal. Where are all our Unit photographers ? Please come forward with any interesting photographs which you have taken of Unit activities, and give them to the R.S.M. for the writer of these notes. One of the Band playing after the bugle has sounded Reveille would be a pleasant record.

L.

G.H.Q. Signals S.R.

21, Jardine Street, Glasgow, N.W.

June.

General.—By the time that these notes will be in print, the Unit, minus Nos. 51 and 52 Line Sections, will be on their way to annual camp. This year's camping ground is at Barry, Angus (near Carnoustie), and the dates are from 15th to 29th July. Nos. 51 and 52 Line Sections are not going to camp—somewhere in the wilds of Yorkshire—until September.

Weekend Camps.—The weekend camp held on 13th/14th May was a great success. The weather was the best experienced in Glasgow for many years, and everyone revelled in the almost tropical heat-wave. Tests were made with " quad " cable. Teleprinters were superimposed on telephones, and the results were very good indeed—good clear speech without the slightest sign of interference from the printers.

Another weekend camp was held at Dechmont Ranges on 10th/11th June. We had intended going to our usual spot, Gailes, but, owing to the A.T.S. invasion there, a change had to be made. The accommodation at Dechmont was very good and included electric light, running water and a proper cookhouse, complete with range. It is a pity that Dechmont is not a bit nearer the sea.

Annual Church Parade.—The Annual Church Parade was held in Glasgow on Sunday, 4th June. Over 7000 troops of various Regiments were on parade, and marched past General Sir Walter St. G. Kirke, G.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., at the Cenotaph, George Square. The *Pathe Gazette* cameraman was there taking pictures, and we leave others to judge for themselves how we looked on parade. Suffice it to say that a letter of congratulation was received from General Sir Walter St. G. Kirke on the general bearing and appearance of the troops on parade.

Before leaving Jardine Street for the Church Parade the Territorial Army Efficiency Medal was presented to the following by the C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel G. W. Cumming, T.D.: Sergeants McCorquodale J. and Jackson G., Lance Sergeant Hutcheson J., Corporals Hall A. T., McEwan R. and Kerr W., Lance Corporal McAllister J. and Ex-Signalman Farrell J.

Move to Yorkhill.—No. 3 Company have moved into the new Drill Hall at Yorkhill. Although still far from complete, two lecture rooms and two other rooms are ready and have been occupied. Two Signal Offices have been fitted up with four teleprinters in each, and "up and down" working can now be practised.

Work is proceeding apace and it will not be long before the whole of the Unit can move in and take possession.

There is no further news this month, so I will say cheerio!

TICH.

Nos. 31 and 32 Wireless Sections, G.H.Q. Signals, Coventry.

General.—The absence of notes from this Unit for the past two issues of the WIRE is sincerely regretted. The tears well to my eyes as I apply my years of self-control in order to stem the tide of remorse, and my frame shakes with the pent up emotions within me. I know this emotional strain will bring on the old complaint, but who cares. "Greater deeds hath no man . . ."

Business is as usual, with the exception of such minor details as when the builders knocked down half the house, tore up the garden, plated a shed on the lawn (which was quickly removed), and the permanent staff nuisance mowing the lawn.

It is said that certain feelings have a physical effect upon the body, a fact which we devoutly believe. Our tanned appearance is not thought to be due to the effect of the two days of sunshine that we experienced in June. (But you are wrong, Mr. Walker.)

On 5th May, we entertained the postmen at darts, and we are under the impression that we won, indeed almost certain. The absence of a couple of postmen the following morning and the look of the one who brought the post is ample proof of their enjoyment the night before. Incidentally, the final of the Club Darts Championships was held the same evening and, come to think of it, this event was the main item on the agenda. We tender our heartiest congratulations to Lance Corporal Fish on winning the large tankard, and to Lance Corporal Farrimond on receiving the small one. It is not known what they intend to do with them, but they are still dry. Perhaps they may "wet" them after the holidays!

Promotions and Appointments.—We tender our heartiest congratulations to the following on their recent move up the ladder of fame: Corporal Wale D. to be Sergeant; Corporal Murphy P. to be Acting Sergeant; Lance Corporal Elliott H. to be Corporal; Signalman Garbett A. to be Lance Corporal; and Signalmen Patton D. and Horman C. to be A/U/Lance Corporal.

Weekend Camps.—The Unit held a Weekend Camp at Alcester on 29th/30th May. Everything went according to schedule, except the weather, a description of which is better left unsaid. The bottled and barrelled food was quite good and the inhabitants easy to get along with. (This reminds me. I must tell certain people not to use my address as a "Box No." postal address.)

The messing arrangements were exceptionally good (ahem) and the cooking and service even better. We think a vote of thanks should be accorded to Rover Elder and his merry band on a really good show. Thank you!

Wanted to Know.—Why a certain N.C.O. will insist on running down motor cars with his bicycle.

Who put his foot through the Officers' Mess ceiling and shouted "Boo"?

Who lost his temper with the garage?

GECO.

53rd (Welsh) Divisional Signals.

Cardiff.

14th June.

As was anticipated, the Second Line Unit was up to Establishment when our June notes went to press. We now extend our heartiest congratulations to Lieutenant-Colonel V. W. Hawkins on promotion to that rank to command the Second Line Unit.

One cannot help being impressed with the extraordinary keenness of the Second Line Unit in their attendance, drill and bearing, and they seem determined to hold their own with their brother members in the First Line Unit. This spirit of friendly rivalry is to be commended.

Certain officers of the First Line Unit have been transferred to serve under Lieutenant-Colonel V. W. Hawkins, in order to enable the Second Line Unit to have a "flying start." The officers concerned are Captain W. G. F. Bale, 2nd Lieutenants G. I. Kemp and C. M. Jenkins. In consequence of the transfer of Captain W. G. F. Bale, No. 3 Company is now commanded by Captain J. B. Senior, to whom we also tender our congratulations.

Arrangements for annual camp have now been concluded and are as follows: First Line Unit: 30th July to 13th August; Second Line Unit: 13th August to 27th August. The venue is Locking, near Weston-super-Mare for both Units. The camp site is handy to the omnibus route between Locking and Weston-super-Mare and will give all ranks every opportunity for sea bathing at Weston.

Lieutenant-Colonels W. G. Trice and V. W. Hawkins, together with Major W. R. Hawkins, Captains R. H. Copeland, A. E. Johnson, A. W. Bartholomew, W. G. F. Bale and J. B. Senior, spent the weekend, 10/11th June, at Weston-super-Mare, where they inspected the camp site at Locking and also the training area in the vicinity.

Lieutenant-Colonel D. A. Brown, M.C., Chief Signal Officer, Western Command, visited Signal House, Park Street, Cardiff, on Thursday, 18th May, and several important matters relating to the Unit were discussed.

A series of Wireless Schemes for officers commenced on Sunday, 4th June, when officers, under Lieutenant-Colonel W. G. Trice, operated the wireless sets located at Signal House, communicating with mobile sets in the outskirts of Cardiff.

On the same day, twenty D.R.s from the First and Second Line Units took part in a Map Reading Exercise in the neighbourhood of Rudry.

No. 2 Company supplied a Section for the 61st Medium Regiment, R.A., on 18th May, at Blackmore Park, Malvern, to take part in an Exercise designed to study the new organisation of the Royal Artillery. Some good work was done, and useful lessons were learnt.

No. 2 Company were unsuccessful in their attempt to win the Victory Shield in the T.A. Competition at Porthcawl on Whit-Sunday. This was won by 246th Field Company, R.E., to whom we tender our congratulations. This year the Unit has to be content with fifth place, but our "tails" are still up.

The W.O.s and N.C.O.s Mess held their annual outing on Saturday/Sunday, 10th/11th June, travelling from Cardiff to Aldershot to attend the Tattoo, where they thoroughly enjoyed themselves. After the show they enjoyed the hospitality of the Royal Signals Units at Mons Barracks, and we hear loud praises relative to their reception there. Accommodation was provided for the night, and they left next morning for the return journey by road to Cardiff. All members desire to express to their President, Secretary and the committee members their great appreciation for the hard work which they did in connection with the organisation of this outing, which resulted in the "best ever."

The football team held their annual dinner at the Mount Stuart Hotel, Cardiff, on Saturday, 20th May. The guests included Lieutenant-Colonel W. G. Trice, Lieutenant-Colonel V. W. Hawkins, Major W. R. Hawkins, Captain R. H. Copeland, Captain W. G. F. Bale, 2nd Lieutenant D. G. Davies (Officer i/c Football), R.S.M. Griffiths C. and R.S.M. Field C. E. During the evening, presentations were made to R.S.M. Field C. E. and Corporal Williams G. R. (Football Secretary) by the team.

2nd Lieutenants T. D. Jones and C. M. Jenkins attended a Course at the Signal Training Centre, Catterick, from 7th to 21st May, and obtained satisfactory reports.

Obituary.—We regret to report the death of Sergeant Brown D. of "J" Section, No. 3 Company, at his work on 25th May. He served with this Unit for many years and was highly esteemed by his fellow-N.C.O.s and the men for his genial disposition. The Unit valued him no less as a reliable and conscientious worker, and he will be greatly missed by all.

THE LEEK.

54th (East Anglian) Divisional Signals.

Nos. 1 and 3 Companies.

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

June.

As so many of the Company's personnel have been placed on the temporary transfer list to No. 3 Company, and the activities of No. 1 Company rather curtailed, the combined Nos. 1 and 3 Companies notes will, no doubt, supply our readers with all the information they require.

It seems but a short time ago that No. 1 Company published a welcome to our new skipper. We must now say *au revoir*, as Major Wardle has left us to assume the role of second-in-command of the Second Line Unit, which, we understand, is to be the 18th Divisional Signals. It is with regret that we part company, and we can perhaps sum up by saying that Major Wardle's stay has been short and sweet. The best of luck, sir, and may all your losses be small ones.

Whitsun Camp, this year, was enjoyed by a comparatively small number, as only "B" and "J" Sections functioned in their official capacity. "B" Section were engaged at Hyde Park, laying the lines for the A.F.S. Review; "J" Section took up their residence at Moreton and, under Captain Jarvis, endeavoured to solve the problems associated with an Infantry Brigade.

On Tuesday, 6th June, many members of Nos. 1 and 3 Companies were included in the guard of honour, under the command of Captain Jarvis, for the Royal visit of H.R.H. The Duchess of Kent to the West Ham Stadium.

The three Infantry Brigade Sections have again been reorganised, and the N.C.O.s concerned can be identified by the piles of papers and their worried looks. Apparently, the questions of the moment are, "Can you drive?" and "Can you operate a No. 1 Set?" If only we could obtain a few more answers in the affirmative life would be much easier.

Promotions and Appointments.—Our congratulations are tendered to the following: Lance Corporal French J. and Signalmen Smith W. W. and Bunyan on promotion to Corporal; Signalmen Thompson J. and Stevens C. on appointment to Lance Corporal.

Obituary.—Our deepest sympathy is extended to ex-Sergeant and Mrs. Cotterell on their great loss when poor John Robert Cotterell, their youngest son, died in Queen Mary's Hospital, Stratford, on 2nd June, as the result of an accident. Little "Soldier Bobbie" has been the mascot of 54th Divisional Signals since his arrival here, and was the life and soul of Bay Lodge and Artillery House, where his father and mother live. Bobbie fluctuated in rank. One day he could be seen running round in his overall suit dressed as a C.S.M., and the next day either as a Sergeant or Lance Corporal. His proudest possession was a "Sick Report," prepared by the staff of 54th Divisional Signals, and which the staff had endorsed "Swingitus; 14 days hard work." The youngster was also proud of the fact that he was on the Unit Pay List with a rating of 6d. a week for "cleaning lorries" in his spare time.

Bobbie was laid to rest at the East London Cemetery, Wanstead, on 7th June, and the Unit was well represented. The whole of the Permanent Staff of the 1st and 2nd Line Units attended. The Unit was represented by Sergeant Sunderland, Signalmen Fenton V. and Wollaston D. London Corps Signals, ex-Sergeant Cotterell's last Unit, sent wreaths, and two of their Permanent Staff attended the funeral. Bobbie—like the little soldier he was—was given the nearest thing to a military funeral, when four of the Permanent Staff of this Unit carried him to his last resting place.

Sergeants' Mess.—The many changes which are now taking place in the Mess make it necessary, as far as these notes are concerned, to begin with that old phrase we all associate with our younger days, "Once upon a time." Here is that old story with a modern version. "Once upon a time there was a P.S.I.—now there's thousands of them."

The formation of the Secondary Unit, or as some prefer it, the Second Line Unit, which our special correspondent informs us is to be the 18th Divisional Signals, is an established fact, and the following will, therefore, soon be leaving us for their new Headquarters, which is in the vicinity of Ilford: C.S.M. Amor, C.Q.M.S. Smith, Sergeants Evens, Marshall, Parker, Sunderland, Sinfield and Morris.

The spirit of rivalry is already being fostered, and even the game of darts has assumed a different aspect. Having taken these "babes" under our wing, we now look forward to the time when we shall be able to show the new Unit many things not included in the Signal Training Manual. At least the Mess will win some darts matches now.

The sympathy of the Sergeants' Mess is extended to Mr. and Mrs. Cotterell in their very sad loss.

Bedford Detachment.

The Drill Hall, Ashburnham Road, Bedford.

12th June.

Several things have happened to us since we last appeared in print. There was the National Service Parade. A great affair that was. We got well mixed up with policemen in queer-looking tin hats and fire engines whose normal daily routine was delivering coals.

Strangely enough, we were out to secure recruits, notwithstanding the fact that we were already up to strength in our Second Line, and so were most of our neighbours. However, it was well worth it. At least our rear rank thought so when the W.A.T.S. fell in behind them.

We have also been to camp. Whitsun saw us at Blunham again. Who said that the villagers locked up the poultry as soon as the first lorry with Signalman D——vk on the front seat turned the corner?

Nevertheless, we ought to say something about the cooking. It was O.K. But there is more to the tale than that. We came all over luxurious when Sergeant Thurley wangled an electric cooker that had just completed a tour of duty in one of the smartest hotels in Bedford. And electrically heated hot water, too, cads! We are afraid that the newly-joined men will be getting false ideas about the Army.

Several of us walked out on Saturday evening. Clean and properly dressed we presented ourselves at a local dance, and it cost us ninepence to find out that we should have to dance by ourselves as there were only four ladies present, but some more turned up later.

We wonder if the Corporal who roused the Sergeant-Major half-an-hour too early and convinced him that it was time to take foot drill knows how much trouble he has laid up for himself in later life! We would like to emphasise for the benefit of recruits that we don't make a practice of rising at four in the morning to play football.

Sergeant Thurley, who was decidedly hoarse for some reason or other, said there was a lot of it about this year. The Sergeant-Major was also "thin-voiced" and said that somebody kicked him in the throat. It was as good an excuse as any!

Sergeant Bright was in a reminiscent mood and recalled the times when he had carried a pannier full of equipment across two ploughed fields. He needn't think he can frighten the recruits with that yarn. They know that we have nice little eight-hundredweight trucks that will go anywhere. Still, we sympathise with them when Sergeant Bright finds out that a No. 9 wireless set can be taken out of its vehicle.

BEDFORDIEN.

1st Anti-Aircraft Divisional Signals.

June.

The month of May was made particularly merry for us this year for on the 16th we dined with our Honorary Colonel, Sir William Prescott, Bt., C.B.E., D.L., J.P., M.Inst.C.E., M.I.Mech.E. After an excellent dinner and two short and amusing speeches by Colonel Morley-Peel, M.B.E., T.D., the whole company indulged in what can best be described as "fun and games." The efforts of the gentlemen trying to get a new angle on the somewhat prosaic game of darts were equalled only by those happy souls.

who insisted on playing badminton ! A really enjoyable evening which fully lived up to the happy occasion.

The Trade Board was held on 25th and 26th May, and proved highly successful with a record number of candidates passing.

Deployment, which began on 11th June, has been responsible for a great deal of activity on the part of everybody in the Unit, since we have to cover No. 3 Company's area for four months, and the strain upon our personnel is naturally rather heavy.

It is with particular pleasure that we record this month the honours in the recent List accorded to Colonel Wickins, T.D., who receives the C.V.E., and to Sergeant-Majors Creighton and Whittingham, who each receive the M.B.E. The Unit has figured five times in recent Honours Lists, and we feel sure that this constitutes something of a record.

8th County of London G.D. Company, A.T.S.

Attached 1st A.A. Divisional Signals (T.A.).

June.

This Company, which was started four months ago, is now nearly up to strength. Training has included drill, taken by Sergeant Price, who is kindly lent to us by our parent Unit, who have also given us lecturers on P.A.D. (2nd Lieutenant D. A. C. Griffith) and Army stores (Lieutenant (Quartermaster) W. B. Freemantle). Dr. Geoffrey Loxton also gave us lectures on First Aid. Practical work has been done by the Clerical Section and the Storewomen, who work three nights each week with the Unit.

We are very pleased that camp has definitely been fixed for eight days from 4th to 12th August at Chatham.

A. T. S.

2nd Anti-Aircraft Divisional Signals.

Drill Hall, Derby Road, Nottingham.

15th June.

Much has happened since our last batch of notes were written, when we were in the midst of a strong recruiting campaign.

Recruiting.—On the introduction of the Reserve and Auxiliary Forces Act, the recruiting of all A.A. Units in this area received a serious setback and is now a " flop."

Training.—All our efforts are now devoted to the training of the respective groups who have been called up for service.

At the time of writing, the Unit has the following numbers embodied : Headquarters and No. 1 Company, Nottingham : Officers 1, other ranks 15, and officers 1, other ranks 14 ; Other War Stations : other ranks 14. No. 2 Company : Officers 1, other ranks 37.

It was a great rush to get the first party fully clothed and, for the first time, the newly-introduced Battle Dress was seen in this town.

The bar of the newly-formed Company Club did a good trade last Sunday morning after the Bounty money had been paid and before the members left to proceed to their War Stations. Training is to be in four successive monthly periods, so that the Unit will be partly embodied up to 8th October.

Trade Tests.—Trade Boards have been held during the past month, both at No. 1 Company and No. 2 Company Headquarters. The following were successful and obtained the trade ratings stated. Our best wishes to them all :

Signalmen Roberts G., Statham C., Ellis J. and Bingham G., Instrument Mechanics ; Signalmen Bates C. and Thorn H., Operators Keyboard ; Signalman Campbell J., Draughtsman Signals ; A/R.Q.M.S. Hooton S., Signalmen Roberts G., Smith W. and Thomas J., Linemen ; Signalmen Knight W. and Jackson J., Operators Switchboard ; Signalmen Hollingsworth W., Bradley J. and Smith G., Despatch Riders ; Signalman Watkins A., Clerk.

No. 2 Company.—Signalmen McGrath H., McGrath R. G., Brown W. B., Dixon K. M., Edison L., Stephenson G. R., Murdell G. G., Sills B., Page A. C., Wilkinson R. E. T. and Woodger F. C., Operators Switchboard; Signalman Biddulph Instrument Mechanic ; Signalmen Robinson R., Hill W. J. and Anderson K. D., Operators Keyboard ; Signalman Howells W., Clerk.

Some will benefit financially during their present period of service and all will do so in due course when the War Office has authorised the re-introduction of Switchboard Operator as a trade.

Promotions.—A pleasing paragraph to write as there are quite a number to report. We extend the best of good wishes to them all on obtaining their respective ranks. Here are the newly-promoted W.O.s and N.C.O.s : Headquarters and No. 1 Company : R.Q.M.S. Hooton S., C.S.M. Taman F., Sergeants Reed W., Roberts G., Orton F., Knight W., Campbell J. and Thorne H., Corporals Sale H. and Brown L., Lance Corporal Finlinson P. No. 2 Company : Sergeant Thirkell W.

Sergeants' Mess.—The first meeting has been held and committee members elected. At present all that can be done is to build up a fund so that when the new Drill Hall is built we can walk in and furnish a Mess. In the temporary Company Drill Hall now in use there is no available space in which to accommodate a Sergeants' Mess.

Marriage.—Best wishes are extended to Signalman Shillito A. on his marriage to Lucy Roome at Hucknall on 7th May. We observe, from a recent Part II Order, that the Orderly-Room Sergeant has already credited him with one child ! As this was under the heading of " Family Allowance " perhaps it is excusable, but, no doubt, the Regimental Paymaster will be certain to think otherwise.

Officers Gazetted.—We are pleased to have the following officers added to our strength : Captain F. H. Boland, Lieutenant H. Entwistle and 2nd Lieutenant J. P. Heenan.

Courses.—2nd Lieutenant T. C. Harding attended a Junior Officers' Course at Catterick from 8th to 20th May, and, of course, received a satisfactory report.

The first G.P.O. Teleprinter Course has terminated, and the following candidates were successful : Signalmen Braithwaite G., Moore A., Boder H., Wilson K. G. and Bates C. Good luck to them all !

G. G.

5th Anti-Aircraft Divisional Signals

Headquarters.

" Briarwood," Tilehurst Road, Reading.

13th June.

General.—Great excitement now prevails amongst all ranks regarding the " calling up " of the Unit for twenty-eight days' training instead of the normal fifteen days. The lucky ones will be posted around the countryside, and the remainder will be in camp for twenty-eight days. The first party have already gone from No. 2 Company, Bristol, to Southsea, and we hope they will have a very pleasant time beside the sea. The number of stations and the different periods of training has kept the orderly-room staff very busy indeed.

The twenty-eight days of continuous training will go a long way towards making up for the late start of this year's training. Our Despatch Rider's chest measurements have increased considerably since the new motor cycles arrived at Headquarters.

Some hilarity (cleverly suppressed) was caused by one of the budding D.R.s, who tried exciteably, but vainly, to start his machine without " switching on." Was he a red head ?

Enthusiasm is very keen, especially as Dame Rumour whispers that a Scheme is about to be arranged which will incorporate two " Houses of Refreshment." Let us hope that in this instance Dame Rumour will not be a lying jade.

Our D.R.s are keen to meet their brother speed merchants from Bristol and Southampton and to quaff a cup of wine with them. Ours is just a pint, thankee !

P.S.I.—Sergeant H. L. Shreeves has joined the Unit at last, and has proceeded to join No. 2 Section at Southampton. Who said he always was lucky ?

Promotions and Appointments.—Congratulations to the following on their recent promotion to the ranks shown : W.O. II (C.S.M.) Bignell E., C.Q.M.S. Street A. J., Corporals Catling H. J., Ely J. N., Glover W. A., West J. R., Hardick O., Bristow E. J., and Vincent R. S., Lance Corporals Jackson E., Coldwell H. E., Yeatman H., Green E. G., Sharp G. C., Clark F., Giles J., Lawton H., Lucy E., Tanner O. F. and Randall D. R. J.

Training.—Full speed ahead in all its branches. Weapon training is much to the fore, especially as it means 10s. in the lads' pockets. The results of the shooting are in some cases outstanding, and we hope, that when we move into a permanent drill hall it will be possible to start a Unit Rifle Club.

Sports.—Practically nothing to report in this direction. A try-out was held recently in order to ascertain what talent the Unit possessed at Reading, but the support was very poor. Now then, lads ; rally round next time. The Corps has always been well to the front in all branches of sport and we should like our Unit to do its bit. We have the making of an excellent hockey team and it is a pity that we haven't the money and the facilities for this game like those which exist in the Regular Army.

"Q."

No. 2 Company.

Bristol.

13th June.

News of ourselves originated at Headquarters, Reading, so it is time that we came into print. "How do you do !"

The recruiting rush is over and we are working out a policy of "Go slow quickly." (We never won that "bob" from No. 1 Company.) The Company is now well up to strength and has enlisted some considerable talent. Everybody is keen, a fact borne out by the attendances and, in spite of the many difficulties experienced during the formation of a new Company and the inadequate accommodation, everybody keeps smiling. We are on the whole a happy and jolly crowd.

Although it is only four months since our inseption, we have participated in two Weekend Camps, and are looking forward now to playing our part in the manning—by detachments at different periods—of the A.A. defences in this area.

2nd Lieutenant Piggott, A/Sergeant Bristow and twenty other ranks started the ball rolling when they proceeded to Southsea on 11th June for attachment to the 57th A.A. Regiment, R.A. (T.A.) for twenty-eight days. Good luck to them ! They are described as lucky fellows, and those left behind are eagerly awaiting their turn to proceed.

On Sunday we participated with other T.A. Units in Bristol in the annual combined open-air church service on Durdham Downs. In all Units those wearing civilian dress contrasted strangely with their uniformed colleagues, but it demonstrated the spirit and keenness of all those serving. Four bands were in attendance, and we felt thrilled during the march past at hearing that familiar tune which recalled days of long ago.

Our present Headquarters in Worrall Road is only a temporary one—Bristolian readers may remember the Wanderers' Club later the Downs Club, with its associated swimming bath and tennis courts. Unfortunately, the last two are not now included in the premises. (How the Sergeant-Major gazes at those tennis courts, thinking no doubt of what he would do with us if he could have them as a parade ground.) On several occasions we have been permitted to use the grounds of a nearby school for drill, and it is to be hoped that this may continue.

Other training at the moment consists chiefly of lectures, and we have made a start on weapon training and musketry. Some practical work in the use of the hammer and jumper, the dressing of telegraph poles, and jointing of wires and field cables has been carried out by the Line Maintenance Sections, and much valuable knowledge and experience has been obtained in the construction of cable routes during the Weekend Camps.

There is very little to say regarding our social activities, but during the coming winter months we hope to be in full swing with various entertainments for which our Drill Hall with its central heating is well suited.

We congratulate those who have been selected for the senior N.C.O. ranks in the Company. We all aspire to serve them well, and hope that one day good fortune may likewise attend many of us.

Congratulations also to the member of this Company who has taken the plunge into the sea of matrimony. He is the first since the formation of the Company.

Cheerio all !

1st Cadet Signal Company (Haberdashers' School.)

June.

Annual Inspection.—The Unit was inspected on 1st June by Lieutenant-Colonel A. C. C. Willway, Commanding Officer of The London Divisional Signals (City of London Signals), T.A. Colonel Willway, who was accompanied by the Adjutant of City of London Signals, Major J. J. Duvivier, Royal Signals, first inspected the Unit in line, and then took the salute in the march past, after which Sections split up for training, which included a small traffic scheme, wireless instruction, overhauling cable, map reading instruction, and pair work, all in charge of Cadet N.C.O.s. The standard of procedure and operating on the Scheme, and the way in which the wireless instruction was carried out, earned a special word of commendation from the Inspecting Officer.

Addressing the Cadets at the close of the inspection, Colonel Willway congratulated them on the good progress made since his inspection of the Unit two years ago, and went on to emphasize that the value of Cadet Units and O.T.C.s should be in no way lessened by the advent of compulsory military service, but would on the contrary, serve as a most useful period of preparation.

Summer Camp.—The decision of the War Office not to issue camp equipment from Ordnance to Cadet Units for their camps this year has been a disappointment, but we are hoping that by borrowing and hiring we may still be able to hold our camp at Cambridge in August as intended. We are grateful to Cadets' parents for agreeing without demur to an increased charge to help us to overcome the setback.

Certificate "A."—The following members of the Unit passed the examination for Certificate "A" in March : Cadet Corporals McOmie J. F., Tomlinson E. P. ; Cadet Lance Corporals Bailey D. E., Hurt R. W., Kevan D. F. B., Werren K. M. ; Cadet Signalman Schen R. J.

News of Ex-Members.—We have received information since our last notes of the enlistment of many former members of this Cadet Unit and its predecessor at the School into the T.A. and other voluntary Forces, some of them into the Signal Sections of their Units. Two have joined London formations of Royal Signals : Goldsbrough J. V. (Mobile Divisional Signals, T.A.) and Westaway E. M. (44th (H.C.) Divisional Signals, T.A.)

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 283

The subscription is only 2/- per annum
Ask your Unit Representative for further details.

SPORTS NOTES

Lawn Tennis.

Royal Signals v. Royal Military Academy.—Results of the lawn tennis match against the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, on Wednesday, 24th May, are as follows :

Royal Signals.	Royal Military Academy, Woolwich.		
	Landon and Fletcher.	Banister and Atkins.	Clarke and Casement.
Major Boyd and Capt. Vulliamy	Royal Signals 0—6, 6—1, 6—2.	Royal Signals 6—1, 6—1.	Royal Signals 6—0, 6—2.
Capt. Tucker and R. Harris.	Royal Signals 6—3, 9—7.	Royal Signals 6—4, 6—4.	R.M.A. 6—2, 6—3.
P. Watts and J. B. Birkett	Royal Signals 8—6, 6—2.	Royal Signals 6—4, 6—3.	R.M.A. 7—5, 6—3.

School of Signals.

S.T.C. Individual Athletics.—Signalman Potter gained third place in the three-mile event.

Wiltshire Regiment's Sports Meeting.—The following team gained second place in the Medley Relay Race : Signalmen Palling, Sutton, Craig and Clarke.

Royal Tank Regimental Sports Meeting.—Once again the School team rose to the occasion and obtained third place in the Medley Relay Race. The runners were : Signalmen Palling, Sutton, Craig and Clarke.

Northern Command Sports Meeting.—In the 440 Yards Relay, Signalman Palling, 3rd ; Two Mile Relay, Signalman Clark, 4th ; One Mile Relay, Signalman Harris, 4th.

"C" Company, Depot Battalion.

Athletics.—We congratulate Lieutenants Austin and McVicker and Signalmen Reid and Skinner on winning the open mixed relay race at the 2nd Battalion, Wiltshire Regimental Sports on 24th May.

The Battalion entered a team and made a gallant attempt at the recent Northern Command Athletic Meeting held at the Stadium, Catterick Camp. Lieutenant Brett and Sergeant Honeyborne gave us our only first in the "Discus." The final result placed the Battalion team fourth, and we thank those members of the team who worked very hard and went down fighting in some of the events. Corporal Graham made a great effort in the Pole Jump, but competition was too strong for him. Well done, the team !

Cricket.—Once again King Willow reigns supreme and our Company cricketers are busy practising for the Inter-Company League matches. Already this season two of our members, R.S.M. Carpenter and Corporal Lundie, have represented the Garrison with success.

On Saturday, 3rd June, we met our old friends from "A" Company. Our opponents batted first and, thanks to some lusty hitting by Corporal Dunbar and Lance Corporal Martin, reached a total of 90. Signalman Adcock was a most successful bowler, taking 4 for 22. R.S.M. Carpenter and Lance Corporal Andrews opened our innings and, despite steady bowling and a threat to have them both shot, they slowly but surely gained the upper hand, eventually passing the "A" Company total without being defeated.

Wednesday, 7th June, saw us again in the field against 5th Divisional Signals, who batted first and reached a total score of 122. The high spots of their innings were some fine hitting by Lieutenant Yule and a spectacular catch by R.S.M. Carpenter.

We again opened our innings with R.S.M. Carpenter and Lance Corporal Andrews, and 24 was shown on the board before Andrews was bowled. Corporal Lundie then joined the R.S.M. and this pair took the score to 116 before Lundie was dismissed in attempting to hit the ball into the next county. Three more wickets were lost before the winning stroke was made, leaving "C" Company the victors by five wickets, the R.S.M. carrying his bat for a well-earned 50.

GAS.

"B" Corps Signals, Karachi.

Cricket.—The following are the results of games played up to the time of going to press :

"B" Corps Signals (Ghey 27)	70	Aircraft Depot (Ghey 4 for 34)	71 for 5
"B" Squadron (Ghey 5 for 30)	76	"B" Corps Signals (Pullinger 33)	106
"B" Corps Signals (Pullinger 15)	71	Karachi Gram. School (Rylatt 3 for 32)	137
"B" Corps Signals (Burrows 27)	111	Manora Sports (Murray 4 for 40)	130
1st R.S.F. (Ghey 5 for 12)	47	"B" Corps Signals (Rylatt 24)	86
"B" Corps Signals (Panther 17)	77	Ralli Bros. (Ghey 3 for 40)	79 for 5
1st R.S.F. (Ghey 6 for 37)	131	"B" Corps Signals (Ghey 26)	62
"A" Squadron, R.A.F. (Ghey 6 for 57)	139	"B" Corps Signals (Burden 15)	55
"B" Corps Signals (Burden 14)	46	Burma Shell (Owen-Thomas 4 for 18)	75

Malaya Signal Company, Singapore.

Football.—S.A.F.A. League. So far as we are concerned, there has been no change in the league table. The figures now read :

P.	W.	L.	D.	Goals. F.	A.	Pts.
8	0	6	2	9	30	2

We may have two more points to come as the R.N. Base team failed to appear in the last match. If we do get them they will consolidate our position.

The table for the Small Units League is published below, and it will be seen that the position is brighter.

Gillman and Islands Area.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Goals. F.	A.	Pts.
31st Heavy Battery, R.A.	15	9	1	5	55	24	23
H.Q. "B," Loyals	14	8	3	3	51	21	19
"B" Company, Loyals	12	7	2	3	28	26	17
R.A.O.C.	13	7	4	2	27	22	16
"C" Company, Loyals	15	6	6	3	24	17	15
7th H.K.S. Battery, R.A.	15	4	4	7	21	21	15
Malaya Signal Company	14	5	4	5	26	30	15
11th (S.) Battery, R.A.	14	5	5	4	26	18	14
"D" Company, Loyals	14	5	5	4	23	23	14
H.Q. "A," Loyals	14	4	7	3	31	48	11
"A" Company, Loyals	13	3	9	1	16	31	7
R.A.S.C.	15	1	14	0	14	61	2

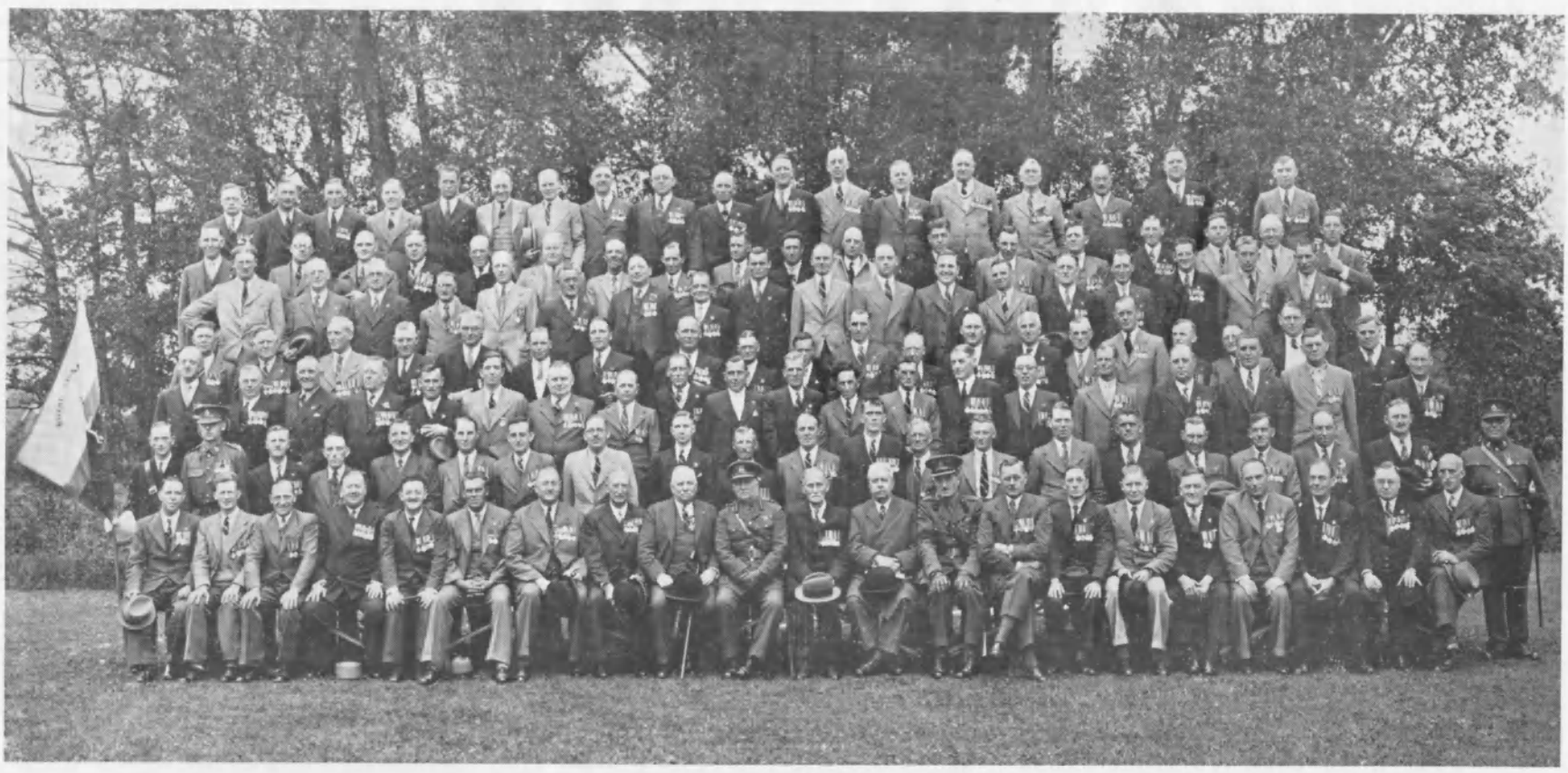
So far as friendlies are concerned we have played only two outside matches. One against the S.C.C., which we lost 3—1, and the other against Fort Canning, which was drawn 2—2. As is usual, most of the spectators watched the Fort Canning match from the canteen verandah. Operators *versus* the "Rest" of the Unit resulted in a win for the operators and a broken wrist for Girt. All in fun.

Tennis.—A Depots' Tennis Club has been formed with a membership of forty. At the moment the majority of the members are learners. Good stuff in the raw, we hope, and readers will be finding quite a lot about the Tennis Club in future notes.

Water Polo.—The team is so good that they cannot get fixtures—or so Elliott tells me. We understand that they are so far unbeaten.

ROYAL SIGNALS OLD COMRADES REUNION, MONS BARRACKS, ALDERSHOT

25th JUNE, 1939



Seventh Row (left to right) : W. P. Hodges, F. Beagley, R. Lunnis, B. Matchett, G. H. Clarke, R. F. Evans, L. Addison, J. Handford, L. F. Moorse, A. H. Cousens, H. G. Skinner, C. Nobes, W. Whitaker, F. A. Tyrrell, M.M., F. Y. Early, C. Goldman, E. R. Hole, C. F. Johnson.

Sixth Row : H. R. T. Wright, S. J. Capon, E. Keefe, J. H. Burden, A. E. Brooks, H. Wright, W. Job, H. L. Adams, M.M., A. E. Todman, A. R. Gillett, C. E. Singleton, A. K. R. Cairns, A. W. Heath, J. M. Jones, H. F. Yates, J. Relf, J. S. Preston, W. W. Houlden.

Fifth Row : F. A. Whitehead, B. L. Broadway, J. E. Cree, H. Berkeley, W. Kirk, A. Floyd, J. Hutchins, C. Rune, H. Strawn, H. Hose, E. W. Tye, W. Cargill, W. White, A. Bruton, F. T. Duckhouse, H. Stafford, A. R. Beasley, G. Gristwood.

Fourth Row : W. H. Terrell, R. V. Spalding, A. Muntzer, C. Hoskins, H. Temple, A. Taylor, H. Cotton, M.M., T. Sergeant, A. E. Vale, H. Vale, J. Bowcott, F. W. Jones, R. F. Barlow, T. Carley, C. V. F. Garraway, H. S. Clutterbuck, T. Gilbert, W. Clifford, A. Hicks, J. T. Wall.

Third Row : J. Wigglesworth, M.B.E., A. F. Bennett, W. Ritchings, G. S. Walshaw, M.M., R. Dominey, C. Penter, W. J. Baker, F. Lapham, A. E. Andrews, W. Sartain, F. Wood, — G. Cresswell, G. Waterhouse, L. Strawbaum, F. G. McDonald, F. H. Barnes, G. Murphy, G. G. Aves, A. E. Barker.

Second Row : F. Cole, R.S.M., E. Willis, W. Johnson, D.C.M., M.M., E. Hand, F. C. Cairns, L. H. Overington, C. H. Tolley, D. E. Jarvis, W. Wish, C. Mepham, W. Butler, C. Warren, P. J. Greenaway, J. Bundy, E. McMahon, S. J. T. Gandey, S. Rouse, A. S. Jenner, H. A. Sherwood, A. C. Dixon.

Front Row : T. Evans, W. Cayley, W. Clewley, C. L. Foot, P. Brunt, A. B. Jenkins, Colonel R. M. Powell, D.S.O., Captain T. H. Cullen, M.M., Major J. C. Bray, O.B.E., Major-General E. A. Osborne, C.B., D.S.O., J. Collyer, Brigadier H. Clementi Smith, D.S.O., Colonel C. W. Fladgate, Lieutenant-Colonel J. S. Yule, O.B.E., R. H. Aaron, A. E. Wilby, A. J. Ricketts, A. E. Lawson, M.M., A. W. T. Walker, J. Carnall, R. W. Raelf, R.S.M. Minns C. B.

THE WIRE

THE CORPS MAGAZINE OF THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

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VOL. XX.—No. 234. AUGUST, 1939 PRICE—SIXPENCE

Editorial Notes.

Life is a mirror of king and slave,
It's just what you are, and do ;
So give to the world the best that you have,
And the best will come back to you

Felicitations.—We tender our best congratulations to Colonel W. G. Michelmore, D.S.O., M.C., T.D., D.L., on his recent appointment as Commander of a Devonshire Infantry Brigade and wish him every success in his new sphere of operations.

A photograph of Colonel Michelmore, together with a full account of his Service record, will be found on page 336 of this issue.

Militia Units.—We extend a very cordial welcome to all Militiamen who have been posted to the Corps for duty, and express the hope that their period of training with Royal Signals will prove to be an enjoyable, as well as an instructive, experience.

A new Section of the Magazine, under the heading of " Militia Notes " has been opened, and the first of a series of Unit contributions from that source will be found elsewhere in this number.

Annual Reunion of Old Comrades at Aldershot.—The fact that decidedly cold, wet and thoroughly dreary weather had little or no effect on the attendance is conclusive proof that this annual function gains in popularity with the passing years.

Anything more depressing than the conditions which prevailed after lunch on the afternoon of 24th June can scarcely be imagined but the Old Comrade visitors were not to be discouraged, and commenced to assemble on the sports ground immediately the rain permitted them leaving the shelter of the Sergeants' Mess.

In a very short time the sports ground was thronged with Old Comrades from all over England and, although no one from Scotland or Wales appears to have put in an appearance, the event was sufficiently attractive to induce a member to journey from Dublin for the occasion.

The sports finals were run off before a large and appreciative audience, who evinced keen interest in the performance of the S.T.C. Motor Cycle Display Party, which concluded the afternoon's performance. A series of intricate movements were followed with breathless attention, and their faultless performance thoroughly deserved the vociferous reception accorded to each item. Having regard to the fact that the machines were balanced from incredibly hazardous positions on a surface made treacherous by the rain, it was a magnificent performance upon which the team is to be highly complimented.

After tea, the Old Comrades dispersed until 8.30 p.m., when they re-assembled for a concert in the N.A.A.F. Institute. The selection of popular melodies played by the Corps Band during the evening was received with enthusiasm, and their rendering of the three madrigals which Mr. Hibbert included in the programme was greeted with prolonged applause. This demonstration of versatility was quite unexpected, and it probably came as a surprise to the majority of the audience to learn that the Band was also a trained choir and officiated with equal facility in either capacity.

As huts for the accommodation of Reservists and Militia personnel were in process of erection on the normal parade ground, the Old Comrade visitors who assembled for church on

Sunday, 25th June, fell in on the main road and marched to the new parade ground between the wagon sheds. The Band took their place on the right of the Old Comrade contingent and, soon afterwards, time-serving Units of Aldershot Command Signals commenced to form up on their left and rear. The ex-Service element displayed considerable interest in the new formation of "threes," but, as a concession to tradition, they were permitted to march in column of "fours."

The address at the service in Marlborough Lines Garrison Church was given by the Rev. C. D. Symons, M.C., M.A., Assistant Chaplain General, Aldershot Command.

After church, the parade, preceded by the Band and with the Old Comrades' Company in the place of honour at the head of the column, marched past Brigadier-General E. A. Osborne, C.B., D.S.O., attended by Brigadier H. Clementi Smith, D.S.O., and Lieutenant-Colonel C. W. Fladgate, Chief Signal Officer, Aldershot Command.

En route, a change in formation was effected, and the ceremony of playing the Old Comrades into barracks through a route lined by time-serving personnel was watched by a large crowd of spectators.

The customary group photograph which was taken after dismissal is published as a loose leaf inset to this issue, and copies can be obtained on application from Messrs. Wm. May & Co., Ltd., Military and Press Photographers, 45, High Street, Aldershot, at prices as follows: framed, 9/6; mounted, 3/-; unmounted, 2/6; postcards, 4d.

The Old Comrade visitors then repaired to the N.A.A.F.I., where they sat down to another of the lunches for which these reunion functions are justly becoming celebrated.

Before lunch was served, however, Brigadier-General Osborne took the opportunity to address the guests. He extended a cordial welcome to the Old Comrade visitors, and expressed pleasure at being present at such a truly representative gathering. It was, he said, very gratifying to make personal contact with so many of those who were responsible for establishing the high reputation of the Corps, and predicted that the present personnel could be relied upon to maintain it. The adoption of Compulsory Service, General Osborne went on, had introduced a new element, but he considered it a step in the right direction and, as in the past we had proved equal to every task, it was his confident belief that we would continue to give just as good an account of ourselves in the future.

General Osborne's remarks were received with cheers, and he concluded by thanking Colonel C. W. Fladgate, his officers, warrant officers and all N.C.O.s and men of the Aldershot Command on behalf of the Old Comrade guests for their kind and generous hospitality.

General Osborne's audience comprised men who have been out of the Service from anything between twelve months and thirty years, and the numerous "hear, hears" which punctuated his speech made it quite evident that not only was the spirit of esprit de corps as keenly alive as ever, but that every listener present was fully prepared to respond again to a national call should the need to do so arise.

In reply to General Osborne, Major J. C. Bray, O.B.E., expressed the Old Comrades' appreciation of the warm welcome accorded to them, and conveyed their thanks for all that had been done to provide for their comfort during their brief visit. He said that of all events in the year the Old Comrades' Reunion at Aldershot was the one to which he looked forward with the keenest anticipation, and felt sure that all those present shared his pleasure at this annual opportunity of meeting old friends.

Commenting upon the fact that more and more "young" Old Comrades were putting in an appearance as the years went on, Major Bray hoped that not only would the increased attendance continue, but the Reunion would eventually become to the younger element what it had always been to him.

These sentiments received a warm ovation, and lunch then proceeded in that familiar atmosphere of cordial good fellowship peculiar to Service functions, the absence of which ex-Servicemen notice in any event of a similar nature in civil life.

In conclusion, and with the 1939 function still a pleasant recollection, we would compliment R.S.M. Minns C. B. and members of his numerous Working Committees upon the excellence of this year's arrangements.

To cope with the influx of Reservists, deal with the preliminaries involved in the reception of Militiamen, and still find time to organise an Old Comrades' Reunion with a maximum of efficiency, is a highly commendable attainment.

Passage to India.—The wife of a Signalman serving at Rawalpindi is desirous of a passage to India in return for services as Children's Governess or Maid. Replies to "Mrs. P.," c/o The Editor, THE WIRE, 95, Belgrave Road, London, S.W.1.

Sports Clothing and other Articles in Corps Colours.—The following articles are held in stock at this office, and can be supplied by return of post at the prices quoted:

BLAZERS: BARATHEA—In Corps colours	from	47/6
SWEATERS: White woollen with Corps colours neck and cuff	from	12/6
JUMPERS: White woollen with Corps colours at neck (sleeveless)	each	12/6
SCARVES: Woollen, Corps colours	each	7/6
SILK SQUARES: Corps colours	each	10/6
TIES: Silk, double-ended, Corps colours ..	each	2/6 and 3/9
CORPS RIBBON: . inch, for Christmas cards and decoration purposes	per yard	6d.
CAR BADGES: In chromium plate, with Corps colours, in enamel	each	15/6

Postage extra. Cash with order.

EDITOR.

Signals Association
and
Ex-Service Old Comrades Branch Notes

BIRMINGHAM BRANCH.

Twenty-five members of this Branch set out from Cateswell House, Hall Green, in six cars on what proved to be a thoroughly enjoyable week-end. The Aldershot Reunion had been eagerly awaited right from the day it was arranged, and the morning of 24th June, with its rain and chill, in no way detracted from the high spirits of the party. The rosettes in Corps colours on the radiators and the blue and white squares in the rear windows served a very useful purpose in traffic, although that may not have been Joe Carnall's idea when he fixed them. We made only one major stop on the downward journey before lunch, and that was at the Chequers Inn, Oxford. Farnborough was reached at 1.30 p.m., and we enjoyed an excellent lunch in the "Tumbledown Dick."

The sports field at Mons Barracks, though somewhat damp, was a scene of gaiety, and many old friendships were renewed. Our party was particularly interested in a wonderful display of skill and nerves by the Despatch Riders. One member, with a thirst for knowledge, wanted to know who paid for buckled wheels and what happens when a cricket pitch is ploughed up by the footrest of a runaway motor-cycle.

Several of our party entered for the Old Soldiers' Race, but failed to get a place. Alf Wilby was our one and only casualty on this occasion, for he tore a muscle in his valiant efforts to get to the front. It was serious enough to warrant attention by the M.O., but even that failed to prevent Alf taking his place on the Church Parade. Messrs. Clutterbuck and Lawson and their ladies joined us during tea.

After installing ourselves in Hut 36, we went our several ways, most of the members electing to go on a tour of inspection in Aldershot town—if you know what I mean. All made a special point of returning in time to hear the Royal Signals Band in the N.A.A.F.I. They wouldn't have missed that for anything, especially the R.E.s' march past, "Wings," which the Bandmaster very kindly played for us. There are no two opinions about the Band. It is right at the top, and if their engagement book is not filled next summer we shall conclude that municipal authorities all over the country have lost their grips.

Sunday morning at 7.30 brought a mystery. Perhaps we have been spoilt in the past, but we were certainly expecting

a dixie of tea. Tom Sargeant went forth and secured some eventually, much to the relief of certain members who shall be nameless. After the mystery, a surprise. The taps marked " hot " really did produce hot water, a fact which one disbelieving old soldier only discovered after he had shaved in cold water. Who wouldn't be a soldier these days ?

Old Comrades this year were vastly intrigued by the new three ranks drill, but themselves remained loyal to " form fours " under Major " Jack " Bray. There were about 140 Old Comrades on the Church Parade, and I believe I am right in saying that the march to church and back was probably the most enjoyable experience of the week-end. I rather fancy that the majority of the old boys missed that almost traditional march, " Boys of the Old Brigade."

Brigadier-General E. A. Osborne, C.B., D.S.O., spoke to us during lunch, and, after giving us a hearty welcome, stated that the spirit of the Army to-day was the same as in our time. We all agreed with that.

Old Comrades of the Birmingham Branch wish to thank Colonel C. W. Fladgate, officers, N.C.O.s and men for a truly wonderful time. We appreciate very much the welcome and the excellent arrangements made for our comfort. We would also like to thank Colonel J. W. Danielsen for the loan of his car which enabled us to increase the size of our party.

So here's to 1940. What will it bring us ? Another Reunion, we hope. Birmingham will be there.

EMPLOYMENTS.

Situations found during the preceding month with the co-operation of the National Association for the Employment of Regular Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen :

1	Ex-Signalman, Chatham	Labourer
2	Ex-Signalman, Croydon	Clerk
3	Ex-Signalman, Derby	Painter
4	Ex-Signalman, Derby	Die Caster
5	Ex-Signalman, Derby	Driver (I.C.)
6	Ex-Signalman, Wolverhampton	Cook
7	Ex-Signalman, Croydon	Clerk
8	Ex-N.C.O., Sunderland	R.A.C. Scout
9	Ex-Signalman, Devonport	Electrician Fitter
10	Ex-Signalman, Yorks	Labourer
11	Ex-N.C.O., Preston	Postman
12	Ex-Signalman, Reading	Cleaner
13	Ex-Driver, Belfast	Labourer
14	Ex-Signalman, London	Postman
15	Ex-N.C.O., London	Messenger
16	Ex-Signalman, London	Postman
17	Ex-Signalman, London	Cleaner
18	Ex-Signalman, London	Labourer
19	Ex-N.C.O., Croydon	Postman
20	Ex-Signalman, Newcastle	Postman
21	Ex-N.C.O., Manchester	Recruiting Agent
22	Ex-Signalman, Manchester	Clerk
23	Ex-Signalman, Manchester	Clerk
24	Ex-Signalman, Manchester	Clerk
25	Ex-Signalman, Stoke-on-Trent	Labourer
26	Ex-Signalman, Essex	Postman
27	Ex-Signalman, Sheffield	Motor Mechanic
28	Ex-Signalman, Sheffield	Labourer
29	Ex-Signalman, Sheffield	Labourer
30	Ex-N.C.O., Nottingham	Telephonist
31	Ex-Signalman, Nottingham	Clerk
32	Ex-Signalman, Nottingham	Clerk

THE GENERAL SECRETARY.

Correspondence.

Peshawar.
30th June, 1939.

The Editor, THE WIRE.

DEAR SIR,

" HITCHCOCK " MEMORIAL FUND.

I should be greatly obliged if you would publish the balance sheet of the above-mentioned Fund.

A list of donations is being sent to every subscriber. The balance, when exact postal expenses are known, is being forwarded to Mrs. Hitchcock in diminution of the Rs. 100 paid out of the estate towards the Fund.

May I take this opportunity of thanking officers who subscribed.

Both the headstone at Srinagar and the Memorial Plate in Peshawar Church are in keeping with the great esteem in which " Hitch " was held, and are worthy tributes to the memory of a man who rendered such devoted service to the Corps.

Yours faithfully.

H. NOEL BROWN,
Lieutenant-Colonel, Royal Signals.
Commanding, Peshawar District Signals.

* * *

BALANCE SHEET.

LIABILITIES.	Rs.	As.	P.	ASSETS.	Rs.	As.	P.
Cost of Headstone over Grave at Srinagar ..	387	0	0	Subscriptions : Estate of Late Lt.-Col. Hitchcock	100	0	0
Cost of Memorial Plaque in St. John's Church, Peshawar ..	140	0	0	Various Signal Messes ..	227	4	0
Diocesan Charges ..	75	0	0	Individual Subscriptions ..	292	7	8
Adjutant's Account Sterling Charges	0	15	0				
Postage (approx.) ..	5	0	0				
Balance	11	12	8				
	619	11	8		619	11	8

H. NOEL BROWN,
Lieutenant-Colonel, Royal Signals,
Commanding, Peshawar District Signals.

Peshawar, 27th June, 1939.

Benevolent Fund Notes.

The Administrator gratefully acknowledges receipt of the following :

CASH SUBSCRIPTIONS from :
3rd Indian Divisional Signals.

APPEALS dealt with :

1	Ex-Signalman, Kent	Grant	£4 0 0
2	Ex-Signalman, London	Grant	£3 13 6
3	Ex-Signalman, Dorset	Grant	£2 0 0
4	Ex-Signalman, Brighton	Grant	£2 0 0
5	Widow of Ex-N.C.O., Portsmouth	Grant	£3 0 0
6	Ex-Signalman, London	Grant	10 0
7	Ex-Signalman, Bucks	Loan	£2 0 0
8	Ex-Signalman, Devon	Grant	£3 3 0
9	Signalman, Aldershot	Loan	£5 0 0

(Signed) T. H. L. SPAIGHT, Lieutenant-Colonel,
Administrator, Signals Association Benevolent Fund.

Corps News—Officers.

Extracts from " The London Gazette."

[War Office, 16/6/39]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Major H. C. Carey-Thomas, having attained the age limit for retirement, is placed on retired pay, 15/6/39, and is granted the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel.

The undermentioned Majors to be Lieutenant-Colonels, 15/6/39 :

G. C. Winckley, M.C., C. E. Sketch, E. H. du Cros.

Superintending Clerk Price G. R. to be Lieutenant (Quarter-master), 7/6/39.

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Captain J. Skelly (R. of O., Lincoln R.) to be Captain, 16/6/39, retaining his seniority.

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE—ROYAL SIGNALS.
Lieutenant R. H. Franklin to be Captain, 17/6/39.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
Captain and Brevet-Major J. Lander to be Major, 30/3/39.
G. D. G. Mackinnon to be 2nd Lieutenant, 17/6/39.
G. Sharp to be 2nd Lieutenant, 17/6/39.
Lieutenant N. B. Scott to be Captain, 30/3/39.
The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants, 10/5/39 :
R. List, D. J. Loader, M. F. Loader, W. D. Martineau.
Captain A. H. Horton (late K.R.R.C.) to be Lieutenant, with seniority 10/11/35, and relinquishes the rank of Captain, 17/6/39.
Lieutenant H. M. Kirkaldy to be Captain, 22/5/39.
D. O. Rennie to be 2nd Lieutenant, 17/6/39.
Lieutenant E. A. S. Ledsam (from T.A. Reserve) to be Lieutenant, 1/5/39.
The date of transfer of Major W. H. Arnold is 29/1/39 and not as notified in the " Gazette " of 31/3/39.

[War Office, 20/6/39]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
2nd Lieutenant H. W. C. Stethem to be Lieutenant, 18/6/39.
P. E. Mitchell is granted a temporary commission as Lieutenant (Quartermaster), 7/6/39.

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE—ROYAL SIGNALS.
2nd Lieutenant H. A. Turner to be Lieutenant, 25/4/39.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
F. Signey to be 2nd Lieutenant, 20/5/39.
W. F. B. Nott to be 2nd Lieutenant, 21/6/39.
F. C. Calligari to be Lieutenant (Quartermaster), 15/5/39.
H. J. S. Llewellyn to be 2nd Lieutenant, 21/6/39.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
Lieutenant-Colonel and Brevet-Colonel E. G. McHutchon, O.B.E., T.D., retires on completion of tenure of appointment and retains his rank, 24/4/39.
G. F. B. Grant to be 2nd Lieutenant, 21/6/39.
G. H. Wooton-Woolley to be 2nd Lieutenant, 21/6/39.
Captain A. J. McCarthy, M.B.E., R. of O., to be Captain and Adjutant, 22/5/39.
E. Bradbury to be Lieutenant (Quartermaster), 28/5/39.
Captain N. E. Steeley (from T.A. Reserve) to be Major, 31/3/39.
S. L. Beaumont to be 2nd Lieutenant, 21/6/39.
Lieutenant (Quartermaster) B. J. Rowe, M.M., from Quartermaster to be Lieutenant, 1/6/39.
Lieutenant (Quartermaster) G. E. Stone, from Quartermaster to be Lieutenant and Adjutant and is granted the temporary rank of Captain, 1/5/39.
J. L. Colvin to be Lieutenant (Quartermaster), 21/6/39.
E. R. Webster to be 2nd Lieutenant, 21/6/39.
W. Park to be 2nd Lieutenant, 21/6/39.

[War Office, 23/6/39]

REGULAR ARMY—COMMANDS AND STAFF.
Captain A. J. H. Masters is appointed to a special appointment, 8/5/39.

ROYAL SIGNALS.
Major E. J. Murphy to be Lieutenant-Colonel, 15/6/39.
Lieutenant-Colonel (local Colonel) F. W. Nicholls, O.B.E., relinquishes the local rank of Colonel on ceasing to be employed as C.S.O., 21/6/39.
Major W. C. V. Galwey, M.C., is granted the local rank of Colonel whilst employed as C.S.O., 21/6/39.
SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE—ROYAL SIGNALS.
The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants, 24/6/39 :
H. S. Young, H. C. L. Grafton, R. J. Sheldrake, A. T. Burrows.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
The date of appointment of 2nd Lieutenant P. P. Ayre is 26/5/39 and not as notified in the " Gazette " of 30/5/39.
Captain A. K. Huselhurst to be Adjutant, 1/6/39.
R.Q.M.S. E. W. Green to be Lieutenant (Quartermaster), 24/6/39.
G. Perry to be Lieutenant (Quartermaster), 1/6/39.
C. G. Rutherford to be 2nd Lieutenant, 24/6/39.

[War Office, 27/6/39]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
Lieutenant-Colonel H. G. Henderson, on completion of tenure of service as Regimental Lieutenant-Colonel, is removed from Regimental List and remains on full pay, 26/6/39.
Major G. R. Halliday to be Lieutenant-Colonel, 26/6/39.
Captain J. D. L. Morris is seconded, 25/5/39.

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE—ROYAL SIGNALS.
Captain J. D. L. Morris to be Adjutant, 25/5/39.
The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants, 28/6/39 :
R. W. O. Alford, R. F. A. Weire, D. W. S. Witt.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
H. Maskell to be Lieutenant (Quartermaster), 28/6/39.
Captain F. A. Walter to be Major, 9/5/39.
Captain S. E. Bridgwater (from T.A. Reserve) to be Captain, 28/6/39.
2nd Lieutenant R. S. Clifton to be Adjutant and is granted the temporary rank of Captain whilst so employed, 1/6/39.
The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants, 28/6/39 :
E. A. Sabine, D. T. Hewlett, J. H. Gurr, G. R. Wolff, H. A. Gomm, D. Smallman-Tew, J. K. S. Bretherton, G. J. Williams, G. Garside, J. G. P. Baker, G. D. Kirkby, S. R. Rickman, H. M. L. Berresford, J. D. Berresford, S. H. Powning, R. S. Clark, P. L. Coutts-Trotter, F. B. Clarke, K. J. Milligan. D. Hayes.
Captain G. F. Falk (from T.A. Reserve) to be Captain, 13/4/39.
2nd Lieutenant R. J. F. H. Pingent resigns his commission, 27/4/39.
Captain C. V. Close, R. of O., to be Captain and Adjutant, 28/5/39.
The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants, 26/5/39 :
R. W. M. Little, E. A. Sams, G. A. McNeal.
Lieutenant W. R. Muirhead to be Captain, 2/5/39.
Lieutenant A. Fraser to be Captain, 3/5/39.
Lieutenant D. L. Campbell to be Captain, 4/5/39.
Captain R. Jackson (late S.R.) to be Captain, 13/3/39, with seniority 23/3/35.

[War Office, 30/6/39]

REGULAR ARMY—COMMANDS AND STAFF.
Major V. J. E. Westropp relinquishes the appointment of D.A.Q.M.G., 8/5/39.
Major V. J. E. Westropp to be G.S.O.2, 9/5/39.

ROYAL SIGNALS.
Lieutenant G. Walton to be Captain, 1/9/39.
D. E. Smart is granted a temporary short service commission as Lieutenant (Quartermaster), 13/6/39.
J. W. Adcock is granted temporary short service commission as Lieutenant (T.M.O.), 13/6/39.
The undermentioned are granted the local rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, 15/6/39.
Major C. K. Thursby-Pelham, M.C.
Major V. J. E. Westropp.

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS.
Lieutenant-Colonel (Brevet-Colonel) J. Campbell, M.B.E., T.D., from S.R., to be Lieutenant-Colonel (Brevet-Colonel) 1/7/39.

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE—ROYAL SIGNALS.
Lieutenant E. Luffman resigns his commission, 1/7/39.
The undermentioned 2nd Lieutenants to be Lieutenants :
F. A. Hough, 1/5/39.
C. E. Wardrop, 30/5/39.
A. G. W. Hammond, 30/5/39.
W. L. Renecle to be 2nd Lieutenant, 1/7/39.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
H. H. Kitchen to be Lieutenant (Quartermaster), 1/7/39.
Captain T. S. A. Campbell (late Royal Signals, T.A.) to be Major, 1/7/39.
Lieutenant R. F. Burt (R. of O.) to be Lieutenant, 1/7/39.
J. A. Taylor to be 2nd Lieutenant, 2/6/39.
Captain F. C. Watts, M.M., (from T.A. Reserve) to be Captain, 27/4/39.
2nd Lieutenant A. C. Campbell (from T.A. Reserve) to be 2nd Lieutenant, 27/4/39.
C. B. M. Cokayne, Lord Cullen of Ashbourne, to be 2nd Lieutenant, 10/5/39.
E. A. Gleeson to be 2nd Lieutenant, 10/5/39.
W. A. Tomlinson (late Lieutenant, S.R.) to be Lieutenant, 1/7/39.
Captain C. C. Fairweather to be Major, 1/7/39.

W. J. W. Low to be 2nd Lieutenant, 1/7/39.
Captain W. L. Beck to be Major, 13/5/39.
G. Evelyn to be Lieutenant (Quartermaster), 31/5/39.

[War Office, 4/7/39]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

The undermentioned Captains to be Adjutants, 7/6/39:
J. C. Hardy, L. W. J. Dryland.
Major F. C. Curtis to be Brevet-Lieutenant-Colonel, 1/7/39.
The undermentioned Gentlemen Cadets from the R.M.A. to be 2nd Lieutenants, 1/7/39:
G. S. Fenton, C. E. Booth-Jones, J. M. Brunskill, D. C. Harris, L. V. McNaught-Davis, D. M. Haslehurst, R. C. Pringle, R. G. T. Sinclair, G. O. S. Schreiber, J. C. Battye, G. E. Johnson.
The undermentioned Gentlemen Cadets from the R.M.A. to be 2nd Lieutenents, 3/7/39:
G. J. C. Sumner, J. M. Sawers, A. S. Lashmar, A. J. Wildy, W. A. T. Morecombe, R. T. M. Sharp, R. C. S. Collison, L. J. Brunner, A. J. Clarke, E. McK. Erskine, W. Nicholson, R. G. Marshall, T. H. G. Fletcher.
The undermentioned Gentlemen Cadets from the R.M.C. to be 2nd Lieutenants, 1/7/39:
E. A. Knott, R. E. D. Mathews, R. D. Oram.
The undermentioned Gentlemen Cadets from the R.M.C. to be 2nd Lieutenants, 3/7/39:
A. L. Fayerman, J. R. West, V. H. Martin, M. V. Osborn.

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Lieutenant H. J. Stone resigns his commission, 4/7/39.
M. G. Gordon-Wilson (late Royal Signals) to be Lieutenant, 5/7/39, with seniority 23/4/35.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

R. F. Barlow to be Lieutenant (Quartermaster), 5/7/39.
N. A. Norcross to be Lieutenant (Quartermaster), 5/7/39.
2nd Lieutenant K. C. Reid (from Yeomanry) to be 2nd Lieutenant, 12/5/39.
J. Smiley to be 2nd Lieutenant, 10/6/39.
J. Baines to be 2nd Lieutenant, 5/7/39.
W. Gardiner to be 2nd Lieutenant, 5/7/39.

[War Office, 7/7/39]

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Lieutenant W. A. Tomlinson resigns his commission on appointment to the T.A., 1/7/39.
The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants, 8/7/39:
H. I. Durkin, R. J. Mander, R. E. Rodaway, B. E. Croft, J. C. Ireland.

[War Office, 11/7/39]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Lieutenant G. D. B. McKean relinquishes the appointment of A.D.C. (Temp.), 20/6/39.
Captain N. de la P. Tate to be Staff Captain, 19/5/39.

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Captain R. Jackson resigns his commission on appointment to the T.A., 13/3/39.
M. Berge to be 2nd Lieutenant, 12/7/39.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Lieutenant H. J. F. White (R. of O.) to be Major, 8/7/39.
J. K. H. Rogerson to be 2nd Lieutenant, 26/5/39.
A. H. S. C. Wade to be 2nd Lieutenant, 8/7/39.
The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants, 12/7/39:
G. T. Copestake, C. M. Wise, N. M. G. Faulks, J. C. Smuts, I. C. Baillieu, G. F. W. de Winton, M. R. Lubbock, C. C. Chichester, R. P. T. Gibson, K. C. Murdock, J. C. Sayer, P. S. Crichton, J. J. Hollist, R. H. Buxton, A. J. C. Bruce, H. W. V. Thomas, R. H. Petty, J. M. Jones, R. S. King.
G. A. Farthing to be 2nd Lieutenant, 26/5/39.
A. S. Crockford to be Lieutenant (Quartermaster), 22/5/39.

[War Office, 14/7/39]

REGULAR ARMY—COMMANDS AND STAFF.

Major (local Lieutenant-Colonel) V. J. E. Westropp, relinquishes the appointment as G.S.O., 7/6/39.
Captain A. S. Milner to be G.S.O.3, 7/6/39.

ROYAL SIGNALS.

Lieutenant G. Alder (from S.R.) is granted a temporary commission as Lieutenant, 15/7/39.

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE—ROYAL SIGNALS.

The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants, 15/7/39:
D. G. Foot, C. B. Wooster, J. Dallas, F. Warhurst, M. H. Beattie.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants, 15/7/39:
P. H. Chapman, W. J. Backhouse, G. B. Heywood, F. J. P. Snook, R. Ellis, N. R. Gillott, P. K. Jennens, T. Dunlop, J. M. George, J. Angear, J. H. T. Barley, J. A. Evitts, A. Monteith, W. F. P. Sutton.
W. A. Humphries to be 2nd Lieutenant, 31/5/39.
R. F. Gandy to be 2nd Lieutenant, 10/5/39.
J. W. Hyde to be 2nd Lieutenant, 1/6/39.
The date of appointment of the undermentioned 2nd Lieutenants is 5/6/39 and not as notified in the "Gazettes" of 9th and 27th June, 1939:
D. C. P. Renwick, D. J. G. MacLeod, C. Maughan, J. G. P. Baker, G. D. Kirkby.

[War Office, 18/7/39]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Lieutenant P. W. Malins, from Royal Signals, T.A., is granted a temporary commission as Lieutenant, 19/7/39.

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE—ROYAL SIGNALS.

J. H. Rushton to be 2nd Lieutenant, 15/7/39.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

A. M. Hope to be 2nd Lieutenant, 28/6/39.
Captain W. L. S. Moxon to be Major, 17/5/39.
2nd Lieutenant J. E. Hobson (late R.A.) to be Lieutenant, 19/7/39.
Captain T. Walmsley (from T.A. Reserve) to be Captain, 1/5/39.
The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants, 19/7/39:
M. R. Venables, J. F. C. Westerman, K. C. H. Rowe, C. E. Sandell, M. Trethowan, E. R. Price, L. Hanson, F. W. MacLachan, A. W. Wardle, D. E. T. Pennant, T. G. Forse, E. Williams, E. G. Williams, J. G. J. Samuels.
The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants, 12/7/39:
D. O. M. Miller, P. F. Stern.
Lieutenant E. O. Bleackley (late T.A. Reserve) to be Lieutenant, 30/6/39.
The date of promotion of Lieutenant-Colonel E. R. Sutton is 29/3/39 and not as notified in the "Gazette" of 26/5/39.
The date of appointment of Captain F. H. Boland is 1/5/39 and not as notified in the "Gazette" of 26/5/39.
D. Flint to be 2nd Lieutenant, 5/7/39.
J. Baines to be Captain, 19/7/39.

Corps Promotion Roster.

Subsequent Amendments.

[The figures in the last column indicate the pages in the Corps Promotion Roster (published in April, 1938), on which the respective names may be found. This information cannot, of course, be given in the case of Lance Corporals appointed since that date.]

Promoted Warrant Officer, Class II (C.S.M.).

1850421	C.Q.M.S. Patheyjohns C.	6/2/39	19
2312645	W.O. III Farmer F.	8/2/39	19
2306660	C.Q.M.S. Eynott C.	16/2/39	19
3438039	W.O. III Boon F.	20/2/39	19

Promoted Warrant Officer, Class III.

2313600	Sergeant Lewis C.	20/2/39	24
2314533	Sergeant Sewell W.	20/2/39	25

Promoted Company Quartermaster-Sergeant.

2310925	Sergeant Wright H.	1/2/39	24
2309306	Sergeant Page W.	16/2/39	24
2310490	Sergeant Harvey A.	24/2/39	24

Promoted Sergeant.

2316013	L/Sergeant Knight E.	1/2/39	43
2311293	L/Sergeant Cooke W.	3/2/39	43
2316122	L/Sergeant Ray G.	5/2/39	43

2313695	L/Sergeant Smith E.	7/2/39	..	43
2310680	L/Sergeant Adams R.	15/2/39	..	43
2310501	L/Sergeant Gibbs F.	16/2/39	..	43
5610844	L/Sergeant Cummings C.	16/2/39	..	43
1417389	L/Sergeant Pink R.	16/2/39	..	43
2309494	L/Sergeant Muir W.	16/2/39	..	43
5042471	L/Sergeant Wootton W.	20/2/39	..	43
2312649	L/Sergeant Bush W.	20/2/39	..	43
2318570	L/Sergeant Collett L.	20/2/39	..	43
2315753	L/Sergeant Beale B.	21/2/39	..	43
2314439	L/Sergeant Huggins F.	22/2/39	..	43
2317893	L/Sergeant Field L.	24/2/39	..	41
2318791	L/Sergeant Barron A.	24/2/39	..	43
2316587	L/Sergeant Price W. C.	26/2/39	..	43
2317390	L/Sergeant Hayden V.	26/2/39	..	43
2313018	L/Sergeant Cowell W.	26/2/39	..	43

Appointed Lance Sergeant.

775199	Corporal Manson N.	1/10/38	..	51
2319948	Corporal Dumville H.	2/2/39	..	54
2319478	Corporal Brakenberry B.	8/2/39	..	54
2317763	Corporal Brett H.	8/2/39	..	54
2317716	Corporal Talbot F.	8/2/39	..	54
2316214	Corporal Knight S.	20/2/39	..	50
1058960	Corporal Marsh E.	21/2/39	..	54
2317321	Corporal Humby V.	22/2/39	..	54
2315408	Corporal Day W.	24/2/39	..	54
2314216	Corporal Langley C.	24/2/39	..	54
758210	Corporal Collett E.	26/2/39	..	54
2318873	Corporal Bowyer W.	26/2/39	..	54
2318380	Corporal Dean S.	26/2/39	..	54
2317994	Corporal Cole E.	26/2/39	..	54
2317522	Corporal Pettit T.	26/2/39	..	54
2318958	Corporal Henwood S.	26/2/39	..	54
2319119	Corporal Cant R.	26/2/39	..	54
2319819	Corporal Hickman H.	26/2/39	..	54
2317061	Corporal Macey A.	26/2/39	..	54
2320117	Corporal Thornton G.	26/2/39	..	54
2320075	Corporal Wilson G.	26/2/39	..	54

Promoted Corporal.

2319013	L/Corporal Brooke H.	1/10/38	..	71
1070674	L/Corporal Lambert J.	1/2/39	..	76
2321852	L/Corporal Callan J.	11/2/39	..	76
2321282	L/Corporal Grant G.	13/2/39	..	76
2322042	L/Corporal Malone F.	13/2/39	..	76
2321493	L/Corporal Buscall R.	20/2/39	..	74
2324430	L/Corporal Taylor E.	22/2/39	..	76
4970194	L/Corporal Shepherd G.	24/2/39	..	76
2321301	L/Corporal Radford H.	24/2/39	..	77
2321695	L/Corporal Clark V.	26/2/39	..	77
2323518	L/Corporal Lamb J.	26/2/39	..	77
2564842	L/Corporal Bolam F.	26/2/39	..	77
2324097	L/Corporal Booth F.	26/2/39	..	77
2317976	L/Corporal Turner H.	26/2/39	..	77
2321876	L/Corporal Wiseman H.	26/2/39	..	77
2317020	L/Corporal Ormiston W.	26/2/39	..	77
2318961	L/Corporal Juniper A.	26/2/39	..	77
2323564	L/Corporal Mould R.	26/2/39	..	77
2321980	L/Corporal Marley E.	26/2/39	..	77
2322268	L/Corporal Williams J.	26/2/39	..	77
2321204	L/Corporal Cox F.	26/2/39	..	77
2325104	L/Corporal Fowles G. A.	26/2/39	..	77
2323087	L/Corporal Fisk A. W.	26/2/39	..	77
2321210	L/Corporal Stone R.	26/2/39	..	77
2324222	L/Corporal Dunbar J.	26/2/39	..	77

Appointed Lance Corporal.

2318472	Signalman Jones E. H. W.	2/11/38
2322020	Signalman Barr A.	4/11/38
2313638	Signalman McDougall D. N. L.	5/11/38
2323825	Signalman Martin E. W.	7/11/38
2321854	Signalman Miscummins W. J.	7/11/38
5104608	Signalman Kedwards G. W.	7/11/38
2324089	Signalman Walton C.	11/11/38
2323324	Signalman Duncan W. I. H.	15/11/38
2322150	Signalman Rainbird K. V. K.	15/11/38
2319316	Signalman Cann L. T.	15/11/38
2314852	Signalman Morgan A. F.	15/11/38
2321390	Signalman Horder C. S.	17/11/38
2317304	Signalman Hill H. J.	20/11/38
2323815	Signalman Forbes J.	22/11/38
7877062	Signalman Whitaker F.	24/11/38
2320084	Signalman Clavering J.	24/11/38
2318197	Signalman Sheldon J.	24/11/38
2320738	Signalman Ramsden H. G.	28/11/38
2323599	Signalman Morgan W. E.	28/11/38
2322484	Signalman Drane E. W.	29/11/38
811005	Signalman Nix H. C.	29/11/38
2318354	Signalman Hills H.	30/11/38
2324264	Signalman Stubbs A. F.	1/12/38
2323430	Signalman Barlow C. F.	5/12/38
2323930	Signalman McCavish G.	6/12/38
2319585	Signalman Breeze W. H.	6/12/38
2323412	Signalman Hicks A. J.	11/12/38
2021093	Signalman Whitehouse H.	14/12/38
2323458	Signalman Kerry B. C.	14/12/38
2322347	Signalman Pearson J. J.	14/12/38
2323409	Signalman Elston J. W.	14/12/38
2323609	Signalman Colombo E. B.	14/12/38
2323784	Signalman McLuskie T. Mc. A.	14/12/38
4436608	Signalman Diball W.	14/12/38
795653	Signalman Roscoe W. E.	14/12/38
2323236	Signalman Hounsom A. F.	14/12/38
2317428	Signalman Shepherd W. H.	14/12/38
2323958	Signalman Fenton J. P.	14/12/38
2322444	Signalman Gamble C. D.	14/12/38
2323445	Signalman Jones H.	14/12/38
2322165	Signalman Dickens D. C.	14/12/38
2318781	Signalman Fairhead E. A.	14/12/38

Plain Tales.

Do You Remember?—I see someone has started the long service competition again. Headquarters S.T.C. Maresfield housed a few celebrities in its time but none of them so far as I remember had so many years service that they entered competitions. In " E " Company, however, there was a different state of affairs. I remember one old soldier who worked in the Saddlers Shop. His name, if I remember rightly, which I don't, was Smithersly of Featherstonehaugh or something like that. No one knew how much service he had so I decided to investigate. I had to take him into Sergeant Joe Parsons canteen to conduct the interview, but I won't bore you with an account of the bribery and persuasion entailed.

" Well," said old Whatsisname, " I served 20 years in the R.E.s before I came 'ere in 1919."

" That's very interesting," I said. " You probably remember Wally Garsden."

" You mean 'im what played for the Service Battalion ? "

" That's 'im," I agreed, nothing if not a mixer.

" Well, me and 'im was in the Black Watch before that and I did eighteen years with them. Dunno why I joined 'em. I was 'appy in the Buffs."

" Were you—I mean was you—in the Buffs ? "

" Course I were. Got me Long Service Medal with them after nineteen years."

" Good old Regiment, eh ? " I began to do some laborious mental arithmetic.

" Yus. It made a nice change after my ten years in the Medicals."

He caught my expression and added quickly : " Of course that was my first crowd. After seven years with a building firm I ses to meself there ain't no future in this 'ere, so I enlists."

" I wonder you weren't too old to join," I said with heavy sarcasm.

" Oh, they took 'em up to thirty-five in them days, so I scraped in," he answered without a blush.

" Why, you old fathead," I shouted. " You must be over a hundred years old by your own reckoning ! "

" I ain't never worked it out," he said calmly.

Joe Parsons handed me another pint of beer which I cheerfully emptied over old Whatsisname's head before going home.

Gathered Together.—Elsewhere in this excellent magazine you will find numerous descriptions of that remarkable function, the Aldershot Reunion. Without exception, they will avow that in spite of the weather the whole show was its usual huge success. Correct. It was. I turned up with the Birmingham party, as good a company of comrades as one could pick. I do not propose to give you a reporter's account of the affair complete with important names because I am sure you will read all that in its proper place. Let us wander round amongst the old lads who form this happy gathering. From my scribbled notes then. Five pre-war boys marked the occasion as soon as they met. Ex-boys Tolley, Jefferies, Nobes, Dixon and Barlow. That may interest a few who are still left in the service. We toasted Bert, Nobby, Charlie and more besides. Shades of "H" Block, Chatham. I was glad of a chat with Mr. W. Butler and Ex-Sergeant Willie Wish and I am grateful to Sergeant Alf Saunders for introducing me to the Bandmaster. I need hardly mention that the Band is still on top. Sid Gandy, looking browner than ever, and R.Q.M.S. "Banger" King of Jubbulpore a wee bit broader. George and Mrs. Ruffle, the latter looking about the same age as when I first met her in Maresfield Park. It's a gift I suppose.

Two charming young ladies who certainly look older than when I saw them last but infinitely more lovely. What a responsibility. No; I shall not tell you their names. Tich Adams, faithful to his plus fours. Jim Skinner, still on his feet at the end of everything. Charlie Mepham, late for parade and not caring a hoot. A fine thing for an ex-R.S.M. His one lament is that every Reunion means he is a year older. Tim Foley, who showed me Edinburgh in 1933, and Mrs. Foley, who nearly claimed me for a "townie." Dickie Drake, whose moustache I tried to draw with no success whatever. Claude Foot without his panama, blaming the Government for the weather. The Salisbury and District boys with Fred Cole. "Tell Fred. He'll fix it." Myself realising a lifelong ambition by smoking in the ranks whilst waiting for the rest of the parade to arrive. One hundred and seven old friends whose names I have forgotten. We shall have to start this name-in-the-buttonhole idea one of these years.

Oh. And then there was my small friend at tea time. Marion Pickering. She wouldn't look at me, but I like to think that it was only because there were still some cream buns left.

Well, I guess I could do another couple of pages like this, but we must get along. I know that if every old comrade had a line in the WIRE this month he would use it to thank Colonel C. W. Fladgate, the officers, N.C.O.s and men for the welcome they gave us. The arrangements for our comfort were as always, superb. We feel that we still BELONG, and, gentlemen, that's a nice feeling.

Sporting Notes.—What is an Old Soldiers' Race? You answer that one yourself, and then tell me if you don't think there should be an Old Comrades' Race at Reunions. Old Comrades may live to 90 but Old Soliders may not serve beyond 70, some not even as long as that. Mr. "A" at 65 may find himself competing against Sergeant "B" at 40. Both eligible for the Old Soldiers' Race—if you can call it a race. Please put this right someone. It isn't my own idea, but one from the boys themselves.

Birmingham Branch would like to challenge Salisbury or Bournemouth to a tug-of-war next year. Any acceptances? Tom Sargeant is our anchor, so bring out your Joe Sweeting.

Eggs and Battle Dress.—My favourite newspaper is making a fuss about the troops being supplied with foreign eggs. Why don't they get on to something new? Turn up my notes for 1927-30-32 and 35. If you don't find anything about Danish butter, eggs, and bacon, Chinese cheese, Czecho-Slovakian tin openers and Russian vinegar it may be that I forgot to mention those things. Just pass it up. What they should make a fuss about is clothing, if they find any. Would you invite people to

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AND MANY OTHERS

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tea and ask them to wait until next week for their bread and butter? There is no parallel of course. I only mention it to illustrate that one half of the world is a very small place after all.

Our Amazing Serial.—Ukann Larfe put the heel of his boot on the bell push and kept it there until Fogworthy (whom you probably don't remember) arrived.

"Any news from those hounds?"

Fogworthy (etc., etc.) swept a Chinese vase from the corner of the fine old 15th century radiogram with an airy gesture.

"None, sir," he replied.

"Tell me, fool," said the detective, "What were we doing the last time we appeared on this page?"

"Well, I was out that time but you said you'd been chucking vases at a postman."

"Ah! Now I remember. There was a cablegram. Where is it?"

"I tore it up, sir," said the butler shuffling his great feet.

"Sacre bouffon," yelled Ukann, who had travelled widely. "What did it say then?"

"Something about somebody arriving at some time or other."

"Didn't you make a copy of it, you cab-faced lout?"

"Oh yes, sir, but I burnt that."

"Why—for the love of Mike—why?" spluttered the distressed sleuth with tears of rage splashing everywhere.

"Well, why not?" asked Fogworthy calmly.

By the time Ukann Larfe had reasoned this out in his slow and deliberate way, we had posted this off to the Editor with our love.

Save the coupon on page 2.

BARLEUX.

Signal Unit, Glasgow University O.T.C.

University Avenue, Glasgow, W.2.

The summer vocation has begun, and conditions at Headquarters are very quiet. An occasional Cadet drops in for a spot of operating or weapon training, but there are no organised parades.

One's mind often wanders, and at the present moment mine is somewhere in the vicinity of Blair Atholl, where our Annual Camp was to have been. If I remember rightly, Lovat's Scouts are there at present and having a good wetting. The weather has been decidedly moist, and one wonders after all if we have lost a great deal by not going to camp. What sayest thou, lads? The stout fellows have replied as one would wish: "Rain or no rain, we should have preferred to go to camp."

Since our last notes, welcome news concerning Certificates "A" and "B" has reached us. There will be a practical examination in October, and written ones in November and March. We are all out to make the most of this, and in preparation for the Practical Examination intensive training will be held throughout September. It will be our last chance, so it behoves us to do or die.

We offer our hearty congratulations to Sergeant Low W. J. W., who has been gazetted 2nd Lieutenant, Royal Signals (T.), and is now serving with our neighbours, the 52nd Divisional Signals, T.A. We all join in wishing him good luck.

On behalf of the Section as a whole, we congratulate our P.S.I. (W.O. III Pinkstone, E. W. H.) on his promotion to that rank.

Our officers are being attached to the 52nd Divisional Signals, T.A. for annual camp. We envy them the good time they will have.

STONE AGE.

Colonel Michelmore to Command New Devon Infantry Brigade.

(By kind permission of the *Exeter Express and Echo*.)

Colonel W. G. Michelmore, D.S.O., M.C., T.D., D.L., of the 4th Battalion, Devonshire Regiment, has been appointed to command the new Infantry Brigade to be formed in Devon in consequence of the doubling of the Territorial Army.

Colonel W. G. Michelmore, D.S.O., M.C., T.D., D.L.

News of the appointment, announced by the War Office, will give pleasure to a large circle of friends, and, while all ranks of the 4th Devons will be sorry that Colonel Michelmore's successful command of the Battalion is drawing to a close, they will join in congratulating him on his promotion to Brigade Commander.

Colonel Michelmore is expected to take up his new command in October.

Youngest son of Mr. H. W. Michelmore, Registrar of the Exeter Diocese, Colonel Michelmore joined the Territorial Army in 1913, being gazetted as 2nd Lieutenant to the Wessex Divisional Telegraph Company, R.E. In August, 1914, he was mobilised with that Unit, and was entrusted with the formation of the second line of the Company. Most of the men who formed the Company came from the Exeter and Torquay districts.

After a period of duty in connection with home defence on the East Coast, Colonel Michelmore, then only 23, took the 58th Divisional Signal Company, R.E., overseas, and he served throughout the war on the Western Front. In November, 1917,

at the third battle of Ypres, he was severely wounded. After a period of about four months in hospital he returned to active service as Commander of the 19th Divisional Signals, R.E.

This Unit, it is interesting to note, formed part of the British forces, with the 2nd Battalion, Devonshire Regiment, which fought under the French at the Bois de Buttes.

In 1917 Colonel Michelmore was awarded the M.C., and following the severe fighting of April, 1918, he was *Mentioned in Despatches* and awarded the D.S.O.

After the Armistice, Colonel Michelmore served with the Army of Occupation on the Rhine, commanding the Lancashire Divisional Signals at Bonn. On returning to England he was appointed the first Commanding Officer of the reconstituted 43rd (Wessex) Divisional Signals, Royal Corps of Signals. This command he held for nine years until 1929, when he became Deputy Chief Signal Officer to the Southern Command, Salisbury. In 1933 he was appointed Substantive-Colonel in the Territorial Army, and three years later he assumed command of the 4th Devons in succession to Lieutenant-Colonel H. F. Hilton Green.

Colonel Michelmore, who was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant for Devon in May, 1938, has taken an active part in the public life of the city and county. He has been Hon. Secretary of the Exeter Diocesan Conference since 1922, and for eight years until 1936 was District Commissioner of the Exeter Boy Scouts. Colonel Michelmore is still chairman of the local Boy Scouts Association, and also holds the local chairmanship of Royal Signals' Old Comrades' Association.

Corps Cricket, 1939

Corps cricket this year commenced and continued under many difficulties. The general shortage of personnel was complicated by the arrival of Reservists and, as a result, it was no easy matter to collect representative sides.

Lack of bowling was our chief worry, and several previously unseen "Veritys" swung their arm for the first time in Corps cricket.

Royal Signals v. R.E.—Our first match was against the Royal Engineers and played on Mons Barracks ground on 9th June, marking the first occasion on which a Corps match had been played there. Though not ideal, the wicket played better than it looked and, in course of time, should develop into a good piece of turf, provided it receives proper attention.

Against the R.E. we won the toss and put together a modest total of 158 against fairly useful bowling. The Sappers lost two wickets for 17 runs and, unfortunately, an easy c and b was missed in the first over, the fortunate batsman going on to make 63. Our scanty bowling gradually faded out, and, in the end, we were beaten by seven wickets, but went on playing for a further half-hour for the sake of practice.

Royal Signals.

Major L. C. Boyd, c Baker, b Bradfer-Lawrence	0
2nd Lieutenant J. H. Collins, c Holmes, b Bradfer-Lawrence	5
Major H. S. Lewis-Barclay, b Bradfer-Lawrence	24
2nd Lieutenant P. T. S. Brown, b Storey	24
2nd Lieutenant A. F. Freeman, c Holmes, b Storey	14
2nd Lieutenant J. E. V. Rice, c deChassiron, b Fahy	32
Captain L. C. C. Harrison, c deChassiron, b Fahy	4
Lieutenant W. H. L. Gordon, c Coombs, b Storey	3
Signalman Codd, not out	23
Signalman Bish, b Bradfer-Lawrence	3
Signalman Waite, c deBrett, b Bradfer-Lawrence	5
Extras	21
Total	158

Bowling: Bradfer-Lawrence 5 for 35, Storey 3 for 35, Fahy 2 for 32, deBrett 0 for 39.

Royal Engineers.

deBrett, st Harrison, b Lewis-Barclay	63
Fahy, c Lewis-Barclay, b Waite	0
Wyatt, c Waite, b Lewis-Barclay	5
Holmes, b Gordon	88
Baker, lbw b Lewis-Barclay	14
Baker, not out	25
Extras	15
Total (for 5 wickets)	210

deChassiron, Coombs, Weller, Storey and Bradfer-Lawrence did not bat.

Bowling: Lewis-Barclay 3 for 71, Waite 1 for 33, Gordon 1 for 32, Bish 0 for 41, Boyd 0 for 20.

Royal Signals v. R.A.O.C.—The match against the R.A.O.C. was also played on Mons Barracks ground on 10th June, and resulted in a draw.

R.A.O.C. batted first and put together 255, leaving us 2 hours 20 minutes in which to get the runs. With Captain Cole and Lieutenant Hayles together and scoring fast we were ahead of the clock and looked well on the way to forcing a win. Unfortunately, Captain Cole, after scoring a grand 64 was out to a magnificent catch on the boundary and, immediately afterwards, Lieutenant Hayles left, having hit up 57 in impressive style.

Wickets continued to fall, and when time was called our last pair was in, and we were 14 runs behind, the match thus ending in a draw. Captain Cole bowled extremely well for 17 8-ball overs and fully deserved his 7 wickets for 81.

R.A.O.C.

Lieutenant H. P. V. Bailey, c Lewis-Barclay, b Cole	41
Private Mack, b Lewis-Barclay	9
Private Lowther, lbw b Cole	55
Captain H. S. Mitchell, c Lewis-Barclay, b Cole	55
Captain F. D. Tarrant, lbw b Cole	24
Lieutenant Hunter-Brown, not out	29
Lieutenant-Colonel Sheppard, b Lewis-Barclay	14
Corporal Angel, b Cole	1
Corporal McKenzie, lbw b Cole	22
Sergeant McCallum, c Codd, b Cole	0
Lieutenant Henchley, c Collins, b Lewis-Barclay	1
Extras	4
Total	255

Bowling: Cole 7 for 81, Lewis-Barclay 3 for 47, Bish 0 for 86, Gordon 0 for 13, Boyd 0 for 26.

Royal Signals.

Major L. C. Boyd, lbw b Bailey	48
2nd Lieutenant J. H. Collins, b Henchley	9
2nd Lieutenant P. T. S. Brown, lbw b Bailey	12
Major H. S. Lewis-Barclay, c Mitchell, b Tarrant	26
Lieutenant B. R. M. Hayles, c and b Tarrant	57
Captain E. S. Cole, c McKenzie, b Bailey	64
Signalman Codd, lbw b Bailey	7
2nd Lieutenant J. E. V. Rice, b Tarrant	8
2nd Lieutenant A. F. Freeman, lbw b Tarrant	4
Lieutenant W. H. L. Gordon, not out	0
Signalman Bish, not out	1
Extras	5
Total (for 9 wickets)	241

Bowling: Tarrant 4 for 57, Bailey 4 for 93, Henchley 1 for 32, McCallum 0 for 26, Angel 0 for 20, McKenzie 0 for 8.

Royal Signals v. R.A.S.C.—On 12th and 13th June we renewed acquaintance with the R.A.S.C., on their Buller Barracks ground, and had it not been for a half-hour's stoppage through rain we should have registered our second successive win over this team.

Captain Cole's bowling was sadly missed, but, on a plumb wicket, we managed to dismiss them for 177, with the chief bowling honours going to Major Lewis-Barclay, who took 5 for 41.

In reply we put together 297, of which Lieutenant Hayles contributed a grand 95, and was unfortunate for the second year in succession in this match to reach the nineties and not register his century. Major Lewis-Barclay batted well for 66 and Lieutenant Gordon, batting No. 10, hit up 52 in no uncertain manner.

Facing a deficit of 120, the R.A.S.C. compiled 235 in their second innings, the chief scorer being 2nd Lieutenant Chambers with a well played 65. Sergeant Pettit took 5 wickets for 55 and bowled very steadily throughout.

Faced with 116 runs to win, and not overmuch time in which to get them, we were going very well until Lieutenant Hayles hit a ball on to his face and was forced to retire. The game then quietened down and when time was up we still had four wickets standing and were only 26 runs short.

Though a drawn game resulted it was very much in our favour.

R.A.S.C.

First Innings.

Major F. W. Clarke, c Vulliamy, b Lewis-Barclay	6
Driver Mitchell, c Gordon, b Power	4
Lieutenant H. E. J. Wigram, c Gordon, b Lewis-Barclay	31
2nd Lieutenant L. J. Asplard, lbw b Lewis-Barclay	12
2nd Lieutenant J. L. Chambers, b Lewis-Barclay	7
2nd Lieutenant W. M. E. White, st Hayles, b Gordon	8
2nd Lieutenant J. T. Allen, c and b Lewis-Barclay	6
2nd Lieutenant F. J. Brodhurst, b Power	12
2nd Lieutenant T. G. Wilson, not out	28
Lieutenant F. Marrison, c Gordon, b Boyd	33
Lance Corporal Marrison P., run out	21
Extras	9
Total	177

Bowling: Lewis-Barclay 5 for 41, Power 2 for 61, Boyd 1 for 23, Gordon 1 for 44, Pettit 0 for 0.

Second Innings.

Major Clarke, c Hayles, b Lewis-Barclay	3
2nd Lieutenant Wilson, b Power	10
2nd Lieutenant Wigram, c and b Pettit	37
2nd Lieutenant Asplard, c Lewis-Barclay, b Pettit	24
2nd Lieutenant Allen, c Codd, b Pettit	21
2nd Lieutenant Chambers, b Lewis-Barclay	65
2nd Lieutenant White, b Pettit	14
2nd Lieutenant Brodhurst, c Gordon, b Pettit	11
Driver Mitchell, not out	22
Lieutenant Marrison, c Codd, b Power	2
Lance Corporal Marrison, b Power	2
Extras	24
Total	235

Bowling: Pettit 5 for 55, Power 3 for 56, Lewis-Barclay 2 for 65, Boyd 0 for 17, Gordon 0 for 21.

ROYAL SIGNALS.

First Innings.

Major L. C. Boyd, c Brodhurst, b Lance Corporal Marrison	21
2nd Lieutenant J. H. Collins, lbw b White	0
2nd Lieutenant P. T. S. Brown, lbw b White	0
Major H. S. Lewis-Barclay, b White	66
Lieutenant B. R. M. Hayles, c Brodhurst, b White	95
2nd Lieutenant J. E. V. Rice, c Wigram, b White	5
Sergeant Pettit, c Brodhurst, b Lieutenant Marrison	4
Captain E. L. L. Vulliamy, c Wigram, b Mitchell	33
Signalman Codd, c Clarke, b White	2
Lieutenant W. H. L. Gordon, c Brodhurst, b Lance Corporal Marrison	52
Lieutenant R. F. B. Power, not out	7
Extras	12
Total	297

Bowling: White 6 for 127, Lance Corporal Marrison 2 for 42, Mitchell 1 for 9, Lieutenant Marrison 1 for 73, Clarke 0 for 18.

Second Innings.

Major Boyd, c Clarke, b White	9
2nd Lieutenant Collins, b White	19
2nd Lieutenant Brown, b White	10
Lieutenant Hayles, retired hurt	28
Captain Vulliamy, c Lieutenant Marrison, b White	0
Lieutenant Gordon, lbw b White	0
2nd Lieutenant Rice, not out	20
Signalman Codd, not out	6
Extras	1
Total (for 6 wickets)	93

Major Lewis-Barclay, Lieutenant Power and Sergeant Pettit did not bat.

Bowling: White 5 for 49, Lieutenant Marrison 0 for 44.

Royal Signals v. Royal Military Academy.—On 14th June we played a one-day match against the R.M.A. at Woolwich, which ended in a win for us, after a most exciting finish, their last wicket falling to the last ball of the day.

After scoring 202 for six wickets, we declared, and left the "Shop" 2 hours, 20 minutes, in which to get the runs. This should have been a reasonable task on such a fast-scoring ground, an easy-paced wicket and, on our part, a shortage of bowlers. Their batting, with the exception of Heaven, was unenterprising, and they never looked like getting the runs. In the end we won on the stroke of time by 67 runs.

Major Boyd's 78 was full of good strokes, particularly on the leg side, and Major Lewis-Barclay's bowling had the "Shop" batsmen in difficulties throughout the innings.

Captain Whiteway-Wilkinson covered himself with glory by making two catches, assisting in a run-out by means of an unintentional soccer pass, and taking three wickets, the third with the last ball of the day.

ROYAL SIGNALS.

Major L. C. Boyd, c Salmon, b Geary	78
2nd Lieutenant J. H. Collins, b Geary	15
2nd Lieutenant P. T. S. Brown, c Robinson, b Hornsby	12
Major H. S. Lewis-Barclay, b Geary	18
Lieutenant B. R. M. Hayles, c Harris, b Cooke	0
Lieutenant W. H. L. Gordon, c Heaven, b Cooke	12
2nd Lieutenant J. E. V. Rice, not out	24
Captain E. L. L. Vulliamy, not out	34
Extras	9
Total (for 6 wickets, declared)	202

Captain F. S. Whiteway-Wilkinson, Lieutenant A. F. Freeman and Lieutenant R. F. B. Power did not bat.

Bowling: Geary 3 for 58, Cooke 2 for 67, Hornsby 1 for 3, Hamilton 0 for 40, Gatford 0 for 17 ,Heaven 0 for 8.

ROYAL MILITARY ACADEMY.

R. C. Robinson, st Hayles, b Lewis-Barclay	32
D. C. Harris, lbw b Power	4
R. J. G. Heaven, b Whiteway-Wilkinson	30
C. A. C. Hamilton, c Hayles, b Lewis-Barclay	6
A. G. Noble, c Whiteway-Wilkinson, b Lewis-Barclay	1
P. S. D. Griffin, b Whiteway-Wilkinson	33
H. J. H. Gatford, b Whiteway-Wilkinson	0
P. G. Geary, c Whiteway-Wilkinson, b Lewis-Barclay	9
H. L. B. Salmon, run out	1
T. J. Cooke, c Hayles, b Lewis-Barclay	12
— Hornsby, not out	0
Extras	7
Total	135

Bowling: Lewis-Barclay 5 for 28, Whiteway-Wilkinson 3 for 56, Power 1 for 19, Gordon 0 for 15, Boyd 0 for 10.

Royal Signals v. Ironsides.—The match against Ironsides was to have been played on Mons Barracks ground on 16th and 17th June, but heavy rain on the first day compelled us to make it a one-day fixture.

The Ironsides batted first and scored 212 runs, Major Lewis-Barclay taking 5 wickets for 70 and Lieutenant Power 4 for 75. We commenced our innings well enough, and, with the score board reading 107 for 3 wickets, we looked safe, but at this stage the batting crumpled and in the end we were all out for 162, leaving the Ironsides winners by 50 runs.

Captain Vulliamy's 62 was a very useful knock, but apart from Signalman Codd, who scored 33 in very promising style, the rest of the batting was disappointing.

This match was notable for the welcome re-appearance to Corps cricket of Colonel L. G. Phillips.

IRONSIDES.

2nd Lieutenant Godley, c Lewis-Barclay, b Power	8
2nd Lieutenant Lindsay, b Power	35
2nd Lieutenant Howard-Jones, c Hayles, b Power	14
Lieutenant Scrafton, c and b Lewis-Barclay	68
Captain Rash, c Power, b Lewis-Barclay	32
Captain Rumsey, b Power	10
2nd Lieutenant Ironside, st Hayles, b Lewis-Barclay	15
2nd Lieutenant Shirley-Price, c Codd, b Lewis-Barclay	0
Captain Hall, c and b Phillips	22
Captain Deas, not out	3
2nd Lieutenant Pedraza, lbw b Lewis-Barclay	2
Extras	3
Total	212

Bowling: Lewis-Barclay 5 for 70, Power 4 for 75, Phillips 1 for 34, Pettit 0 for 30.

ROYAL SIGNALS.

Captain E. L. L. Vulliamy, b Rash	62
Lieutenant W. H. L. Gordon, b Pedraza	2
Lieutenant B. R. M. Hayles, c Pedraza, b Deas	13
Major H. S. Lewis-Barclay, c Ironside, b Pedraza	16
Signalman Codd, c Pedraza, b Godley	33
Lieutenant D. A. Dickson, b Godley	5
Sergeant Pettit, st Howard-Jones, b Rash	6
Colonel L. G. Phillips, b Rash	1
Signalman Waite, lbw b Scrafton	1
2nd Lieutenant C. H. Golden, b Rash	2
Lieutenant R. F. B. Power, not out	2
Extras	19
Total	162

Bowling: Rash 4 for 5, Pedraza 2 for 27, Godley 2 for 31, Scrafton 1 for 6, Deas 1 for 36, Hall 0 for 38.

Royal Signals v. Royal Artillery.—Our last Corps match of the season was against the Royal Artillery and played on the Officers' Club ground, Aldershot, on 19th and 20th June. It was only after much perseverance that a side was collected together and, at one stage, it appeared probable that the team would include the three Aldershot Commanding Officers and their Adjutants!

Winning the toss we batted first on a soft and slowly-drying wicket. The score board at one time read 110 for 1, but in the end we were all out for 165, the chief run-getters being Major Lewis-Barclay and Captain Vulliamy with 53 and 50, respectively.

In their first innings the Gunners fared disastrously against Captain Cole's bowling and were all out for 95. There was one run-out and Captain Cole took the remaining 9 wickets for 34 runs, actually hitting the stumps on eight occasions.

In our second innings we declared with 228 for 7 wickets, of which Lieutenant Gordon scored a very sound 72, Captain Vulliamy 41 and Captain Cole 48. This left us 298 runs ahead and just under three hours in which to out the Gunners, which we very nearly did.

Lieutenant Stuart proved the stumbling block, however, and his 143 not out in a total of 234 was a very fine effort. Though wickets fell steadily we could not dislodge this batsman, and when time was called we had 8 of their wickets down for 234, the match ending in a draw.

ROYAL SIGNALS.

First Innings.

Captain E. L. L. Vulliamy, c and b Ratford	50
Lieutenant W. H. L. Gordon, c Wilson, b Stuart	0
Major H. S. Lewis-Barclay, c Shaw, b Stuart	53
Lieutenant D. A. Dickson, b Ratford	5
Captain E. S. Cole, c Wilson, b Ratford	13
Lieutenant C. H. Golden, c Wilson, b Stuart	2
Captain L. C. C. Harrison, c Mermagen, b Ratford	2
Captain A. DeLisle, b Ratford	12
Colonel L. G. Phillips, not out	5
Major L. B. Nicholls, c Stuart, b Ratford	5
Lieutenant B. R. M. Hayles, absent.	
Extras	18
Total	165

Bowling: Ratford 6 for 38, Stuart 3 for 45, Dickson 0 for 22, Proudlock 0 for 20, Mermagen 0 for 13, Clark 0 for 9.

Second Innings.

Lieutenant Gordon, c Fox, b Stuart	72
Captain Vulliamy, c Wilson, b Mermagen	41
Major Lewis-Barclay, c Stuart, b Dickson	18
Lieutenant Hayles, c Fox, b Stuart	18
Captain Cole, b Dickson	48
Lieutenant Dickson, b Stuart	0
Lieutenant Golden, b Ratford	13
Captain Harrison, not out	3
Colonel Phillips, not out	4
Extras	11
Total (for 7 wickets declared)	228

Bowling: Stuart 3 for 63, Dickson 2 for 61, Ratford 1 for 40, Mermagen 1 for 16, Clark 0 for 17, Wilson 0 for 21.

ROYAL ARTILLERY.

First Innings.

Fox, b Cole	4
Wilson, b Cole	33
Stuart, b Cole	0
Foster, lbw b Cole	9
Dickson, b Cole	6
Ratford, run out	6
Hyde-Smith, b Cole	29
Proudlock, b Cole	0
Mermagen, b Cole	2
Clark, b Cole	0
Shaw, not out	1
Extras	5
Total	95

Bowling: Cole 9 for 34, Lewis-Barclay 0 for 40, Phillips 0 for 16, DeLisle 0 for 0.

Second Innings.

Fox, c Hayles, b DeLisle	25
Wilson, b Cole	9
Stuart, not out	143
Foster, lbw b Cole	18
Dickson, c Cole, b Phillips	6
Ratford, lbw b Phillips	7
Hyde-Smith, lbw b Nicholls	5
Mermagen, lbw b Lewis-Barclay	14
Proudlock, c Vulliamy, b Lewis-Barclay	0
Clark, not out	0
Shaw, did not bat.	
Extras	7
Total (for 8 wickets)	234

Bowling: Lewis-Barclay 2 for 24, Phillips 2 for 40, Cole 2 for 105, Nicholls 1 for 23, DeLisle 1 for 26.

(*Continued on page* 384)

HOME STATIONS

SIGNAL TRAINING CENTRE NOTES

School of Signals.

14th July.

Although the weather clerk does not seem to realise the fact, the furlough period has come round once again. But even he cannot damp the enthusiasm with which we are preparing to revisit civilisation for a few weeks.

We welcome Signalman Mayer, who has just completed his training as a clerk. Needless to say, he has been found a table and chair in the Orderly Room.

Signalman Turner is also welcomed from Aldershot, but the duration of his attachment is uncertain as he has joined us to practise the art of cooking.

A record number of our personnel have left us recently: Drivers Downey, Compton, Forsyth, Heightley and Quinton have proceeded to the Depot Battalion. Signalman "Frankie" Leader, our famous "Just waitin' Sargint" despatch clerk, has been despatched to Slough on a Vocational Training Course. We sincerely hope he is never reduced to the intolerable position of "just waitin'." We wish you all the best, Frankie.

The Royal Army Pay Corps has suddenly become a craze here. It is surprising the number of unsuspected budding Pay Clerks-in-Chief we possess. Driver "Hennessy" Wilson and Signalman "Topper" Brown have already left us in order to study the intricacies of Pay Lists, and quite a number expect to go soon. If they can discover how our expected credits invariably turn out to be debits, then we shall be much obliged.

Annual weapon training has occupied a great deal of our attention during the past few weeks. To everyone's relief, it is now a thing of the past, and we can rest on our laurels for another year—although some of us didn't find it so easy as shooting tigers (or was it lions) in India. It is indeed fortunate that, unlike big game shooting, if the target is missed the first time, one always gets a second chance!

The number of births this month has exceeded all expectations—there are no less than eleven happy events. All our "blessed events" have been blessed with four legs, for Trixie has presented her proud owner with six puppies of every shade imaginable, and Nigger, the cook-house cat—not to be outdone—has returned to her usual haunts with a large family.

It is rumoured that we are adopting "You must have been a beautiful baby" as our theme song.

"A" Company, Depot Battalion.

July.

General.—We observe from a perusal of last month's notes that we were beset by heat-waves. This is all over now, and we have reverted to the true Catterick weather, namely, thunder-storms, cloud-bursts and cold winds.

The Company has gone into camp at Marne Lines in order that the Militia may be accommodated until their huts are ready. (Big-hearted "A" Company, that's us!) We shall probably enjoy the experience when we get a return of sun-bathing weather, but so far it has been like camp in mid-winter.

Promotions and Appointments.—These have been very numerous lately and we congratulate the following: T/W.O.s II Stainer J. and Pack E. W. (late of "F" Company); T/W.O.s III Stickley H., Clarke A. B. and Cook T.; T/C.Q.M.S. Tennant R.; T/Sergeants Bunce C., Bain and Collett E.; T/Lance Sergeants Butler C., Donovan S., Postance H., Raymond C. and Graham J.; T/Corporals Drake E., Ward K. and Overton R.

An N.C.O. was seen to blush at the pay table one Friday when receiving his pay. (Don't worry, Sid., I'll keep it under my hat.)

Pass Offs.—Since our last paragraph on this subject, the following Squads have passed off the Square: No. 8 Squad: Instructor, Corporal Williams G. (2nd R.W. Fusiliers); P.T. Medal winner, Signalman Hilton G.; winner of the whip, Signalman Foreman T. No. 9 Squad: Instructor, Lance Sergeant Jones C. (2nd East Yorks.); P.T. Medal winner, Signalman West R.; winner of the whip, Signalman Reid C. No. 10 Squad: Instructor, Corporal Growns A. (2nd R.W. Kents); P.T. Medal winners, Signalmen Needham J. and McEwan F.; winner of the whip, Signalman Dowell B. No. 11 Squad: Instructor, Corporal Ewers H. (2nd Dorsets); P.T. Medal winner, Signalman Janion W.; winner of the whip, Signalman Gambell R. W. No. 12 Squad: Instructor, Lance Sergeant Graham J.; P.T. Medal winners, Signalmen Whitehand W. and MacGregor W.; winner of the whip, Signalman Whitehand W. (congratulations to Signalman Whitehand W. for having a finger in one pie and his whole hand in the other). No. 13 Squad: Instructor, Corporal Watts F. (2nd Beds and Herts.); P.T. Medal winner, Signalman Lanigan R.; winner of the whip, Signalman Lanigan, R. (Congratulations to Signalman Lanigan R. on winning both trophies!)

Arrivals.—We extend a hearty welcome to the following, who have joined us since our last notes: Corporals Hutton T., Charlton M. and Lloyd E., Lance Corporals Bowler J., Soutar P., Doris W. and Walker T., and Driver Woods D. They all arrived

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from Aldershot, and have even been heard to express their gratitude at being able to get out into the country once again after being confined to a town.

Departures.—Owing to the needs of the Militia, we have lost several old hands, including: S.S.M. Cook (Tommy), C.Q.M.S. Tennant and Sergeant "Jock" Bain.

R.S.M. Beverley E. left us for India on 2nd July, and we hope that he will enjoy his tour.

Sport.—The sporting fraternity have had rather a lean time, thanks to the weather. At one match, which the writer attended, the weather was aided and abetted by a herd of cattle who, when asked to leave, adopted the rather stubborn attitude of "Well, we found it first, so go and find another field to play on."

During a break in the weather we managed to play "F" Company, Training Battalion. We are now wishing there had not been any break in the weather after all, as we were dismissed for twenty-seven runs, and our opponents collected the necessary runs to win for the loss of three wickets.

Our cricketers are not experiencing too much luck, but the spirit—whether it be Johnnie Walker or White Horse—is definitely there.

After our game of cricket we indulged in a game of baseball. (I cannot write deliberate untruths—shades of G. Washington.) It was "rounders"! We were represented by "A" Company "Grey Socks," not to mention one or two pairs of rather startling suspenders. It was noted that Drake of "A" was the only one to sport Corps suspenders. We shall not reveal the result of this game as we should hate it to be spread abroad that we were beaten at two games by the same team in one day.

Jews' Mail.—"How about a line, John Paul, Meerut? Drake."

"You don't have to wait until you can buy the stamp, Dicky Parker, 8th Divisional Signals, Palestine? Big-hearted Draky—that's me!"

P. D.

"C" Company, Depot Battalion.

13th July.

General.—The Company had a very hectic time early this month moving under canvas. Soon after arrival in camp we were christened by the heaviest shower of rain this year. Real Catterick Camp weather prevails, but every man seems to have settled down admirably, and getting accustomed to the hardships of camp life.

Promotions.—These are too numerous to mention. Mr. Records has been so very kind with promotions this month that it would take the writer quite a while to sort them all out. The Blue Book does not appear to be used much nowadays.

Departures and Arrivals.—The following Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.s have left the Company:

To the Militia: R.S.M. Murray G. P., S.S.M. Hothersall P., Sergeants Clay, Saunders E., Robson F., Page R., Rawson J. W., Wood J., Costen A., Honeybourne J., West E. R., Bain A. and Hesford J. To "A" Company: Sergeant Grose. To Northern Ireland District Signal Company: Sergeant Hampton.

Sergeant Small has arrived from "A" Company.

It is regretted that we can only find space for the names of the Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.s, but to all those who have arrived and departed, and whose names are not mentioned, we wish you every success in your new spheres.

Births.—The stork, which has been flying low over Catterick again this last month has paid a visit to the abode of Signalman Burton O. (Olly), presenting him and Mrs. Burton with a son, Peter Anthony.

Training.—The Depot Battalion training staff of the M.T. and D.R. Sections are very busy these days turning out budding "Sir Malcolm Campbells" and "Stanley Woods." No. 32 D.R. Squad passed off with flying colours on 10th June, and are now awaiting posting to Egypt. Nos. 33 and 34 Driver (I.C.) Squads passed off on 10th June and 8th July, respectively.

Some of the old hands (Reservists), who paid us a visit for a three-weeks' Course, did exceptionally well.

GAS.

"D" Company, Training Battalion.

14th July.

Looking through my window, it is easy to see that the appropriate dress for the day should be bathing costumes, as the rain is endeavouring to wipe Catterick Camp off the face of the map.

Before proceeding further, we should like to congratulate the numerous recipients of temporary promotion. To mention all their names would need a magazine alone.

Hearty congratulations are accorded to the following on their appointment to Unpaid Lance Corporals: Harris G., Cunningham A., McDiarmid A., Woolgar F., Biggs G., and Ettenfield H. May they soon draw the fabulous fees for non-commissioned rank.

Corporal Parry, who was attached here for an Upgrading Course, has now rejoined 1st Divisional Signals. His many friends wish to tender their congratulations to him for passing his Class I test successfully. Lance Sergeant Linton has joined the Militia Training Battalion on completion of his Upgrading Course with Corporal Parry.

The following proceeded to join the Armoured Divisional Signals: Signalmen Meik, McArdle, Pettifer and Smith H. G. To 3rd Divisional Signals: Signalmen Barratt C., Cook A., Hazlehurst, Hobson, Lenagh and Litton. May they enjoy their stay in their new surroundings.

Provisional warnings for service abroad have been issued by Mr. Records, but the N.C.O.s of the Company are still waiting that gentleman's decision as to which seaside resort overseas he has chosen for them. Recruits under training have featured in the warnings so far, and it is noted that quite a number are booked for that delightful place—India. Roll on that boat!

"D" Company canteen has been crowded with men of the Royal Army Reserve, who have been called up for training, and it is hoped that they are having a pleasant stay in Catterick in spite of our notorious weather.

It is only natural that we should wish to congratulate Their Majesties the King and Queen on their successful tour in Canada, Newfoundland and the United States of America. They completed a difficult task with much better results than were ever expected. Their actions throughout the tour proved to the world that our King and Queen are as human as any other person in the Universe. We most respectfully tender our heartiest congratulations to them, and trust they will be rewarded for their efforts towards world peace in a world torn asunder with scares of war.

We apologise for the shortness of these notes.

ACK PIP BEER.

"E" Company, Training Battalion.

14th July.

The Company moved into tents on 9th July in order to make room for the expected arrival of the Militiamen, who are due to arrive here next Saturday. Readers will therefore gather that these notes are being compiled under great difficulties, as the hard floor boards and beetles are somewhat annoying.

Despite the hardships that the Company are experiencing, the training of Operators is progressing steadily, thanks to the thoroughness of the instructional staff in general.

Arrivals.—We extend the heartiest greeting to the following: C.S.M. Fishwick R. H. from "D" Company; Signalman Mace, Feveyear and Pickles from the Royal Army Reserve; and T/Corporal Holdsworth from "D" Company to take over Company pay duties.

Departures.—We wave a sad farewell to the following: T/C.Q.M.S. Warman to "F" Company; T/Sergeant Burton, Lance Sergeants Williams, Mallett and Pearson and T/Lance Sergeants O'Hara and Baker to the Militia Training Battalion, Catterick Camp; T/C.Q.M.S. Fraser, T/Sergeants Thomas and Pickett and T/Corporal King to A.A. Militia Battalion, Harrogate; C.S.M. Farmer to the School of Signals.

Births.—Congratulations to Lance Sergeant and Mrs. Bailey on the birth of a son, Brian George, at Easington, Co. Durham.

Marriages.—Having sealed their future, we have to report the marriage of the following: Signalman Thirlwall to Eleanor Dalby at Gateshead; Signalman Kent to Barbara Parker at St. Andrew's Parish Church, Blackhall, Co. Durham; Signalman Warren to Beatrice Irene Payne at Luton. Congratulations and good wishes to all of them.

Medals.—For heroism on the North-West Frontier, T/Lance Sergeant Lavelle has been awarded the I.G.S. Medal. We hear that the weight of the medal gives him a permanent list!

Education.—The following have been awarded their Second Class Certificate of Education: Signalmen Austen, Conelly, Grubb, Stark, Bygrave, Griffen, Scriven and Foskett.

Promotions and Appointments.—Sergeant Cosstick to be T/W.O.III; Sergeants Fraser and Warman to be T/C.Q.M.S.; Lance Sergeants Brunton-Douglas, Burrell, Shepherd, Pickett, Thomas, Burton and Shorrock to be T/Sergeants; Corporals Mallett, Williams, Ebbage, Banham, Hurst, O'Hara, Baker, Baker, Lavelle and Spence to be T/Lance Sergeants; T/Corporals Scott, Smith and Napier to be Corporals; Lance Corporals Holdsworth, Smale, Craig, Bagley and King to be T/Corporals.

Postings.—The following have been posted to "C" Company in order to have their muscles developed: Signalmen Gittens, Brankin, Allen and Hutchison.

Farewells.—Owing to the large number of departures from this Unit on the Indian draft, which sailed from Southampton on 4th July, per H.T. "Lancashire," we cannot find space to publish their names individually, but we give them an assurance that the best wishes of this Company go with them.

Conclusion.—Having "bravely volunteered" to carry out the arduous task of WIRE correspondent during the period of the Unit reorganisation, it is sincerely hoped that this last-minute effort will satisfy our critics.

H. F. S.

"F" (Boys) Company, Training Battalion.

July.

General.—We have now reached that stage where camp life seems to be the natural thing, and the prospect of sleeping anywhere but on the ground is regarded with apprehension. Nothing has happened so far to upset our little concern, and everything is running with the smoothness so typical of this Company. (Mark of interrogation.)

The other day, someone casually remarked that there was a possibility of leave in the near future. In about four days the news had travelled all round the camp, and one or two chaps even wrote to inform their parents. Whether or not there is any truth in this rumour remains to be seen, but, whatever happens, we shall remain indifferent. Leave, as many readers must know, is never treated very seriously in "F" Company!

The Company recently played a cricket match against Ampleforth. When our team returned, "Slugs" Marshall was asked how we had fared. "Well," he replied, "they gave us some jolly fine grub." A trifle evasive, perhaps, but the result of the match is quite clear.

Heard on the Duck Boards.—A certain recruit boy was rendering a version of "Chopsticks" on the club piano. Betts, in his capacity of custodian of the piano, asked the lad if he had obtained permission to use it. "Yes," replied the newly-joined one. "That Sergeant gave me permission." "Which Sergeant?" questioned Betts, who has the makings of a sleuth in him. "That one with the funny clothes and three things on his shoulder," replied the recruit.

The Fire Piquets' duties mainly consist of peeling potatoes. One bright spark is convinced that the only way to combat a fire is to peel spuds at furious speed and thus avoid panic!

We could say something about the Pay Clerk, but it is dangerously near leave, and he is the dispenser of credits.

Arrivals.—We welcome Sergeant-Major Nicholson and C.Q.M.S. Warman, and wish them both a happy tour. We also welcome the forty-three boys from "Civvy Street." We think they are rather fortunate in coming straight to camp because, as Emery dolefully remarked, "There ain't nothing like it." We trust they will enjoy the career they have chosen as much as we have.

Departures.—We count ourselves very unfortunate in losing our former C.O., Colonel R. T. O. Cary. A few days before he left, we invited him to one of our special emergency concerts. The show was voted a success and, afterwards, the C.O. said good-bye very eloquently and managed to reveal a few home truths about the Company.

S.S.M.s Morris and McDowall, C.Q.M.S.s Dodd and Sullivan, and Sergeants Mattock and Fearnley have left us for the Militia Battalions. C.Q.M.S. Hancock has proceeded to Bulford—presumably for a rest cure.

The following ex-rats have been posted this month: Keane, Holdsworth, Buddery, Pavey, Smith R., Willmott, Tucker, and Lawrance. We wish them all the best in their new Units, and trust they will keep on top of the weather, which, we understand, is more civilised in the south.

Promotions.—Congratulations to the following: Sergeants Manning and Wagner, Lance Sergeants Dickinson, Folks, Ballard, Hoar, Hatton and Green, Corporals Elston and Milroy, and Lance Corporal Dixon. We understand that the local brewers' stocks are going down by leaps and bounds.

An apology is due to readers for the brevity of this month's notes.

A. JAY.

Corporals' Mess, Training Battalion.

July.

Because there has been an absence of notes from this Mess, please do not think we have vanished altogether. Far from it; we are quite alive and kicking.

We would like to extend a welcome to the N.C.O.s of the Royal Army Reserve, who have been guests in the Mess during their wait for a Mess of their own, and we hope that we were able to make them feel at home in the Mess and that they enjoyed their short stay with us. Their presence in the Mess has certainly been enjoyed by the members.

On Monday, 3rd July, we held a Games Tournament and Smoking Concert in honour of the Reservist N.C.O.s, and strange as it may seem, the score at the end of the tournament was even at 10 points each.

The chief event of the evening was the presentation of the "Gripper Shield," and there were many candidates for 1939 to be considered. Our own entry, Corporal Pollard, was fourth in the running. Corporal Bryan (Royal Army Reserve) won the Shield easily, with Corporals Angus and Bradley (both Reservists) second and third, respectively. Corporal Bryan related that he and the clergy were great friends and, to quote an instance, told us that some time ago he was standing on the steps of St. Peter's, Rome, playing darts with Cardinal Pacelli. The latter won, and now he is the Pope! It is regretted that we cannot vouch for the truthfulness of this story, but we shall have to take "Gripper" Bryan's word for it.

On Saturday, 8th July, a trip was arranged to Leeds so that members could have the opportunity of seeing the Northern Command Tattoo. How many availed themselves of this opportunity is not known, but we know that seats were booked up when we arrived. The main complaint about the trip was the presence of "Mr. Rain," who certainly made himself a nuisance. One bright member suggested that if we had swam to Leeds it would have saved a considerable amount of money for the Mess funds. Many lady friends were with us on this outing, and it is hoped that they enjoyed it in spite of the bad weather.

A hearty welcome is extended to the following U/Lance Corporals, and it is hoped that they will soon draw the necessary "shekels": McDiarmid A., Harris G., Constantine, Arnold, Ettenfield, Biggs, Woolgar, Cunningham and Turnbull.

Owing to the big rush of temporary promotions, it is impossible to publish all the names, but, nevertheless, our hearty congratulations are extended to all the lucky ones.

U. & U.

ALDERSHOT NEWS

"A" Corps Signals.

No. 1 Company.

16th July.

July was a very busy month. The outstanding events have been the embodiment of the Reservists, the abnormal number of promotions, and the beginning of the trooping season. Field Training has proceeded uninterruptedly, except for the few days during which the Reservists were being clothed and equipped, and the Line and Line Maintenance Sections have done some really good work under trying conditions. The Reservists soon settled down and the Sections are working together very efficiently.

The arrivals during the month were mainly Reservists, to whom a hearty welcome is extended, and it is hoped that they will thoroughly enjoy their stay in the Company and take home some happy memories of Aldershot, 1939.

The Regular arrivals were few, including: Signalman Carty E. from Egypt; Signalman Frames J. from the Depot Battalion. T/S.S.M. Bartley joined us from No. 2 Company and has assumed command of the Line Maintenance Section. Sergeant Parsons J., Signalmen Crowther and Henshall have also arrived from No. 2 Company. A hearty welcome is extended to all of them.

Departures were also few. Corporal Turner H. and T/Lance Corporal Bowling C. to the Militia Training Battalion, Catterick; T/Corporal Lloyd E. to the Depot Battalion; and Signalman Cocks A. to the Southern Command Signal Company. Our best wishes go with them for a happy stay in their new Units.

"Congratulations" is a word that has been extensively used during the month. The following are to be congratulated on their step up in rank: C.S.M. Foley J. to T/R.Q.M.S.; S.S.M.s Storey C. and Harris T. to T/C.S.M.; Sergeant Crow L. to T/C.Q.M.S.; Lance Sergeants Dallimore T. and Back S. to T/Sergeants; Corporals Bracegirdle, Boldison and Nash to T/Lance Sergeant; Lance Corporals Lloyd, Edwards, McGreevy, Hardy, Wilding, Harrison, Randle, Williams and Breeze to T/Corporals; U/Lance Corporals Armstrong, Campbell and Sharp to Lance Corporals on the Corps Roster; Signalmen Parks, McDonald, Beardmore, Baker G. E. and Bowling to T/Lance Corporals; and Signalmen Bunn, Mahoney and Brown E. to U/Lance Corporals.

Quite a number! There would have been more but for those missing Education Certificates.

Now some news about drafts. The Indian draft of seventeen O.R.s left on 4th July. The following are due for Aden in another week or so: Signalmen King D., Harris N., Haseltine C., Finn F., Walker C. and McVittie J. The following have been provisionally warned for the stations indicated: Signalman Mitchell F. (Malta); Signalmen Arkell D., Brown E. and Dingle N. (Malaya); Signalman Howarth T. (Sierra Leone); and Signalman Beckett (Hong Kong). Good luck and *bon voyage* to all of them.

Signalmen Shinn and Stocks have gone on discharge, and we wish them every success in civilian life. Signalman Brown T., of L.M. Section Stores fame, has proceeded to the G.T.C., Leeds.

No. 2 Company.

General.—If readers can remember as far back as last month's WIRE notes, they will recollect that we started by commenting on the splendid weather we were experiencing. We withdraw all those remarks, for we have had rain, rain, and just for a change, more rain ever since, but it takes more than rain to damp the spirits of the Signals—we prefer something stronger!

Although it is almost time for the first batch of Reservists to return again to "Civvy Street" (groans from the gallery), this is the first opportunity we have had to extend to them a hearty welcome from Two Company, and express the hope that their stay with us would be a pleasant one.

Manœuvres.—At this time of the year there is really nothing to write about except Exercises, and just now we are in the thick of them. We often wonder if fellows abroad remember the countryside around Dummer, Popham, Longmoor and Newlands Corner—our favourite haunts at this time of the year. After one of the short Schemes, we returned to our base for the night, after a wonderful day, so good in fact that some of our "hardy annuals" decided to sleep out in the open. Much to their dismay, the heavens opened during the night and, with one accord, they made a dive for the nearest lorry for shelter. But, alas, all lorries were full of slumbering "not so hardies," and the poor unfortunates had to make the best of it on driving seats, under lorries, and even, it is rumoured, in tool boxes.

Promotions and Appointments.—We extend hearty congratulations to the following: T/C.S.M. Lockyer, C.Q.M.S. Bygrave, T/C.Q.M.S. Roberts, T/S.S.M.s Boxall, Pearsall and Berriff, T/Sergeants Cox, Talbot and Shove, Lance Sergeant Marshall, T/Lance Sergeants Pitney, Locke, Rymer, Moran, Trevathan, Bosher, Verlander, Robertson, Craik, McMullan and Stanley, Corporals Martin and Boxall, T/Corporals White, Macpherson, Watterson, Rockall, Cameron, McDougall, French, Baldwin, Mainprize and Lumber, Lance Corporals Evans and Weedon, T/Lance Corporals Powell, Pearce, Redman, Smith G., McIlvenny, Hater and Smith H., U/Lance Corporals McSherry, Solly, Underwood, Murrell, Kinsella and Robertson. The supply of Field Marshal's batons from Field Stores is the highest on record.

MAINSPRING.

2nd Divisional Signals.

18th July.

Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. R. Neale, Royal Signals.—It is with great regret that we say good-bye to our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. R. Neale, Royal Signals, who is leaving us on the completion of his tenure of command of this Unit.

Colonel Neale took over command of the Unit in May, 1936, and since then has only had one objective in view, namely, the welfare and efficiency of the Unit, despite the fact that he has been greatly handicapped by the loss of the majority of his men in order to make up the strength of Units proceeding to Egypt and Palestine during the emergencies, and also on account of a continual shortage of officers and other ranks. It is interesting to record that during the whole time that Colonel Neale commanded the Unit (until up to the time a few weeks ago when the Reservists joined us), the Unit has never been at, or even approaching, full strength, and at times we have been nearly 50 per cent. under Establishment. The turnover due to drafts reliefs, etc., has been colossal, and such figures as 303 out of 380 in twelve months speak for themselves.

To maintain an efficient and happy Unit under such circumstances is extremely difficult but, throughout, Colonel Neale strove to encourage the *esprit de corps* and the efforts of everyone towards the building up of *the* Unit. Much of his time was devoted to the searching amongst old books and records so that we could get into print the "History of 2nd Divisional Signals."

During his farewell speech to the Unit, Colonel Neale impressed on all the possibilities of promotion and advancement in the Service, this being a matter in which he had a tremendous interest. Throughout his command he has striven to enhance the chances of promotion for N.C.O.s and we do not feel that we are disclosing a great office secret when it is said that the best way to put the C.O. in a good frame of mind for a hard day's work was to tell him that there was another vacancy for a Paid Lance Corporal, or that a Records Promotion Order had been received. R.S.M.s, both past and present, will doubtless recount at some future date how they were always being "chased" to find deserving youngsters (and veterans, too) for appointment to Lance Corporal.

[Photograph by Messrs. Gale & Polden, Ltd.

Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. R. Neale, Royal Signals.

We understand that Colonel Neale will not be leaving the Active List, and we wish him the best of luck in whatever appointment he is selected to fill, and assure him that it is no mere platitude when we say we are very sorry that he is leaving us.

Unit Headquarters.

General.—By now, as may well be imagined, we have made ourselves accustomed to the Reservists, who joined us on 15th June, and those amongst them who were formerly on the strength of the Unit, have made themselves familiar once more with their surroundings—or have we made a mistake ?

Since their arrival, the majority have had a spell under canvas at Thursley Camp, and have also been out on a Divisional Signals and also a Corps Skeleton Exercise.

We were proud to note the manner in which the Reception Staff, under Major Nicholls and S.S.M. Manning, took complete control, and had the whole of the 200 odd Reservists allotted to this Unit organised into their various Sections. Incidentally, we have got our " B " Cable Section once more. This Section had been non-existent since the end of last year's training season. We understand that all Reservists, with the exception of two, who joined the Unit later on medical grounds, were posted to their Sections by midnight on the day of their arrival. No mean feat !

For two months now we can have a breather, as far as the Reservists are concerned, and then we shall be engaged in registering the arrival of a new batch of fellows and also arranging the departure of those at present with us. Sounds rather like the welcome that one receives on arriving home on leave : " When are you going back ? " But it has been good to see a lot of the old faces back ; twelve months ago we thought that we should never see many of them again.

During the last week in June we held our annual " Signals Week " in Mons Barracks. Unlike previous years, many things had to be omitted ; some through inclement weather, others through lack of accommodation. The worst blow, we think, was the fact that the All Ranks Dance could not be held, owing to the Marlborough Lines Gymnasium not being available. This was a damper to many people, not only to members of the Unit, but also to outside friends, who had looked forward to this dance ever since the one held the previous year.

The Signals Sports were held on Saturday, 24th June, and we presume that full details of the results will be reported elsewhere in these notes. Suffice to say that this Unit was second in the " Prickett " Cup to "A" Corps Signals, the winners. Whilst we heartily congratulate "A" Corps Signals on their success, we should like to bring to light the fact that many of their stalwart athletes, who helped them on to victory were, before their transfer to the Royal Army Reserve, members of 2nd Divisional Signals. We gain a certain amount of consolation from this fact.

The Signals Display Team from Catterick gave a most remarkable display of motor cycle acrobatics. It is rumoured that after this season this band of " devil-may-cares " may be disbanded, because there are now so many similar Display Teams to be found amongst Royal Signals Units in the Territorial Army. If this is a fact, then it will be our misfortune. After all, there can be none quite as good as the Regulars.

A word of praise must again be accorded to the Signals Band for the strenuous programme they provided during the Signals Week and, at the same time, we should like to say, " Glad to meet you " to Mr. Hibbert, who has taken over the baton from Mr. Ricketts. On Sunday, 25th June, the Band led the Aldershot Signals to church, all Units in Mons Barracks turning out at full strength, together with a contingent of the Old Comrades. What a difference a Band makes !

Promotions.—Our heartiest congratulations to the following on their promotion or appointment : Sergeant Manning to T/W.O.III (S.S.M.) ; Lance Sergeants Gillings and Ditchfield to T/Sergeant ; Corporals Martin and Hobbs to T/Lance Sergeant ; Lance Corporals Brooks and MacIver to T/Corporal ; and U/Lance Corporal Pitman to Lance Corporal.

Trade Tests.—We are pleased to record the fact that the undermentioned passed their trade test as Class C.IIIb Clerks, having completed their recruits' training : Signalmen Atherton, Smart, Bennett and Mayer.

In two cases, their gain is our loss, as Signalman Smart has forsaken us for employment with 1st Divisional Signals, and Signalman Mayer has found new employment at the School of Signals.

Good-night.—Will you excuse your scribe now whilst he gets some sleep. We are on a Scheme at the moment, and it will soon be 1 a.m., when I shall be relieved from my responsibilities as duty clerk.

TASHY.

No. 1 Company.

The scene has changed since last month's notes, for our ranks on parade have been augmented by the men we have stolen from " Civvy Street." Yes, the Reservists have arrived as per schedule. The result of days of hard work before their arrival was clearly seen by the way these Reservists settled down once again into Army ways. So much so, that a certain Reservist was seen at the Order Board running his finger down the column of names of men warned for draft. Within two days of their arrival, they joined us at Thursley Camp, and very soon they were part and parcel of the Company.

The weather clerk was not in good form at the end of the camp, but the inclement weather did not prevent us taking away many happy memories, for amongst the ranks of our new friends we found many gifted artistes, who enabled us to spend many enjoyable evenings in the N.A.A.F.I. tent. We must not forget to mention a very capable and talented compere of the chosen race ; we hesitate—perhaps one should not judge by a name alone.

Sport was entered into keenly by all, and many a Reservist's waist line was reduced as the result. (We overheard one of them say that it was the change of diet.)

We had to admit crushing defeat at their hands in the Beer-drinking Competition ; they were not out of training for this

event, although a good attempt was made by some of our team to maintain our prestige.

The Reservists may have become " rusty " in some matters affecting Army life, but no matter how long ago they left the Colours, none of them have forgotten how to fill in a Pass Form.

Strangely enough, we often hear remarks from them to the effect that a " Bull " had been and gone, especially after a certain Cook N.C.O. had been holding forth concerning " Civvies " in the mess-room. We endeavoured to explain that this particular cook was one of the old " School of the Bull " Brigade.

A certain N.C.O. has recently left the shelter of his tent for a barrack-room. Evidently, being a nomad did not appeal to him, but we must say, to his credit, that he stuck it well, and as compensation has been granted a holiday with the T.A. in the near future.

The Reservists are a jolly decent set of lads, who are pulling their weight well, and considering that many of them are married and have left comfortable homes, their grouses are very few.

The Company Office has become more like a Woolworth's store, or should we say did, until a notice was placed on the Office door. It is still amazing to note how shortsighted some people are.

The Post N.C.O. is beginning to wonder if some of the Reservists run more than one home, as he wearily deals with the Company's large mail.

The " Signals Week " sports looked a good thing for us until the last day, when the results did not work out as anticipated. We congratulate all concerned on their splendid performance. Yes, the Reservists showed some of the younger lads a clean pair of heels.

Congratulations also to Lieutenant Deakin on his splendid win in the Army High Jump.

We have a young soldier who is very keen to know what Signalman " B " means by Crowborough, and why there is so much hot air about it. Will the Unit Office Reservist please reply ?

Congratulations to the many lucky ones who have mounted the ladder of fame in recent days and may there be plenty more " Blue Book " buyers.

To Signalman and Mrs. Rushton, a daughter. Congratulations!

No. 2 Company.

Our notes this month open up in a sad vein. On Saturday, 1st July, the Unit paraded as strong as possible in order to bid farewell to our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. Neale.

In his farewell speech, the Colonel spoke of the many changes that had taken place during his tenure of command, and mentioned the good name and reputation of the Corps in general and this Unit in particular. He reminded us that although Signals did consist of many kinds of Units, we were never to lose sight of the fact that we all belonged to the same branch of the Service.

In thanking all ranks for their loyalty during his command, he expressed his satisfaction in knowing that the same loyalty would be extended to his successor, Major L. B. Nicholls, who is no stranger to us, having been our second-in-command since he joined the Unit in April, 1938.

Promotions.—Promotions in the Company have been too fast and furious to mention. In fact during " Promotion Week " it became customary to greet each other with the word " Congratulations " instead of the time of day.

Postings.—Departures under the heading of " Postings " seem to follow very naturally after the flood of promotions. Fortunately (this term ought to be used with reserve, as the axe has still to fall), this Company has not been hit too badly. The following N.C.O.s, having become Militia-minded, have proceeded to Catterick : Corporals Hopwood, Hutton and Walker.

C.Q.M.S. Weeks has left us for Blackdown, and rumour whispers that we shall shortly be losing Lance Sergeant Thompsett, who is expecting to take up an appointment with the T.A.

On the credit side we welcome Lieutenants Philps and Lydington. The latter, after only the briefest of stays, is changing over to " Onecoy." We also welcome C.S.M. Shardlow, posted to us from " Onecoy." We expect that by now he will have enrolled the whole of " E " Section into the Command Harriers. He is still a fast worker.

Our Reservists have settled down to the old life very happily, and we shall miss them when the time comes for their return to civilian life.

" Signals Week, 1939 " is now a memory. But what a memory. The Display Team is to be congratulated upon its brilliant display. It was the talk of the station. The Old Comrades turned up as strong as ever, and every little group was a reunion of some Unit or other.

" F " Divisional Signals—or Kohat District Signals as it is now known—was well represented. It was a pleasure to welcome Freddie Gains and Jock Stevens to their first " Signals Week." Members of the S.T.C. (I.) will be very pleased to know that quite a strong gathering of " Jubbites " was present, and Colonel Pollard received a special welcome.

A thought arising out of " Signals Week." To K.T.J., Madras. " Hearty greetings and best wishes, from four Madrassis—Steve, Eric, Pathy and Maurice."

C. P.

No. 3 Company.

General.—No. 3 Company have been engaged with the remainder of the Unit in the 2nd Divisional Signal Exercise and also the 1st Corps Skeleton Exercise. The Divisional Signal Exercise took place on 5th and 6th July. The Corps Exercise, which was of a longer duration, was held on 11th, 12th, 13th and 14th July. We gather that both Exercises were a success.

Congratulations.—To the following on their promotion or appointment : C.Q.M.S. Wilkins to C.S.M. ; Lance Sergeants Christian and Burke to T/Sergeants ; Corporals Mires, Williams and Cameron to T/Lance Sergeants ; Lance Corporals Morris and Cann to T/Corporals ; U/Lance Corporal Notley to Lance Corporal ; Signalmen Hope, King, Holt, Beswick, Done, Johnson, Payne, Brockman and Halstead to U/Lance Corporals.

Departures.—We said good-bye to the following on their posting to the Militia Training Battalion : Lance Corporals Bowler, Rushman and Harrison, and, last but not least, that grand old man of the Unit, Lance Corporal (Bill) Craine.

The following have decided to try civilian life again, and are commencing Vocational Training Courses in the near future : T/Lance Sergeant Cameron and Signalman (Hookey) Walker. We hope they will be able to complete their Courses and find good jobs waiting for them.

Arrivals.—To C.Q.M.S. Brunton and Lance Sergeant Evans we offer a welcoming hand and trust that their stay will be a long one. We hear that " Chippy " handed over his Carpenter's Shop deficient of two pieces of " wood shaving."

W. S. M.

1st Anti-Aircraft Brigade Signals, Blackdown

July.

General.—After much hard work, the mess-room and cookhouse are now ready for the culinary experts, under Lance Corporal Austin, to display their talents. Naturally, hopes run high, and it is certain that they will do their part towards making success of the new organisation. Sections are returning from camps and, judging from their stories, a bus service will be necessary for all those requiring week-end passes.

The Trooping Season once more hovers over the horizon, and our R.E. fixtures are talking of strange lands and the days of long ago.

Accident.—T/Sergeant Milligan is away on leave convalescing after his spell in hospital.

Medals.—T/Sergeant Morrison H. A. has been awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal with gratuity.

The " Grip."—Held anywhere, even at camp. The coveted trophy has been competed for, and " Dick " of the " Div." was a worthy winner. Reveille and still going strong.

Handing over the Trophy.

Arrivals.—Captain Burgess, Royal Canadian Corps of Signals ; 2nd Lieutenants R. White and H. L. H. Taylor, Royal Signals ; Signalmen Tolhurst and Merchant from the S.T.C. ; Corporal Rumble and twenty other ranks from the Royal Army Reserve. We offer them a hearty welcome and wish them a pleasant tour with this Unit.

Departures.—W.O. III McBride, Lance Corporals Hose and Mounsey to the S.T.C., Catterick Camp ; Lance Sergeants Bolam and Drake and Corporal Barrett to the Armoured Divisional Signals, Bulford.

Cupid's Corner.—A monthly feature. Our best wishes for their future happiness are tendered to the following couples on entering the " C.R.A. Stakes " : Lance Sergeant Stone and Miss E. Mudd ; Signalman Easdown and Miss N. R. Wood.

Promotions and Appointments.—Congratulations to Lieutenant Colonel E. J. Murphy, Royal Signals, and the following : Sergeant McBride to C.Q.M.S. ; Lance Corporals Hobling and Barrett to Corporal ; U/Lance Corporals Austin, West, McKenzie and Middleton to Lance Corporal ; Signalman Phillips to Lance Corporal.

Temporary Ranks.—In common with the remainder of the Corps at home, thirty-three members of the Unit received prizes in the lucky dip so kindly arranged by Officer i/c Records.

Trooping, 1939/40.—The following provisional warnings have been received : Lance Sergeant Fisk, Corporal Blake, Signalman Smith G. and Driver (I.C.) Wright E., for Malta ; Corporal Tinkler for Gibraltar ; Signalman Lewin for Ceylon ; Signalman Wood for No. 2 W/T Company, Sarafand ; and Signalman Catherall for Egypt.

Transfers to Royal Army Reserve.—Corporal Boughen W. and Lance Corporal Merriman. Best of luck to both of them in " Civvy Street."

Increases in Establishment.—Sergeant and Mrs. Webb, a son, at Aldershot, on 12th July. Corporal and Mrs. Richards, a son, John, at Frimley, on 12th July. Troubles never come singly. Congratulations !

Jews' Mail.—This is " Busty " (Curly) calling Alec and Jud, Aldershot, also " Dick," Meerut.

" Who said I wouldn't reach the first rung of the ladder ? Bird in Hand calling Willy, last heard of in Wazirdist."

A. A.

Armoured Divisional Signals.

Bulford Fields, Wiltshire.

5th July.

Regardless of the pouring torrents and howling wind, which threatens to take away the roofs over our heads (yes, even in July), your unworthy scribe once again commences to write his notes.

Now that we have settled down under canvas, the general topic concerns the sun and when it will be seen again, and the daily " grip " of the number of earwigs and insects bagged. No sooner has " Lights Out " been sounded and we have comfortably settled down to a good night's slumber than we are invaded by myriads of " creepy crawlies " (expression by a recruit). Several of our bright sparks have started to chain their paliasses to the tent pole for fear of finding themselves moved during the night.

Having been blessed with approximately 200 Reservists, the Unit is a hive of activity, and brains that had become rusted in regard to technical matters are shedding their cobwebs as those concerned become accustomed once more to the mysteries of W/T Sets.

" Run ! Shusty—Run ! ! "

Our heartiest congratulations to those who romped home in the "Appointments and Promotions Stakes."

We have bid adieu to No. 3 D.R. Squad, who have completed their training with us and were posted to 3rd Divisional Signals, and hope that their stay with us was a happy one. Fond farewells were handed out to those who left us for far-off parts in India, and we wish them *bon voyage* and happy landings. (Feeling green around the gills, Blancho !)

We welcome several officers of the Supplementary Reserve, who are with us for training purposes, and extend the well-known Bulford cordiality to them. We trust that their stay will be a pleasant one. A hearty welcome is extended to Captain G. S. Knox, who has arrived to take over the command of No. 1 Squadron from Major G. S. O'N. Power, who leaves us in August. We are sorry to lose you, sir, and hope that you enjoyed your stay here. I speak for all the Squadron in extending our heartiest wishes to you for the future.

Camp Cameos.—" Stinker," having taken down his motor bike, is in rather a quandary, as to whether he should make a sewing machine or a patent mouse trap (without cheese) from the remaining parts.

It is rumoured that Big Bill is organising a Concert Party and is looking for a leading lady. To cope with the enormous demand for this role, we have extended our premises, so roll up in your hundreds.

Corporals' Mess.—Which N.C.O. resembled a butcher's block after donning a gas-mask ?

Thoughts of matrimony are being entertained by Corporals Millett and Peacock. Don't forget that you have the rest of your days in which to repent !

Entertainments.—Once again the N.A.A.F.I. provided an excellent entertainment, and we thoroughly appreciated the performance. We very much hope that these concerts will become a weekly feature.

BEEBEE.

4th Divisional Signals, Canterbury.

No. 2 Company.

17th July.

General.—With the posting to India of thirty-seven recruits on 3rd July the pressure has eased somewhat. Not that we mind, for we have now assumed an air of benign tolerance, and are prepared for anything. We have, by way of compensation, been presented with another Squad from Catterick. To say that they have settled down is entirely superfluous, for that is the inevitable consequence of a visit to Canterbury.

When our present members are circulated to the four corners of the earth, it will be interesting, in years to come, to hear them speak of Canterbury. We are convinced that it will be more than a tender memory. (Sink us if we are getting sloppy, but there are worse places.)

The Reservists are enjoying themselves so much, riding about in cars like plutocrats and occasionally tapping a key with a lily-white hand that we suspect more than one tentative enquiry as to the possibility of " taking on " once more. Perhaps the building of two new barrack blocks on the square has something to do with this, for we have noticed a definite tendency to break into a canter when passing the new buildings. We are not quite sure of the cause, but having seen the somewhat guilty looks on the faces of many, and noticed with interest the eagerness with which the sky is searched (in the opposite direction) for possible aeroplanes, we cannot help but come to the conclusion that this reminder of " Civvy Street " is considered rather unfair and not in the best of taste. In fact we are only waiting for a notice, " Men at Work," to confirm our suspicions. That would be the final tragedy and a definite economic loss, for the necessity of walking round the square instead of across it would result in a greater consumption of shoe leather. While commiserating with their feelings, we cannot help but remind our Reservist comrades that such a fate must inevitably overtake us all. Do we hear a cry of " Roll on " and " Shame " ?

Promotions.—There are so many that the novelty has definitely disappeared, and the ancient practice of free beer has, by mutual consent, been allowed to lapse. All Units at home will be familiar with the temporary promotions as there must be very few N.C.O.s who are not affected. Here is our list, and congratulations to them all : C.S.M. Nicholson to T/R.Q.M.S. ; Sergeants Edge, Practchett and Orton to T/W.O. III ; Lance Sergeants Shirley, Honor and Milligan to T/Sergeant ; Corporals Hughes, Froud, Featonby, Pyne and Walters to T/Lance Sergeant ; Lance Corporals Brooke and Satchwell to Corporal ; Lance Corporals Kelly, Peck, Wilce, Dale, Lowe, Blackburn and Roscoe to T/Corporal.

In our celebrations, we do not forget the N.C.O.s in all the far-flung outposts of our Empire who, by reason of their absence overseas, are not affected by these temporary promotions. May we say to them : " Think of the honour and the ' grips ' you will have on your return home." Cheer up, chaps !

Departures.—Thirty-seven Recruits to India. Corporal Brooks, Lance Corporals Packmen and Booth to Catterick to train the Militia. Good luck to them all !

Sports Week.—During the week-ending 30th June, the Unit held their annual sports. No. 2 Company has little to say in the matter for, although we tried hard, No. 3 Company beat us hopelessly at everything.

The heats for all the events took place during the week, and on Friday, 30th June, the finals were run off. Readers will find details in the Unit's sports notes. We can boast of one thing. We *did* win the Inter-Company Athletic (Cadre) and, believe it or not, there are some who suggest that we didn't even deserve that !

Congratulations to Lance Sergeant Last of No. 3 Company for his splendid running and success in the 100, 220 and 440 Yards.

Queries.—" How many runs did you make against the R.E.s, Daisy ? "

Does " Badgy " consider it fair to boast of the fact that someone left the gate open for his ' family ' on the same day ?

Thanks.—To the Corporals' Dining Club, and also for the " grips," chaps. I shall remember them. Arthur.

Finis.—As this is the last time the writer will have the honour of writing these notes, he feels they should have been better. He apologises and blames the promotions.

A. R. B.

No. 3 Company.

This month's notes cannot start better than with a word of congratulation to those N.C.O.s throughout the Corps who were affected by the large number of temporary promotions during the past month. There were so many in this Company that it is impossible to mention them all individually. We trust that they will never have to revert to their old ranks again. Congratulations also to C.S.M. Collins H. (of Singapore fame) on his promotion to that rank.

Sergeant Ball, who has relinquished the duty of A/C.S.M., No. 3 Company, in favour of C.S.M. Collins, is going to be missed by many (what say you, Paddy ?), but we will be seeing him as he has only beat an orderly retreat for a tour in the Sergeants' Mess.

During the month we said farewell to Nos. 6 and 7 Squads, who have been posted to 3rd Divisional Signals for duty. We wish them all the best in their new Unit. Another departure was that of Corporal Pickles, who left us to join the Militia Training Battalion (Royal Signals), Catterick Camp. Watch him, Catterick ; he throws a nice " shot," and his high jumping is worthy of mention.

The first batch of provisional warnings have been posted, and an appreciable number of enquiries about soldiering in India have already been made. Will those who know, please explain, but don't rub it in. Is Signalman Ward A. satisfied that he was only a certain height when a certain N.C.O. first went abroad ?

The Inter-Company sports were held during the second week of June, and the chief trophy was the " Parsons Shield," so kindly presented by Lieutenant-Colonel H. J. Parsons before he

relinquished command of this Unit. It was won by No. 3 Company, but we are too modest to mention the margin of points by which we won. Better luck next time, No. 2 Company!

Individual results and points will be found in the Unit sports notes. A special mention and thanks are due to Lance Sergeant Last on his splendid performance on behalf of the Company. Would Corporal Blackburn and Co. care for another exhibition of how the 440 Yards was won by our hero?

In passing, we extend the hand of welcome to all those recruits who have joined us in recent weeks. No. 20 Squad, which has now been formed, is awaiting training, and we trust that their stay with us be an enjoyable one.

Agony.—"Soapy," N.I.D.S.C. "Your 'Jungle Night' stories are being watched with interest. Whose turn will it be next? Ould Ireland '17 hopes to pay you a visit when he comes to Belfast on leave."

SLIM.

5th Divisional Signals, Catterick Camp.

July.

General.—Recruits still continue to arrive, and our numbers now exceed those allowed for when we first became a Depot in January last.

The Commanding Officer passed out Nos. 113, 114, 115 and 116 Squads off the square since our last notes. Congratulations to the whip winners:

Squad.	DRILL.	P.T.
No. 113 ..	Signalman Bell E.	Signalman Johnson W.
,, 114 ..	Driver Mussard G.	,, Parry R.
,, 115 ..	Signalman Mansell M.	,, Chambers E.
,, 116 ..	,, Jacques S.	,, Davies T.

We also tender our congratulations to the four Squads of Operator Signals who were training with us in Ypres Lines in 1938, for news has come through that all of them obtained their O.S. B.III rating before leaving 4th Divisional Signals, Canterbury.

It is with deep regret that we have had to say good-bye to Lieutenant-Colonel H. G. Henderson, Royal Signals, who has left us on the expiration of his tenure of command. We hope that it is not really good-bye but only *au revoir*, and that in the near future we shall be able to associate ourselves once more with the Colonel.

Lieutenant-Colonel G. C. Winckley, M.C., Royal Signals, from Kohat District Signals, has been appointed our new Commanding Officer. Unfortunately, Colonel Winckley was seriously ill whilst abroad and has been on sick leave, which prevented him arriving before Colonel Henderson left. We hope, however, that he will soon be with us. In the meantime, the Unit is being commanded by Major A. J. Hannah, Royal Signals.

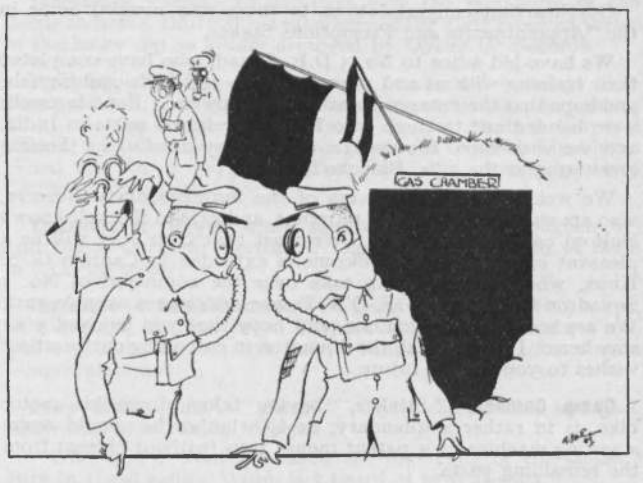
Congratulations.—A handshake is due to the following: Lance Sergeant Dixon F. on his marriage and also on his appointment; T/Corporal Dobing, on the arrival of a son, complete with handbook on "gripping." Corporal Breeze on the arrival of a son and heir. To the numerous promotions of a "temporary" nature, with the hope that they soon will become permanent.

Sergeants' Mess.

Two events of social importance occurred recently. The first was a farewell Smoker-cum-Games Tournament on 20th June to our retiring Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel H. G. Henderson, Royal Signals.

In order to create the right atmosphere, a short tournament was arranged between "A" Branch and the D.Is, and, in order to increase the strength of "A" Branch, R.Q.M.S. Lombard, C.S.M. Udell and C.Q.M.S. Bennett were recalled from the Militia Training Battalion, and S.S.M. Adams from the Tank Signal Section for temporary duty.

Points were even at the "Hot Dog" interval, after which it was decided to carry on with the Smoker part of the programme. The songs rendered by Lance Sergeant Cully (Y. and L. Regiment) accompanied by Lance Sergeant Barker at the piano, were greatly appreciated.



"Wipe that grin off your face Smith."

By this time, the contestants were anxious once more to enter into the fray. Team captains were called and the course was set for the Boat Race. Objections regarding the loosening of collars were raised, and the Stewards declared the first race null and void. The second race resulted in a dead heat, and in the third, "A" Branch were easy winners, owing to the capable stroking of Mr. Trapmore.

Two interesting presentations were made. One was a wooden spoon to the officers' tug-of-war team, which had been rather decisively beaten during the afternoon by the W.O.s and Sergeants. Colonel Henderson then very kindly presented, on behalf of the Mess, a medal to Sergeant Shergold (The Wiltshire Regiment) to commemorate his valuable work during the previous three weeks in connection with "Temperance."

And then, for a short period, the proceedings took a more serious turn. The time had at last come to say good-bye to Colonel Henderson. We felt that we were not only bidding farewell to a popular C.O., but also to a very good friend. There is little need to go into the details of his distinguished record of service as there must be very few members of the Corps who have not at some time or other had the privilege of serving under his command. He will always be remembered for his charming personality, and the helpful advice and assistance which he so readily gave when necessary, and, above all, for the creation of that "happy family" atmosphere so noticeable in 5th Divisional Signals.

In wishing Colonel and Mrs. Henderson every success in the future, it is our earnest hope that we shall, before long, have the pleasure of renewing their acquaintance.

A week later came the unsettling news that Sergeants Shergold and Sheldrake of the Wiltshire Regiment had been selected for posting to the Militia. They had settled down so well in the Unit that we had begun to think of them as permanent fixtures. We find consolation in the knowledge that their posting will, undoubtedly, mean promotion.

An impromptu party was held in the Mess on 7th July to mark their departure. Several new items were successfully introduced. Lance Sergeant Stowers' benign friend, Cardinal Puff, appeared to be on more than a nodding acquaintance with 2nd Lieutenants Horsfield and Yule, judging by their familiar attitude towards him. We hope to have further opportunity of proving our mettle in Captain Good's novel tug-of-war provided the Q.M.'s supply of "Pokers, Soldiers" holds out.

Sergeants Shergold and Sheldrake rendered several choral items from their repertoire, and it came as a great surprise that both had had considerable choir experience in their younger days. We thank them for their kind remarks when replying to

the farewell speeches, and are pleased to know they enjoyed their stay with us. We should like to thank them, on behalf of the Unit, for their valuable assistance in the training of our recruits. Good luck to you both, and good stations.

Northern Ireland District Signal Company, Belfast.

July.

Having recovered from the shock of the preliminary draft warnings, the Unit has returned to its customary peaceful existence and, as usual, are expecting a new Company next year. Further details of coming misfortunes for Units abroad will be given when orders become more definite. " Blondy " Hunt will be pleased to hear that Hardwick expects to be going to Malta next year.

Suffering.—The following are suffering from " Bender's Elbow " : C.Q.M.S.s Double and Masters, T/Lance Sergeants Grey, Fraser, Hudson and Mann, T/Corporals Swetnam and Reece, Lance Corporal Robinson, and U/Lance Corporals Picken and Clarke. This jump up the ladder proved as welcome as it was sudden, and resulted in a very refreshing evening. The Reading air must be very exhilarating.

Missing.—From Belfast night life is C.Q.M.S. Masters, who has left us for the 3rd A.A. Signals (T.A.). We hope the pannier and two hurricane lamps keep him fully occupied.

Surprising.—Since the inclusion of a certain dance hall in the " out-of-bounds " area, it is surprising how the cash shortage has improved in the case of a certain young man. Hardwick brings home fewer amazing exhibits, and smiling faces have replaced the thick heads of other days. This does not apply to a certain N.C.O., who felt very sorry for himself a few mornings ago. Advice is now required as to whether a proposal written on a piece of grease-proof paper is admissible evidence in a breach of promise case.

Strayed.—Lance Sergeant Brown and Lance Corporal Gerton are with the Q.U.O.T.C. at Greypoint. Do you wrap your haversack rations in grease-proof paper, Topper ?

Revelations.—Watch for the third instalment in our daring Jungle Night Series : " Following the Ricksha by Night," by Ticky.

SOAPY.

LONDONDERRY DETACHMENT.

Apology.—We tender our apologies to those readers who have missed the Derry notes in last month's issue. Time flies and yours truly missed the date for handing in notes. He also hopes to miss the boat.

Among the notable events of the merry month of May was the birth of a son (Thomas) to Lance Corporal and Mrs. Biggs on the 19th. Our heartiest congratulations to both of them.

Our congratulations are also extended to T/Lance Sergeant Grey and T/Lance Corporal Biggs on their appointments.

For the past few weeks, certain members of this Detachment have been somewhat anxiously concerned about certain troop-ships and their destinations, and also the names of the personnel destined for a trip. Two of them, Signalmen Griffiths and Robinson E., have been put out of their misery, having been provisionally warned for India and Egypt, respectively. Our electrician and radio expert is still wandering about in small circles, murmuring the names of various outposts of the Empire. He says he is studying Geography for his " First," and that there is no truth in the report that he is weighing up his chances of visiting these delectable spots.

Our visitors last month included Lieutenant (I.P.C.) Bayliss and Sergeants Masters and West. The purpose of their visit was to classify the Regimental Signallers of the S.W.B.s. We trust the semaphore was up to standard, sir.

Knowing that our esteemed ex-Sergeant-Major will surely scan these notes for wisecracks, we, therefore, trust the " Waters " of the " Spa " are agreeing with his rheumatism. After you with the bath-chair, sir. We also remind him that the healing waters of Harrogate are not sold in Guinness bottles. Cheerio, sir, and good luck.

THE DIAL GUEST HOUSE

DIAL POST, Nr. HORSHAM, SUSSEX

SITUATED MAIN LONDON—WORTHING ROAD, CLOSE TO SOUTH DOWNS AND CHANCTONBURY RING
(HORSHAM 8 — WORTHING 12 — BRIGHTON 18 MILES)

PROPRIETOR :
MAJOR C. A. MURRAY
R. SIGNALS (RET.)

TELEPHONE :
PARTRIDGE GREEN 101

EXCELLENT
ACCOMMODATION
GOLF ETC.

TERMS FROM :
2 GUINEAS A WEEK
9/6 A DAY OR 6/6 BED
AND BREAKFAST

SPECIAL TERMS OFFERED TO R. SIGNALS GUESTS

MILITIA NOTES

Militia Training Battalion, Catterick Camp.

Signal Training Centre, Catterick Camp.

15th July.

The officers, N.C.O.s and men of the Permanent Staff and Reservists of the Militia Training Battalion extend a hearty welcome to all Militiamen who have been posted to this Unit, and wish them every happiness during their stay with us.

" You have come to a Corps which has a world-wide reputation, an Arm of the Service which is all important, for without it no Army could exist. From a military point of view, you will, without doubt, have a very interesting time. From a sports and recreation aspect, every facility is being afforded, and we hope to discover much new talent.

" Remember we are all members of one family and are all out to make your work and recreation as interesting as possible.

" We are also confident that when you leave, you will take with you many happy memories.
Good luck to all ! "

Headquarters.

Arrivals.—All except one !

General.—Many hard-working, tax-paying people renewed their acquaintance with Catterick on 15th July last. Lest they should have felt in any way like fish out of water, the elements obliged with their " wettest " effort. We refer to that fine body of old soldiers—that backbone of the British Army—the Reservists (Classes A to Z, inc.). We should have mentioned that they were the first batch, and to them must be accorded the credit for the Militia Training Battalion organisation. There is no danger in saying, even at this moment, that those who follow will have a fairly easy task if they attain the same standard in matters that count.

Apart from several individuals, who possess names to be conjured with in the world outside, familiar faces abound. " Fancy meeting you " is a phrase to be avoided, and a member of the Globe Trotters' Union, or whatever they call it, would not delay catching the first fast bus to Darlington after listening to ten minutes' conversation in the " wet-end."

We are grateful indeed to the brains of the organisation for their bright idea in the matter of Commanding Officers. We have none other than Lieutenant-Colonel C. K. Thursby-Pelham, M.C., Royal Signals. Congratulations, sir ! He has happily been appointed to assist us to become conversant with the jobs we had before, and, in addition, the task of making belted Earls, coronetted Viscounts and, possibly, apprentice brewers' draymen take away a good impression of the Service. They will certainly do this !

Those moving in exalted circles, who can cast their minds back to their days as mere Corporals will, no doubt, be astounded to hear that a contemporary in the shape (and gait) of " Geordie " Baines, of Maresfield football fame, has returned to the fold. Interviewed, he said that the first thirty-five years of the Reserve were the hardest, and that had he but known that the day would come when real butter would grace the board, he would never have saddled himself with his present directorships. " Geordie " apparently still possesses his old skill, and his leadership of the Unit soccer team is best proved by the fact that it has yet to be beaten after having taken on the S.T.C. talent. In concluding this item of news, we should like to add that " Geordie " is contemplating ——, but there, you know what ridiculous rumours get about these days, so why spoil what may be a pleasant surprise for you in the future.

And we have heard there are others, too, so, if one day you are clapped on the back by someone whom you are positive was Montague Burton's—sorry, we mean Norman's—right-hand man a few months ago, but again we say—let it be a pleasant surprise.

Next Saturday will be a great day, as about 700 of the Militia are due to arrive. No effort has been too great to ensure the smooth running of their reception, settling down and future training. Modestly, we say that all we require is a fine day—climatically. At colossal expense the entire company of Darlington's finest show has been retained for a concert to be held on Sunday.

Departures.—Late Passes ! All ranks below that of S.S.M., and a hundred other things we knew—some good, some bad—but no personnel !

EMTEEBEE.

"B" Company.

The 15th June saw the greatest reunion of all ranks ever staged by either Service or ex-Service men, when Reservist officers and men reported in response to their " calling-up " notices, and the scenes at Richmond Station almost assumed a " mobilization " atmosphere. Comrades of years ago met each other again and re-lived their experiences—pleasant and otherwise.

The length of time off the active list in the cases of the men was short compared with the officers. Officers who had left the Service very shortly after the Great War were called up, together with ex-Regular officers who had only left the active list a few months.

The first few days were spent in getting to know each other, and the formation of the Cadres for the Companies of the Militia Training Battalions.

Picking up the broken threads of Army life did not prove so difficult, and soon all ranks had settled down to work and were carrying on as if they had never left the Service.

At the time of writing, the organisation for the reception of the Militiamen is complete to the last toothbrush, and all ranks are looking forward with eager anticipation to this great social experiment, and the next issue of our notes will, undoubtedly, be of considerable interest to those whose duties do not bring them into actual contact with the Militia during the initial stages of their career.

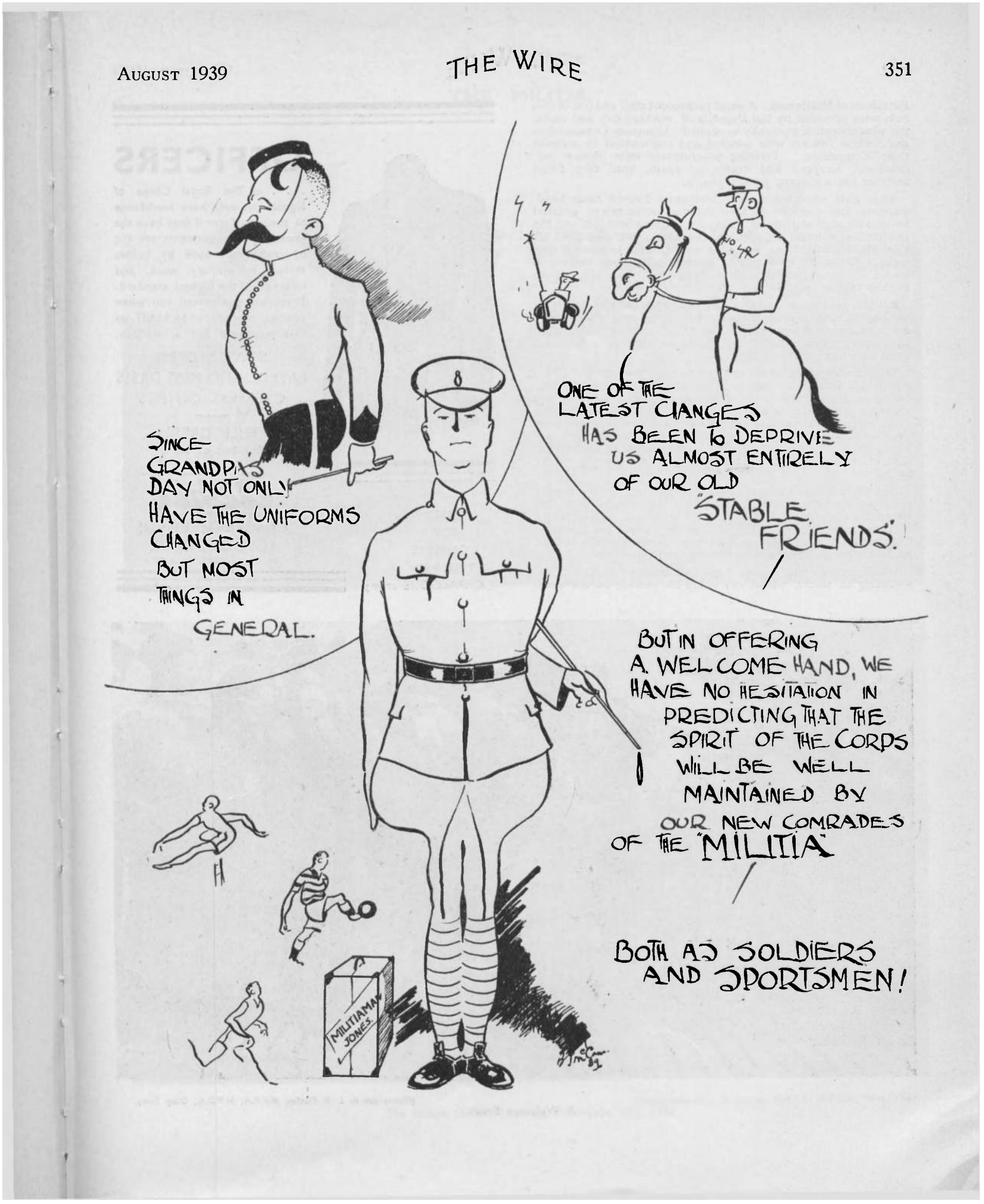
"C" Company.

It is a grand life when all's said and done ! Even the wind, rain and thunderstorms of Catterick's version of midsummer fail to damp the ardour of the Reservists, who find themselves brought from their comfortable civilian jobs in order to don uniform again and walk about in a soldierly manner.

After many years we meet again—officers, N.C.O.s and men—with mutual memories of others with whom we served more than twenty years ago, and bound together in comradeship by the supreme test of war.

Now we have a common interest of another kind, namely, the training of the new Citizen Army—the Militiamen. A few months ago the formation of this new Army was but an idea in some politician's brain. The growth of the movement since then has been amazing, comparable only with the raising of the first hundred thousand during the first years of the War. All over the country new and better huts are in course of erection.

A few weeks ago, Majors (now Lieutenant-Colonels) Thursby-Pelham and Westropp, with Captains Hardy and Dryland as their Adjutants, arrived at Catterick, in order to form two


SINCE GRANDPA'S DAY NOT ONLY HAVE THE UNIFORMS CHANGED BUT MOST THINGS IN GENERAL.
ONE OF THE LATEST CHANGES HAS BEEN TO DEPRIVE US ALMOST ENTIRELY OF OUR OLD "STABLE FRIENDS".
BUT IN OFFERING A WELCOME HAND, WE HAVE NO HESITATION IN PREDICTING THAT THE SPIRIT OF THE CORPS WILL BE WELL MAINTAINED BY OUR NEW COMRADES OF THE "MILITIA"
BOTH AS SOLDIERS AND SPORTSMEN!
MILITIAMAN JONES

Battalions of Militiamen. A small permanent staff and one or two huts were provided by the Depot, and, working day and night, the administration gradually expanded. Company Commanders and Section Officers were selected and commenced to organise their Companies. Training programmes were drawn up, examined, scrapped and drawn up again, until they fitted together like a gigantic jig-saw puzzle.

More huts were found, the Companies formed their headquarters, and commenced their internal organisation, assisted by an able staff of Regular N.C.O.s. Training Manuals and the multitudinous forms required for the administration of a Unit filled shelves and floors, and were sorted out into their proper order. Personnel were posted according to their respective trades, and were put through a Refresher Course preparatory to their task as Instructors to the Militia.

All this proceeded smoothly and efficiently without upsetting the regular routine of the Depot, into whose lines we must have made rather a tiresome encroachment. There was not a word of complaint from anyone. All were most anxious to help in a spirit that was worthy of the Corps.

Within a few days, we are to receive about 700 men of the New Army, and introduce them to a life which they never contemplated, and to which they will be complete strangers. It is a tremendous experiment and opportunity, and is bound to be a great success, because the spirit that animates all of us from the Commandant to the most Junior N.C.O. is the right one. There will be snags—plenty of them—but no difficulty is likely to arise that cannot be overcome by any soldier worthy of the name.

But there is one thing that the old mounted soldier misses, more perhaps than anything else. One fundamental item that alters the whole outlook of a Mounted Unit, and without which nothing can ever be quite the same again. The horse has gone. Tnat faithful friend of Signals of the past—and with its departure, half the pleasure of work, as we remember it, has gone.

We Reservists will do our best, but frankly, we don't like soldiering in slacks, whilst our spurs lie rusting on the shelf.

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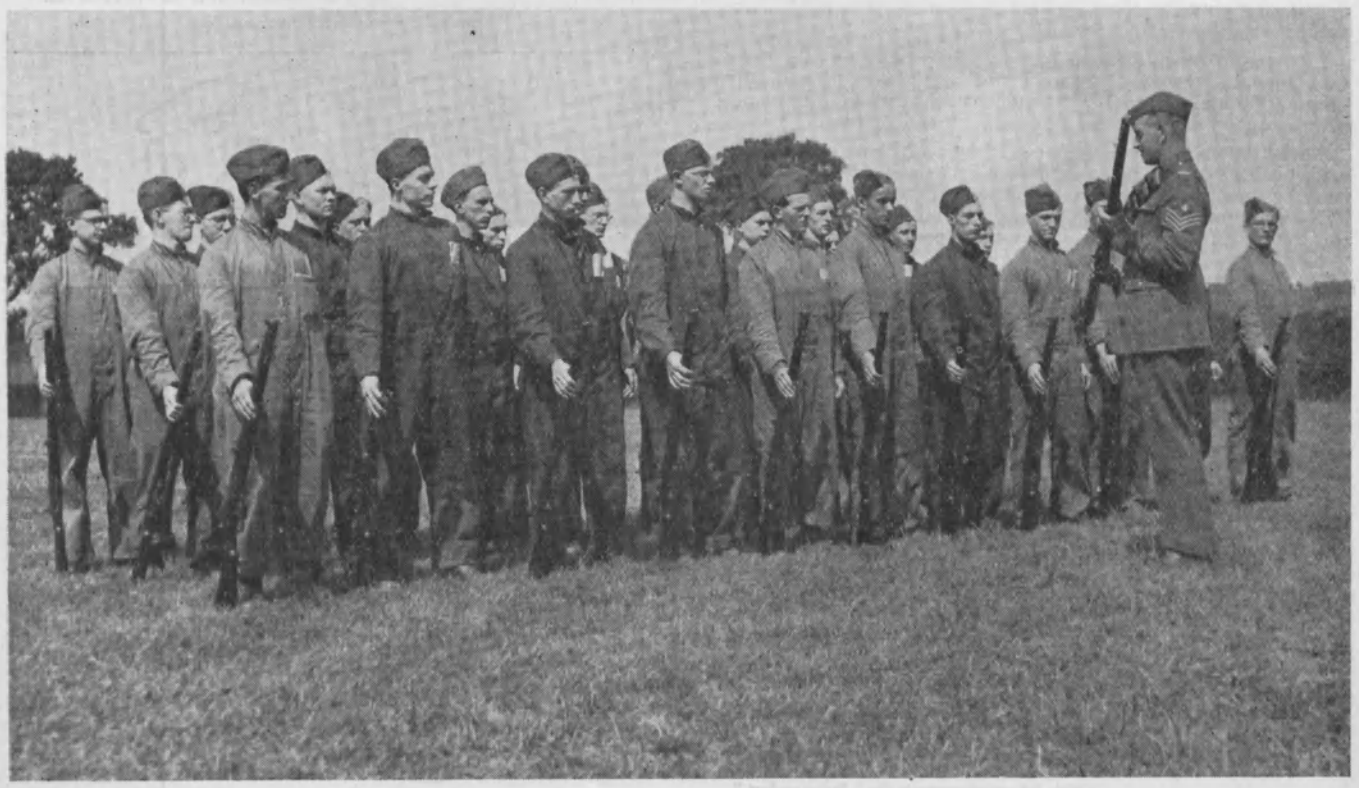
A Welcome Break.

[Photograph by L. A. Pickles, M.P.P.A., M.P.D.A., Otley Yorks.

THE MILITIA.



[Photographs by L. A. Pickles, M.P.P.A., M.P.D.A., Otley, Yorks.

The Militia Under Training, Harrogate, July, 1939.

Will ye no come back again, our faithful steeds ? I'm afraid not

Gone for ever the click of spurs, the rumble of the cable wagon and limber, the horse lines, and the horse—mutual friend of officers and men alike, and no respector of persons or rank. It is consoling to think that they will no longer be asked to face shot, shell or gas, or the sad fate of those ten thousand who were put painlessly to death in Mesopotamia, because their services were no longer required. Good-bye to our boots and our saddles. " Our's not to reason why ! "

A.A. Militia Training Battalion, Harrogate.

The 15th July broke over Harrogate with a slight mist with the sun struggling to get through, and the permanent staff of Beckwithshaw Camp awakened to the day for which they had been preparing for weeks—the day on which the Militia were to join. Everything was ready and an air of expectancy hung over the camp for no one quite knew who, when and how they would arrive. The question was quickly answered. Five Militiamen from Cornwall and Devonshire had travelled all night and arrived at 7.30 a.m., and from then onwards the stream of arrivals became almost continuous until the last one put in an appearance at 11 p.m. All the new members of the Corps were enthusiastic and cheerful, and even a thunderstorm and downpour during the afternoon did nothing to damp their spirits.

The permanent staff went to bed with the satisfying thought that not only had everything gone smoothly, but that the guests fully appreciated the efforts that had been made in order to make their camp comfortable. The work done by Regulars and Reservists alike in building the camp under difficult conditions cannot be praised too highly, and it was entirely due to their willingness and energy that the camp was ready and complete in every detail by 15th July.

To the more serious-minded, the day marked the birth of yet another Royal Signals Unit, and looking back over the years one could not but feel proud of the spirit and traditions that had been built up in this ever-expanding Corps of ours.

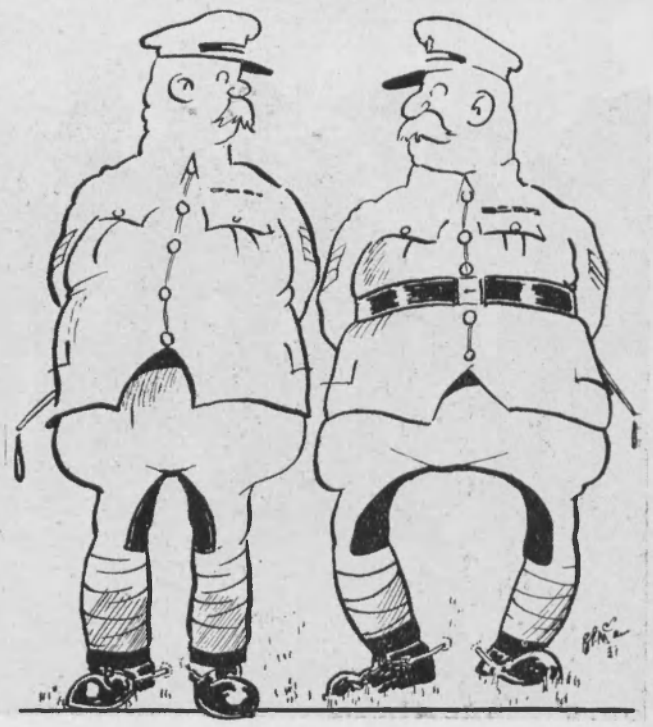
On Sunday, 16th July, Harrogate's worst weather was in action, and only the spirit and enthusiasm of those in the camp prevented a wave of depression.

Lieutenant-General Sir Robert Gordon Finlayson, the Adjutant-General, visited the camp and attended the voluntary Church Parade. The Corps Band, which was in attendance, gave a concert after the Service in the Y.M.C.A. tent.

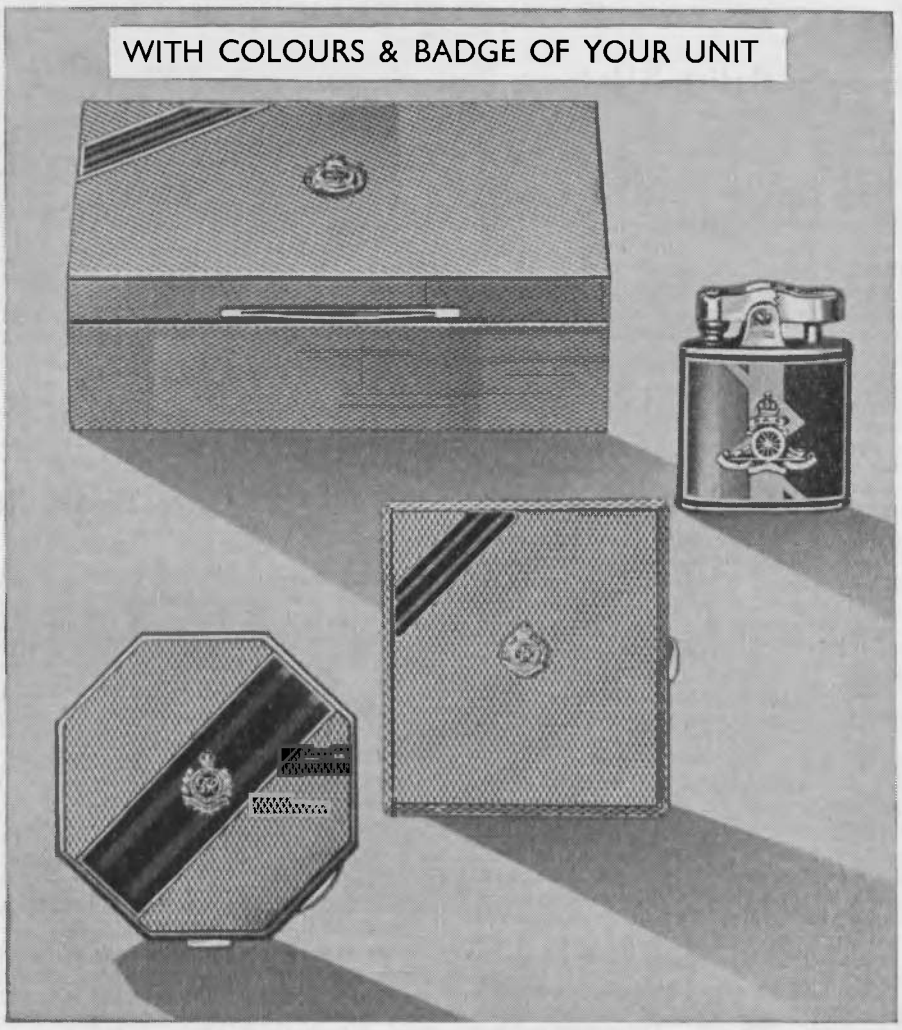
Since that memorable week-end, friendship and comradeship has steadily grown between the Militia and the permanent members of the Battalion. The officers, Warrant Officers, N.C.O.s and men combine in wishing the Militia the best of luck and happiness during their six months' service.

[With Acknowledgments to the "Yorkshire Post."
A Militiaman with his new kit.

[With Acknowledgments to the " Yorkshire Post."
Fitting uniforms.



Two Good " All-Round " Men.



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INDIAN·SIGNAL·CORPS

Signal Training Centre (India), Jubbulpore.

30th June.

The monsoon has now set in and the new green of the countryside is a welcome and pleasant change. A little compensation for the less pleasant but essential rain. As those who have been to India know, the change in the countryside after even only one day of rain is amazing.

Rumour has become fact, and the first draft from the U.K. is due to join us towards the end of July. They will be the first to enjoy the privilege of being "four-year-tour-men." Times and customs change. Not very long ago an Indian tour meant seven years, but even that was a holiday compared to the time when India meant a "pontoon."

And writing of service remainds us that it is fifty-nine years since Lord Roberts' famous march from "K. to K.," and the S.T.C. (I.) still boasts a survivor, Jemedar Bhisti Jangli. How many readers remember his faded blue patrol tunic and medal ribbons specially ordered from London? He always reminds us of a famous Kipling character.

India is noted for producing peculiar characters. Here are a few in India that have been revealed by the last census: "Professional Identifying-Witnesses"; "Charity Receiver on Burial Ground"; "Horoscope Caster"; "Wizards"; "Witches"; "Ear-Wax Remover"; "Cradle Swingers"; and "Breaker of Horns of Dead Bullocks." Profession is everything!

Apart from peculiar characters the census revealed some equally peculiar facts. The population of India is 353 millions or one-fifth of the world population. The Christians in India have the biggest families. Of every 1,000 women in Bengal, 226 are widows. Barely 11 per cent. of India's population live in towns or cities, and of the total of 353 millions only approximately 25,000,000 can read and write. Consequently, India boasts one-third of the world's illiterates.

And even Manchester must take second place to Cherrapunji, where the rainfall is 460 inches annually. One could go on indefinitely with these queer facts, but we just quote one more—in case you are under a wrong impression. India only contributes about three per cent. of the world's production of gold.

Now back to Jubbulpore district where, in 1938, 365 persons died of snake-bite. An authority states that 95 per cent. of the snakes in India are harmless. Well, well. The remaining five per cent. must work overtime. It is quite easy to distinguish a harmless one, too, by the method of counting the scales on their heads. However, we still incline to the theory that the only harmless snake is a dead one.

From snakes to "dragons." Not real dragons, but those depicted on "Mah Jong" sets—the game which drives husbands to distraction, or to the Mess, where food is slightly dearer these days. (Increase of an anna a pint.) This should be serious enough to merit the attention of the clergy. We refer, of course, to the "Mah Jong" craze, not the price of beer.

This month we report an innovation in the Sergeants' Mess, to wit, a Games Tournament with Junior N.C.O.s, which was won by the Juniors, giving them possession of a decrepit Cup containing "Ashes." There were the usual songs and stories, but the Juniors even beat us at that, in spite of those classical fables from a well-known member. A very enjoyable evening concluded with the singing of the Yorkshire anthem, "On Ilkla Moor baht 'at," led, as usual, by a Lancastrian.

We wonder if promotion is an item of interest these days! During the month we observed the time-honoured custom of telling the bearer "what we would have" at the expense of the following: W.O.III Drudge, T/C.Q.M.S. Quinn, Sergeant Chambers, T/Sergeants Chidgey and Goat, Lance Sergeants Lynham and Mitchell G., and Corporal Lines. Quite a "thirst quencher"!

S.T.C. enthusiasts are now rehearsing for a show. Minstrels, comedy, ballet, or tragedy? As the artistes hope to make their debut before the footlights shortly, an account will be given later.

The scorched appearance of the golf course denotes the progress of numerous competitions and much proficiency in the golfers' language. Here are the recent winners: "BARTON" CUP: Corporal Mitchell; runner-up, R.Q.M.S. Taylor. MAY MONTHLY BOGEY: Silver, Mr. Nash; Bronze, Sergeant Welsby. HANDICAP STROKE: Q.M.S. Sims, R.A.M.C.; runner-up: Lance Corporal Jones. JUNE MONTHLY BOGEY: Silver, Corporal Mitchell; Bronze, Sergeant Quinn. MIXED FOURSOME.: Major and Mrs. C. M. F. White.

"Goat beats Wolfe." No; not a jungle tragedy, just the luck of the draw in a recent Sergeants' Mess Tournament.

W.

NORTHERN COMMAND ..... ***INDIAN ARMY***

"A" Corps Signals, Rawalpindi.

7th July.

General.—Ex-members of the Unit will remember the days when a shower bath could be obtained in Rawalpindi by just lying in bed in the bungalows. Those days are now over, as the M.E.S. have just completed an overhaul of No. 2 Bungalow, and put a corrugated iron roof, lined with asbestos, making (we hope) a watertight job of it.

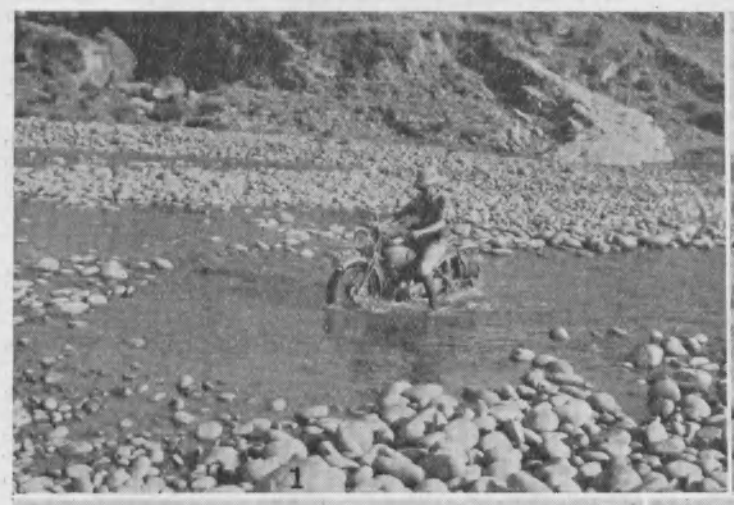
Militia Instructors.—At the end of this month twenty-one B.O.R.s will be leaving us on repatriation for employment as Instructors with the Militia. Our best wishes go with them for every success in their new sphere of activity. With the departure of this draft, the Amateur Radio Station, VU2 FX, manned by Lance Corporal Thomas L. J., will close down. The station is probably well known to many members of the Corps serving in other countries, and has had a great deal of success since it opened a few years ago. Signalman Baker H. hopes to step into the shoes of Lance Corporal Thomas, so we will still have an Amateur Radio Station in the Unit.

Promotions.—Promotion beer has poured faster than monsoon rain this month, for we had a total of fourteen promotions. Here are the names of the newly-promoted: C.Q.M.S.s Wagg W. and Parker W., Sergeants Hutchison R., Bowie J., Oliver J. and Skiffins A., Lance Sergeants Brown G., Parsons K., Jackson A., Chaffey E., Dillon L. and Griffin H., Corporal Copstake F., and T/Corporal Hills L.

Motor Cycle Reliability Trials.—On 2nd June the first Army Motor Cycle Reliability Trial to be held in India (this end of it, anyway) was held by "A" Corps Signals. All mechanised or mechanising Units in the Rawalpindi District were invited to enter, but only two teams from each of 5th Field Regiment, R.A., "A" Corps Signals and 1st Indian Divisional Signals, and one team from 1st Battalion, Devonshire Regiment, participated.

The weather was cooler than could have been expected in the Plains in June (shade 106 degs. F.). The route was twenty-eight miles long, and through the foothills round Kahuta. The first seven miles were along a sandy, bumpy, country road. The next portion of eleven miles included one or two hairpin bends on steep hills with a loose surface, one or two very sandy nullahs, outcrops of rock, bumps hidden by shadows, and all of it along a "camel track." The final portion on which there was a speed limit, was on a second class road (Indian pattern). At the end there was a hill with loose surface leading down into the Soan River at a deep place. The bottom was rocky and the stones round about were large.

There were one or two spectacular dives in this crossing, the best being that of Signalman Hawkins, "A" Corps Signals. The Nortons, which all the competitors were riding, behaved very well, and the damage was confined to head lamps, footrests and knees, all of which can, and does, happen with ordinary training.



THE MOTOR CYCLE RELIABILITY TRIALS.

1 The Gunners. 2 The Devons Finishing.
3 Going Home. 4 Tea.

A great point was made of petrol consumption, and the results were very creditable to both riders and makers. At the end of the day, all ranks were entertained to tea by "A" Corps Signals.

Major Delf, O.M.E., Rawalpindi District, very kindly acted as Chief Judge, and was assisted by Royal Signals Officers and N.C.O.s in Rawalpindi and Staff Sergeant Dickinson of "C" Ordnance Workshop Company.

The riders included representatives of all ranks from Warrant Officer to Gunner, Signalman and Private, and the "A" Corps Signals teams included two Indian ranks out of the three riders in each team. The final results were as follows (highest possible score, 900) :

1	1st Indian Divisional Signals	839 points.
2	1st Battalion, Devonshire Regiment	818 ,,
3	1st Indian Divisional Signals	782 ,,
4	"A" Corps Signals	779 ,,
5	"A" Corps Signals	726 ,,
6	5th Field Regiment, R.A.	536 ,,
7	5th Field Regiment, R.A.	415 ,,

PEDLAR.

1st Indian Divisional Signals, Rawalpindi.

Upper Topa.
30th June.

General.—For the absence of notes during the past months we offer our apologies. During this time the Unit has taken over Upper Topa Hill Station for the summer season, and Upgrading Courses, combined with training in drill and musketry, are in full swing, and higher ratings are on the skyline. The weather is glorious and everyone full of beans.

In addition to our own Unit, we have the usual numbers from "A" Corps Signals, Peshawar District Signals, 1st Cavalry Brigade Signals and Waziristan District Signals. We are still split up, having "K" Section in Waziristan and the plains detachment in 'Pindi. Mid-season reliefs will take place in the near future.

The King's Birthday Parade was held on our lower parade ground all to ourselves. "Aubrey" and his flags were a masterpiece.

Many arrivals and departures have occurred during the last few months. Lieutenant-Colonel R. Jee, M.C., has left us for leave in the U.K., and, in his absence, Major J. F. Charlesworth is the officiating C.O. Major H. R. Firth joined us once again after the "cycle," and immediately proceeded to Waziristan to command "Fighting 'K.'" Lieutenant M. A. Charlton has gone to Peshawar, and Lieutenant M. H. N. Travers has joined us in his place. Lieutenant H. L. F. Fegan, M.M., has taken over the Q.M.'s duties in place of Captain (Paddy) Nolan, M.B.E., who has gone to retirement. Good luck to you, sir, and may your hands never get sore driving that brewers' dray you have always talked about.

Entertainments are plentiful. The weekly dances, whist

drives and tombolo are popular. " Ripples and Roars," our current Concert Party, have been active, the " Dance of the Fairies " being acclaimed by all other fairies " as the goods."

Congratulations to Lance Sergeant Chambers and T/Lance Sergeant Tant. Double congratulations to the latter on the arrival of a daughter, Alexandra.

We regret to announce the death of Signalman Lock, "A" Corps Signals, who recently died at Murree Hospital.

Gifts.—One new Frontier Medal, complete with ribbon, to most of our members.

" K " SECTION.

We introduce ourselves as the pride of 'Pindi serving in Waziristan. (Not for long, we hope.) Our main interest in life, apart from Signal work, digging tent holes, sump pits, and painting pickets, is keeping young ladies in a Lancashire seaside resort thrilled with stories of the wild and woolly frontier. (Stories is a very polite way of expressing it.)

After various moves, the Section is at last settled in comfort, thanks for which are due to our O.C. (Major Firth) for the interest he takes in our welfare.

We finish this month with the Section marching song, " Show me the way to go home."

PLAINS DETACHMENT, RAWALPINDI.

Pooh ! How sticky it is these days ! We are looking forward to Upper Topa and all it offers. If only we were all married it would be grand, because we could easily be down here now and again between long week-ends. Still, in the olden days spine pads and helmet shades had to be used, but we certainly get away with those difficulties.

New married quarters are in the course of erection in readiness for the families on their return to the Plains. We shall soon have the opportunity of using a brand new swimming bath, which has been established for the station in the Command football ground.

SERGEANTS' MESS.

We have had two very nice tennis "At Homes," one given by Lieutenant-Colonel Jee to the Station, and a return to him from the W.O.s and Sergeants. The ladies provided the necessities of life, for which we thank them.

The usual Sunday evening "At Home " in the Mess is well patronised. " Schoolie " is still drinking beer, but with " Ginger " in front of it. (Twenty-five days to-day, m'lads.)

Under the expert hands of the Messing member we are feeding very well, considering the small number, but the ham is " moody " at times, and the eggs will be O.K. after the monsoons—perhaps.

1st Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Risalpur.

2nd July.

General.—In last month's notes we commented on the fact that the weather was nice and cool, but someone must have despatched a letter to the weather clerk and informed him of the fact, for the weather has of late been very warm and nasty. These strip-tease actors have nothing on us, when it comes to the business of discarding clothes.

Whilst on the subject of keeping cool, the Troop has paid a couple of visits to Jalala, where we have indulged in swimming and fishing. The swimming was quite successful, but the attempt made by one or two of the locals to become fishermen with the aid of a wornout mosquito net was not quite the success that it should have been. The net functioned in the case of the tiddlers, but that was all.

The past month has seen the Troop in two sport tournaments. One hockey and the other football. We managed to get into the finals of each tournament but, unfortunately, could only win one of the games—the football. We met 11th Battery, R.A., for the hockey game and they beat us by the only goal scored. This game was played in a dust storm and, consequently, neither team was in their best form. The Cup we lost was one that had been regarded as Troop property for the past few years and is known as the " Jack Hockey Cup."

As it happened, we met the same Battery in the final of the football tournament. We could not allow them to take another Cup away from the Unit, and accordingly beat them, thus revenging our hockey defeat. One interesting feature of the football tournament, when published, will be, " How to move from right-back to inside-left and score four goals in two games " by Lance Sergeant Strong P.

For these games we were permitted to combine with the Nowshera Signal Section, who supplied us with the following players : Lieutenant Bradley, Lance Corporals Haxell, Pritchard and Lord, and Signalman Duke. They played some excellent games for us and thanks are due to them for their excellent performances.

A few weeks ago we began a Drill Course for the Junior N.C.O.s, which is progressing favourably. The sale of " Zubes " has increased considerably in this district.

Births.—To Captain P. B. G. and Mrs. Gambier, a son, on 25th June. Congratulations, sir, from all ranks of the Unit.

Blue Book Amendments.—Congratulations to the following on receiving a step up in the world : Lance Sergeant Bull to be Sergeant ; Corporals Strong P. and Pike G. on appointment to T/Lance Sergeant ; and Lance Corporal Beenham G. to be Corporal. Also to Signalman Roake C. on appointment to U/Lance Corporal.

Canine Heaven.—The family of Lassie has now been reduced to nil. This family reminds us of that old song, " Nine green bottles hanging on the wall." The only difference is that this family did not disappear quite so accidentally.

Departures.—C.S.M. Cozens and family left us for Blighty per S.S. " Elysia," after a long wait. The best wishes of the Troop go with them.

Casualties.—Several minor cases have occurred. We played the I.O.R.s at basket ball. Enough said !

Things We Should Like to Know.—Where the word " co-instantaneously " came from ? Don't tell us that it is Scotch, Jock, because we have heard that one before.

What will be the result of all the empty " Glucose D " tins we see ?

S.O.S.—To Blanco and Vic. What about sending the lads the price of a pint ? The fact that you are a few miles away is no excuse. Meanwhile we are working up a nice thirst.

Sergeants' Mess.—With great pleasure the members of the Mess, in conjunction with the remainder of the Troop, tender their hearty congratulations to our Commanding Officer, Captain P. B. G. Gambier, and to Mrs. Gambier, on the birth of their son in London on 25th June.

Ex-members will be interested to learn that we have lost another old hand in Farrier Staff Sergeant Townley. He and his family departed for the U.K., per H.T. " Somersetshire," for a spell of vocational training before taking up life as a civilian. All the best wishes of the Mess go with you, Daddy.

C.S.M. Cozens and family left us for the Home Establishment per S.S. " Elysia." Two newly-appointed members, Lance Sergeants Strong and Pike, have joined the Mess.

The Mess promises to hold its own. Remarks like " Look you here " and " No Siree " are being replaced by other " grips " around the corner palm. The Mess wireless experts have not been doing too well with the new set, or perhaps the layman was right when he suggested that its misbehaviour was due to the loss of a pepper tree !

The Officers and Sergeants were beaten by a very small margin in a tennis match against the rest of the Unit last week, but they have promised to reverse the score this week. (They should do as two of the best members of the opposition have now joined them.)

Our dining strength increases, as most of the families are in the Hills. (Khanspur this time.) We hear many suggestions to the chef for his menu, as well as some for the treatment of " one cook B.T."

The Bull-Bale poultry combination produce some wonderful eating birds. I hesitate to think what Bull will say when the " carbon copy " returns from the strenuous Course at Upper Topa and finds that you have sold out on him, Ernie !

DIZZY.

Waziristan District Signals.

Headquarters.

Razmak.
1st July.

We have now settled down in Razmak and are enjoying days which may almost be called normal. The interest in home affairs has perceptibly increased in some circles, and several surreptitious attempts to swot up the English currency tables have been discovered. Twelve annas to one shilling may be a trifle confusing at first.

Ambition.—Captain N. J. H. Minshall, our Adjutant, has decided to soldier on amidst the glamour of the East. (I haven't discovered any.)

Congratulations to the following on reaching their present ranks: Sergeant Bennett, T/Sergeants Coles and Mulcahy, Lance Sergeants Park and Marshall, Corporal Hooper, T/Corporal Piddington, Lance Corporals Moore and Thorne, U/Lance Corporals Stevens and Holmes. You can dispense with some of your cold-water bandages and ice packs now, Geordie!

Arrivals.—Sergeant Gordon from Wana, and just too late to win the Brigade Hockey Tournament. (But we won, despite that.) We presume he thinks Razmak will be a good change as a stepping-off place for leave.

Lance Corporal (Hiram K.) Stevens has joined us from Bannu. He will very soon take over as Assistant Chief Babu and, most likely, WIRE Correspondent. (I can assure him of one very interested home reader soon.) Having been greeted with the news, he decided that a few days in Murree might bolster him up prior to assuming his new appointment.

Sport.—We regret that our hope of "A" team versus "B" providing the final of the Razmak Brigade British Hockey Tournament did not materialise. "B" team fell in the first round to "B" Company, 1st Battalion, Leicestershire Regiment. "A" team, however, advanced in convincing style to the final, in which they defeated "C" Company, 1st Battalion, Leicestershire Regiment, by 3—0. Our reputation as the hockey champions was thus maintained. A photograph of the team is published with these notes.

AUCEPS.

W.O.s' and N.C.O.s' Mess.

27th June.

Foreword.—We cannot keep a barrel of beer very long, and our visitors have even accused us of putting football boots and boxing gloves in the barrel. They must like it, for they always come again.

Social.—Many pleasant evenings have been spent in the Mess during the last month, and a special event was the games tournament with the Brigade Section Mess. The games played were euchre, bridge, darts and pokey dice. A very pleasant evening was enjoyed by all and we are pleased to report that the result of the games tournament was in our favour, but only after a hard struggle.

The Razmak Spring Race Meeting was held on Saturday, 12th June. Some very good horses were entered, and the leading jockeys of the Mess were riding. The first race was due to start at 9 p.m., but owing to a technical hitch in the Tote, the runners did not get away until 9.15 p.m. "Brutal" by "Notes" out of "Wire," ridden by Lance Sergeant Howard, made the running for the first half-mile, when "Chamber" by "Obtaining" out of "R.A." came to the fore and cantered home to win by several lengths.

The "Fillies Scurry," the second race on the programme, was won by "Sparks." The winner was steered to victory by Sergeant

WAZIRISTAN DISTRICT SIGNALS

Back Row (left to right)—Lance Corporal Campbell ("A" Corps Signals, attached), Lance-Sergeant Watson, Lance Corporal Holmes, Signalman Adams, Corporal Mackenzie, Corporal Bell.

Front Row (left to right)—Corporal Barton, Lieutenant A. F. McGill, Major R. C. Woodbridge, Lieutenant D. C. Lyall, Lieutenant B. S. Bhagat, Corporal Crammond.

Wales. The " Wazir National " ended in a triumph for the favourite, " Expecting " out of " Murree." The winner was ridden by Farrier Corporal Loakes, a very keen and horsy man. The last race of the evening was the " Razmak Derby." This race was so exciting that our reporter failed to jot down the name of the winner.

We must not forget to mention the very able officials who conducted the meeting. They were C.S.M. Gudgeon and Sergeant Wales (Chief Judges) and Corporal Crammond (Clerk of the Course) ; Sergeant Foster, Corporals Bell and Barton ran the Tote.

Amongst the notable visitors we were pleased to see W.O. Instructor Walker (A.E.C.), our friends the Sappers, and, last but not least, the Garrison Post Stores in the person of Staff Sergeant Riddley. All these notables are attached to the Mess for liquid refreshment only. They like it, too !

On Saturday, 18th June, another social evening was held, and all Messes were invited. During the course of the evening, a Cup was presented to C.S.M. Gudgeon, who told the tallest story of the month. Beer flowed freely, and everyone agreed that the function was a success.

Congratulatory.—Congratulations to Sergeants Bennett and Mulcahy, and also Lance Sergeants Park and Marshall on taking another step towards the top of the ladder.

Hearty cheers to the Unit "A" team on winning the Razmak British Hockey Tournament.

Arrivals and Departures.—We were pleased to see Sergeant " Jerry " Brooke, who spent the week-end with us last week. He went away under the impression that we were all mad.

Sergeant Gordon has arrived from Wana to take over the duties of Barrack Warden.

Lance Sergeant Cole of " B " Corps Signals, who was attached to us for some time, has left for Rawalpindi *en route* to Karachi. He said he would liked to have stayed with us, but the only solution is a permanent attachment.

KIKO.

Razmak Signal Section.

30th June.

Calling All Cars !—Our heads are bowed. Harry (Laidlaw-Segrave) has left us. This man of men, breaker of records, is no longer a Razcolite. How can I write with this on my mind ? Bannu Section must return him soon.

All those at home will grind their teeth and tell taller stories of " Razcol " when they learn that with the exception of one night out and several day " stunts " we have " held them back " in Razmak for the last six months.

Boats, boats and more boats is all one hears in the Section now, and with this four year " hukum," everyone hopes to walk down the Strand this Christmas Eve. We hope their wishes will be realised.

Since our last notes, the Section has " walked away " with the Brigade Basket Ball Cup for the second year in succession, and it will become ours for " keeps " next year—we hope ! The winning team, complete with their trainer—Sergeant Collins—is shown in the accompanying photograph.

Headquarters took over the hockey arrangements and entered two teams—"A" and " B." "A" team claimed the ownership of the Brigade Cup for one year. Nine teams took part in the competition, and there were some excellent games.

We have also commenced a Tennis Club, and most of the Section hope to be playing on the famous Centre Court one day.

Births.—To " Brandy." Well, we shall let you know next month. All ex-Wazdivites will remember Major Duncan's dog, which is now under the care of our O.C., Lieutenant P. O. J. Nicholson.

We regret to announce that No. 2325020 Signalman Moore R. of this Section was seriously wounded in the left leg whilst sitting in Headquarters canteen on Sunday night, 25th June. The camp was being sniped by hostiles and " Bob " had the bad luck to be hit. We know all ranks will join us in wishing him a speedy recovery.

Basket Ball Team.

The best this month. " Jake " to "Albert," our fat boy. " Don't bust this week, Albert. I'm on floors."

And now to the stores in order to collect that " Blanket, Razmak, third issue," and then to dream of things to come.

GAV.

WESTERN COMMAND ..... INDIAN ARMY

" B " Corps Signals, Karachi.

Unit Headquarters.

3rd July.

We have all heard of the D.R. who took out his jack-knife and cut up a side street, and also of the Company Sergeant-Major who advocated khaki starch, but what we really want to know is what is going to happen to this Unit. What used to be a Unit of 200 gallant men has dwindled down to a couple of leave parties at Manora, and, consequently, all our social functions and sports suffer. Nevertheless, with a bit of wangling, the " Tin and Bottles " and the fortnightly Unit " hop " maintain their popularity. It was noticed that three shady individuals crept past the gate on the last occasion. We mention no names, but a good clue is "All for the Boston two-step."

A few of the old school still patronise the Karachi Turf (?) Club. The last Meeting opened in the usual Karachi sunny weather as seen through blue glasses, and the Corps trio, complete with Ascot frock-coat, binoculars and holdall, bagged the first winner. This gallant piece of horseflesh helped to erase the chalk marks on the beer bar wall. Intoxicated by this success, the trio plunged heavily, and success was not met with until the Arab flag was hoisted. The first leg was much admired, but for the second we can only say another sorry fetlock was well backed but we did not see enough of it. The last race saw the syndicate with but a few coins, with which they were able to bribe the Gharry Wallah for their sad journey home.

With the arrival of the monsoon season, that once popular figure has receded into the background. Known to some as Doctor Clitterhouse, and to " Mo " as the " Out-of-hours Surgeon," he has turned hermit. This one-time idol of many co-eds in the past, now can only be discerned as a very misty figure working into the small hours of the morning, practising, so rumour whispers, some kind of " ectomy " on any unfortunate insect or animal that falls foul of him.

A movement has been in motion to brighten up the cricket ground. With the arrival of palms and white ropes and other improvements here and there, the old pavilion has taken on a new aspect somewhat similar to the Oval. We can observe the embarrassed look on the returning batsman's face as he now runs the gauntlet on returning to the pavilion.

Talking of underhand cricket, our captain sprang a good one about a tail that never gets a chance to wag. We doubt this statement as tails in the Corps at present are very hard to come by.

We were very sorry to see the passing down of Tam Massey to civilian life. An exceptionally good judge of soccer, both on the field and off, the Corps will lose another Scot who knew the game and played it in the spirit it should be played. Had the Oxford been placed " out of bounds " we think that Tam, although a Bobby Breen fan, would have made Ibrox at least.

I—NO—U—SIGNAL WALLAH.

No. 2 Company.

General.—Good news has come to us at last. Eleven B.O.R.s from the U.K. are due to arrive in July. This is a very welcome change from previous months, when all postings have been away from the Unit.

Now that cricket is to the fore, we see some very fine games in the " County class matches," which are held on Mondays and Fridays. One hears of lots of hidden talent coming to light.

Arrivals.—Signalman Snow from Western (I.) District Signals, Quetta.

Departures.—Signalman Bracken H. to Western (I.) District Signals, Quetta, and Signalman Dysart who has left us for " Civvy Street."

Births.—Congratulations to Signalman and Mrs. Ferguson on the birth of a son, Charles Joseph Shaun.

Education.—Congratulations to the undermentioned on their awards: Signalmen Monk and Dawson—First Class Certificate of Education. Signalmen Brock, Goldsmith, Halpin, Grierson, Jolley, Yeats, Pearce, Grattage, Buckle, Hennessey, Major, Dawson, Thomas—Second Class Certificate of Education. A number obtained a " Distinguished " in English.

Trade Tests.—We congratulate those recruits who recently passed the test for Group " E " Operator.

Miscellaneous.—Question to Counter Clerk: " You are given an ' Out ' message. What would you do ? "

Answer: " Stamp it to see that it was ' Immediate ' and pass it on to the next in charge ! "

E DOUBLE U.

Corporals' Mess.

Arrivals.—After all the departures mentioned in recent months it is quite refreshing to welcome a newcomer to the Mess. To Corporal Chadwick, late of Western (I.) District Signals, we extend a welcoming hand, and hope that his stay with us will be a pleasant one.

Congratulations.—To Corporal MacNair (the brains of the Unit) on passing in " Modern European History " towards the Special Certificate, and to Lance Corporal Hopkins (at present in the Zhob) on being awarded the First Class Certificate. Also to Lance Corporal Rosbotham on winning the Men's Singles in the British Union Jack Tennis Tournament. He was also a finalist in the Doubles of the same Tournament with Lance Sergeant Jarvis as partner, but they were unfortunate to lose this match.

High Finance.—Business deals running into thousands of pounds, bankruptcy and the mortgaging of property have become regular features of the Mess. Any stranger entering the place for the first time would think that we were landed property owners or heads of wealthy syndicates on hearing the cut-throat haggling and heated discussions which take place almost every night. Fortunately for all concerned the game of "Monopoly " is the storm centre of the trouble and the money is of the dummy variety, otherwise we could visualise quite a number of the present speculators doing a tour in Dartmoor, or possibly Wormwood Scrubs, instead of a pleasant little holiday (?) in India.

Atmospherics.—As everyone knows, a new Vol. 5 has been issued during recent months. Here are some definitions of Signals which will not be found in that classic: "A Through Message," a message which must be got through at all costs;

CORPORALS MESS, "B" CORPS SIGNALS, MAY, 1939.

Back Row (left to right)—Lance Corporals Williamson E., Derrick B., Corporal Carlyon R., Lance Corporals Hankin G., Kirk W., Harrod G., Rosbotham A., Flavell J., Corporal Fisher R.

Middle row (left to right)—Corporals Rylatt G., Grainger H., Lance Corporals Twiddy D., Townsend M., Corporal Ambury A., Lance Corporals Smith R., Feather F., Sinclair A., Burrows J., Stokes A., Evans G.

Front Row (left to right)—Corporals Knight L., Baker G., Captain W. J. S. Gray, Corporal Fuller A., Lieutenant-Colonel A. W. Roberts, M.C., R.Q.M.S. Hope C., Corporals Pullinger C., MacNair A., Evans E.

"T.", turn around; "O.L.", over to your left; "F.", move further away.

What can we say about the fellow who dreamed that he was getting drunk, and woke the next morning with a thick head. I'm surprised at you, Archie.

PEGASUS.

EASTERN COMMAND ..... ***INDIAN ARMY***

3rd Indian Divisional Signals, Meerut.

Detachment, 3rd Indian Divisional Signals, Kailana.

6th July.

General.—The second hill party, consisting of forty-three B.O.R.s and the Kennel Club, arrived here on 15th May full of the joys of Spring and soda water.

Major R. T. Williams, Royal Signals, who is in command of the Detachment, soon put us at ease, and it was apparent that our stay here was going to be quite enjoyable. We are more fortunate than in previous years, when we have been stationed in Chakrata, as we now have self-contained barracks, which are quite a distance from the Hill Depot, but, nevertheless, they have their advantages.

Training.—Under the eagle eyes of Sergeants Bailey and Jerram, individual training is proving to be an interesting, instructive and very amusing hobby. Five-minute lectures are the feature of the day, especially when Signalman Laws gives his version on how visual procedure signals should be used. According to results, the service of Vol. 2, Part II, and Vol. 5 can be dispensed with as far as this Detachment is concerned.

Entertainments.—Here is our weekly programme. Sunday morning is devoted to miniature golf, which is quite an interesting game if you know the rules. The unbeaten champion is Corporal McGuigan. Midday is devoted to horse racing, and we thank C.Q.M.S. Bell for its introduction. (We think that the two "Bookies," Signalmen Flowers and Clenehan, have had previous experience.) All the thrills are brought to barracks, including the Tote, which is successfully run by Corporal O'Donnell.

At night, the melodious voice of the great "Maxie" can be heard shouting out "Dinky Doo," "Downing Street," etc. We think it is a wangle.

The Detachment Office, Kailana.

On Monday night we have our weekly whist drives, which are as well attended by other Units as as our own. Probably the refreshments are the attraction. A queer thing happened one night when Signalman Geordie Laws, who suggested a Games Evening, finished up by winning three first prizes at draughts, ludo and cards. He has since nearly smoked himself to death as the prizes were "Woodbines." There has not been a Games Evening since!

And now for the "he-man's" kind of entertainment. Signalmen Somerfield and Tarves have returned after treking to Simla and back, but we shall be hearing more about this from another source. Before leaving the subject, we hear that as they were returning to Kailana *via* the Lower Lines, they took a short cut and a couple of B.O.R.s they happened to meet nearly jumped over the khud when they came face to face with the trekers, whom they apparently mistook for baboons. (We cannot quite reason this out, as razor blades are very light and cheap.) Nevertheless, we extend our congratulations to both of them for blazing a trail which others in later Hill periods may follow. Signalmen Parish, Hecquet, Ryan and Stubbings, who left here to trek to Kalsi in a day, have since been placed on the sick list, or are in the B.M.H. with feet and sunburn trouble.

Detachment, 3rd Indian Divisional Signals, Lucknow.

General.—The Detachment still rubs along, despite the fact that those gallant Operator Signals are still hoping for their higher rating or are relaxing in the hills.

Recently, certain members of the Section were to be seen with weird contraptions slung around their bodies, and conversing with the palms of their hands. The "net" was nearly ready for them when it was discovered they were experimenting with the new H.9A Sets.

Arrivals and Departures.—Corporal Marjoram arrived from the Unit for the benefit of the R.A. Section of the Detachment. A few days ago Signalmen Williams and Hugill came in from the Orissa jungle. They are still not used to the city lights and are scared stiff by the sight of motor cars. We have observed several lightly-marked throats, presumably due to small "grips." It now remains to be seen what will happen when the "When I was in Palestine" and the "It happened in Orissa" parties really get going. Incidentally, the weird stories of bows and arrows have been confirmed, but not the blow-pipe part, and on the next Musketry Course the order will probably be: "Adjust flights."

We have almost forgotten to mention the sudden departure of Sergeant Luck. His smiling countenance faded from our ken a few days ago and now Sergeant Simms fills the breach. Captain G. U. Finney, Royal Signals, our O.C. for the past eighteen months, leaves us shortly for England, and the Detachment takes this opportunity of wishing Captain and Mrs. Finney all they could possibly wish for themselves for the future. Captain H. V. Hayfield, Royal Signals, has arrived to take over, and we offer them a hearty welcome.

KINKS.

Trekking in the Himalayas.

When our military service includes several years to be spent in India, it is as well to adopt some recreation which maintains physical fitness, and at the same time can be practised without any undue financial strain. To people who have been hikers in England, trekking will, no doubt, make an instant appeal, and they will probably enjoy it more in a country not so civilised, and where luggage can be carried by other means than in one's own rucksack.

Any Hill Station can be used as a starting point, some being more expensive than others as regards the hiring of coolies or donkeys. Simla is about the most expensive; our own Hill Station, Chakrata, where coolies can be had for twelve annas or rupees one per day, is amongst the cheapest. These coolies carry forty pounds of kit each, and are able to do twenty miles a day over country which would give an unladen European ample exercise. From Murree there is the Hazara district to be ex-

plored, or even a hike to Srinagar, Kashmir, can be tried. Two Signalmen—Croft and Evans—did this journey last year, but as they kept mainly to the Jhelum Valley Road, the real enjoyment was missed. It is much pleasanter to take paths wherever possible. The paths are shown on all large scale Survey of India maps.

Ranikhet is perhaps the most popular of stations from which to commence a trek, as most of the Himalayan giants in British India are in this region; Nanda Devi and Kamet, both over twenty-five thousand feet, have been conquered by parties starting from Ranikhet; but such attempts are expensive as they involve special equipment and coolies, and it is better to leave this sort of thing to the Himalayan Club.

This year a mixed party from the Northern Command, including some men from "A" Corps Signals, started from Ranikhet in an attempt to rediscover Traill's Pass, and even if unsuccessful, they seem to be having a thrilling time according to recent reports.

A fifteen-days' march from Ranikhet along the Alaknanda Valley to the north brings one over the Mana Pass to the borders of Tibet and, nowadays, it is not so difficult to obtain permission to enter the Llama's territory.

From Meerut Signals hill station, Chakrata-Kailana, many interesting and lesser-known treks are possible. Paths leading north go to Tibet through various native states. To the East and about an eight-days' march lies Bandar Punch, over 20,000 feet, in the Tehri-Garhwal State.

Less strenuous, but equally interesting, paths take one amongst the lower ranges, where Dak Bungalows, or forest rest houses, are more frequent; although for the sake of economy it is better to sleep out where possible. A very good track starts from Mussoorie, passes through Chakrata, and carries on by a variety of paths to Simla. Signalman Tarves and I recently visited Simla along this track, doing 108 miles in six days on the outward journey via Tiuni, Saura, Jubbal, and joining the Hindustan-Tibet road twelve miles from Simla. On the return journey we made a detour to the north as far as Narkanda, and then travelled down the Pabar and Tons Rivers until due west of Chakrata, turning east and eventually completed about 137 miles in nine days.

The early advent of the Monsoon cut down the mileage somewhat on the last three days but, as there are plenty of shelters en route, we never got soaked. Fuller details of this trek may be obtained from the Orderly Room of 3rd Indian Divisional Signals, and anyone interested in the formation of a Trekking Club may communicate with me at the same address.

The best months for trekking in the hills are April, May and October; the latter month having the advantage of clearer atmospheres and abundant water. Always remember to pack twice as much food as you think necessary, and a successful hike is assured.

2323272 SIGNALMAN H. SOMERFIELD,
3rd Indian Divisional Signals.

3rd Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Meerut.

6th July.

General.—The weather we are experiencing in Meerut at the present time is hardly conducive to the mental strain necessary when one is told politely, but pointedly, by the Orderly-Room Sergeant that the WIRE notes are due—and what about them, Scribbler?

The thermometer is only reading about 107 deg., but the sky is overcast with a threatening dust storm and the atmosphere is close and sultry. Just a moment—my prickly heat is tickling my conscience! The M.E.S., with the utter sang-froid of the Indian Bijli-wallah, has decided that the punkahs' engine should be removed and repaired. There are, as a result, no punkahs this afternoon. In addition, the water is off, and so a shower is taboo. Otherwise it's a fine life—for I.U.L. wallahs!

We should like to publish a cartoon of what a chap looks like at 4.15 p.m. on a day like this, but, unfortunately, there is no cartoonist in the Unit.

Those Who Wait.—With the advent of militiamen into our strong silent army, and the resultant posting to the Home Establishment of their potential instructors, the boat has been brought much nearer. The only one of our little band to be so honoured with the job is the one and only ex-rissole wrangler, Ginger Leebrick. He has already swapped his rolling pin for a whip to fasten on his hip, and Jud Moysey (Popeye to you) has signed on for the rolling pin. The rumour that Ginger can always be found any time between Reveille and Lights-out practising "Halt and Salute to the Front" is, we assure you, unfounded.

Other five-year and four-year men are anxiously awaiting the boat.

Returned.—Intact, one Lance Corporal Craggs, from a P.T. Course at the A.S.P.T., Kasauli. He confessed that he nearly died during the first two weeks, but slowly recovered during the next two, and then began to like it. At the moment he is still full of beans, but we venture to suggest that it won't be long before he starts taking a tonga to the pictures instead of walking as he is doing now.

Promotions.—Congratulations to the following on their step up the ladder. The roll is moving so fast these days that we are still in a daze and expect to wake up any minute and find it all a dream: Sergeant Steele H., T/Sergeant Warburton H., Lance Sergeant Douglas-Beveridge J., Corporal Kelley V. and U/Lance Corporal Redhouse A. They may all have obtained higher ranks by the time this reaches our readers, so don't take offence.

Departures.—Lance Sergeant (Johnny) Driver has left us for Quetta. All the best and good luck, Johnny, and keep well wrapped up.

At the Sign of the Chipping Block.—Signalman Cox is now the proud father of a baby daughter, who was born in Ireland last month. We couldn't have been more interested if the baby had been our own.

H.M.V.—Old Troopites and readers in the Blighty Cantonment will be pleased to note that the C.O.'s successor to "Kissing Time," namely, "H.M.V.," is still in a winning vein. What a horse! If a plane sufficiently big enough could be hired, we feel sure the C.O. would enter him for the Derby—if the animal was young enough. Ask Yorkie Yates to let you have a look at his racing account for this season; the profit and loss account would amaze you.

Mess Jottings.—Dining member (as the bearer places before him a savoury macaroni cheese for *hors d'ouvres*): "What the ——! Take that away! What do you mean by bringing me 'duff' before my dinner?"

Former Mess members will be pleased to know that Jock Lawson is improving. He has openly declared that his favourite tune on the gramophone is, "Be optimistic." Such is the power of auto-suggestion.

SOUTHERN COMMAND ..... INDIAN ARMY

4th Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop.

15th July.

General.—The Inter-Section Equitation Competition for the first half of the year was held in June. Though the riding throughout the competition was good, there were many disappointments in the manege tests. This was probably due to nervousness and the fact that many of the entrants were competing in their first Equitation Competition.

Out of five teams, "B" Group Operating Section came first with 450 points out of a possible 800. The competition includes manege tests and jumping. This was the first occasion on which the Section has excelled itself and won a competition. There must be new blood in the Section! Well done, Operating Section! We hope to see your Section recorded on a few more of the Troop trophies.

Their sister Section, O/S "A" Group, was second with 422 points, and Headquarters third with 402 points. Naik Ghaus Mohd scored the highest individual points with 153 out of 200.

Congratulations.—To Lance Sergeant Robertson on attaining that appointment and also for appearing in two successive issues of the WIRE for his promotion.

Sport.—The rains have arrived and all sport is at a standstill with the exception of the few following games that we have played: v. R.I.A.S.C., won 2—1; Troop 2nd XI v. Divisional Signals 2nd XI, won 2—1; v. Divisional Signals, won 1—0.

OTHER STATIONS ABROAD

Egypt Command Signals.

No. 3 Company.

24th June.

Obituary.—It is with deep regret that we have to announce the death of No. 2318515 Corporal Marsh E., who passed away at the Citadel Military Hospital, Cairo, on 18th June. Corporal Marsh joined this Unit in April this year and, in the short time that he was with us, proved himself to be a very popular and efficient N.C.O. The funeral took place at the British War Memorial Cemetery, Old Cairo, on 19th June, with full military honours. The coffin was borne on a gun carriage provided by the R.H.A., and preceded by the band of the 11th Hussars, P.A.O. Representatives of the Unit who attended the funeral were the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel J. W. Bailey, M.C., and a large party of officers, N.C.O.s and men of both Nos. 1 and 3 Companies, Egypt Command Signals, and also representatives from Armoured Divisional Signals.

Corporal Marsh joined the Corps in 1927 as a boy, and served with 3rd Divisional Signals, and afterwards saw service in China. He then rejoined 3rd Divisional Signals, and was subsequently posted to this Unit. He arrived here in April, 1939, was posted to "K" Section, Egypt Command Signals, and proceeded to Moascar in the Canal zone for duty with his Section. It was whilst he was returning from Moascar to Abbassia that he was involved in the accident which resulted in his death.

We extend our deep sympathy to the relatives of Corporal Marsh in their sad bereavement.

General.—At the time of writing it is difficult to find any news of importance or interest other than the occasional outbursts of Henry Esmonde, "Ohms Law," extracts from the "Manual of Maintenance—Mechanical Vehicles, Wheeled," which should indicate that we are in the middle of the annual spell of Upgrading Courses and Educational Classes, etc. We wish ourselves luck and hope that the judicious application of the glass that cheers may produce a feeling of kindness in our instructors when the examinations come along.

Promotion.—We tender our congratulations to Corporal Marsh G. and Corporal Newman R. on having added a further chevron to the two they already possess; and also to Lance Corporals O'Donnell and Calver on promotion to Corporal. That elusive baton comes ever nearer.

Departures.—After many false starts, due to the somewhat unsettled state of affairs in Europe, the party for repatriation to the U.K. did get away. They sailed on 29th May from Port Said after a hectic send off at this end. The party included the following members of this Company: Lance Corporal Smith, Signalmen Brown R. (the Bomber), Pringle, Mills, Marr, Mc'Gowan, Driver (I.C.) Thomas L., Drivers (H.T.) Dennis and Boardman. We wish them every success.

Lance Sergeant Trivass has left us on posting to No. 1 Company for duty in the den of iniquity (R.Q.M.S. Stores). Signalman Fell has also proceeded to the same hide out. Signalman Calow, our one time Company Office scribe, has returned after a long spell in hospital, and stayed long enough to arrange a leave to England and also a posting to No. 1 Company.

Arrivals.—Sergeant Betts has joined us from Delta Area Signal Section and is doing duty as A/C.S.M. Corporal Robertson A., from No. 2 G.H.Q. Signals, Aldershot, and to him goes the honour of taking over the care and woes of the Company Office. Corporal Hales, from the Training Battalion, Catterick, is at present employed as "chief cutter" of tender (?) beef steaks for the Unit, *vice* Signalman Hicks, who departed with the repatriation party.

We all join in extending the hand of welcome to all of them, and hope that their stay with us will be an enjoyable one.

Cricket.—So far, we have been quite successful, having won seven of the eleven matches played, and lost the remaining four by only small margins. In the first round of the Small Units Cup we accounted for "A Company, 6th Battalion, R.T.R., by an innings and 120 runs.

In this match, Signalman Hughes took five wickets for four runs in our opponents second innings. This effort included the hat-trick. Two other bowlers had successes in this game, Lance Sergeant Newman taking 6 for 24 in the first innings and Signalman Arnold 3 for 10 in the second innings. Our batsmen also did well, Corporal Nurse making 64 runs and Signalman Millington 74.

In the second round of the Cup, we were defeated by H.Q. Company of 1st Battalion, Royal Northumberland Fusiliers by 115 runs. Our bowlers toiled all day in the hot sun whilst the opponents amassed 273 runs, Lance Sergeant Newman taking 7 wickets for 93. With this large total against them, our earlier batsmen did not fare so well, and only a very sound knock of 56 runs by Hughes prevented our defeat being a complete rout.

A summary of results to date is given below:

v. "D" Company, R.A.S.C.	Won by 2 wickets.
v. "B" Company, 1st R.T.R.	Won by 50 runs.
v. "D" Company, R.A.S.C.	Lost by 12 runs.
v. "D/J" Battery, 3rd R.H.A.	Won by 73 runs.
v. "C" Company, 1st R.T.R.	Lost by 55 runs.
v. "B" Company, 6th R.T.R.	Lost by 40 runs.
v. "A" Company, 6th R.T.R. (Cup Match)	Won by innings and 120 runs.
v. "X" Troop, Armoured Divisional Signals	Won by 73 runs.
v. 66th Company, R.A.S.C. ..	Won by innings and 86 runs.
v. 65th Company, R.A.S.C.	Won by 16 runs.
v. "H.Q." Company, 1st R.N.F.	Lost by 115 runs.

Hockey.—During the summer months the Company is playing in a Garrison Six-a-side Hockey League and, so far, has done very well indeed, having only lost one of the last twelve games. At the time of writing, we are fourth in the League.

Pass Ball.—This is another summer sport in which the Company is participating to the extent of providing six teams for the Garrison Knock-out Tournament. So far only one team has received a fatal reverse, and the remainder have progressed to their present positions chiefly by reason of the opposing teams withdrawing. We hope to have one team in the final.

"E" SECTION.

General.—Owing to the fact that the Company has a passion at the present time for Courses of various kinds, the activities of Sections have been somewhat curtailed and provide small scope for the efforts of the would-be scribe.

We have deserted the Section Stores in favour of the many seats of learning which have sprung up all over the lines. Our Section Sergeant, Sergeant Carnegie, sits in solitary state in the Section Stores and meditates on those things which he should have done and has not done in the past, and also on those things which we as a Section have not done in the past but shall do in the future.

Departures.—"Sir Reginald Rubber Kneck" and "Square Deal Hank" have left us for the more desirable land of Blighty. The silence attendant upon their departure is one that can be felt!

History.—A very interesting addition to the valuable collection of objects of historical importance held by members of the Section is a pair of "Sentimental Hose Tops," the property of "Duggie." There is reason to believe that their present condition is due to the fact that they were under fire in Palestine in 1936 (Yimkin!).

Griffin.—"Haigh's Law" states "that light poles repel and dark poles attract." This important statement was made by "Haigh" at a meeting of the "Grippers' Club" some days ago.

Health.—The "Keep Fit" campaign has spread to this country and the powers that be, with their usual kind foresight, have discovered a large portion of a hill which they think should be

put into a hole. This has now become the sport in which we indulge each Friday morning. Needless to state, this new effort was hailed with delight by all of us.

NOMAD.

"J" SECTION.

General.—Since last month's notes, very little of importance has happened, and we are all looking forward to the forthcoming collective training season and, of course, the boat.

Annual musketry came to an end in the last week of May, when we all fired our respective Courses. The scoring on the whole was very good but, as usual, there were one or two prominent "Bat Eyes." "J" Section boasts of "Gunner" Morris and "Quick Fire" Strachan.

The Upgrading Courses are still in full swing, and everyone is looking forward to the final week, when they confidently expect to obtain the few extra "ackers" they fully deserve. (The instructors have their own opinion as to what they deserve!)

The Upgrading Course for the B.II to B.I rating is run on "Bennett College" lines, that is by post. The instructors set the papers weekly, and the pupils religiously copy the answers from all the available text books, returning their papers to the instructors, who, in turn, think the students are doing well. Any outsiders wishing to take advantage of this Course should apply to "Brer Rabbit" or Sergeant "Gerawla" Stone of this Unit.

"Gus" Arnold and "Swire" Reardon are burning the midnight oil in their endeavour to secure both a First Class Certificate of Education and their B.I rating. The promotion bug has bitten them hard and, on behalf of the Section, we wish them every success. Congratulations to "Professor" Higham on his "Special" and B.I. (We suppose it will be the A.E.C. now!)

Wednesday mornings are devoted to exercising the mechanical steeds under the able guidance of Lance Sergeant Marsh, Lance Corporals Fernie and Petrie, who, if rumour proves correct, go out armed to the teeth with accident reports and insurance policies (paid up to date). As the result of the able tuition provided by the instructors, one of the candidates for the I.G.M.V.W. (Inspector-General of Mechanical Vehicles Wheeled) has learned that grease must be inserted *via* the grease nipple and not through the fan belt coupling!

Certa Cito.—Almost every week-end we send a small No. 1 Set detachment into the desert with parties of troops bent on getting as far away as possible from this delightful spot. So far all has gone with a swing and no one has ever looked like being lost. During one of these expeditions, a detachment was camped about 150 miles out in the Western Desert. Soon after all communication had been closed for the day, our operator was handed an important message. The originator, who was told the situation, then proceeded to make a number of caustic remarks concerning Signals and this detachment in particular. Whereupon our operator bridled from the toes upwards and uttered those famous last words, "Leave it to me." He then twiddled the knobs and heard other brethren of our noble Corps carrying on the good work in Palestine. Seizing on this faint hope, he sent a plaintive call out into the night and, lo and behold, an answering note said "K" "R9." To bring this story of devotion to duty to a rapid end, we conclude by reporting that the message was transmitted over a distance of about 500—600 miles, and the honour of the Section was saved. Give us a big hand, fellows!

Promotions and Appointments.—Congratulations to Corporal Marsh G. on attaining the appointment of Lance Sergeant, and also to Lance Corporals O'Donnell and Calver R. on reaching full rank. (Corporal Calver is at present undergoing a rest cure in hospital.)

Arrivals.—Signalman Christie, complete with First Class Certificate, from No. 2 Wireless Company, Sarafand. Good luck, chum!

Departures.—To the U.K.: "Stinker" Mills, "Cannon Ball" Pringle, "Wee Jock" Marr (Scarborough, please note) and Driver Thomas L.

Births.—The wife of our Section Sergeant (Sergeant Penn G.) gave birth to a fine bouncing daughter on 23rd June, and all three are doing well. Congratulations!

Sport.—Signalman Bell, the Section swimming representative, was in despair over the loss of Signalman McLaughlin (to "Alex.") and Signalmen Mills and Pringle to the U.K. Their departure resulted in the team being defeated in the Inter-Section Polo Competition. Signalman Bell wishes to thank "B" Section for the invaluable contribution they made to our polo team; he has great hopes in connection with the forthcoming gala, of which more will be reported in next month's WIRE.

Signalman Wale, our six-a-side hockey enthusiast, is the Section hockey representative. He states that much talent has been discovered for the coming hockey season. Six-a-side hockey is proving a rival to pass ball in popularity. "It's a great game if you can take it," says Wale.

Jews' Mail.—Pullinger. "Congratulations; you should have known better, Arnold."

If you have any complaints address them to "Nobby"; it makes no difference.

PAWNSHOP FLAP.

"K" SECTION.

General.—Although greatly reduced in numbers by the return of several of our members to Cairo, we still maintain the good name of Signals here at Moascar.

We have been very busy of late with the King's Birthday Parade, for which the whole Section turned out with their freshly-painted vehicles. Not to be outdone in regard to arms, the A.T. Gun was mounted on the O.C.'s bug. The parade consisted of a drive past H.Q., Canal Brigade, and a tour of the back streets of Ismailia. We also turned out for the farewell parade to the G.O.C.-in-C. This parade was quite a success and, afterwards we returned to barracks for work once more.

As stated previously, several of our members are in Cairo. It was during their journey to Cairo that a regrettable accident occurred which resulted in the death of one of our latest arrivals, Corporal Marsh E. The Section tender their deepest sympathy to his relatives.

Departures.—Signalman McGowan to England for "Civvy Street." What is it to be, Paddy; A.R.P. work? Signalman Lansom to No. 2 Wireless Company, Sarafand, who will, no doubt, claim his valuable services in the rugger field. We are sorry to lose you, Lansey, but if the heart dictates?

Arrivals.—We extend our heartiest welcome to Signalman Corkhill, who has joined our Section from "Blighty," and hope that he will master the art of getting out of bottom gear. Signalman Christie has been posted to the Section in place of Signalman Lansom. He has not yet joined us.

Things We Want to Know.—Is "Crash" a qualified mathematician yet?

CANALITE.

Egypt Armoured Divisional Signals.

No. 1 Squadron

8th July.

We apologise for the absence of our notes in the last issue, but editors are hard to find. (We still haven't found one.)

Major B. B. Kennett, M.B.E., has proceeded on leave and the Squadron is at the moment in the hands of Captain G. M. de M. Blum. Major Galway has also left, unfortunately for good, to take over the duties of C.S.O., Palestine. Our best wishes go with him, and we hope that his new surroundings meet with his approval. We miss that beaming smile on I.T.

Individual Training.—After one false start, the Unit is nearing the end of its first period of intensive individual training. We sincerely hope, despite what we read in the papers, that there will be no false start to the second period.

Departures.—We regret to announce that the following have left this land of romance for the U.K.: Lance Sergeant Singleton (London Signals); Corporal Molony (Bulford, and what about a drop of sport now, Spike?; we suggest a training run as far as the "Rose and Crown"); Corporal Knight and Signalman

Barrow (Aldershot); Signalman Ryder (Vocational Training Course); and Lance Sergeant Ponsford (Catterick).

We wonder if they had any regrets. From a few chance remarks heard as their train left Cairo Station we should guess not.

Hockey.—Six-a-side hockey is in full swing. The most persistent side in the Squadron is Unit Headquarters. Although often beaten, they still turn up for more.

Pass-Ball.—Another sport which is being taken up seriously is pass-ball. All three teams of the Squadron have qualified for the second round of the Garrison K.O. Tournament, and we hope to announce further successes in the next issue, when we shall also publish results of the Corps Swimming Gala, which takes place on 5th July.

Cricket.—The Squadron retired gracefully from the Small Units Cup with the gentle aid of R.H.Q., 7th Hussars.

The Unit team, with the help of various members of No. 1 Squadron, beat the R.A.S.C. in the first round of the Frank Cook Cup, and beat the Scots Guards in the second round of the Command Cup. Keep it up, boys; we'll fill the Cup if you win them!

Bird Lore.—The teal is a bird of roseate plumage, inconsistent and wary, but on its last migration towards the north, it was caught, plucked, and laid out to season at the foot of the "Precedence Roll." The first of this species arrived in these sunny climes in January last year; the second was seen feathering its nest as early as last September, and a third is expected to arrive with others about next September.

We are informed on the best authority that there is no possibility of them becoming a pest (or is there?)

Marriages.—Sergeant Teal L. (our Leslie) to Miss Florence May Hudson at Scarborough, on 27th May. Our congratulations, Mrs. Teal, but if you need any help, let us know. We have lived with the beast for years and know how to handle it.

Lance Corporal Richardson N. to Miss Edna Marjorie Jones at St. George's Church, Abbassia, on 2nd June. A reception was afterwards given by Mrs. Dunn in Suez Houses, and we understand that everyone had a wonderful time.

It seems that the additions to the Heliopolis Cycling (or is it Motoring?) Club are becoming numerous. When the "Precedence Roll" gives up some of its victims we are going to buy a special bus, so keep pedalling cheerfully, Richie.

What We Want to Know.—How much are spare peas for whistles?

Who was responsible for the "Hare and Hounds" about a trifling 20 piastres?

Obituary.—It was with deep regret that the Squadron heard of Corporal Marsh's fatal accident. Although he was a member of Egypt Command Signals, he had many friends in this Squadron, and they all attended his funeral. Some knew him in China, some in Bulford, but whether it was at home or abroad, he was always the same "Boggy," well liked and respected. The Corps has lost a good man.

Promotions and Appointments.—Our heartiest congratulations are extended to the following on their promotion: C.S.M. Pronger W., Lance Sergeant Hollands E., T/Lance Sergeants Johns H. and Edwards R., Corporal Morris J., T/Corporals Farnsworth A. and Light J., U/Lance Corporals Crerar D. and Burritt L.

No. 2 Squadron.

This is the time of the year known to troops as the "Off-Season," and to writers as "Balmy Days." Both these expressions convey the idea of "Stand-easy," which is rather misleading. While the boys at home are gently awakened by tea—and can—carrying N.C.O.s, and guided through days of sympathetic training, we, in order to build up an A.1 Unit are behaving as in the days of yore. Yes, still it goes on, chaps, still it goes on! (This is where we welcome new arrivals and hope their stay will be a pleasant one.)

The preceding paragraph was perhaps a better way of saying that we still have an Army, and that every man was having his share of drill, anti-gas training, I.T., P.T. and M.T.

Our O.C., Major J. E. S. Walford, M.B.E., is on leave, and Captain L. Whitbread has taken over control. He has the difficult job of tuning-up this new fighting machine.

The little Blue Book, once so dull, is positively entertaining. "From Signalman to Lance Corporal in fifteen years" has been superseded by "From Sergeant to W.O.III in eight days." We congratulate the following: W.O.III Ivison, Lance Sergeants Holland, Edwards and Johns, T/Lance Sergeant Hutley, Corporals McGinn, Moore and Reynolds, and T/Corporal Standon.

SAVARAN.

"F" Troop.

General.—The brains of the Troop are at present chasing "Charlie Atom" on I.T. Others on education have located Southampton and learnt the most direct route from Egypt. According to them, its exports exceed its imports, namely, soldiers. We still meet daily to while away the maintenance hour. Hush!

Mary, Wiley and Ollie work together in the Troop Stores, but, somehow, poor Wiley feels awfully tired by the end of the morning! Mary was caught working the other day—using a tyre gauge during the maintenance hour. His health has suffered in consequence.

If "Movietone News" could see us swinging joyfully on to our marker at 8.30 a.m. daily, we should surely appear on the screen. Even "Deadlegs" steps out these days as well as any Guardsman. (If he didn't, he would look odd!)

We must mention poor Vass, who has been mixed up with M.T. so long now that he has an "M.T." look in his eye. Last night we actually caught him making boats out of works tickets and trying to sail them in "220."

Sport.—Not a great deal at present, but we believe that Gary G——t has shown surprising talent on the dance floor after spending a small fortune on various books and magazines.

Arrivals.—We extend a hearty welcome to T.S.M. Ivison, who once again has found his way to the Troop, and congratulate him on his recent rapid promotion. Driver Tait, ex-hospital, bemoans the fact that for hours he pedalled a bicycle that neither moved nor charged batteries.

Departures.—Nil, but "Champ" Parsons is looking forward to 1945.

Agony.—Which Driver (I.C.) connected his neighbour's airline to one of his own tyres, switched on his engine and tearfully reports that his pump was "dis"?

Nobby, who had driven a car for years, couldn't understand how people managed to crash. Nobby is still with us, but Ordnance have received a jigsaw-puzzle, the solution of which is an 8-cwt. Truck!

WILEY.

Malta Signal Company.

Command Signal Office, Strada Torre, Valletta.

7th July.

Since our last notes this part of the world has been comparatively free from disturbances and crises and, in consequence, we are able to look around and take stock of ourselves. In doing so we find quite a number of unrecorded promotions. Sergeant Rowe and Corporal Chantry are now free of their "Lances," and U/Lance Corporals McConnell, Shreeve, Reck, Murphy and Williams are congratulated on obtaining their first appointments.

We have a new arrival—Signalman Ford W. H. We understand his chief armament is a handy pair of jointing-pliers. He is assured of plenty of work and a happy sojourn in our Island paradise.

Major F. H. Bury, C.S.O., is away on a "business" tour of Egypt, accompanied by C.Q.M.S. Holt, the F-of-S. We trust both will benefit from the change of air and scenery, and that C.Q.M.S. Holt will not suffer unduly from his partiality to eggs.

Organised sport is rather quiet at present, but plenty of swimming and tennis is indulged in by individuals. Signalman

Shreeve plays cricket regularly for the Staff and Departments, and we had several individual entries in the Command Tennis Championships.

Due to the augmentation of the Company by No. 3 Section, we were able to take part in the King's Birthday Parade. This included a march past of mechanised columns in which the camouflaged vehicles of No. 3 Section (ex-Palestine) attracted much attention.

Stop Press.—A marriage threatens. More anon!

SKIP.

Palestine Force Signals.

No. 7 Section, Malta.

Casemates Barracks, Floriana.

5th July.

General.—Notification of this Section's arrival from Palestine was given in the June issue of the WIRE by Malta Signal Company, to whom we are very grateful for the help and assistance given us since disembarkation. Having settled down in our new station, become used to coinage without little holes in it, and accustomed to driving on the left-hand side of the road again, an account of our activities should be of interest.

The Linemen have joined the line staff of Malta Signal Company, and the Despatch Riders have taken over the Island D.R.L.S. A Wireless and Fullerphone Course for Infantry Signallers has been successfully concluded, and a second Course on Wireless, also for Infantry Signallers, is well on its way to completion. An Operators' Upgrading Course commenced soon after our arrival is nearing conclusion and we hope to publish the results next month. During this latter Course, the whole of the Island was calibrated for wireless working, and the best frequencies and times for communications in the area day and night were worked out. Shades of " K " Section!

The Section has also taken part in two Combined Operations, supplying wireless links and Signal Office personnel. During these Operations, some of us experienced our first " Black-Outs."

Promotions and Appointments.—Congratulations are extended to the following: T/Lance Sergeant Middleton A., Corporal Mactavish A., T/Corporal Johnson H., U/Lance Corporals Acock K. and Hart J. The latter has since left us on posting to Malta Signal Company.

Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.—The congratulatory hand is extended to Lance Sergeant Cottingham A. (our Section Sergeant) on the award of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal with gratuity. Well done!

Sport.—We managed to play one game of football before the close of the season against the Royal Irish Fusiliers. This match ended in a win for our opponents by 10—1. We had our revenge, however, at cricket, when we played the same Regiment in two games, beating them on both occasions with scores of 72 to 70 in the first game, and 80 for eight wickets to 30 in the second.

Two hockey matches have taken place against the Dorsetshire Regiment, and resulted in a 3—0 and 2—0 score in their favour. Considering the few members there are in this Section, we do not regard the defeats as very serious, and hope to reverse the scores in the near future.

Jews' Mail.—Godwin. " Where are you? George."

SAHA.

Malaya Signal Company, Singapore.

Fort Canning Detachment.

3rd July.

Hello, everybody! Fort Canning calling. We are here to-day, but not gone to-morrow, although some of us are saying, " Roll on the beginning of next Trooper." There is one of our select band who has been thoroughly gripped by the lure of the East, and he has offered us his services for a further twelve months. The hardened colonial is Lance Corporal Jones, and all ex-Malayans will be pleased to learn that one of our foremost personalities is staying on to maintain our prestige in this Fort on the hill.

We welcome Signalman (Taffy) Pleavin to the Fort, and are pleased to say he has gained his place in the football team, together with Marsden and Stuart. We are anxiously waiting for the rugby season to commence, so that a few of our sturdy fellows can show their metal.

Ex-Malayans will be pleased to know that our well-known Chop-Suey Joints, the " Malay," " Stamford," " Europe," and the new one, the " London," are still going strong. Signalman Blackman has just had a short stay in hospital, and we are not sure whether one of these places or his appetite is to blame.

Congratulations.—We congratulate Sergeant Jackman on attaining that rank; Lance Sergeant Hollingshead on his admittance to the Sergeants' Mess and, last but not least, Corporal Bellis (the Rhinelander) on his promotion. Congratulations also to Lance Corporal Jones on obtaining his First Class Certificate of Education, and to Signalman Stuart on passing in English and Maths.

There is nothing much more to say this month, but we hope to publish a photograph of this little band in the next issue.

Personal.—To Wiggy, ex-1st Div. now in Sarafand. " What about it? Stuart, 500."

All our best wishes to everyone.

GEE KAY ESS.

Alexandra Depots.

The King's Birthday Parade is now but a memory, and a highly successful one from the point of view of Signals. The Fitters were congratulated on the good working of the P.A. equipment and the remainder of the Unit received a big hand from the crowd. What a line! After all, the camera cannot lie—or can it, sir? See next month's WIRE. The tinkling of medals almost drowned the band. Freddie Keeling and Sprigge did so want to do the parade, but although they turned out all ready, had to be dismissed. Better luck next year!

Technical and Educational training goes on apace. The results of the weekly tests now show a marked improvement. Luckily for the sanity of the instructors, the following " evergreen " did not come from a trainee:

Q. " How many degrees in a circle? "

A. " Depends on how big you want the circle."

The hand of welcome is extended to Lieutenant (I.P.C.) B. Bevan, who joined the Unit from India on 14th June. May your stay be as long as you want it, sir.

Farewell to Lieutenants E. W. Townsend and A. G. Paris, who sailed on the S.S. " Ranpura " on 30th June. The former is bound for Colombo, the latter continues on to Port Said. Lieutenant Townsend has left his mark in the Unit lines in the form of a rose bower. " Cracks " about " In the Bower " are now out-of-date.

Farewell and best wishes also to Lance Corporal " Chippy " Wood (Senior Wangler). He caught up with the elusive boat after only six months in the country. No wonder his " Odol " smile was well in evidence on " Godown 51."

Mr. Records has been very kind to certain deserving cases in the Unit, and congratulations are due to C.Q.M.S. Gordon, T/C.Q.M.S. Abraham, Sergeants Cook and Roberts, Lance Sergeants Norton and Funnell, Corporal Bellis, and Lance Corporals Dinneen, Burge and Duckworth on their elevation to the ranks stated. What a fluttering in the dovecot now! We wonder what Abie will do with his wrist strap. It was thought that he had sprained his wrist, but we discovered that he was just practising. (Dry work, all this congratulatory work, don't you agree, scribes?).

Congratulations to Corporal Murphy, who passed in English and Geography towards his First Class Certificate, and to Signalman Brady on being awarded his Second Class Certificate of Education. To Lance Corporal Camp on passing the Physical Training Course at Tanglin. He sprained his ankle a day too late! To Sergeant Taylor (Tiger) on his award of the " Rooty Gong " with gratuity.

Lance Corporal Carter and Signalman " Sailor " Parsons have both signed on to complete twelve years with the Colours. All eyes on Albert, now !

Continuing the roll call of the Unit, we find at Alexandra : T/C.Q.M.S. Abraham, Sergeants Jones, Penny, Millen, Taylor T. and Cook, Lance Sergeants Rankin, McAuliffe, Funnell and Norton, Corporals Murphy, Sharpe, Spriggs, Keeling, White, Thompson and Howland.

Referring to 1st Divisional Signals' WIRE notes for May, Sergeant Cook and I would like copies of R. McLarren's new publication. It must be in its sixth edition by now. Very subtle ! Corporal Sharpe would like to be remembered to Flossie. Some of the fellows are asking if the Hore-Belisha traffic lights have reached the Near East yet. They anticipate some action about the green light when one is using " Evening in Paris."

To Signalman Bond, somewhere in India. " Want a pen pal ? Ken Moir."

TOMMIE.

Changi Detachment.

Greetings once again from Changi. Routine in the Section continues to run smoothly. Work is still the order of the day out here and it certainly seems as if the " Daylight Saving Act " will have to be introduced if some of us are to complete our allotted tasks. Sergeant. Gordon still continues to worry over the Section " Bible," Signalman Ansett over the " Dhobi Van," and even the scribe himself shows signs of weariness in his everlasting search for a new design on beer bottle labels.

Sergeant Roberts has caused ructions this month in the world of concrete mixers. If his present rate of work continues, he may possibly have to move the Signal Office somewhere " up country " to give him more ground space.

Corporal Gatford, our Section Quartermaster, is also in the limelight. Firstly, for his account of the holiday camp he intends to open up for hikers. Judging by his cross-country work in connection with this he should do well in the " Boy Scout Movement." Secondly, for his services at concrete breaking, caused by falling out of bed on the morning of the King's Birthday Parade. The R.E. Foreman-of-Works in his report stated it was a good job that it wasn't a wooden floor or he may possibly have fallen through all three and damaged the foundations of " F " Block.

Some of our stalwarts are already counting the days to the Trooper, and S.D. is vanishing from the Verandah lines. (Not only ours.) Celebrations in connection with this have already begun, but strangely, the people concerned, when asked, don't seem to know what they are celebrating.

Old Malayans have been busy searching the local libraries for pronunciations of the Malay language. This is, no doubt, due to the fact that our Johnny has taken up part-time studies in this language. The other day he was heard to ask the Malabari storeman the time. It sounded like " Paula Bracket " to us. Ex-Changi-ites are reminded that there are no prizes offered for the solution to this.

Congratulations.—This month to Sergeant Gordon on his promotion to C.Q.M.S. When asked to speak in the " mike," C.Q.M.S. Gordon stated that the issue of " four-by-two " and " Blankets U.S." would continue as usual. To Lance Sergeant Roberts on his promotion to Sergeant. The lads should do well this month.

To Lance Corporal Burge on passing in Geography and Maths. (D) towards his First Class Certificate of Education. To Signalman Darlow F. (English) and Signalman Fox F. (English).

Comings and Goings.—Signalman Darlow to Hospital for a few days of rest. The few days on a diet at Tanglin soon dispelled his gloom, and he is back at work again.

Things Everyone Wants to Know.—Will the coat of many colours last three years in this climate without the crushed strawberry pattern getting soiled ?

Which N.C.O. sleeps fully dressed these days ; and is it a state of emergency ?

When will Johnny Fawcett make a bid for the Far East Table Tennis Championship ?

And lastly, the burning question of the day. Who christened the gallant Gunner and with such a nice string of initials : " R.H.M.H.S."

Tailpiece.—The scribe at this point makes his bow and presents the coveted " Grippers " Trophy to the Pay N.C.O.

SENG HUP.

Hong Kong Signal Company.

Whitfield Barracks, Kowloon.

5th July.

General.—The absence of our notes for the last two months is regretted, but as our excuse is hard work, we are sure that we shall be forgiven.

The hot season is with us again, and work does not go down so very well, although the Line Section appears to thrive on it ; they even work after hours, which is definitely not fair to the W/T and Mobile Sections. We admit there is a good deal of work here for Linemen ; indeed, they use thirty-three pints of paraffin for one blow-lamp per week—perhaps !

Congratulations to the following on their recent promotions : W.O. III Wigzell G., C.Q.M.S. Sayers F., Sergeants Page and Whitefield, Lance Sergeant Pearson, Corporals Ashford, Spare, Carter, Austin and Nation. What a nice little bunch !

Congratulations also to C.Q.M.S. Sayers on winning the Sergeants' Mess Shooting Cup. (" It was a good job that Ser-

1 Yes ! Andrews' power to give you deep-down Inner Cleanliness should be your first reason for taking this famous tonic laxative.

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geant Field was in hospital at the time," says Sergeant Field.) Sergeant Field has since rejoined, and we are endeavouring to fatten him up a bit, for his bones creak when he walks.

Our Commanding Officer, Major E. Levett, is now on a month's leave, having a well-earned rest. Captain Whatman has taken over the reins with a firm grip.

There is an epidemic of moustaches here at the moment. Led by our C.S.M. (C.S.M. Knox G.), who has the " bushiest," with Lance Sergeant Green possessing the " floweriest " a good second. C.Q.M.S. Sayers is also in the running, being endowed with a " piebald."

The Wire Letter Service.—To " Bedfordians." " Letter coming. Ex-P.S.I."

KONGITE.

Sergeants' Mess.

The age of miracles has not yet passed, for once again notes from the Sergeants' Mess may possibly become a more regular feature in the Corps Magazine. The absence of notes in the past have not been through lack of news as much as the lack of a correspondent.

General.—For the information of ex-members. Sergeants' Mess members elsewhere, and Police Records, the following W.O.s and N.C.O.s are to be found in and around the precincts of the Mess at the usual times—in some cases before (with apologies to those members who are desirous of remaining Mr. " X ") : Q.M.S. (F-of-S) Thorpe, Q.M.S. (F-of-S) Bucke, C.S.M. Knox, W.O. III Wigzell, C.Q.M.S. Sayers, Sergeants Cooke, Field, Gibson, Ient, Page, Southwell and Whitefield, Lance Sergeants Green, Brackenbury, Mc'Laren, Langley and Pearson.

Mess Functions.—As former members are aware, " Tombola " —a Sunday evening feature—still flourishes (for some), and, in fact, attendances have increased since the influx of " Jewish Refugees." (Is it due to the free refreshments ?)

On Sunday, 18th June, a very pleasant outing was arranged to " Sheko Beach." This event was voted a great success by all those who attended. (Those attending the medical practitioner afterwards for sunburn treatment may have other ideas.)

The Annual Mess Shoot, held under the poorest of weather conditions, proved very successful. Continual popping in the vicinity of the Mess lorry upset quite a number at the firing point. They were probably wondering how much the first detail would leave of the bottled nutriment. Congratulations to C.Q.M.S. Sayers on winning the Cup, and also to Sergeant (Badgy) Page, who, by careful adjustments and aim won the " Spoons, Wooden." (His first prize for shooting, he tells me.) Nice work ! (A certain " marker " has since been seen proceeding in the direction of C.Q.M.S. Sayers' home about tiffin time. We wonder why.

In conclusion, it would be appreciated if Sergeants' Messes could publish a list of their members from time to time. We should be glad to know where some of the " old stagers " are holding out.

Cheerio !

U. B. LIGHT.

Corporals' Room.

As you enter Whitfield Barracks by the Haiphong Road gate, take a left incline over the square, climb the few steps to the ground floor verandah and walk along to the room bearing the word " CORPORALS " (white lettering on a black background). Knock and enter. If you do all this, then you'll find yourself mingling with the backbone, brains and brawn of the Hong Kong Signal Company. But be sure and drop in at about half-past ten in the morning, when we are having our mid-morning tea and " Eccles," and you'll find us in our glory.

At night it is different, as our important members will not be at home. You will find them adorning the niches they have carved in the gay night life (*sic*) of the Colony, or nestling in the bosoms of their families, and John Scully would be roosting with his Section in the Old Central British School.

Those discovered in the Corporals' Room would be a few aged and futile members playing bridge for match-sticks. Yes, the morning's the time !

Look at Willie Hodge over there ! I'm sure he'd prefer a little something else than his cup of tea. " Have another tea, Willie ? By the way ; how much have you ' got me down for ' this week ? Is that all ? Can't you make it forty ? No ! Well, I don't suppose you'll have time for that cup of tea now."

And Corporal Copsey. " Hello, ' Cop.,' old man, how does it feel to be married ? " (The foolish one's been and gone and done it.) " I envy you, my dear chap. What did you say—supper ? Well, I don't know. Roast pork and pickles ? Yes, I'll be delighted ! No ; if it's all the same to you, I prefer ' Tiger ' brand." Good old Copsey ! He was married on 28th June to Miss Alexandra Nikichna. Lucky devil !

And Brown (from the C.S.O.'s office) and Dickens conversing in the corner. I wonder what's in the air. " Morning, Topper. What did I hear you say about Borneo for a holiday ? You're going to work your passage there ? How strange." (It'll do him good, take his weight down a bit.)

But where's Tich Pearson ? " Seen Tich Pearson, Mac ? No, I haven't seen orders. What ! Joined the Archangels in the Sergeants' Mess ? Any more promotions ? Spare, Carter, Austin and Nation got another one each ! Well, well ; that's nice to know. Most inconvenient ; how am I going to knock back four ' Tigers ' before eleven o'clock. Ah, well ; I'll do my best. Here's cheers ! "

PADDY

THE TERRITORIALS AND SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE

1st and 2nd London Corps Signals; Affiliated S.R. Units and 28th (London) Company, A.T.S.

Fulham House, High Street, Fulham, S.W.6.

17th July.

General.—Our Headquarters is a hive of industry, for everybody is preparing for annual training. Looking down from a first-floor window into our drill yard, one sees the whole space strewn with a heterogeneous conglomeration of things signal, and buzzing spewer engines, whirling cable drums, clattering poles and clanging jumpers can be heard. Peering among it all can be distinguished the harassed and perspiring face of a Company Quartermaster, searching for another "whatsit." Nevertheless, when the time comes, everything will be ready for the annual adventure.

Fulham House still maintains its hectic appearance on Friday evening, consequent upon the training of our Second Line Unit, which, by the way, is quickly shaping itself into what promises to be a very smart and efficient body.

On Friday, 23rd June, we lined part of the route on the occasion of the visit of H.M. The King to the Guildhall. We had an excellent muster—120 all ranks being on parade.

During the whole period of the Royal Tournament, we supplied a Cable Detachment, which took part in the T.A. Show every evening.

Sergeants' Mess.—Nothing very important has happened since our last notes. We have been discussing old times and should be happy to hear from our old friends "Sailor" Haines, Tommy Jessop, Bill Sewell and 'Arry 'All ('im 'oo 'ad a wedding present anded to 'im at Fulham 'Ouse). We were pleased to meet your Missus, Harry, and wee Johnny Smith and his fair lady at Aldershot on the occasion of the Old Comrades' Meeting last June.

We should like to take this rather belated opportunity of congratulating both C.S.M.s Freddy Creighton and "Dick" Whittingham on receiving the M.B.E. Their Unit, 1st Anti-Aircraft Divisional Signals, is to be congratulated. May we parody a line of one of Bransby Williams' pieces and say, "Some Units gets the fat . . ."

Howlers.—Definition of electrons and protons: "Little pieces of nothing revolving around another piece of nothing of opposite charge."

"Hold an excited ebonite rod above the electroscope."

"An electric charge is due to two foreign bodies being rubbed together so causing friction."

"Declination is when the magnetic and geographic poles meet at places and do not coincide."

EFFEMMA.

42nd (East Lancs.) Divisional Signals.

Norton Street, Brooks' Bar, Manchester.

14th July.

We apologise for our absence from these pages during the last issue or so of this magazine. Our scribes have not been able to function recently for various reasons, but a new contributor has been appointed, and we hope to provide a regular service in future.

Camp.—Camp was held this year at Halton, near Lancaster, from 26th May to 11th June, and for once we had fine weather; there was no rain till the last day. This was a great help as we had approximately a thousand men under canvas of whom not more than one-third had been to camp before.

The Waggon Park, which usually becomes a quagmire after the first three or four days, preserved a rock-like character, enabling us to get our vehicles on the move without difficulty. Naturally, transport movement being easy, it so happened that we didn't have to use the transport much.

An unfamiliar sight at this Camp was the new battle dress. Comments about appearance are reserved, but there is no doubt that the new uniform has made a recruit's life a degree easier than before.

It was curious to see the white faces of some of our sunburned troops. (This is not an Irish Bull.) The white ointment, which our M.O. applied, became a paste and stuck! Apart from a few unfortunate cases of sunstroke, the weather did us all a lot of good.

Sports.—Camp Sports were held on the first Thursday and Friday, and some very good individual performances recorded—especially on the part of some of the recruits. The prizes were distributed by Sir Frederick West, C.B.E., our Hon. Colonel.

Guest Night.—We were glad to welcome Colonel R. S. Newton, M.C., D.L., A.M.I.E.E., a former C.O., and other old friends in Sir Albert Smith, Deputy Mayor of Stretford, and Captain Andrews, T.D.

Training.—Having doubled our War Establishment, we are now busily engaged in the task of "splitting them up." Details are not yet available, but it seems certain that we shall lose many old friends to the Duplicate Unit, which is commanded by our ex-second-in-command, Lieutenant-Colonel K. F. Woodham. Captain C. V. Close, whom a few may remember during the War, in the old R.E. Signal Service, has been appointed Adjutant. We wish them both the best of luck.

Congratulations.—To Majors F. A. Walter and C. N. Stafford on their promotions to that rank during camp.

We also congratulate Lieutenant Colin Kerr, who was presented with a daughter just before camp, but, nevertheless, came to camp with us and did his job. Good work!

Golf.—Our golf team is taking part in the 42nd Division Golf Championships shortly. We have drawn the 39th A.A. Battalion, who beat us two years ago, but we hope to give them a run for their money.

Cricket.—Lieutenant A. G. Gilbody, Cheshire county cricket player, is endeavouring to get a Unit team together and arrange matches. We haven't been able to do anything yet, but have some fine material if we do manage to get some games.

Shooting.—The Annual Shoot between the Officers and Sergeants took place at Crowden Rifle Range on Sunday, 9th July, and in spite of the rain, the Meeting was a great success. The Sergeants won the rifle shooting quite easily, and as revolvers were not taken this year, the officers lost the contest. We also missed the annual performance of "Two-gun Frank"—always a big draw.

We hope all our colleagues in other Signal Units will have a good camp, but don't recommend Manchester. It is still raining!

NESTOR.

Advertisements!

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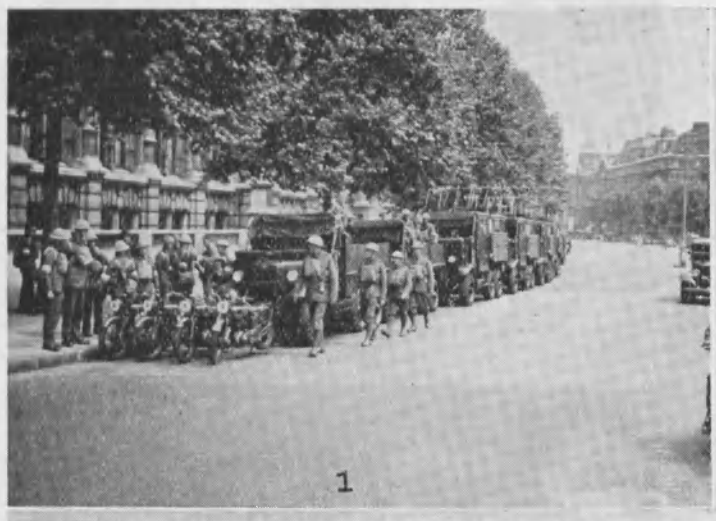
WILL OUR READERS PLEASE SUPPORT THEM IN RETURN?

★

LONDON CORPS SIGNALS (T.A.)

Hyde Park Review, Sunday, 2nd July.



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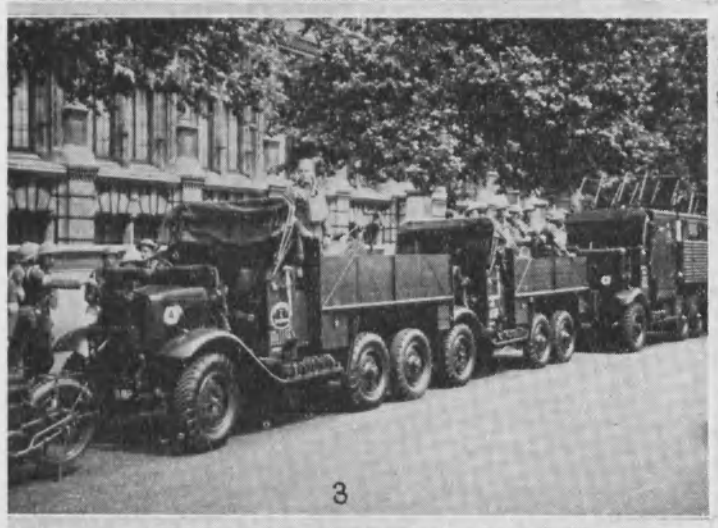

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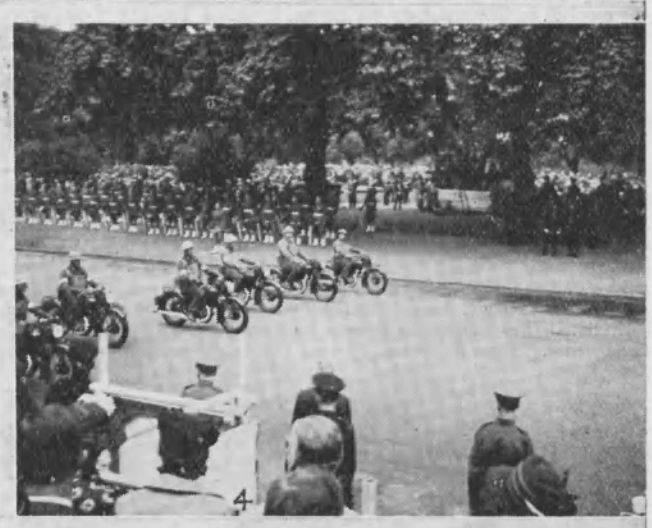

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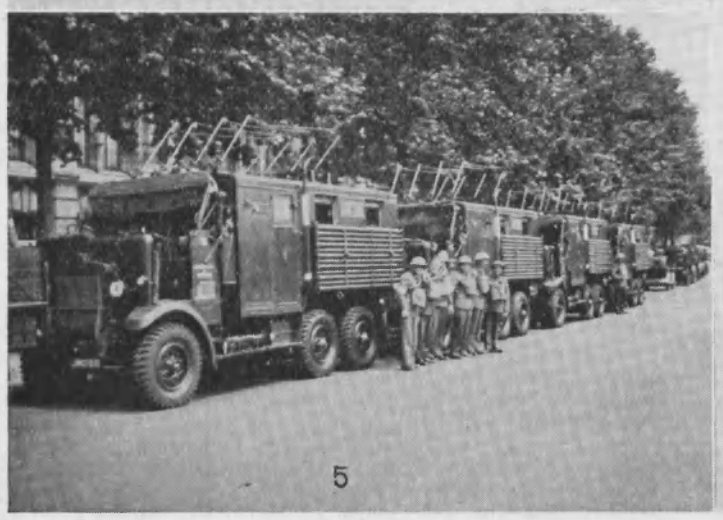

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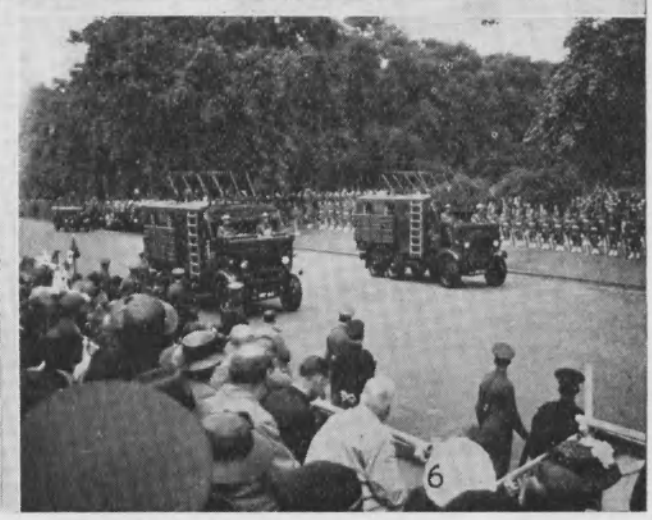

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1. London Corps Signals Detachment.
2. Captain J. G. Christopher, Commanding Detachment.
3. Cable Layers.
4. Despatch Riders.
5. No. 3 Sets.
6. No. 3 Sets Passing Saluting Point.

43rd (Wessex) Divisional Signals.

Headquarters.

The Priory, Exeter.
July.

Editorial.—The training of the large number of new entrants proceeds apace. In some cases, a good number of these recruits have been passed out of their foot and arms drill Squads, and temporarily posted to Sections. Judging from the present rate of progress, a very fair number will be fit to function in Sections at annual training for the various Exercises.

The last series of weekend camps is now about to take place. The Drill Halls of the two Units are hives of industry, and groups of men can be seen in every available room or hall. They are keen and earnest to find out all that is required of them as members of the Corps.

MERCURY.

Peeling Potatoes. A little job for the recruits.

Somebody has to do it!

No. 1 (Plymouth) Company.

York Street Drill Hall, Devonport.

The Weekend Camp.—On going to press last month we were about to hold a weekend camp, and as we go to press now we are about to hold our second one.

The invasion of Cornwood proved a very successful venture. Cornwood is accustomed to being invaded by the Company annually, but never in such numbers.

The increase in recruits, nearly all of whom were present, necessitated our using the field alongside the Inn grounds, where tents were pitched in order to accommodate the officers and Company. Gone are the days when the former occupied the rose garden (where the midnight sun on the sundial informed them of the time so efficiently). Neither can the hut any longer house the remainder of the Company.

The officers were glad to renew their acquaintance with the *cuisine* of Mr. Sandover. The dinner had only one interruption. A Signalman knocked at the door with dramatic suddenness, and stood breathless at the side of the Company Commander to deliver a written message. Those seated at the table were convinced that either the enemy had arrived at Divisional H.Q. a day earlier than expected, or that the Wireless Section had got in touch with their Section Commander, who had insisted on going to the South of France as soon as he heard there was a weekend camp. Strange to relate, neither of these forebodings proved correct. The actual message was far more dramatic and to the point. It was, in fact, a report from 2nd Lieutenant R. W. Fennamore on the state of "B" Cable's stores. Readers will have gathered that Mr. Fennamore was not present during the early part of the meal. He came in about half-an-hour late, but was allowed to have some dinner (the state of his stores, we understand, being satisfactory).

"Are we through?"

The usual weekend rain began sometime during the night, when the writer of these facetious notes was sleeping. One might have thought the sun, on seeing such a host of enthusiastic Territorials, all eager to do a day's work, would have greeted us at dawn, but the clerk of the weather has much to learn yet in regard to true patriotism. Nevertheless, the sun did come out later during the day, and from about eleven o'clock onwards it was very pleasant.

The Exercise included a situation with a Division and a Signal Centre and two Brigades forward. The Scheme proved to be just what was wanted in order to give the Sections a shake down. The fuller benefits of the Scheme will be seen at the coming weekend camp.

The recruits acquitted themselves very well under their various drill instructors, besides showing their worth in various jobs around the camp, including the setting up and dismantling of the camp itself.

The Company was visited by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel A. F. S. Fane, and the Adjutant, Captain R. Webb. The officers of the Company present were: Major W. J. L. Cornelius, the Company Commander, Captain P. W. Shaw, Lieutenant G. K. S. Edwards and 2nd Lieutenants R. D. Nash, R. W. Fennamore and W. McD. Porter.

The Company was very sorry to learn of the accident to Signalman Smith P. D., on his way back from the Exercise. We hope that his recovery will be a speedy one.

General.—The R.S.M. paid a visit to the Company on 10th July, when he passed out over sixty recruits at drill. We hope a further number will be passed out during the next weekend camp. The Squads are now graded according to their general ability, and much competition exists to move up one.

Congratulations.—To the following on their promotion or appointment to the ranks indicated: Lance Corporals: Signalmen Skinner P. C., Newcombe S. R. and Hookway J. H. U/Lance Lance Corporals Signalmen Bennett L. C., Clift F. H., Harris F. J. T., Lester W. H. J. S. and Johns F. H.

ONECOY.

44th (Home Counties) Divisional Signals.

No. 2 Company.

Brighton.

16th July.

No. 2 Company, 44th (H.C.) Divisional Signals, T.A., who only ten days ago moved from the Drill Hall in Gloucester Road, Brighton, to the Queen's Park Hall, Tower Road, made a further move on Sunday, 16th July. This time, however, it was for their fortnight's annual training at Dibgate Camp, near Shorncliffe.

The Company, with its attached Sections, left in two parties—the main party by rail from Brighton Station on the 8.14 a.m., and the remainder with the Unit stores by road.

All ranks are appreciative of the honour of the visit being made to them on Tuesday, 18th July, by H.R.H. The Princess Royal, Colonel-in-Chief of the Corps.

G. B.

No. 32 Construction Section, L. of C. Signals

5, Springfield Road, Brighton.

July.

Since our last notes, recruiting has been very satisfactory and we are now fifty strong. Only a few more and we shall be able to say, "full up." Training is in full swing, and our drill night on Tuesday is always well attended.

We have now settled down in our new Headquarters and are using the garden for Section parades and rifle drill. We gather from our P.S.I.'s face on drill nights that we seem to be shaping like soldiers. Brighton A.R.P. Headquarters have been very generous in giving us the use of the Preston Road School playground for foot drill. The caretaker of the school is ex-C.S.M. Hibbert, late of Quetta.

There is still a lot to be done before September, but as things are progressing we shall be well under way by then. Everybody is looking forward to our first camp with our parent Unit, and the burning question at present is, "Where are we going?" This information is in great demand by the single men, and we married crocks wonder why. Don't worry, Hubert, she'll wait for you—we hope!

Congratulations.—Congratulations to our P.S.I., Sergeant Collington R. M., and his wife on presenting the Section with the first baby—a son—Edward, on 17th July. Oh, boy, can he shout? Just like his daddy!

Our first recruit, Signalman Prindable G. C. G., was a close competitor for this honour, as his wife had a baby girl, Janet, on 5th July. Hard luck, Charlie, but our congratulations all the same.

Sport.—Although a new Unit, we have found the limelight at football, for our P.S.I. is now on the Sussex County List as a Class II referee.

JUMBO.

48th (South Midland) Divisional Signals.

Cateswell House, Hall Green, Birmingham, 28.

13th July.

Our good friend "Barleux" has, I see, been holding the fort in our brief absence from these pages, by keeping a note of the important news items. But now that he has in fact become an officer (congratulations, sir!), what is to become of that almost proverbial masterpiece known as "Plain Tales"? Will the famous characters featured therein be now elevated to a higher social plane? We suggest that "Inspector Faceache" is deserving of no less a rank than that of "Super." "Hermoine" might be awarded the "O.M.S." (Order of Mud Slingers), whilst "Ukann" himself should be satisfied with nothing less than a knighthood. We shall watch developments in our next thrilling instalment.

We note that the 2nd/48th Signals are about to move to their new H.Q. in Colebank Road, which is just round the corner. The Unit is under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel E. A. James, and Major T. J. Evans, O.B.E., M.C., has arrived to take up his duties as the Adjutant.

The Unit is up to strength, and the three Companies on parade on Monday nights already show a very impressive degree of smartness, considering the short time they have been under training. Promotion has come swiftly to most of their junior N.C.O.s, but as many possess O.T.C. experience they are already well equipped for such posts. With these remarks we must leave the Second Line Unit to provide their own Unit notes, and have no doubt that in due course their scribe will make his appearance in these columns.

The parent Unit continues with its scheduled training programmes in spite of somewhat cramped conditions. All Companies have held their week-end camps and fired the Course on the open range at Kingsbury. Preparations are now all directed to annual training. The new three-rank drill has been more or less mastered, though some of the old soldiers might exclaim, to paraphrase a quotation, "Behold they have taught us to form fours in pure waste!" Pending the receipt of the drill book, there are a few mysteries of the new movements to be explained.

The increase in personnel has brought about so many attendant changes that it is impossible to record all of them here. It is very pleasing to note among a host of strangers quite a number of familiar faces of those who have returned to the fold.

On Saturday, 15th July, the Unit will take part in a National Service Rally at Handsworth Park. Our contribution will consist of a technical demonstration and a display by the Display Team.

Warning.—Risking the usual protest, the remainder of these notes is being given over to D.R. notes.

Despatch Riders' Notes.—The Despatch Riders' Club, under the management of a new committee and secretary, is showing signs of renewed activity. With the consent of the O.C., 2nd/48th Signals, the D.R.s of that Unit are joining forces with the parent Unit in club activities. With this greatly increased strength the club should be in a strong position to give an account of itself among the local civilian clubs. The present secretary is Signalman R. K. Johnson.

The Display Team has been worked very hard during the past few weeks, having appeared at seven different functions, commencing with the Witney Legion Carnival on Whit Monday, where the team received a generous welcome from the organisers and the public, and two very successful performances were given. Some of the shows were attended by unrehearsed sensations. At Witney, Cotton, driving off the "runaway" combination, found his brakes out of action, and with considerable presence of mind did the only thing possible to prevent an accident—he turned the outfit completely over—much to the astonishment of the concealed sidecar passenger, Signalman

THE DISPLAY TEAM IN ACTION.

1. Sergeant Goffe in the "Barrel Charge."

2. The Fire Jump. Somewhere in the smoke is Sergeant Goffe. Standing by (left to right) Signalman Field, Sergeant Wilkinson and Mr. Brown.

3. The Fan. Not looking too comfortable.

4. Surf Boards. Signalman Gunn towing Lance Corporal Spencer.

5. The Arch Jump. Sergeant Goffe on "Alice," through Signalmen Dawes and Allen holding up Signalman Field. On the ground is Signalman Chilton.

Stockley, who, however, managed to remain concealed, thus preserving the mighty secret.

On two other occasions, machines caught fire during the "fire jump," but the fire was extinguished without damage.

The remaining fixtures so far arranged are :

15th July.	(Afternoon) National Service Rally, Handsworth Park.
	(Evening) Shirley Carnival.
21st ,,	Handsworth Flower Show.
22nd ,,	,, ,,
23rd ,,	A.C.U. National Rally at Donnington Park.
2nd Aug.	Cotswold Agricultural Show at Bourton-on-the-Water.
7th ,,	Spalding F.C. Carnival.
9th Sept.	Tamworth Carnival.

Last month several members of the team took the opportunity of watching the Catterick team perform at the Royal Tournament and to visit their stand.

Congratulations to Corporal Smith on gaining his second "tape," and also to Corporal Smith, Lance Corporal Hadnett and Signalman Johnson R. K. on obtaining their D.II rating.

The Funny Column.—Overheard on the occasion of the French officers' visit.

T.A. officer, conducting party, and anxious to display his knowledge of French : *"Et voila le Telegraph sans fils."*
French officer : "Oh, yes, you mean wireless."

Futilities from the Press.—Report of A.R.P. Demonstration at B——.

"A.R.P. demonstrators yesterday decided to show how to extinguish an incendiary bomb. The fuses were lit and everyone stood by. Nothing happened. Then the bomb was surrounded by boiling oil-soaked rags and magnesium powder, but still it refused to co-operate. Finally, experts got to work with an oxy-acetylene welding plant under it—and the bomb burst into flames. Up rushed the demonstrators and promptly put it out."

GETCHER.

49th (West Riding) Divisional Signals.

Gibraltar Barracks, Leeds, 2.

July.

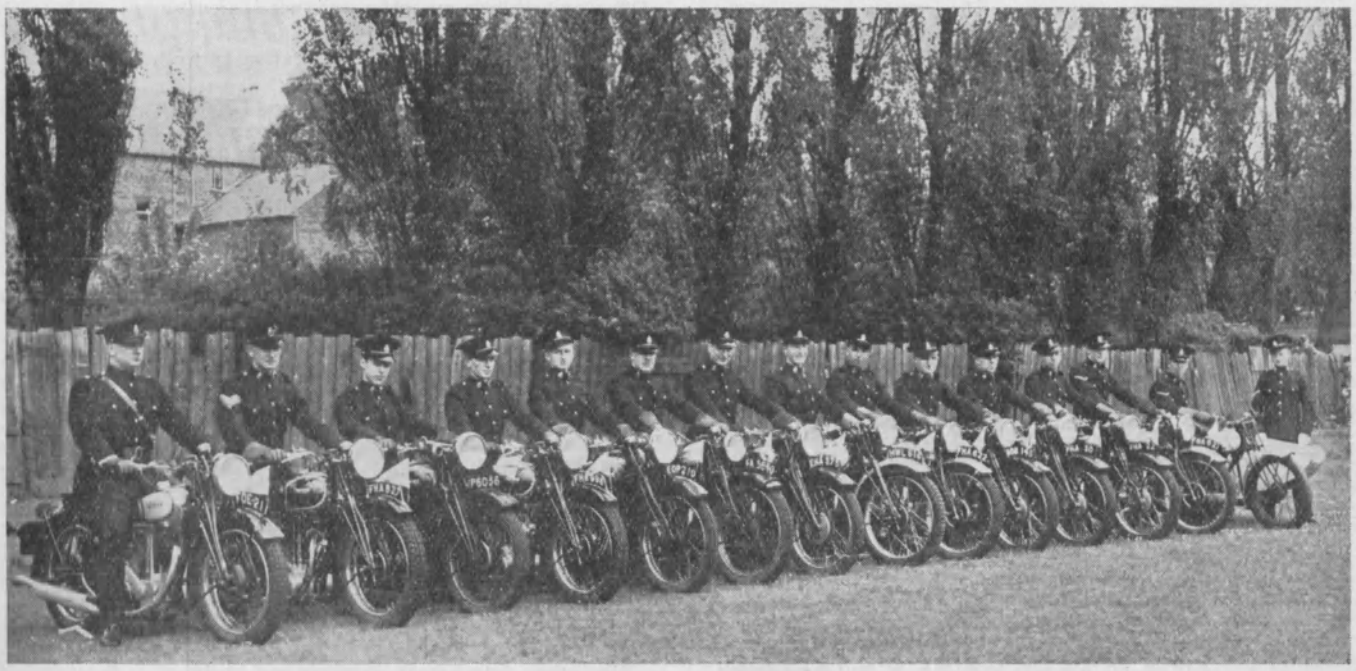
Looking Forward.—By the time these notes are in print this Unit will be at Skegness for their two weeks' of annual training, together with our Second Line Unit, always providing that the international tension and the weather both moderate. We shall doubtless enjoy a strenuous but welcome change from civil life. We say strenuous because during the last few years it has been our practice to arrive in camp on Sunday and have a trial Scheme on Monday, which, to say the least of it, makes everyone get a move on.

This year the majority will be having their first taste of camp life, and everyone of the new chums we have spoken to is looking forward to camp life, prepared to rough it, and do his fair share. Moreover, we have been told many times by new recruits that they had no idea the Territorial Army was so interesting or they would have joined years ago. A nice thought if a trifle belated.

Our Second Line Unit.—The official title of the Second Line Unit is "Duplicate 49th Divisional Signals," more popularly known as the "Carbon Copy," and it is high time they had something to say in the WIRE. When we made the usual enquiries, "Owt for t'WIRE ?" R.Q.M.S. Joynes lowered his glass, smiled, and said, "Oh, just say we are going ahead, thriving and happy, and all that sort of thing," which is admirable but vague.

Incidentally, he told us that he expects at least one indent to come through any day now. That is, of course, apart from the six flags small and three miles of cable which it is alleged he has already received and has hidden away in the stores. At any rate he can with truth use that well-known "Q" formula, "We have none."

Night Exercises.—We are becoming accustomed to missing a night's sleep, for just lately we have had two Night Schemes in quick succession. The first on 24th-25th June, when the officers of the "Duplicate 49th" acted as Directing Staff for the "49th." This proved of great value to new officers and also to the recruits of the First Line Unit. The Scheme lasted twenty-four hours



THE 48TH DIVISIONAL SIGNALS DISPLAY TEAM, 1939.

Left to Right—2nd Lieutenant J. F. Timings, Sergeant Goffe C., Signalmen White B., Culy E. F., Gunn S. D., Dawes R., Underhill P., Johnson R. K., Allen L. W., Darrall P., Chilton H., Stockley T. E., Lance Corporals Smith H., Hadnett R., Spencer J.

Missing—Signalmen Cotton, Greathead, Newton, Field, Harvey, Mottram, Wilkinson, Colour Sergeant Wilkinson J. F., Lance Corporal Spencer R. A.

with a four-hour break at midnight, and took place in the beautiful country around Byland Abbey. At the conference afterwards, Lieutenant-Colonel Jackson, M.C., T.D., had a few things to say, which no doubt will be noted in the future.

The second all-night Exercise, 8th-9th July, was of a more ambitious nature, for we worked in the presence of the General Staff. All Units in the 49th Division provided a Skeleton Detachment, and we worked in co-operation with the North Midland Corps Signals. Despite torrential rain and improvised transport, we managed to be at the appointed places at the correct times, and worked throughout the night "damp but cheerful," to quote 2nd Lieutenant G. I. Bray, O.C. "B" Cable Section, whom we met standing in four inches of water looking pensively at a dry joint. Need we say that the cable in question was not "49th"?

Colonel R. E. Barker, C.S.O., remarked during a miniature cloudburst, that it would be described as a nice shower "out East," and that conditions provided a fine test for equipment. His only concession to the weather was a pair of goloshes, but the pipe seemed to need more attention than usual.

Welcome to the A.T.S.—The 20th West Riding Company, A.T.S., is now established at Gibraltar Barracks, attached to the 49th (W.R.) Divisional Signals. The Company, under the command of Commandant A. I. Bray, is having regular lectures and drill, but owing to the lack of space these have sometimes been held away from the barracks.

Together with members from other Companies they have supplied six cooks each day for three weeks to assist in the cooking for the troops taking part in the Northern Command Tattoo, and also three clerks were on duty at the Tattoo Information Bureau.

Unfortunately, the Company is not going to Strensall for the official A.T.S. camp, but instead the Company Commandant has obtained the use of Arthington Camp from the "49th," and everyone agreed that it was a very successful venture. Drills commence again in September.

The 49th Divisional Signals extend a hearty welcome to the A.T.S., and when the drill nights are over and the entertainments commence we hope to see them at the Annual Ball.

AQUA.

52nd (Lowland) Divisional Signals.

Hedderwick Camp, West Barns, Dunbar, East Lothian.

17th July.

It will be observed from the date that we have not been very punctual in submitting these notes, but there has been method in the writer's madness, as he felt that by delaying this epistle there would be a better opportunity of obtaining copy, for the Units have moved out to Dunbar for their annual training.

Before describing this year's camp, it is, we think, better to take events in chronological order, and include our recent experiences in connection with weekend camps and the like.

Weekend Schemes as such have not been a strong feature during the past month as preparation has been necessary for camp, but on 24th June the original Unit took part in a Divisional Exercise in the Hamilton area which, though not exactly designed for those who required sleep, was certainly encouraging so far as training was concerned. The Scheme was attended by the General Officer Commanding, 52nd (L.) Division, and his three Brigadiers.

During this Scheme, all Sections were in action for about twenty-four hours without a break but, despite this, the morale was splendid, particularly late on Sunday night.

Now to the task of describing the beginning of our first camp as a double Unit. As might be expected, the camp site had to be very much larger than before, and we required two trains to transport us instead of the usual one. The most striking aspect of camp this year is the genuine cheerfulness and enthusiasm of the latest recruits, numbering about 700.

The weather has been very kind to us since our arrival, but we must not speak too soon, as there are still three days left for our notorious Scottish weather to do its worst, particularly during "Fair" time. It rained consistently in one long deluge for three or four days prior to our departure from Glasgow, and we can perhaps regard that as a good omen. We left the city in a downpour, but on arriving at Dunbar we found glorious sunshine, which was instantly reflected in the faces of the personnel.

Congratulations are due to Sergeant-Major McNeil on his appointment to A/R.S.M. for the Duplicate Unit, to Sergeants Roberts and Shields on promotion to C.Q.M.S.; and to all other N.C.O.s and men who have recently been promoted. Congratulations are also tendered to our R.S.M., Sergeant Gould, on his promotion to C.Q.M.S. in his parent Unit.

We are glad to note that the Establishment of our Band has been increased to twenty-two, thus making even greater efficiency possible with "Johnnie Cope" at Reveille.

L.

53rd (Welsh) Divisional Signals.

14th July.

There is, naturally, only one topic of conversation at Signal House these days, and no prize is offered for guessing the answer. The "Q" side at the moment is having its usual pre-camp rush and deserve the sympathy they will not get.

Sections now up to War Establishment for the first time are proceeding with their training methodically and efficiently, and should be quite useful by the time they arrive in camp.

A praiseworthy feature of this year's training is the number of voluntary Week end Courses held. About twenty D.R.s were again out on a Map Reading Exercise on Sunday, 19th June, and approximately fifty D.R.s of both the 53rd (W.) Divisional Signals and the 38th (S.W.) Divisional Signals will repeat this Exercise on Sunday, 16th July.

Officers of the Unit attended a Wireless Course at Cefn Mabley Park on 18th June, at which the Divisional Commander, Major-General B. T. Wilson, D.S.O., was present.

Lieutenant-Colonel W. G. Trice conducted an interesting Traffic Scheme at Signal House with the officers on 2nd July. The Scheme was both of technical value and of great interest. Every officer carried out the duties of each member of a Signal Office and, believe me, they were not spared.

No. 2 Company were out with the No. 1 Sets on 24th/25th June, and had excellent communication between Signal House and Cefn Mabley Park.

This Company provided a Section at Malvern on Thursday, 29th June, to participate in an Exercise by the 102nd Field Regiment, designed to study the new R.A. organisation. Captain A. W. Bartholomew accompanied the Section.

Obituary.—It is with regret that we record the death of ex-C.Q.M.S. (R.E.) (Bob) Williams on 4th July, at Cardiff Royal Infirmary, after a long illness.

A first rate sportsman with a particularly long period of Territorial service to his credit, he will be very much missed by all.

THE LEEK.

1st Anti-Aircraft Divisional Signals.

The first detachments are now back from their period of deployment, and, although one might have expected heavy hearts, owing to more soldiering than was expected when they first joined the T.A., there was, instead, a genuine feeling of regret that the month had come to an end.

After the initial spate of activity to get the machinery into motion, attention was devoted to social activities and, under the auspices of the admirable C.S.M. Creighton, No. 1 Detachment organised an excellent dance band and held two very successful dances.

The other detachment were no less lively at their country residences. C.S.M. Whittingham led the revelries in a palatial hut at Chatham, while Tilbury were fortunate enough to acquire an over-sized grand piano. C.S.M. Price, who organised the festivities at Tilbury, maintained a strict watch on the piano on which no glass, empty or full, was allowed to stand, and no aspirant, except trade-boarded pianists, were allowed to play.

Members of the Unit, who recall with nausea the nostalgic influence of Tilbury Moat in other days, may be glad to know that owing to the good offices of the R.E., Tilbury now boasts of all the comforts of home. The farewell celebrations of No. 1 Detachment were attended by two highly-placed Commanding Officers, and the high spot of the evening was reached when the whole of the detachment performed, with all seriousness, the new and complicated movements of "Boomps-a-Daisy." This behaviour was, perhaps, not in strict accordance with the established precepts of that exclusive part of Kensington in which No. 1 Detachment is situated. However, the only notable altercation that occurred during the month was with Lady "S.'s" butler, who insisted on removing our coke lorry from the vicinity of his elegant portal.

We must place on record the very generous attitude of the brewers, who supplied us with all kinds of bar games.

We welcome to commissioned rank W. A. Humphries and G. W. Hyde, and trust they will have a long and happy service with the Unit. We have known the latter gentleman, of course, for a long time as Sergeant Geoffrey Hyde.

Together with the Commanding Officer, the following officers had the honour of being presented to His Majesty at the Levee held on Tuesday, 18th July: 2nd Lieutenants Simpson, Peel and Anson.

1st Anti-Aircraft Divisional Signals Cadet Corps.

July was a busy month for us in every way and, apart from the preparations for camp, we had our annual official inspection, and also our "Colour Presentation" ceremony. This was held in St. Stephen's Church, Rochester Row. In addition to our own troops, we had with us representative detachments of the Legion of Frontiersmen, the V.A.D., South Oxfordshire Cadets, the 8th East Anglian Cadet Field Regiment, R.A., 10th London Cadet Corps, Scottish Highland Volunteer Cadet Corps of Lowestoft, and the Hampstead Air Cadet Squadron—392 all ranks. The church, which was filled to its utmost capacity of 600, was specially decorated for the occasion.

The Dedication and Blessing of the Cadet Unit's Standards was performed by the Rev. G. J. Meek, Anglican Cadet Chaplain, assisted by the Rev. J. Moffett, B.A., Presbyterian Cadet Chaplain. The Union Jack Standard was presented to us by Brigadier-General E. Morton, C.B., on behalf of the Legion of Frontiersmen, and the St. Andrew's Cross Standard by Colonel G. C. Wickens, C.B.E., T.D., Honorary Colonel of the Cadet Unit, and late Commanding Officer of our Parent Unit, T.A.

Colonel P. R. Simner, C.B., D.S.O., D.L., Commandant, Cadet Force, County of London, was present, with Lieutenant-Colonel G. J. Morley Peel, M.B.E., T.D., and Major A. Hemsley, M.B.E., T.D., and a number of other officers from our Parent Unit.

After the service, the parade was inspected by the senior officers present, and the salute at the march-past was taken by Colonel G. C. Wickins, C.B.E., T.D. With traditional ceremony, and preceded by Pipers, our Colours were laid up at Headquarters, 56, Regency Street.

On the Tuesday following, the Cadet Corps had its official annual inspection at Headquarters. This was taken by the Colonel Commandant of Cadets for the County, assisted by Colonel G. C. Wickins and Lieutenant-Colonel G. J. Morley Peel, who all expressed themselves delighted with all they had seen. We are proud to be able to state that, during the past Cadet year, enlistments in His Majesty's Forces from the Cadet Corps include: one to Royal Navy; one to Royal Marines; sixteen to the T.A. (including three to our Parent Unit); and six to the R.A.F. This proves that the Cadet Corps is doing its bit for King and Empire. We hope to do even better in the months that lie ahead.

Before concluding this little article, tribute should be paid to our Parent Unit for all the kindness they have consistently shown us since our inception and, in particular, to the sympathy and support given to us by Colonel G. C. Wickins, C.B.E., T.D., and Lieutenant-Colonel G. J. Morley Peel, and also Major A. Hemsley. To one and all who have assisted us, including those fine Warrant Officers, B.S.M. Pitz F. G. and C.S.M. Price G., we wish to place on record our grateful thanks. Such help has enabled us to pass the century mark, and to establish ourselves well for the future.

2nd Anti-Aircraft Divisional Signals.

Drill Hall, Derby Road, Nottingham.

11th July.

Training.—At the time of writing the first batch or "wave" have just completed their period of embodiment. The second "wave" reported for service on Sunday, 9th July, and have now occupied their respective stations and war sites.

We are pleased to say that no official "raspberries" have been received so far. On the contrary, the various Staff appear to be very satisfied with the work accomplished by the first "wave." Had there been any continuous complaints it would hardly have surprised us, although it may have disheartened those concerned a little, as the men are mostly untrained.

Embodiment, coming as it has done so soon after the Unit's formation, is a great experience both for the T.A. soldier as well as the Staff. Very few grouses have been heard, and everybody has answered the call of service in a very fine way. Had it come a year hence, there is no doubt that we could have turned out a fully-trained Unit. As it is, most of the Unit will gain a little practical experience of Signals work before even obtaining a trade rating.

Trade Boards are assembling at frequent intervals and the results are published in a separate paragraph. It speaks very well for the type of man recruited that such good results have been obtained at this early stage of the Unit's history. The writer has been able to make a tour of the Unit's stations and war sites since writing last, and can now definitely state, with pleasure, that the above is true of all Sections of the Unit.

Accommodation and Dress.—Accommodation varies greatly at all our permanent stations. At Rotherham (H.Q., No. 2 Company), where Nos. 6 and 8 Sections are stationed, they seem to be nicely accommodated, and have their Officers' and Sergeants' Messes and also a Unit Club, as well as a fairly spacious Drill Hall with lecture rooms.

At Leeds (No. 5 Section) quarters in Carlton Barracks have been allotted, and there is sufficient sleeping accommodation for the men called up. At all places, however, the accommodation is temporary, pending building operations. Our Leeds Section, has the beneficial services of a P.S.I. (C.S.M. Benson H.), who, by the way, has a roving commission to travel between Leeds Rotherham and Hull, owing to shortage of P.S.I.s at the latter stations.

A word about dress. Here in Nottingham the men are dressed in the newly-introduced battle dress, but there is no S.D., despite a recent Army instruction to the contrary. No. 2 Company are luckier and have service dress and no battle dress. We should look a curious Unit if a full Unit parade was possible and ordered.

There are many diverse opinions as to the suitability of the new battle dress for the T.A. soldier. Maybe other A.A. Signal Units have these opinions as well, and we shall leave it at that.

Social Life.—As already stated, No. 2 Company, Rotherham, can boast of an Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. An invitation from the latter to visit them early in August has been received by the Secretary of the Nottingham Sergeants' Mess, and it is hoped that we shall have a good evening together on that occasion. The bar in the Company Club here is well patronised by all ranks on drill nights. There is not sufficient accommodation to allot a separate room to the Sergeants for use as a Mess.

It was pleasing to note the reference to Mr. R. Hyder in the July notes of "B" Corps Signals, Karachi. The latter wishes to thank those of that Unit who remember him for their reference to himself. He says he still considers himself unlucky in view of the fact that he now has to pay Income Tax. No recall to service has yet been received, but as a Reservist this is expected in due course.

Promotions.—It is always a pleasure to write when there are promotions to report and to tender our congratulations. Here are the latest and good luck to them all. Pride of place certainly goes to 2nd Lieutenant D. Hayes on being commissioned from the ranks on 27th June—the first in this Unit. We also have the following: C.Q.M.S. Biddulph N.; Sergeants Woodger F. C., Page A. C., Danks C., Holloly H.; Lance Sergeants Holgate J.,

Bradbury G., Freeman W., Jackson J.; Corporals Howells W., Locker L., Marshall E., Causebrook W., Brown W., Mundell G., Sills B., Stephenson G.; Lance Corporals Nicholson R., Troop J., Eastwood F., Holling D., Holder F., Wilkinson R., Dixon K., Edison L., Mais A., McGrath H.

Until the Unit is at full strength in N.C.O.s this paragraph should be a full one and a good stand-by for the Unit correspondent.

Trade Tests.—Like promotions, another pleasing paragraph to write. The following are now tradesmen as shown, having qualified at recent Trade Boards: FITTER SIGNALS: C.Q.M.S. Pilgrim H. and Signalman Swan L. OPERATORS KEYBOARD: Lance Corporals Mais A. and Troop J., Signalmen Adams F., Brady D., King W., Ripley C., Moore A., Braithwaite G., Wilson K., Boden H. INSTRUMENT MECHANIC: Signalman Sellars D. LINEMEN: Sergeants Danks C. and Holloly, Corporals Causebrook W. and Marshall E., Signalmen Palmer B., Brook C., Emmott S., Farthing J., Gledhill E., Haigh G., Holloran J., Holroyd J., Newman T. and Varsh D. OPERATORS SWITCHBOARD: Lance Sergeant Holgate J., Corporal Locker L., Lance Corporals Nicholson R., Eastwood F., Holling D. and Holder F., Signalmen Lazenby T., Askew A. and Cadogan L. CLERK: Signalman Frost C. DESPATCH RIDERS: Signalmen Simmett S., Ball A. and Oliver A. COOK: Lance Sergeant Bradbury G.

Births.—The family of Sergeant Coates W. has increased by the birth of a son, Terence James, born at Nottingham, on 23rd May. Best wishes to Sergeant and Mrs. Coates on this happy event.

Here and There.—During a recent visit to one of the Section war sites, we heard the following. The Sergeant (Supt., Signal Office), having detailed one of his little band to clean out the fireplace, discovered the latter doing the job in proper housemaid style, complete with gloves. Later, the same individual was discovered sweeping the floor, again complete with gloves. Perhaps we ought to ask for a special issue of suitable gloves!

To assist the training of our Keyboard Operators, we have received two part-worn Underwood typewriters from Messrs. Bransons, Ltd., of Leicester. Our sincere thanks are due to this public-spirited firm for their useful help at this time.

During May we received a very good 50-line Switchboard from Messrs. Ericsons, Ltd., of Beeston for training our Switchboard Operators. Again our thanks are due.

The Orderly-Room Sergeant would be grateful for the loan of a good typist—lady preferred.

G. G.

3rd Anti-Aircraft Divisional Signals.

Unit Headquarters.

42, Palmerston Place, Edinburgh, 12.

17th July.

Births.—Everything else starts this way, more or less, so why not the 3rd Anti-Aircraft Divisional Signals (T.A.). The first whimpering evidence of this new Unit's arrival was heard during January of this year, and the cries have already developed into a man-sized roar. The Companies, namely, No. 1 Company at Newcastle, No. 3 G.O.R. Section (Detachment No. 1 Company) at Middlesbrough, No. 2 Company at Edinburgh, and No. 3 Company at Glasgow, are well under way, and have been working with a full Establishment for some time now.

The C.O. of the Unit is Lieutenant-Colonel J. F. Darby, T.D., until recently O.C., Edinburgh Detachment of G.H.Q. Signals, S.R. The second-in-command is Major D. MacGregor, D.C.M.; O.C., No. 1 Company is Major T. S. Mensley, T.D.; O.C., No. 2 Company is Captain H. Scarborough, who also comes to us from G.H.Q. Signals; O.C., No. 3 Company is Captain W. E. Gill, another popular officer surrendered by the Supplementary Reserve; and O.C., No. 3 G.O.R. Section is Captain J. Baines.

Training.—Our first period Couverture party (11th June—9th July) made a heartening debut and exit, and we look to the batch now operating to carry on the good work.

Permanent Staff.—Several members of our Permanent Staff are already known in the Corps, at least by name. Here are their names: Headquarters, Captain F. H. Pellew (Adjutant) and A/R.S.M. Evans, J. M.; No. 1 Company, A/C.S.M. Broadhead H.; No. 2 Company, A/C.S.M. Smith R. M. T.; No. 3 Company, A/C.S.M. Stevenson W. T.; and No. 3 G.O.R., T/Sergeant White K. E.

Messes.—Headquarters Officers' and Sergeants' Messes, incorporating those of No. 2 Company, are now established and functioning smoothly.

ACK-ACK.

No. 1 Company.

Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Introductory.—For the first time in the history of the Corps, Signals are now established in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Born three months ago, we now function as an extremely healthy infant, and at full strength, with a host of first-class potential recruits, who are desirous of being one of us.

Many will be interested to learn that the Company Commander is Major T. S. Mensley, known wherever Signals foregather throughout the North-East, and in many other directions, as a former Company Commander of the 50th (N.) Divisional Signals. His record of T.A. service, dating from 1912, is one of which we are all justly proud.

Our P.S.I., C.S.M. Broadhead H., recently repatriated after a lengthy sojourn in India, has soon settled down in this remote corner of the country, and the good results of his labours at this early stage are evident. His popularity with all ranks is already established.

Location.—Having said how good we are, a word or two about our location may be of interest. Prior to taking up residence here at Northcliffe House, the principal landmark in the vicinity was the adjacent home of a well-known football club. Nowadays, an almost inconspicuous hostelry has achieved fame, and we wonder whether the word "Adeline" has a bearing in this connection. At the moment it is rumoured that "The Fleet's in port again," and the matter is, therefore, rather obscure.

Training.—Training is now in full swing. The writer, who has had considerable experience of obligatory training elsewhere,

The Regimental Badge over the entrance to our Drill Hall.

feels bound to comment on the excellent attendances here, and also notes the keenness of everyone to learn. Lectures by Section Officers, the P.S.I. and the Section N.C.O.s have been occasions for crowded houses, and some of the questions have been of the " flooring " variety.

Social.—We have unearthed a galaxy of musical talent, which will, doubtless, be exploited to the full on the occasion of our first smoking concert on 15th July.

In Signalman Gladstone E. we have a first-class sculptor and designer, and, as the result of his skill, our Drill Hall entrance is now surmounted by a large-scale, coloured replica of the Regimental Badge. Will any Unit desirous of possessing a duplicate (see illustration published with these notes), please communicate with this Company.

Promotions and Appointments.—Congratulations to the following: C.Q.M.S. Robson S., Sergeant Longstaffe C., Corporal Troman F. W. and Lance Corporal McEvoy W.

There is ample room in the magazine for more names, so keep it going, lads!

GEORDIE.

5th Anti-Aircraft Divisional Signals

Headquarters.

Reading.

12th July.

General.—We start this month's notes with congratulations to the many N.C.O.s promoted during the past month. They are much too numerous to mention by name, but as they will be drawing pay this year for twenty-nine days instead of the usual fifteen, we do not anticipate any complaints on this point.

Our first detachments have completed their period of " calling up " and are being relieved by other detachments. From the reports received from the various R.A.F. Stations and Units to which they have been attached, they have done exceedingly well, especially in view of the small amount of preliminary technical training they received before leaving. Further, their conduct has been exemplary. Well done, lads, and thanks for maintaining the good name of the Corps and for giving the Unit an excellent start. The second parties will have their work cut out to get better chits.

The time is now approaching for the main body to proceed to camp, and the Quartermaster is being kept very busy issuing equipment and other items. Some of the garments issued lack that " Saville Row " cut, but it is uniform—and that's something.

We have been very fortunate in securing a camp site at Littlehampton. All we require now is some fine weather, and then we shall have a very pleasant month together. We are looking forward to meeting our comrades of Bristol.

Marriages and Births.—Congratulations to those plucky fellows who have taken the plunge, and also to the fathers who have rendered National Service in another form. Part II Orders on this subject solved our little mystery when one of our linemen, normally first in the canteen and last out, suddenly took to leaving early.

Social.—On Friday, 8th July, we held our first social event—an indoors games tournament, N.C.O.s v. Signalmen. The Signalmen, who certainly meant to win this event, turned up in full force, and the N.C.O.s had to borrow some of the Signalmen in order to augment their team. The N.C.O.s lost. Now, we wonder! Or was it due to the R.S.M. and his partner taking on the best pair in the hall at darts? Whatever the result was, it was a very enjoyable evening, and the Sports Fund received its first amount on the credit side. We are looking forward to more of these games tournaments, but hope the R.S.M. doesn't spring on us any more of these Regular Army games like " Cameroon."

On 28th July, we are having our first dance; the proceeds go to the Sports Fund. The tickets are selling well, so it should be a success.

We have quite a lot of talent in the Company at Reading and, by next winter, it is hoped to have a concert party in action. To assist us to find further talent, the R.S.M. has promised to organise a couple of " barnstormers." Some of us are not quite sure what this means, but from the explanation he has given, it ought to be good. More about this in our next notes.

Section Notes.—The Despatch Riders of No. 1 Company have submitted the following notes on behalf of their Section. As scribe for the Reading Company, I should welcome notes from all Sections, so get going, boys!

"A busy month for Despatch Riders has just been concluded. They proudly rode out of Headquarters for the first time on the evening of 20th June, watched by the remainder of the Company. The machines, 2½ B.S.A.s, all brand new, had previously been tuned up by our energetic D.R. Corporal. A good many of the remainder of the Company must have wished they had joined as Despatch Riders.

" Since then a number of Sunday Schemes have been arranged, and they have proved very popular, every man turning up for each Scheme. We shall all remember a certain Tuesday when our baby, " Rosy " Broughton, was lost. Just as a search party was being prepared, he limped in with horrible tales of broken gudgeon pins and piston rings, and, finally, in a burst of exuberance, said, 'Ah, I know what has happened, it's the big end gone west.'

" We should all like to know what he thought when the real trouble was indicated to him, and also when he kept our silent (?), suffering Corporal waiting to check him in whilst he was waiting outside the Quartermaster's Stores for his issue of silk pyjamas for use in camp! Our 'old soldier' canteen manager was responsible for that one.

" Mention must also be made of Signalmen Brereton and Somerfield, the first two Despatch Riders to be embodied. They have kept their machines on the road the whole time and certainly upheld the prestige of the Unit. Well done, lads!

" The Section is very keen, and the words of praise from the Officer i/c Section, 2nd Lieutenant Morris, have been well earned and appreciated."

No. 2 Company.

Bristol.

Will readers please refer to the " Tailpiece " in last month's notes. We now have to report the arrival of a son, Rodger Anthony, to Signalman and Mrs. Burris on 7th June; and a son, Anthony Roy Ensor, to Signalman and Mrs. Player on 22nd June. All ranks extend their heartiest congratulations, and especially from their fellow night telephonists, to " Tubby " and Mrs. Burris.

Congratulations are also extended to Signalman and Mrs. Trevett on the occasion of their marriage on 24th June. The second one to take the plunge!

In beginning this month's notes, appreciation and thanks are due to the many N.C.O.s and men of the Company who, by their regular attendances, show the same spirit of keenness and cheerfulness as when they first joined the Company. Since its formation times have been very difficult, and are still difficult, but matters are gradually sorting themselves out and, as equipment and training facilities become available, it is hoped that this enthusiastic keenness by all will prevail. Many thanks, " old timers " of the Company.

Further detachments are now away at their war stations, one detachment relieving another, and our training throughout the summer will continue on these lines. Those not taking part in this war game are proceeding to camp at Littlehampton with the remainder of No. 1 Company for a twenty-eight days' spell, commencing on 30th July.

Those who proceeded on 18th June had a wet and miserable day for their departure. Were their spirits damped? Not likely! The early hour of the intended departure for one detachment, the delayed start, and the inclement weather, would have justified a real soldierly " moan," but those concerned gave no indication of their feelings. Stout fellows!

In the case of the other detachment, the D.R. was nearly left at the post. A hurried dash from holidaying in the Isle of Man in order to arrive on the 17th, and with many matters requiring attention, but happy and smiling on the morning of the 18th. Such is the spirit of all of them—eager and keen to play their part and do their bit in preparation for the defence of the country should the necessity arise.

Those who left on 11th June have now returned, and the reports we have received indicate that they were a great success. Well done, to you, sir, and all ranks. All of them appear to have benefited by their experience and have enjoyed the work. It is regretted that certain conditions and amenities could not have been improved, but, remember, we are young, and time was short. Future detachments will benefit from your experiences. Our thanks to you all, and also to the cook of the " 56th " for the excellent way in which he looked after the inner man.

Training for those on " Drills " and awaiting their turn to proceed has been confined chiefly to indoor work—gas, rifle and musketry instruction. The Operating Sections have had lectures on Procedure. Much the same can be said for the Line Sections, except that they participated in two week-end camps prior to a National Defence Public Interest Demonstration of air line construction on Durdham Down. This demonstration, in conjunction with other Units in Bristol, took place on Saturday, 8th July, and a further reference will be made to this subject later in these notes. By the way, you chaps at week-end camps, Reveille is usually sounded by four long blasts on a whistle and NOT with a hammer and jumper just outside the sleeping quarters.

On the social side, things are looking up. It is pleasing to report that out of the jumble of Line stores, Operating Room stores, clothing, packing cases, etc., deposited all over the place (not forgetting our overdose of rifles from Ordnance), we have now found a room for the officers and another for the Sergeants, but regret that we cannot provide a larger room for the men and the Canteen.

Appropriately, on the first of the month, we held our first function—an all ranks " warming and get-to-know each other tea party." About seventy attended for tea and later enjoyed dancing to the music from a radiogram kindly loaned for the occasion by Sergeant Glover. Quite a nice little show ! Mention must also be made of the piano kindly loaned by C.Q.M.S Grinter. We understand this instrument has now been purchased by the P.R.I. Our thanks are tendered to the organisers of this little show ; to the ladies who kindly loaned the various items of crockery and assisted in the preparation, and to the volunteers behind the scenes. Everybody's help was appreciated. The general opinion is, " Let's have some more." During the winter months we hope to organise socials, whist drives, smokers and dances, and to form a Jazz Band. We have lots of hidden talent.

The personal touch with H.Q. and No. 1 Company at Reading is enhanced by the weekly visits of either the Adjutant, the Quartermaster or the R.S.M. Such visits help to solve many of our problems and we look forward to them very much. The partial embodiment of the various Sections and the absolute necessity of a tour of detachments on Fridays has made these visits less frequent of late.

A note to the R.S.M. from the senior N.C.O.s of the Company. The christening of our newly-formed Mess is still on the agenda. What time did you say the last train left, sir ?

Bristol weather is traditional ! It is recorded that it always rains on the day that any big event is organised to take place on Durdham Down. Saturday, 8th July, was the occasion of the N.D.P.I. Demonstration, organised to illustrate the work of the military and civilian defence forces of Bristol. The Press and the B.B.C., having made known the general proceedings, it remains only for us to tell of the small part played by ourselves. 2nd Lieutenant Salter, Sergeant Wilson and twenty other ranks managed, with rain falling in a steady deluge and distant thunder prophesying more to come, to demonstrate the building of a short route of multi air-line. Unfortunately, the piece of ground allotted to us was situated on one side of the assembly parade ground needed for the march past, and so, having done our bit, we proceeded to recover, pack up, and return home.

So ends the story and my notes. As a tailpiece—a polite explanation is requested as to what the " Trade " and " General Duties " at camp mean.

PEEZY.

ROYAL SIGNALS CAR BADGE.

The above illustration describes a new Car Badge, which has been designed to meet the requirements of all Royal Signals car owners.

It is a highly finished production of excellent workmanship—Chromium plated with a central background of Royal Signals Corps colours in enamel—and can be obtained on application to The Secretary, Signals Association; 15/6 each.

SPORTS NOTES

"C" Company, Depot Battalion.

Cricket.—Since last month the Company has played two more matches in the Mackworth Trophy.

On Saturday, 10th June, we played "E" Company on Scotton, and, after a very fine game (despite the efforts of our old friend Jupiter Pluvius), we lost by the narrow margin of five runs. Thanks to an extremely patient knock by R.S.M. Carpenter, we reached a total of 81. "E" Company made a poor start, but slowly recovered, and their score stood at 78 for 6 wickets when Lance Sergeant Robson held a good catch in the slips to dismiss "Eddie's" Bradman. 78 for 7. The next ball saw Signalman Adcock shatter the furniture. 78 for 8, and lots of excitement. The "E" Company No. 10 came in, looking not too good, and survived only one ball. 78 for 9. A leg-bye and one off the edge from the next over from Signalman Phillips put everyone on their toes until, in Adcock's next over, our opponents obtained the necessary runs for victory. Well played, "E" Company, and thanks for a sporting game!

Saturday, 17th June, saw us playing against our old rivals in "D" Company, who batted first, and were all out for 54. Once again R.S.M. Carpenter (the Rock of Gibraltar) plodded along and carried us to a win by five wickets.

There are only two more games to play in this League, and we shall have something to say about them in our next notes.

"E" Company, Training Battalion.

Cricket.—"E" Company have won five games out of six, and if we do not win the Company League, then we shall at least tie for first place.

Here are the results:

20th May.	v. "D" Company	Lost by 22 runs.
31st May.	v. "A" Company	Won by 6 wickets.
7th June.	v. School of Signals	Won by 6 wickets.
10th June.	v. "C" Company	Won by 5 runs.
17th June.	v. 5th Divisional Signals ..	Won by 4 runs.
22nd June.	v. "F" Company	Won by 7 wickets.

"F" (Boys) Company, Training Battalion.

Athletics.—"F" (Boys) Company have again won the Inter-Company Trophy with a clear victory in the first Meeting by 26 points, and 19 points in the second and final meeting.

The triangular athletic contest for the Lambert Trophy was held on the Scotton ground for the first time. Royal Signals gained a narrow victory of one point over Northumberland and Durham. The following represented "F" (Boys) Company: 2nd Lieutenants Philp and Shaw, Lance Sergeants Ballard and Hatton, Lance Corporal Boys Murray and Robbins, and Signalman Pavey. Signalman Pavey gained second place in the Javelin event with a throw of 133¾ feet. Lance Corporal Boy Murray R. was second in the Hurdles, and Lance Corporal Boy Robbins won the Pole Vault with 9½ feet. The following ex-boys took part in this Meeting and we congratulate them on a very fine performance: Corporal Barrett, Lance Corporals McKenna and Hopkins, Signalman Finnigan T.

The "S.T.C. Individuals" was run off on the Scotton ground. 2nd Lieutenant M. A. Philp, who won the Individual Cup, did a fine 440 yards in 52.4 seconds, and we congratulate him on his performance. Most of the events were won by this Company, and we were eventually presented with the Pinsent Cup. "F" (Boys) Company, 118 points; "D" Company, 49 points (runners-up).

The Northern Command Athletic Championships.—These were held at the Stadium and "F" (Boys) Company positions were as follows: Pole Vault (Open): 2, Lance Corporal Boy Robbins; Long Jump (Open): 2, 2nd Lieutenant Shaw; Long Jump (Boys): 1, Brown A., 2, Brodie; 880 Yards (Boys): 1, Lance Corporal Boy Smith R., 2, Roberts; 100 Yards (Open): 1, 2nd Lieutenant Shaw; High Jump: 1, 2nd Lieutenant Shaw; High Jump (Boys): 1, Sergeant Boy Smith, 2, Render; 120 Yards (Open) Hurdles: 2, Lance Corporal Boy Murray R.; 220 Yards (Boys): 1, Kite; 220 Yards (Open): 1, 2nd Lieutenant Shaw.

Northern Counties Athletic Meeting.—This Meeting was held at Bradford this year. We gained the following places: High Jump: 1, Sergeant Boy Smith, 5 ft. 5½ ins. (he was also third in the Discus with 109 ft. 6½ ins.; Weight: 3, Lance Corporal Boy Murray A., 36 ft. 2½ ins.; Javelin: 2, Boy Marshall, 138 ft. 8 ins. The following gained standards: Hopkins, Overington, Pavey, Warren and Lance Corporal Boy Buddery.

Congratulations to Sergeant Boy Smith on gaining fifth place in the High Jump (5 ft. 4 ins.) when representing the Northern Counties at the White City on 1st July.

The Under-16 Trophy was competed for, after a long delay owing to weather conditions, and the winner for the best performance was Boy Knight R.

The following are competing in the Army Athletic Championships: 2nd Lieutenants Philp, Shaw and Mallock, Sergeant Boy Smith, Lance Corporal Boy Murray A., Boys Render, and Kite. Also Signalman Pavey, who is now posted. We hope all of them will have a good time and break many records.

Cricket.—We had very little practice prior to the commencement of the season, but succeeded in winning two matches against "D" Company and the School of Signals, but lost a match to "E" Company. The scores were: "F" Company, 171 for 6 declared (2nd Lieutenant Collins 66), "D" Company, 60; "F" Company, 64, "E" Company 69 for 3 declared; "F" Company 75 (S.S.M. McDowall 6 wickets for 16 runs), School 35.

The Boys' team met Ampleforth College on two occasions, and we are sorry to say we lost both games. In the first game at home the score was 51—63. At Ampleforth a good stand was made by their first two in, and their final score was 117 for 6 declared. During the tea interval a heavy shower occurred, and we could only knock up 35 runs on a wet wicket. Marshall offered great resistance, carrying his bat from second wicket down with a score of 15 not out.

The Boys' workshop team have reached the final of the Boys' Garrison Cricket Cup after defeating the Senior and Junior Operators and the Green Howards.

M. & D.

2nd Divisional Signals.

This is more or less a rough survey of the Meetings in which members of 2nd Divisional Signals competed.

The following represented Royal Signals in the Lambert Trophy: Lieutenant D. N. Deakin, High Jump; C.S.M. Shardlow, One Mile; Corporal McKenna, Half-Mile Relay; and Lance Corporal Hopkins, Three Miles.

In the R.A.O.C. Annual Sports, C.S.M. Shardlow, Corporal McKenna and Lance Corporal Holness competed in the Open Mile. There were thirty starters, and C.S.M. Shardlow came in fifth.

We had two entrants in the Hampshire County Championships; Lieutenant D. N. Deakin took third place—with a standard—in the High Jump, and C.S.M. Shardlow finished sixth in the Mile.

During "Signals Week," a very wet and windy turn-out, we finished second to "A" Corps Signals. Unfortunately, we did not field teams in the Three Miles and Young Soldiers' events, as our young soldiers (ex-boys) were required for the championship items. Further, we just hadn't got the runners to call upon without using most of the same men each time.

Lieutenant D. N. Deakin and Lance Sergeant Evans did very well in the field events. Apart from winning their own respective events, they were either second or third in others.

In the track events we scored a good win in the Two Miles Relay, Signalman Millar running a very good third leg to give

C.S.M. Shardlow a twenty-yards lead over Signalman Scott, "A" Corps Signals (the Mitcham national runner) for the last half. This produced a terrific battle, for Scott almost caught up a furlong from home, but Shardlow suddenly produced a sprint which did the trick.

In the 110 Yards (Shuttle) Relay, we commenced in great style. Signalman Healy handed over a three-yards' lead to C.S.M. Shardlow, who slightly increased it, but owing to the efforts of two fliers from "A" Corps Signals, we had to take second place.

In their own special race, our Reservists won handsomely. Signalmen Healy, Draper, Davies and Jones were the men concerned, and they were of great help to the Unit in most of the other events. At the end of the day, "A" Corps Signals led 2nd Divisional Signals by four points, but we had the One Mile Race still to run. In order to draw we had to win with 1st Divisional Signals taking second place. Our team certainly tried hard enough to pull it off, but the efforts of other races had taken their toll on one or two of the competitors, and we finished as runners-up instead. Signalman Scott won this event from C.S.M. Shardlow in a downpour.

A team was entered for the Medley Mile in the Manchester's Sports, held at the Command central ground, but we were up against the Army Champions in the Cheshire Regiment. We were an "also ran."

The Unit had three representatives in the Army Individual Championships. Lieutenant D. N. Deakin, after so many second places, has at last won the Army High Jump, and the Corps makes its mark again in athletics through the efforts of this fine sportsman.

C.S.M. Shardlow tried hard in the Three Mile, which was run in a half-gale, but competitors over forty find these events more and more like sprints now-a-days. Nevertheless, out of ten starters, he finished in front of five others. Lance Corporal Verlander, competing in the Young Soldiers' Discus event, was second by 16 inches.

Looking back, one must hand it to Captain Boileau for the number of records held by his "boys." In all, the Corps still hold nine records, allowing for Hartman's Long Jump.

Congratulations are extended to the following on their fine performance in the Army events: Lance Sergeant Barrett, second in the 100 Yards Championship; and Sergeant Boy Smith, first in the Enlisted Boys' High Jump and Long Jump.

1st Anti-Aircraft Brigade Signals, Blackdown

Cricket.—Thanks to a long spell of Blackdown sunshine, only one game has been played this month. This was a very enjoyable game, which was won by the Unit when we played "D" Company, Royal Berkshire Regiment. Here are the scores:

"D" Company, 50 (Lieutenant Whalen 30, Beattie 3 for 9, Durack 3 for 15.

A.A. Brigade Signals, 71 for 5 (Wylde 23, Aldridge 16 not out, 2nd Lieutenant White, 13 not out).

Athletics.—Several members of the Unit very ably assisted 1st Divisional Signals in the Corps Sports Meeting at Aldershot. Lance Corporal Mackenzie: 440 Yards Relay and Open Relay;

Three Miles Team Race (won by 1st Divisional Signals); Signalman Rowlands: Three Miles Team Race (won by 1st Divisional Signals).

Lance Corporal Middleton: Long Jump and Javelin events.
Signalman Bain: Hammer (won by 1st Divisional Signals).
Signalman Beattie: High Jump and Open Relay.
Signalman Casey: Putting the Shot and Open Relay.

The Tabloid Sports Meeting was won by No. 4 Section. Result: No. 4, No. 2, No. 3 and H.Q. Sections.

Tug-of-War.—Whilst in camp, No. 4 Section team were successful in reaching the semi-final of the Tug-of-war at the Alton Carnival Sports, losing by two straight pulls to the "Railway Inn." 1st round, Alton Fire Brigade; 2nd round, bye.

4th Divisional Signals, Canterbury.

Here are the results of the Unit's Annual Sports Meeting, which was held during the week ending 30th June.

The "Parsons Shield," presented by our former C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel H. A. J. Parsons, M.C., was won by No. 3 Company with an overwhelming number of points. No. 2 Company tried very hard, but it was obvious that No. 3 Company possessed the best athletes.

The Inter-Company Athletic Cup (Cadre) was won by No. 2 Company by a very narrow margin. This was quite an achievement, because for many years it had never left No. 3 Company. The oldest athletic trophy we possess, it was presented to the Unit in 1923 by the following officers: Major Sampson, Captains Wheeler, Barker and Neale; Lieutenants Giblin, Bridgeland, Halliday, Stansard, Busby, Thompson and Stoddard.

We invited the R.P.D.D. to enter a team for the Medley Relay Race. They accepted and, after an exciting race, just managed to win it from No. 3 Company.

100 YARDS FLAT RACE.—1, Lance Sergeant Last (No. 3 Company); 2, Corporal Lowe (No. 2 Company). Time, 10 1/5 secs.

ONE MILE FLAT RACE.—1, Signalman Piper (No. 3 Company); 2, Signalman Potter (No. 2 Company). Time, 5 mins. 4 secs.

220 YARDS FLAT RACE.—1, Lance Sergeant Last (No. 3 Company); 2, 2nd Lieutenant Thompson (No. 3 Company). Time, 23 secs.

VETERANS' RACE (OVER 38): 80 YARDS DASH.—1, Major Finmore (No. 3 Company); 2, R.S.M. Laing (No. 3 Company).

COMPANY COMMANDERS' RACE (8 x 100 YARDS).—1, No. 3 Company; 2, No. 2 Company.

440 YARDS FLAT RACE.—1, Lance Sergeant Last (No. 3 Company); 2, Signalman Reid (No. 2 Company). Time, 57 secs.

MEDLEY RELAY RACE (220, 440, 880 AND 220 YARDS).—1, R.P.D.D.; 2, No. 3 Company; 3, No. 2 Company.

880 YARDS FLAT RACE.—1, Signalman Reid (No. 2 Company); 2, Signalman Piper (No. 3 Company). Time, 2 mins. 17 secs.

INTER-COMPANY RELAY (8 x 220 YARDS).—1, No. 3 Company; 2, No. 2 Company.

THREE MILES FLAT RACE.—1, Signalman Atkinson (No. 2 Company); 2, Signalman Griffiths (No. 3 Company). Time, 16 mins. 45 secs.

DISCUS.—1, Signalman Smith (No. 3 Company); 2, Signalman Bishop (No. 2 Company). Distance, 97 feet, 1 in.

HIGH JUMP.—1, Corporal Pickles (No. 3 Company); 2, Driver Winter (No. 3 Company). Height, 4 ft. 11 in.

LONG JUMP.—1, Lance Sergeant Last (No. 3 Company); 2, Corporal Lowe (No. 2 Company). Distance, 18 ft. 1 in.

SHOT.—1, Signalman Moody (No. 3 Company); 2, Driver Souter (No. 2 Company). Distance, 30 ft.

JAVELIN.—1, Signalman Smith (No. 3 Company); 2, Signalman Gallagher (No. 2 Company). Distance, 139 ft. 10 in.

A. R. B.

1st Indian Divisional Signals, Rawalpindi.

Upper Topa.
30th June.

Hockey.—Since our last notes many of our old players have gone home, and we have had to get down to team building once again. A start was made in Rawalpindi, where, thanks to a Garrison League, there was plenty of opportunity to try out fresh blood.

There are two hockey tournaments in the hills: the "Murree Brewery," which has been won with monotonous regularity by the Lawrence College at Ghora Gali, who are allowed to compete in this military tournament as an A.F.I. Unit; and the "Lintott Shield," which is a higher class tournament.

The former took place in May before we had got properly acclimatised to the ground at Murree. We won our first match against the 3rd Carabiniers after a hard struggle and extra

time, the score being 1—0. We then played the Lawrence College No. 1 team in the semi-final and were beaten 2—1 after a fast and clean game. The same team went on to win the tournament by 2—1 against a " Medical " team from Murree.

In the " Lintott Shield " Tournament we drew our conquerors in the " Murree Brewery " Tournament in the first round. We had lost Corporal Bradbury, our right back, who had been posted to the Southern Command for wireless duties, but we had gained an outside left—Signalman Cutter—who had been posted to us from Cherat. On the whole we felt more confident, as we were now fit, combining better and, at last, getting used to the Murree ground. The result of this game was a draw, no score until time, and a goal each in extra time.

The replay took place a few days later and this time we were hard pressed, but, thanks to magnificent goalkeeping by Signalman Davy, the new man between the sticks, we kept them out. Finally, in the second half, from a good centre from Cox on the wing to Green ("A" Corps Signals) at inside-left, who pushed it to Cutter coming in from the wing, a good goal was scored. Shortly afterwards the whistle blew for time and we felt very pleased with ourselves, having beaten the winners of the " Murree Brewery " Tournament.

Our triumph was short lived as we were beaten 2—1 by the " Pindi Tigers " in the next round. It was bad luck that Lance Sergeant Warhurst was struck by the ball on his neck and again from a rebound off his own stick on to his nose within a few minutes of each other at a period just before the Tigers scored their final and winning goal.

We shall now have to begin team training again as many of the present team are due for home the next trooping season.

The team which represented Royal Signals, Upper Topa, in the " Lintott Shield " Tournament was as follows: Signalman Davy; Captain C. D. Gardiner, Lance Corporal Hague; Signalman Earl, Lance Sergeant Warhurst, Lieutenant N. D. Shaw; Lance Corporal Cox, Signalman Adcock, Signalman Whitehead A., Corporal Green ("A" Corps Signals) and Signalman Cutter.

Football.—Since we came to Upper Topa, sport during our leisure hours has been the order of the day. Many trial games have taken place and those participating are very keen. Two teams were entered for the Buffalo Tournament. "A" team has been playing with confidence, although on two occasions when they met " B " team they could not defeat the latter easily. In the first game, "A" were lucky to win 1—0, a penalty goal being the deciding factor. The second game resulted in a draw.

The draw for the first round of the Buffalo Tournament was as follows: "A" team versus Bomber Squadron, R.A.F.; " B " team versus "A" Company, 1st Battalion, Devonshire Regiment.

These matches took place on 22nd and 23rd June respectively. Two days before " B " team were due to play, two members were injured in a trial game, but, despite this handicap, "A" team triumphed by 3—0, and " B " lost 4—1.

In the next round, "A" team met the Liecestershire Regiment and won by 1—0 after a very hard struggle. It was not until nearly full time that we scored. Signalman Adcock took a free kick from the half-way line and the ball soared high up in the goal mouth for Lance Corporal Cox to head it into the net. The team played very well indeed, in spite of the soft condition of the ground.

In the next round we met "A" Company, Devonshire Regiment and, after one of the hardest struggles we have experienced, we drew 1—1, after extra time. The game was fast and exciting, and there was no score at half-time. Both goalkeepers made good saves, and the defences were superb. End-to-end exchanges were of no avail, although, at one period, Signalman Stanford, our right back, shot from fifty yards and the ball bounced over the Devons' goalkeeper's head just over the bar.

The second half opened briskly and both teams were on their toes, and then a misunderstanding between Signalman Stanford and Lance Corporal Latham resulted in the Devons scoring. We fought back strongly and several times the Devons' goalie was called upon to save some high shots. With only two minutes to go we were striving for the equaliser, when a free kick was awarded us just inside our own half. Lance Corporal Taylor took the kick and put the ball right into our opponent's goal mouth. Lance Corporal Cox went to kick the ball but let it go, and the Devons' goalie, misled by Lance Corporal Cox's movement, was completely beaten.

Extra time was played with neither side scoring. This was a splendid game to watch, and Corporal Donaghy, Lance Corporal Taylor and Signalmen Stanford and Adcock excelled themselves in the defence. The team are to be congratulated on their performance, and we are looking forward to the replay on 30th June, when we hope to enter the final.

The replay was played under wet conditions, but, nevertheless, in spite of these conditions, the match was worthy of very high praise. Once again our defence was outstanding. The Devons scored after two minutes' play—a really good goal from the right wing, which Lance Corporal Latham just failed to stop.

We fought back and the Devons' goalie was called upon to save from Signalmen Begbie and Davy. The ground then became very wet and the ball very slippery. Half-time came with the Devons leading 1—0.

On the resumption of play we pressed very hard and the Devons' defence was, for a time, in difficulties. A clever movement by Signalman Begbie and Corporal Donaghy resulted in the ball being passed to Lance Corporal Cox on the right wing; flashing down the wing and almost on the goal line he put across a perfect centre which Signalman Davy headed into the goal. It was a really splendid effort and had the effect of putting confidence into our team. We pressed very hard and five minutes from the end Lance Corporal Cox again ran down the wing with the ball and, beating two men, he cut in, and from a very narrow angle put in a perfect shot. The Devons' goalie was completely beaten. It was a marvellous goal. The final whistle went with no further score.

The final is to be played on Monday, 3rd July, and we are hoping to annex the Buffalo Trophy. Our opponents are " R " Battery, R.A. A detailed description of the game will be submitted in the next issue. The team is as follows: Lance Corporal Latham; Signalman Stanford, Lance Corporal Kippin; Corporal Donaghy (capt.), Lance Corporal Taylor R., Signalman Adcock; Lance Corporal Cox, Signalman Begbie, Pte. Green, Signalmen Earl and Davy.

Hong Kong Signal Company.

Billiards.—Budding Lindrums have been digging out their bits of wood, practising short sprints round the billiard table and generally preparing for the coming crop of billiard fixtures. We have entered for three competitions in the Colony, and played our first fixture in the Billiard League on Tuesday, 4th July. We played the Corps of Military Police (yes, they got in without an escort), and ran out winners by 4 points to 3. The contest was fairly even as the result shows. Signalman Morgan, who met the best of our opponents, was unfortunate to lose by a very narrow margin, and the last game of the evening found us one point in arrears. Signalman Murphy, playing a very steady game, won by 63 points, and this brought us level. We scraped the odd point by having the greatest aggregate, the final score being: Hong Kong Signal Company, 768 points; Corps Military Police, 750 points.

Q.M.S. (F-of-S) Thorpe	Won	150—134
Lance Corporal Pitcher	,,	150— 79
Signalman Murphy	,,	150— 87
,, Morgan	Lost	122—150
,, Medford	,,	105—150
,, Liley	,,	91—150

Well played, it will soon be Thurston's!

Water Polo.—Right from the start of the season the team (as in previous years) has been in top form. Two of our old and valuable players (Lance Corporal Banham and Signalman Payne) have been ably replaced by last year's budding enthusiasts. Indeed, we are now playing a second team, whose first match, with the 1st Battalion, Middlesex Regiment, ended in a draw, after a well-played and exciting game. Our new captain, Lance Corporal Dignan, is showing even better form this season, and he is well supported by the brilliant play of our centre-half, Corporal Ashford.

So far, we have full points for all matches played in the Kay Lee League, and we hope to win the trophy without a point against us.

Our reputation as a good polo team amongst service and civilian teams in the Colony is of the very best, and we will need the full support and unflagging interest of all players to maintain it. With " Jimmy " as our captain, we should have no difficulty in attaining higher honours.

KAY LEE LEAGUE.

v. R.A.M.C. (R.A.M.C. withdrawn) .. .. 3 points.
v. R.A.S.C. (7—1) .. .. 3 "

Table Tennis.—Efforts are being made to revive interest in this game. Last year we had a team undefeated by any European team in the Colony, but the standard of play amongst the Chinese is so high that we always fall an easy prey to these hawk-eyed Orientals.

On the evening of 4th July, we " fielded " an experimental team, who scored our first victory over a Chinese team. The Chinese were members of the staff of the Asiatic Petroleum Company, captained by Mr. B. Poon, a well-known figure in Hong Kong table tennis. Here are the results :

Signalman Murphy v. W. Xavier	21—18
(Won)	21—10
Lance Corporal Scully v. B. Poon	19—21
(Lost)	14—21
Signalman Busby v. Tse Kam	17—21
(Lost)	15—21
Signalman Lithaeur v. Kwan Ping Sign	21—18
(Won)	21—10
Signalman Love v. Wai Yu Sen	16—21
(Won)	21— 7
Signalman Allen v. Lum Sui	21—14
(Won)	21—17
Signalman Bevan v. Lai Ming	14—21
(Lost)	13—21

The evening's entertainment was enjoyed by all—even the spectators. Watch for further results as several fixtures have been arranged.

BE BE.

Malaya Signal Company, Singapore.

Football.—S.A.F.A. LEAGUE. Our position remains unchanged although, much to the surprise of the newspapers, the team beat Pulau Brani, who are third. Nice work, chaps !

SMALL UNITS LEAGUE.—A copy of the league table is published below. Last week we beat the 31st Battery, R.A., who were then the league leaders, by 2—1, and thus helped to place the R.A.O.C. on top. At least we can bask.

GILLMAN AND ISLANDS AREA.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Goals. F.	A.	Pts.
R.A.O.C.	18	11	4	3	47	26	25
31st Heavy Battery, R.A. ..	16	9	2	5	56	26	23
H.Q. " B," Loyals	16	8	4	4	53	24	20
7th H.K.S. Battery, R.A. ..	17	6	4	7	24	21	19
" B " Company, Loyals ..	14	8	3	3	32	30	19
" C " Company, Loyals ..	17	7	6	4	28	19	18
Malaya Signal Company ..	17	6	5	6	29	37	18
11th (B.) Battery, R.A. ..	15	5	5	5	27	19	15
" D " Company, Loyals ..	17	5	7	5	26	29	15
H.Q. " A," Loyals	17	6	8	3	38	53	15
"A" Company, Loyals ..	16	3	12	1	17	30	7
R.A.S.C.	18	2	16	0	16	67	4

S.A.F.A. LEAGE—DIVISION IIA.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Goals. F.	A.	Pts.
Post Office	11	8	2	1	28	13	17
R.A.O.C.	14	7	5	2	25	18	16
Pulau Brani	14	6	6	2	22	27	14
R.A.M.C.	13	5	5	3	21	17	13
Royal Navy	10	5	3	2	23	13	12
Marines	11	5	5	1	32	25	11
Mental Hospital	11	5	5	1	14	21	11
R.A.F. (T.)	13	4	6	3	22	27	11
Publishers	9	4	3	2	13	10	10
R.A. (B.M.)	11	3	5	3	15	17	9
Malaya Signals	11	1	8	2	12	40	4

SECTION CHALLENGE CUP. This month saw the inauguration of a six-a-side Knock-out Competition. The first round resulted as follows :

Operators " B "	1	Unit Office	2
Fitters	0	Special Employed ..	4
Operators "A"	0	Linemen	5
Asiatics	0	Operators " C "	4

Further matches will be played this month.

Gunner McRae, who is attached to this Unit, was entered in the Three-Mile Race in the S.A.A.A. Meeting, but had to retire Hard luck, Mac. ; especially after those nightly runs to Buona Vista.

Bob Rankin and Jack Shappe (holder) are still battling for the cribbage title of Siam—or is it Java now ?

The Tennis Club had one match arranged during the month, but it was cancelled owing to rain.

Corps Cricket, 1939

(*Continued from page* 339)

CORPS CRICKET AVERAGES, 1939.

BATTING.

	No. of Inngs.	Total Runs	H.S.	Times Not Out.	Avge.
Capt. E. L. L. Vulliamy ..	6	220	62	1	44
Capt. E. S. Cole	3	125	64	–	41.6
Lieut. B. R. M. Hayles ..	6	211	95	–	35.1
Major H. S. Lewis-Barclay ..	7	221	66	–	31.5
Major L. C. Boyd	5	156	78	–	31.2
2nd Lieut. J. E. V. Rice ..	5	89	32	2	29.6
Signalman Codd	5	71	33	2	23.6
Lieut. W. H. L. Gordon ..	8	141	72	1	20.1
Capt. A. DeLisle	1	12	12	–	12
2nd Lieut. P. T. S. Brown ..	5	58	24	–	11.6
Colonel L. G. Phillips ..	3	10	5	2	10
2nd Lieut. J. H. Collins ..	5	48	19	–	9.6
Lieut. A. F. Freeman ..	2	18	14	–	9
Lieut. R. F. B. Power ..	2	9	7	2	9
Lieut. C. H. Golden ..	3	17	13	–	5.6
Major L. B. Nicholls ..	1	5	5	–	5
Sergeant Pettit	2	10	6	–	5
Capt. L. C. C. Harrison ..	3	9	4	1	4.5
Signalman Bish	2	4	3	1	4
2nd Lieut. D. A. Dickson ..	3	10	5	–	3.3
Signalman Waite	2	6	5	–	3

BOWLING.

	Overs.	Mdns.	Runs.	Wkts.	Avge.
Capt. E. S. Cole	50	3	226	18	12.5
Major H. S. Lewis-Barclay ..	96	11	386	25	15.4
Sergeant Pettit	20	2	85	5	17
Capt. F. S. Whiteway-Wilkinson	11	1	56	3	18.6
Lieut. R. F. B. Power ..	47	3	211	10	21
Major L. B. Nicholls ..	4	–	23	1	23
Capt. A. DeLisle	5	1	26	1	26
Colonel L. G. Phillips ..	21	3	90	3	30
Signalman Waite	7	–	33	1	33
Lieut. W. H. L. Gordon ..	14	–	125	2	62.5
Major L. C. Boyd	14	–	96	1	96
Signalman Bish	20	1	127	—	—

HAVE YOU JOINED THE SIGNALS ASSOCIATION ?

THE WIRE

THE CORPS MAGAZINE OF THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

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VOL. XX.—No. 235. SEPTEMBER, 1939 PRICE—SIXPENCE

Editorial Notes.

The Signals Experimental Establishment, Woolwich.—The Signals Experimental Establishment will be " At Home " to all Regular officers of the Corps (including those on leave from abroad) on Friday, 24th November, 1939.

Officers will be able to see all experimental apparatus that has been out on trials during the year, and also any other equipment in the process of being designed. Officers should arrive not later than 11 a.m. The nearest station is Woolwich Arsenal. A convenient train from London leaves Charing Cross at 10.28 a.m., arriving at Woolwich Arsenal at 10.54 a.m., and, if required, transport will be sent to meet this train. Return trains to London run at very frequent intervals throughout the day.

Those wishing to see all the demonstrations and apparatus should be prepared to spend the day at the S.E.E. up to 4 p.m., when tea will be served. Luncheon can be obtained locally at 2s. per head.

Any officers desirous of attending should notify the Superintendent, Signals Experimental Establishment, Woolwich Common, S.E.18, at least four days beforehand, either by letter or by telephone (Woolwich 0890), stating whether they are coming by train and whether they require luncheon. Mufti should be worn.

Attendance is voluntary, so no travelling expenses can be claimed.

No direct personal invitations will be issued, and it is hoped that all Regular officers will take this as a personal invitation.

Obituary.—It is with the deepest regret that we announce the death of ex-2306186 A/R.S.M. Herbert Leslie Adams, M.M., who passed away at Hindhead, Surrey, on Monday, 14th August, and was buried with Military Honours at Aldershot Town Cemetery on Friday, 18th August.

" Tich," as he was more familiarly known to his friends and associates alike, enlisted in the Royal Engineers on 7th June, 1907, was transferred to Royal Signals on the formation of that Corps in 1920, and was discharged to pension after nearly 25 years' service on 6th May, 1932.

He qualified as Rough Riding Instructor in 1911, and served with the British Expeditionary Force in France from 13th August, 1914, to 1st January, 1915, and again from 2nd September, 1917, to 23rd January, 1919. Medals : Military Medal for gallantry in action ; 1914 (Mons) Star ; General Service Medal ; Victory Medal, and Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

He completed the last ten years of his service as Permanent Staff Instructor and later as Acting Regimental Sergeant-Major of 54th (East Anglian) Divisional Signals (T.A.), Bay Lodge, The Green, Stratford, London.

His obsequies were attended at St. Albans Church, Hindhead, Surrey, by his widow and relatives together with a large representative gathering of friends and acquaintances from the district in which he had lived for the past nine or ten years. The funeral cortege then proceeded by road to Aldershot High Street, where it was met by a gun carriage to which the coffin was transferred for its last journey to Aldershot Town Cemetery.

Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.s from the Sergeants' Mess, Mons Barracks, under the leadership of R.S.M. C. B. Minns, formed an impressive bearer party, and a further representative gathering of his Old Comrades were also waiting at the cemetery gates to accompany him to his last resting place. The

Trumpeter's " Last Post " and " Reveille " was a fitting *Nunc Dimitis* to one who served his country so faithfully and well.

" Tich " Adams will always be affectionately remembered for his high standard of principles, also for his bright and genial personality under all conditions, and those who mourn his passing may derive some comfort from the knowledge that he was loved and respected by all who were privileged to be numbered among his personal friends.

He will be sadly missed by his Old Comrades of the Corps in which he was proud to serve, and with whom he was deservedly popular.

A gallant soldier and a very loyal friend.

[A photograph of the late R.S.M. Adams, H. L. M.M., together with a personal tribute, will be found on page 389 of this issue.]

Bisley Notes, 1939.—The effect of this exceptional summer upon Bisley was that the Army Rifle Association's Central Meeting was cancelled, while the usual fortnight of the Imperial Meeting, run by the N.R.A., was shortened to a week. Furthermore, many of the habitues of Bisley were prevented by duty from being there.

The Corps normally has at least one representative firing for the Regular Army in the Inter-Services XX Match. This year he was W.O.II A. R. Johnson, who is employed at the War Office, and who cannot, therefore, find practising too easy. This was his first meeting and is a good example of what can be done with initiative and enthusiasm.

Captain W. R. Smijth-Windham fired for the Regular Army in the Whitehead Cup, won this year by the R.A.F. with a record score, and for Great Britain in the International .22 Pistol Match, a postal event of which the results are not yet available.

War Department Clerks.—W.D. clerks are required for outstation offices at home, and applications are invited for appointments as Departmental Clerks, Grade IV (temporary), as under:

Applicants must be ex-regular soldiers of not more than 48 years of age who have served at least 12 years with the Colours or Reserve.

Preference will be given to applicants possessing a 1st Class Army Certificate of Education.

Salary:. £180-£280 London; £175-£270 Special Towns; £170-£260 Provinces.

Annual Leave: 24 days.

Applicants accepted for appointment will be allowed to qualify for permanent and pensionable appointment by examination within the next two years.

Application must be made not later than 30th September, 1939, on forms containing full particulars and conditions which can be obtained from The Under Secretary of State, The War Office (C.4, Room 053), Whitehall, S.W.1, or from The General Secretary, Signals Association, 95 Belgrave Road, London, S.W.1.

Sports Clothing and other Articles in Corps Colours.—The following articles are held in stock at this office, and can be supplied by return of post at the prices quoted:

BLAZERS: BARATHEA—In Corps colours ..	from	47/6
SWEATERS: White woollen with Corps colours neck and cuff	from	12/6
JUMPERS: White woollen with Corps colours at neck (sleeveless)	each	12/6
SCARVES: Woollen, Corps colours	each	7/6
SILK SQUARES: Corps colours	each	10/6
TIES: Silk, double-ended, Corps colours ..	each	2/6 and 3/9
CORPS RIBBON: ½ inch, for Christmas cards and decoration purposes	per yard	6d.
CAR BADGES: In chromium plate, with Corps colours, in enamel	each	15/6

Postage extra. Cash with order.

EDITOR.

Signals Association
and
Ex-Service Old Comrades Branch Notes

EMPLOYMENTS.

Situations found during the preceding month with the co-operation of the National Association for the Employment of Regular Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen:

1	Ex-Signalman, Shrewsbury	Labourer
2	Ex-N.C.O., Essex	Caterer
3	Ex-N.C.O., Cardiff	Examiner
4	Ex-Signalman, London	Porter
5	Ex-Signalman, London	Lineman
6	Ex-Signalman, London	Labourer
7	Ex-Signalman, London	Porter
8	Ex-Signalman, London	Postman
9	Ex-N.C.O., London	Fitter
10	Ex-Signalman, London	Watchman
11	Ex-N.C.O., London	Postman
12	Ex-Signalman, London	Labourer
13	Ex-Signalman, Lincoln	Labourer
14	Ex-Signalman, Sheffield	Labourer
15	Ex-Signalman, Lincoln	Labourer
16	Ex-Signalman, Sheffield	Labourer
17	Ex-Signalman, Sheffield	Wireless Operator
18	Ex-N.C.O., Croydon	Telephonist
19	Ex-Signalman, Yorks	Motor Driver
20	Ex-Signalman, Reading	Fitter

GENERAL SECRETARY.

Benevolent Fund Notes.

The Administrator gratefully acknowledges receipt of the following:

CASH SUBSCRIPTIONS from:
3rd Indian Divisional Signals.

APPEALS dealt with:

1	Ex-Driver, Leeds	Grant	£5 o o
2	Ex-Signalman, Leeds	Grant	£4 o o
3	Ex-Signalman, Southend	Grant	£2 o o
4	Ex-Driver, Stoke-on-Trent	Grant	£4 o o
5	Signalman, Durham	Loan	£1 10 o
6	Ex-Signalman, Notts	Grant	£3 15 o
7	N.C.O., Aldershot	Grant	£4 o o
8	N.C.O., Aldershot	Loan	£5 o o

(Signed) T. H. L. SPAIGHT, Lieutenant-Colonel,
Administrator, Signals Association Benevolent Fund.

Corps Promotion Roster.
Subsequent Amendments.

[The figures in the last column indicate the pages in the Corps Promotion Roster (published in April, 1938), on which the respective names may be found. This information cannot, of course, be given in the case of Lance Corporals appointed since that date.]

Promoted Warrant Officer, Class II (C.S.M.).

*1857330	C.Q.M.S. Watford R.	3/3/39 ..	90
2310575	C.Q.M.S. Richardson J. M. N.	11/3/39 ..	21
2309040	W.O. III Prior W.	11/3/39 ..	21
2309312	W.O. III Thomas R. H. M.	11/3/39 ..	21
*2311016	C.Q.M.S. Applegate W. J.	27/3/39 ..	90

Promoted Warrant Officer, Class III.

2306829	C.Q.M.S. Storey C. E.	11/3/39 ..	23
4605978	Sergeant Jessop T. H.	27/3/39 ..	25

Promoted Company Quartermaster-Sergeant.

2308430	Sergeant Clark W. H.	2/3/39	..	24
2310861	Sergeant Sibley T. E.	2/3/39	..	24
2308431	Sergeant Evelyn R. R.	2/3/39	..	24
2309022	Sergeant Marcham E.	2/3/39	..	24
*2314124	Sergeant Lawson J.	3/3/39	..	93
*2309813	Sergeant Mills W. F.	11/3/39	..	93
2314240	Sergeant Francis A. R.	26/3/39	..	22
*2310593	Sergeant Cadell T. O.	27/3/39	..	93
2306627	Sergeant Walker H. S.	29/3/39	..	24
2309615	Sergeant Perry G.	29/3/39	..	24

Promoted Sergeant.

2316579	L/Sergeant Martin W. T. J.	2/3/39	..	41
2316554	L/Sergeant Houghton H.	3/3/39	..	43
2316435	L/Sergeant Tranter J. H.	4/3/39	..	44
2316488	L/Sergeant Marchant I.	4/3/39	..	44
2318285	L/Sergeant Blake G. E.	11/3/39	..	44
2309954	L/Sergeant Robinson A. A.	12/3/39	..	44
2316947	L/Sergeant Nichols G. R.	15/3/39	..	44
2314857	L/Sergeant Brunton B.	16/3/39	..	44
5095956	L/Sergeant Sowles S. J.	24/3/39	..	44
2316215	L/Sergeant Lowes R. A.	26/3/39	..	44
2316665	L/Sergeant Jackman C. F.	26/3/39	..	44
2316636	L/Sergeant Scratcher J.	27/3/39	..	44
2318063	L/Sergeant Jones J. W.	27/3/39	..	44
2318012	L/Sergeant Watterton L. E.	27/3/39	..	44
2316732	L/Sergeant Fraser A. A. J.	29/3/39	..	44
2315156	L/Sergeant Hylands V. C.	29/3/39	..	44
2316485	L/Sergeant Dymond F.	31/3/39	..	44

Appointed Lance Sergeant.

2315420	Corporal McKeer J. E. W.	26/2/39	..	54
2316991	Corporal Walton S. C.	2/3/39	..	54
1058214	Corporal Shorrock L.	3/3/39	..	54
2316475	Corporal Melmore L. M.	27/3/39	..	48
2318398	Corporal Pearson R.	27/3/39	..	51
2319874	Corporal Cole L. C.	29/3/39	..	54
760021	Corporal Linington R.	29/3/39	..	54
3519761	Corporal Bailey N.	31/3/39	..	55
2315631	Corporal Manton E.	31/3/39	..	55
1859800	Corporal Clayton E. J.	31/3/39	..	55
2319878	Corporal Speakes F.	31/3/39	..	55
2319772	Corporal Ackroyd D.	31/3/39	..	55
2320945	Corporal Hollingshead A. E.	31/3/39	..	55
2316081	Corporal Abbott W. J.	31/3/39	..	55
2321932	Corporal Armstrong W.	31/3/39	..	55
2318612	Corporal Oliver L.	31/3/39	..	55
2319488	Corporal Purvis C. J.	31/3/39	..	55
2317039	Corporal West G. W.	31/3/39	..	55
2319324	Corporal Shove R. L. J.	31/3/39	..	55
2319618	Corporal Spong F. G.	31/3/39	..	55

Promoted Corporal.

2318918	L/Corporal Bunting J.	11/2/39	..	75
2321332	L/Corporal Sharp A.	16/3/39	..	75
2324367	L/Corporal Herbert J. C.	27/3/39	..	77
830672	L/Corporal Stevens H.	27/3/39	..	77
2320866	L/Corporal Hamblett A. E.	29/3/39	..	77
3596407	L/Corporal Potts J.	30/3/39	..	77
2322004	L/Corporal Moore M. C.	31/3/39	..	77
2322436	L/Corporal Barrett R.	31/3/39	..	77
4340083	L/Corporal McClarron R.	31/3/39	..	78
2318515	L/Corporal Marsh E. J.	31/3/39	..	78
2321835	L/Corporal Cameron D.	31/3/39	..	78
2323368	L/Corporal Ward B.	31/3/39	..	78
2323066	L/Corporal Holder W. J.	31/3/39	..	78
2322162	L/Corporal Molony G. M. K.	31/3/39	..	78
2323410	L/Corporal Butler F. E.	31/3/39	..	78
2322204	L/Corporal McDonald P.	31/3/39	..	78
2323314	L/Corporal Reen A. J.	31/3/39	..	78
5613994	L/Corporal Kingdon W. J.	31/3/39	..	78
2320196	L/Corporal Graham J. A.	31/3/39	..	78
2321293	L/Corporal Green J. W. A.	31/3/39	..	78
2320642	L/Corporal Mires H. W.	31/3/39	..	78
2318953	L/Corporal Thomas R. A.	31/3/39	..	78

Appointed Lance Corporal.

2572510	Signalman Douthwaite J. W.	1/9/38	..	—
2326893	Signalman Moloney J.	27/9/38	..	—
3447622	Signalman Booth A. D.	1/10/38	..	—
2310598	Signalman Clewlow W.	7/10/38	..	—
6396066	Signalman Scott C. H.	1/11/38	..	—
2324471	Signalman Batchelor S.	11/11/38	..	—
2325593	Signalman Kinnaird W. Y. A.	30/11/38	..	—
2325437	Signalman Bebbington G.	4/12/38	..	—
2319524	Signalman Sherard D.	13/12/38	..	—
2323252	Signalman Derrick B. J.	14/12/38	..	—
4744670	Signalman Gibson C.	14/12/38	..	—
2322263	Signalman Shannon A.	16/12/38	..	—
2318901	Signalman Westoby A.	17/12/38	..	—
2320305	Signalman Crockett L. C.	19/12/38	..	—
2323269	Signalman Drysdale J.	19/12/38	..	—
2321715	Signalman Brooks W. H.	23/12/38	..	—
2319816	Signalman Welling A.	23/12/38	..	—
2321016	Signalman Sullivan L. T.	25/12/38	..	—
2975709	Signalman McVicar T.	28/12/38	..	—
2323179	Signalman Byron H.	31/12/38	..	—
2320542	Signalman Wilsdon L. A. J.	31/12/38	..	—
2326562	Signalman Miller S. K.	31/12/38	..	—
2567681	Signalman Garrad W. H.	31/12/38	..	—
2319112	Signalman Gillan W.	31/12/38	..	—
2323063	Signalman Lock V. J.	31/12/38	..	—
2324391	Signalman Sayer G. F. G.	1/1/39	..	—
2323863	Signalman Blishen L. W.	1/1/39	..	—
2316481	Signalman Barlow F. E. G.	1/1/39	..	—
2323796	Signalman Rogers J. T.	1/1/39	..	—
4380733	Signalman Blackett R. W.	1/1/39	..	—
2321533	Signalman Dellars A. G.	1/1/39	..	—
2321972	Signalman Otterson R.	1/1/39	..	—
2319510	Signalman Staton R.	1/1/39	..	—
2322241	Signalman Lloyd E. W.	1/1/39	..	—
2325508	Signalman Edwards R. A.	1/1/39	..	—
2570358	Signalman Dunkley S. F.	1/1/39	..	—
2321576	Signalman Carter A. E.	1/1/39	..	—
2322087	Signalman Sinclair D.	1/1/39	..	—
2323146	Signalman Bratt W. J.	2/1/39	..	—
2570064	Signalman Taylor T.	4/1/39	..	—
4905814	Signalman Haigh J. W.	5/1/39	..	—
3854098	Signalman Blackburn H.	5/1/39	..	—
2567423	Signalman Stewart D. C.	8/1/39	..	—
2323946	Signalman Sadd A. N.	8/1/39	..	—
2323671	Signalman Davis G. E.	9/1/39	..	—
2316668	Signalman Tovell H. L.	11/1/39	..	—
4612640	Signalman Batty A.	14/1/39	..	—
2323811	Signalman Smith H. B.	15/1/39	..	—
2324065	Signalman Powell H.	16/1/39	..	—
2323904	Signalman McKay J.	16/1/39	..	—
2323215	Signalman Creed A. J.	16/1/39	..	—
2325154	Signalman Lovatt R.	16/1/39	..	—
2322124	Signalman Toogood D. G.	17/1/39	..	—
2323780	Signalman Knox W.	19/1/39	..	—
2025875	Signalman Harper W.	19/1/39	..	—
2323496	Signalman Beaumont L.	19/1/39	..	—
2566922	Signalman Craggs J. W.	19/1/39	..	—
2322340	Signalman Milroy A. W.	20/1/39	..	—
2325650	Signalman Roberts D.	23/1/39	..	—
2322293	Signalman Coslett N.	23/1/39	..	—
2321650	Signalman Williams W. A.	24/1/39	..	—
2322061	Signalman Smith J. H.	24/1/39	..	—
2322019	Signalman Sellers G. E.	25/1/39	..	—
2750877	Signalman Downie J.	27/1/39	..	—
2322472	Signalman Webster E.	1/2/39	..	—
836265	Signalman Waite J. A.	1/2/39	..	—
5616363	Signalman Floyd K. H. G.	1/2/39	..	—
2323198	Signalman Fleming R.	1/2/39	..	—
2571832	Signalman Overton R. W.	1/2/39	..	—
2321822	Signalman Verlander D. A.	1/2/39	..	—
2323334	Signalman Crowe R. H.	1/2/39	..	—
2319981	Signalman Kitson R. E.	1/2/39	..	—
2322063	Signalman Smith J. C.	1/2/39	..	—
2322091	Signalman Hunt F. H.	1/2/39	..	—
2312031	Signalman Borrow H. C.	1/2/39	..	—
2321529	Signalman Prescott J.	1/2/39	..	—
2323161	Signalman Fowler W. S.	1/2/39	..	—
2324888	Signalman Hope G. W.	1/2/39	..	—

553299	Signalman Egerton T.	1/2/39	..	—
2323660	Signalman Eden W. T.	1/2/39	..	—
6397839	Signalman Baxter J.	1/2/39	..	—

Transferred to Royal Army Reserve.

2321567	L/Sergeant Allen A.	1/7/39	..	53
2320982	Corporal Cunningham	4/3/39	..	59
2321370	Corporal Cotton A.	9/3/39	..	61
2321379	Corporal Cooper A.	15/3/39	..	70
2321213	Corporal Yaxley R.	28/4/39	..	68
2321459	Corporal Brickles L. R.	28/4/39	..	72
2321238	Corporal Gardner	30/4/39	..	70
2320792	Corporal Tomkinson J.	1/5/39	..	70
2321518	Corporal Kunath F.	6/5/39	..	55
2321055	Corporal Bakes R.	7/5/39	..	58
2321652	Corporal Hallworth A.	10/6/39	..	—
2321672	Corporal Boughen L.	29/6/39	..	70
2321625	Corporal Grace F.	29/6/39	..	70
2321295	Corporal Manning R.	1/7/39	..	71
4341615	Corporal Carrison S.	2/7/39	..	72
2321717	Corporal Martin K.	8/7/39	..	75
6341746	Corporal Slaymaker E. H.	17/7/39	..	75
2321490	L/Corporal Hircoe	17/2/39	..	79
1068470	L/Corporal Jones F.	3/3/39	..	—
2321391	L/Corporal Peacock	8/3/39	..	—
2321517	L/Corporal Buxton J.	28/3/39	..	—
2319657	L/Corporal Smith H.	29/3/39	..	76
2321419	L/Corporal Hutton J.	6/4/39	..	—
2565773	L/Corporal Holberton N. W.	10/4/39	..	—
2321105	L/Corporal Styrin	16/4/39	..	—
2318816	L/Corporal Griffiths R. H. G.	22/4/39	..	—
4611611	L/Corporal Farrar T.	24/4/39	..	75
2321364	L/Corporal Turvey C.	7/5/39	..	—
2562729	L/Corporal Greetham L. R.	11/5/39	..	—
2318819	L/Corporal Manley E.	18/5/39	..	—
2318472	L/Corporal Jones E.	30/5/39	..	—
2321530	L/Corporal Scott W.	7/6/39	..	—
2321578	L/Corporal Scott L.	8/6/39	..	—
2321596	L/Corporal Merriman J.	12/6/39	..	—
2321626	L/Corporal Cook A.	17/6/39	..	—
2321035	L/Corporal Allan F.	19/6/39	..	—
2321346	L/Corporal Fall F.	19/6/39	..	—
2321556	L/Corporal Tracey G.	21/6/39	..	—
2977342	L/Corporal Morrison J.	23/6/39	..	—
6084677	L/Corporal Kennedy R.	6/7/39	..	—
2321622	L/Corporal Cave J. H.	8/7/39	..	—

Discharged.

1853012	R.Q.M.S. Hobby W.	17/5/39	..	7
1860324	R.Q.M.S. Quick P. S.	20/5/39	..	7
2307301	R.Q.M.S. Evelyn G.	26/5/39	..	5
1861301	R.Q.M.S. Mitchell G.	6/6/39	..	5
2311644	R.Q.M.S. Adcock J.	12/6/39	..	5
5610124	C.S.M. Bennett J.	2/3/39	..	84
2306534	C.S.M. Betts W.	26/3/39	..	18
2308854	C.S.M. Atkinson F.	23/4/39	..	18
2306656	C.S.M. Crockford A. S.	21/5/39	..	8
2310446	C.S.M. Bradbury E.	27/5/39	..	7
6296	W.O. III Williams H. R.	3/4/39	..	22
2308866	W.O. III Laurie J.	2/5/39	..	18
4178303	W.O. III Kelly J.	14/5/39	..	22
*1850423	C.Q.M.S. Paskins W.	25/2/39	..	90
2306646	C.Q.M.S. Fleet W.	25/3/39	..	18
2307383	C.Q.M.S. Kendall A.	22/5/39	..	18
2309615	C.Q.M.S. Perry G.	31/5/39	..	24
1850276	C.Q.M.S. Kitchen H.	12/6/39	..	21
2314287	Sergeant Field	3/3/39	..	25
2311654	Sergeant Short F. L.	3/3/39	..	28
2321080	Sergeant Pattenden A. E.	9/3/39	..	26
2309795	Sergeant Taylor R.	11/3/39	..	93
2311312	Sergeant Mott H. E.	28/3/39	..	30
2312077	Sergeant Addison L.	30/3/39	..	23
12233	Sergeant Smith C. C.	7/4/39	..	25
3703331	Sergeant Onyett F.	11/4/39	..	27
2306658	Sergeant Norcup J.	12/4/39	..	29
2306650	Sergeant Dawson S. J.	23/4/39	..	32
* 31275	Sergeant Standen R. F.	26/4/39	..	93
*2310797	Sergeant Bosworth H.	26/4/39	..	93
2314029	Sergeant Brown H.	1/5/39	..	28
2313556	Sergeant Brown F.	9/5/39	..	27

[Photo by Universal Pictorial Press, London

Wedding of Lieutenant-Colonel G. L. G. Pollard, M.B.E., to Miss Lloyd Maunsell, on 15th July, 1939.

2313843	Sergeant Sprunt H.	12/5/39	..	27
2312862	Sergeant Smith H. W.	16/5/39	..	39
1856964	Sergeant Watt N.	18/5/39	..	28
2310140	Sergeant Searle L.	27/5/39	..	23
2311306	L/Sergeant Furze W. G.	12/3/39	..	45
2315336	L/Sergeant Greaterex H.	4/5/39	..	41
2308588	L/Sergeant Peake C.	5/5/39	..	40
2313865	L/Sergeant Dendy E.	1/6/39	..	40
2319655	L/Sergeant Davidson J.	27/6/39	..	69
2967541	Corporal Wilson H.	31/3/39	..	96
2312258	Corporal Moore J.	1/4/39	..	38
2313508	Corporal Thomson L. J.	1/4/39	..	55
2316480	Corporal Jenner S.	30/5/39	..	57
2310568	Corporal Blight G.	11/6/39	..	38
2318225	L/Corporal Billingsley G.	17/3/39	..	—
2320526	L/Corporal Strong C.	21/3/39	..	—
2316209	L/Corporal Gear E.	23/4/39	..	—
2321360	L/Corporal Reedman	25/5/39	..	—

Commissioned.

1857300	R.S.M. Westwood F.	30/4/39	..	3
2306648	R.S.M. Sherman B. T.	30/4/39	..	3
2306480	R.S.M. (F-of-S) Flynn G.	1/5/39	..	10
2306533	R.S.M. Robertson J.	30/4/39	..	3

* Special Roster.

HAVE YOU JOINED THE SIGNALS ASSOCIATION?

A Personal Tribute.

A wide circle of friends paid their tribute on Friday, 18th August, to the memory of Mr. Herbert L. Adams, who died at Hindhead, on Monday, 14th August. He had been in failing health for some considerable time, as a result of his being badly gassed in the War, but the pluck and cheery optimism with which he carried on made his untimely death come as a great blow to all.

As proprietor of the Beacon Riding School he had become well known, not only for his fearless and accomplished horsemanship, but for the tireless patience (with pupils and horses) and the judgment which made him unsurpassed as an instructor. His interest in nervous and undistinguished riders of all ages was as keen as in those whom he had coached to the front rank. The whole happy atmosphere of the school and the generous care given to the horses won high praise from Major Faudel-Phillips of the " Institute of the Horse."

The testimonial and silver horse presented to him at Christmas, 1937, by about sixty of his pupils in a concerted effort to persuade him to undergo a cure, and in " affectionate gratitude for his inspiration, skill and patience as the best of instructors," was a " surprise attack " that he felt he could not ignore—despite a keenly independent spirit—without hurting many of his friends. He seemed to gain much benefit from the rest.

His own troubles never clouded his sympathy and his understanding of other peoples. The keenness and determination which won him a distinguished military career (he made his own way from the age of fourteen, when he enlisted in the Royal Engineers) was balanced by a fundamentally spiritual mind and an uncompromising sincerity that gave his great kindness and his friendships among " all sorts and conditions " a rare value. A born leader, he seemed to bring out the best in all who worked with him or under him. He will long be very grievously missed, but the courage with which he faced life, and which never deserted him, is something to remember.

The late A/R.S.M. Herbert Leslie Adams, M.M.

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44th (HOME COUNTIES) DIVISIONAL SIGNALS, T.A.

Inspection by

Her Royal Highness

The Princess Royal, C.I., G.C.V.O., G.B.E.,

Colonel-in-Chief, Royal Signals.

DIBGATE CAMP 18th JULY, 1939

Regimental Orders can reveal but little of the planning, the anxieties, and the satisfaction in successful accomplishment which constitute a considerable part of any inspection. Still less can they show the enthusiasm in preparation and the cheerful effort to perfect arrange- ments when a Unit is honoured by a visit from Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal.

Dibgate Camp, near Shorncliffe, provides an excellent setting for such a visit and, if to make the most of a picturesque setting above the Channel, the morning of Tuesday, 18th July, dawned clear and bright.

The period of additional recruitment earlier in the year had brought the 44th Divisional Signals (which after camp was to divide into two Units) to a strength approaching 1,200 under canvas. This strength comprised contingents from its Headquarters at Stamford Brook, W.6, New Southgate, and Brighton, as well as attached Sections from Hurstpierpoint, Chatham, and Worthing. Numbers of this order, while presenting new problems for a T.A. Signal Unit camp, provided the advance Party with considerable scope, of which they took full advantage, having the camp area to themselves, to secure an excellent lay-out convenient for the forthcoming inspection. Even so, however, the distances were such as to call for the use of cars between the various stopping points, and space requirements necessitated the division of the parade between the Unit Parade Ground for trained personnel and representative transport vehicles, and the Polo Ground for the Guard of Honour and recruits.

On the day of the inspection, Her Royal Highness, who was travelling by car from London, accompanied by her Lady-in-Waiting, arrived at the rendezvous in the village of Sellindge—about five miles from camp—at noon. Here she was met by the representative Colonel-Commandant, Major-General E. A. Osborne, C.B., D.S.O., and by five motor-cycle despatch riders from the Unit to act as escort to camp.

Progress to camp was continuously reported to two points in camp by a wireless vehicle which followed at a short distance behind the escort, until the actual arrival at the Polo Ground on the north side of the camp. At this point Her Royal Highness descended, and General Osborne presented Lieutenant-Colonel A. H. Read, O.B.E., T.D., who in turn presented Wing-Commander A. S. W. Dore, D.S.O., representing the Territorial Army and Air Force Association of the County of Middlesex, Colonel A. M. O. A. Anwyl-Passingham, O.B.E., D.L., Secretary to the Association, Colonel F. Parkinson, Honorary Colonel of the Unit, and Lieutenant-Colonel and Brevet-Colonel F. Reid, M.C., T.D., Commanding Officer Designate of the Duplicate Unit.

Paraded on the Polo Ground facing the flagstaff was the Guard of Honour, provided from trained personnel and under the command of Brevet-Major W. Gilbert. Formed up in rear in two ranks were the School personnel, some 600 strong, under Captain F. C. Watts, M.M., and, to the right flank, the young officers of the Unit under 2nd Lieutenant A. C. Campbell.

Arriving at the Parade Ground, Her Royal Highness, who was wearing Auxiliary Territorial Service uniform for the first time, took the Royal Salute, the flag being broken simultaneously at the staff. She then inspected the Guard of Honour, returning to the saluting base for the march past. The School personnel were then inspected and, during the course of the inspection, the Colonel-in-Chief spoke for a moment to ex-C.S.M. Jordan H., the oldest member of the Unit.

Rejoining her car, Her Royal Highness proceeded to inspect the Unit's Messing arrangements under Captain S. J. Williams, whose messing staff was paraded in the cook-house preparatory to the distribution of the midday meal. Progress was continued through the service tent—a marquee immediately adjoining the cook-house and provided during camp against the contingency of inclement weather, and to afford cover to the 100 or more mess orderlies required at the distribution point at meal times. Thence through the messing tents with their ordered arrangements of white tablecloths and blue condiment containers to a point near the hospital, where Her Royal Highness was met by the A.T.S. Company Commander, Mrs. Dudley Harris, commanding the detachment of the Middlesex A.T.S., in camp with the Unit.

With Acknowledgments to "Sport and General Press Agency, Limited," London.

Officers of the Unit being presented.

Walking over to the A.T.S. compound, Her Royal Highness inspected the A.T.S. lines and the detachment, speaking for a moment to Section Leader Chegwidden, who had served in the Great War.

The next stopping point was the Officers' Mess at the southern extremity of camp overlooking the sea. Here the officers, numbering about 60, were assembled in line just outside the ante-room, and each was presented in turn as Her Royal Highness walked down the line.

Sweet peas in blue and white, gracefully arranged by the A.T.S. Commander, helped to brighten the sombre lines of the Mess marquee in which Her Royal Highness lunched with the officers, and the setting of tables was further relieved by copies of a simple commemorative card on which Her Royal Highness had graciously consented to the printing of a message to the Unit. A copy of this card was retained by Her Royal Highness and further copies were available for all members of the Unit in camp. The message was as follows :

"I am very glad to be with the 44th Divisional Signals to-day, and to inspect both the officers and other ranks who have maintained the efficiency of the Unit in the past, and also the officers and other ranks who have joined recently to form the new Divisional Signals. I am confident that you are all determined that you, and these Units, will uphold the fine tradition and spirit of the Royal Corps of Signals. I wish every one of you good luck."

Luncheon afforded an interval between the Recruits' inspection and the time when the trained personnel of the Unit paraded. These were formed up in threes on the Unit Parade Ground facing the Regimental Orderly Room and flagstaff. As space was somewhat restricted and the complement of vehicles large, representative army vehicles only were assembled, the majority of the Unit's transport remaining in the main transport lines. The representative vehicles were shown complete with equipment—office equipment, wireless sets, cable-layers—and crews, and with radiators facing to the rear to facilitate inspection of equipment. Each was in readiness to function immediately if need be, but was not actually demonstrated.

In her inspection of the trained personnel, Her Royal Highness was accompanied by Major H. M. Rand, T.D., in command of the parade, Major H. O. Pargeter, Royal Signals, Adjutant, and R.S.M. White F. R. Her Royal Highness took great interest in the turn-out of the men on parade, every man down to the last recruit being enabled to parade in uniform, thanks to the untiring efforts of the Middlesex, Kent and Sussex Territorial Associations and of the Quartermaster, Lieutenant E. W. G. Harris and his staff. Her Royal Highness was also keenly interested in the recently issued vehicles and wireless equipment and spent some time examining these.

[With acknowledgments to the "Sport and General Press Agency, Limited," London.

H.R.H. The Princess Royal, accompanied by the Commanding Officer, Lieut.-Col. A. H. Read, inspects the Guard of Honour under the command of Brevet-Major W. Gilbert.

Concluding her inspection, Her Royal Highness bade farewell to the Colonel-Commandant and the Unit and, accompanied by her Lady-in-Waiting, entered her car. As the Royal car passed the Quarter Guard the trumpeters sounded the Royal Salute and Her Royal Highness moved slowly out of camp between the cheering ranks of the whole Unit, which had meantime lined the departure route.

So ended a day eagerly awaited and enjoyably realised by the whole Unit—now to be recorded at the head of its history. It comes most appropriately to initiate the expansion of the 44th Divisional Signals into two complete Units, and even more happily to mark a year in which the Representative Colonel-Commandant of the Corps is also a Divisional Commander.

The Unit would respectfully desire to record its realisation of the high honour accorded to it, and to express its sincere good wishes for many years of happiness to our Colonel-in-Chief.

* * *

During the course of the visit, Her Royal Highness graciously consented to the Unit taking miniature cinematograph records for its own use. Some very good film was obtained which was shown during later performances in the Camp Cinema, so generously provided by the Honorary Colonel.

Many press photographs were also taken, a selection of which is being reproduced in this and/or the next issue of the WIRE.

Signal Unit, Glasgow University O.T.C.

University Avenue, Glasgow, W.2.

14th August.

Since my last notes only one item of great importance has occurred. Our C.S.M. David Flint has been gazetted 2nd Lieutenant in the Royal Signals, T.A., and is serving with the 3rd A.A. Divisional Signals. Congratulations, sir!

During his service with the O.T.C. he was an outstanding figure, and the Signal Unit lost a really first-class man. His promotion in the Unit was rapid, but he deserved it. He could be relied upon to tackle any job of work and do it well. Last year he won the Davidson Medal, a trophy presented to the most efficient Cadet of the year. The competition was open to all members of the contingent.

The P.S.I. has asked me to say that if there were a few more David Flints in the Unit, his mind would be much more at rest than it is at present.

The officers had an enjoyable time in camp with the 52nd Lowland Divisional Signals, T.A. They asked for work and apparently got it. They did a little bit of spying on the old members of the Unit, and it is pleasing to know that our former C.S.M., 2nd Lieutenant A. M. Reid, now commanding an Infantry Brigade Section, in the 52nd, did his stuff remarkably well.

Things are very quiet at Headquarters, but it will not be long before the new term commences, and we shall see many old faces again.

PINKIE.

HOME STATIONS

SIGNAL TRAINING CENTRE NOTES

School of Signals.

10th August.

The Unit, usually a hive of industry, is at present as lifeless as the Sahara Desert. Except for a few unfortunates, who are just managing to keep the wheels turning, the School of Signals staff is scattered the length and breadth of Britain, enjoying a well-deserved vacation.

Signalman Barrett has left us on attachment to the Royal Army Pay Corps and has been fortunate enough to be sent to such a delightful place as Edinburgh.

The Officer i/c Records has severely shaken quite a number of the " key men " of the Unit. It came as a shock to discover that such countries as India and Egypt might require their services. The only consolation we can offer them is, that a year in any other part of the British Empire has 365 days and 366 days each leap year, just the same as in Blighty.

And now, until next month, when we will be back to normal (we hope), we will close down, as even this puny effort is rather too much for us.

Headquarters, Depot Battalion.

August.

The Battalion has temporarily vacated its own lines, which are now occupied by the Militia, and moved to Marne Lines camping ground. The weather has been unbelievably bad since the camp was pitched, but the willingness of all ranks to face unpleasant conditions deserves congratulation. Everyone has kept cheerful and the N.A.A.F.I. Concert Party helps to keep one's spirits up. The two photographs show: (4) Recruits constructing "Aldershot ovens" for the cooks in camp; (2) A party of men pitching tents for our temporary camp. Beyond can be seen the Militia hutted camp in the course of construction. It is doubtful whether it will be finished until September, although the contractor is employing literally hundreds of men. Meanwhile the Militia seem to find our own lines very much to their liking.

The Garrison Flower Show took place on 2nd August. We were beaten by the R.A.M.C. in the Unit Lines Competition, which we won last year, but managed to retain the Cup for the best exhibit of fruit, flowers and vegetables. Owners of gardens who gave produce, and particularly Mr. Darling of the Officers' Mess garden, are to be congratulated on the excellence of their wares.

Lieutenant (T.M.O.) E. Nash, Royal Signals, a former member of the Battalion, has come back to us, and is taking over the Instruction of Drivers (I.C.) in " C " Company. He is, as you all know, a well-known horticulturist, and played a distinguished part in staging the Unit exhibit, which again won us the Cup. We were unlucky not to win the rose exhibit, which the Regimental Police have won for a number of years in succession.

Everyone will regret the departure of Captain J. McConville, Royal Signals, our P.R.I. and Messing Officer, who has been posted to Northern Ireland Signal Company. His place has been taken by Major H. A. Spencer, M.C., Royal Signals, who is well known as a Corps boxer.

Active preparations for Passive Air Defence continue steadily and surely. The work has to be done without taking men off training and the end is almost in sight. The two pictures (3 & 5) show Reservists fitting civilian G.S. respirators to married families. Mrs. Nickling seems to be quite resigned to the ordeal and Mrs. and Master Swan are also enjoying themselves whilst " hubby " looks on. These Reservists were trained in every detail of P.A.D. by the Unit Gas Staff prior to a spell of duty with the Militia, and practical fitting of civilian respirators was part of their training. Every family has been fitted and issued with size cards, which in any future crisis will be exchanged for respirators. Two fully equipped Cleansing Centres have been erected; one for contaminated wounded and one for contaminated personnel only. The Gas Staff spend quite a lot of time showing distinguished visitors round these Centres, which are considered the most advanced of any in the Camp. The Sappers have been most helpful with provision of material of all kinds and our thanks are due to them for their ready co-operation. The telephone dug-out shown in the picture (1) was built by recruits and is splinter proof and gas proof.

H. R. V. C.

"A" Company, Depot Battalion.

August.

General.—The weather at the moment is certainly very pleasant, but the heat wave we were looking forward to at the time of submitting our last notes has not yet materialised. The vacating of our huts by the Militiamen has commenced, which is certainly a step in the right direction.

The Company is recuperating after spending a hectic August Bank Holiday; two of our Corporals are still wondering how they happened to be sightseeing in Edinburgh at 4 a.m. on the Friday morning after leaving here.

Promotions and Appointments.—Congratulations to the following: C.S.M. Stainer, T/Sergeant Carr, T/Lance Sergeant Driscoll, Lance Corporal Wright, U/Lance Corporals Allen, Brankin, Gittin, Hutcheson, Sinclair and Seville.

Arrivals.—The usual welcome is extended to the following in "A" Company: Signalmen Allen, Brankin, Gittins and Hutcheson, who left us shortly after arrival to undergo a course of " destruction " at the A.S.P.T., Aldershot. Sergeant Grose from " C " Company. Sergeant-Instructor Offord of the A.P.T.S. *vice* Sergeant-Instructor Reynolds, who has left us to dwell in his natural surroundings at Cardiff. Drivers (I.C.) Reid and Farquhar from " C " Company. Driver (I.C.) Kenning and Signalman Kemp. Lance Sergeant Douglas-Beveridge from Meerut to assist in the Education Centre *vice* T/Lance Sergeant Donovan, who has left us to take up a Ministry of Labour Course at Southampton prior to discharge.

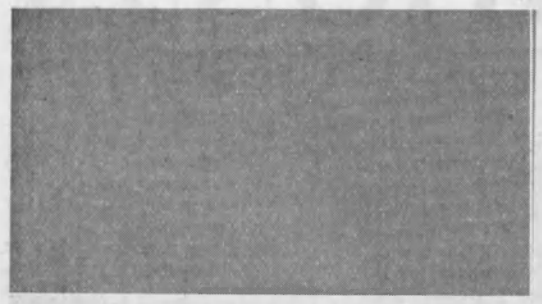
Discharges.—Lance Sergeant Kelly on completion of his Ministry of Labour Course at Handsworth. Our best wishes to him on his re-entry into civilian life.

Marriage.—T/Lance Sergeant Butler entered into the happy state of matrimony on 5th July, when he was married to Miss Maureen Olive Parfitt at Catterick Camp. Congratulations and very best wishes for the future.

Sport.—We kept our beaten record when we lost to 5th Divisional Signals at cricket by 20 runs. This match was noteworthy because the scorer was called upon to play at the last moment. He was successful in carrying his bat, although failing to score any runs, and it was noted that some of his strokes, though not connecting with the ball, bore the stamp of class, though just which class was very hard to determine.

PLYMOUTH HOE.

SOME SNAPS FROM HEADQUARTERS, DEPOT BATTALION.



1. Telephone Dug-out.
2. Pitching Camp. Militia Camp in background.
3. Mrs. and Master Swan. Sergeant Swan in background.
4. Recruits Constructing "Aldershot Ovens."
5. Mrs. Nickling.

"C" Company, Depot Battalion.

August.

General.—We welcome a new Company Commander, Major B Coombs, O.B.E., R.E., who has relieved Major H. A. Spencer, M.C., Royal Signals. Major Spencer has taken over the duties of P.R.I., in addition to those of second-in-command.

Lieutenant G. C. B. McKean, Royal Signals, has proceeded overseas to Egypt, and it is hoped he enjoys his tour.

A draft of thirty-one D.R.s and Drivers (I.C.) also proceeded to Egypt on 1st August, and are the forerunners of our going-away list.

Whilst on the subject of going away, a number of our N.C.O.s have been provisionally warned for service overseas. Faint cheering can be heard across the waters. Some already know the route and have the advantage of knowing the way to the canteen without resting on the locals. One of these fortunates was heard to say, "Oh, for a glimpse of the Suez," because he still doesn't believe it exists. It must be a long way from Gibraltar.

Training proceeds as usual after the August leave period. Two D.R. Squads have passed out and all qualified. One Driver (I.C.) Squad also qualified and both they and the D.R.s are now in Field Units.

Sport.—We congratulate the Depot Battalion Cricket team on winning their way to the final of the Schweppes Cup. Personal performances will be mentioned in consolidated sport items.

Cricket is now fading away and the rugby and soccer teams are shaping.

The Depot Battalion soccer team have already played two matches against combined Militia and rejoined Reservists, losing both games, 3—4 and 1—2. The second game was very close and even. Jones, the Depot Battalion goalkeeper, was unfortunate in getting injured, but we are pleased to say it was only of a minor character and he is again available.

The rugby team is at present limbering up, under the capable guidance of Sergeant Gourlay, and an attractive fixture list has already been arranged.

Snow clearing and ice breaking is really the main sport in Catterick, but as we have had no summer, maybe the weather clerk has reserved just ordinary sleet and rain for the football enthusiasts.

GRADE THREE.

"D" Company, Training Battalion.

14th August.

The Company have just returned from a spot of leave and things are beginning to return to normal, whatever that is. As usual there are a number of broken hearts being patched up with three-halfpenny stamps and that old war cry, "roll on my eight," can be heard first thing in the morning and last thing at night.

We must apologise to readers for not reporting last month the departure of Lieutenant-Colonel R. T. O. Cary. In losing Colonel Cary as our C.O. we have lost an officer whose first consideration was the happiness of those serving under him in the Battalion. We have to thank him for many things which we enjoy to-day, the most common of these being the Permanent Pass until Reveille daily, and the privilege of wearing civilian clothes on joining the Unit. To go on reporting the various ways in which he made it easier for us we could fill this magazine. We will not say goodbye but *au revoir* sir.

Major L. R. Hall, M.C., Royal Signals, has now taken over the duties of Company Commander. We trust that his stay with us will be a long and pleasant one.

Heartiest congratulations are extended to 2nd Lieutenant R. P. H. Russell, R.A.S.C., on being appointed to the commission shown. 2nd Lieutenant Russell was, until a few weeks ago, an Electrician Signals under training. We sincerely hope that he will enjoy his new position and we wish him the very best of luck. For the benefit of those who wish to write to him, his new address is: 2nd Lieutenant R. P. H. Russell, R.A.S.C., Training Battalion, R.A.S.C., Aldershot, Hants.

Our financial adviser, or Pay N.C.O., if you want it that way, has left the fold to wield a pen with the London District Signal Section. The N.C.O. referred to is none other than Sergeant Dodd C. L., known from the Khyber to Catterick, not forgetting Bulford. We wish him all the best in his new Unit and expect to see him Financial Secretary to the War Office before very long.

Another departure this month was Sergeant Frey, who was known to every recruit in the Company. He has now gone to "Civvy Street," after completing 21½ years' service. We wish him every success in his new life and hope to hear from him quite often.

Some of you may wonder who is left in the Company Office. C.S.M. Mills is doing the work of C.S.M., with Sergeant Rigden as the Orderly Room Sergeant. Corporal Holdsworth has rejoined the Company from "E" Company and is now the Pay N.C.O. Corporal Milroy has joined the Company from "F" Company to relieve Sergeant Frey as Orderly N.C.O. Signalman Bennett is slaving night and day on documents and Part II Orders, with Signalman Wren (at present in hospital) as Part I Order Clerk. W.O.III Jones, who was Chief Clerk some time ago, is performing the duties of C.Q.M.S., with Signalman Adams, recently from Gibraltar, as storeman. Needless to say, things could not be wor——, I mean better.

Signalman Williams D. has been appointed T/U/Lance Corporal whilst touring with a Recruiting Van. We offer our congratulations.

Congratulations also to the following on attaining the substantive ranks shown: W.O.III Jones, W.O.II Mills, Sergeant Booth, Lance Sergeant Burdes, Corporals Wood A. E. and Strype. The next step won't be long now, so bear up.

Here are a few of the provisional warnings for service abroad for N.C.O.s: Sergeant Melmore, Lance Sergeant Ryan and Corporal Illingworth for India; Corporal Strype for Malaya; Sergeant Le Cocq for Sarafand Signal Section. We hope they will enjoy their stations if they get them.

Since the lowering of the marriage allowance age, it appears that quite a number are considering the serious step. This month we have two weddings to report. Signalman Grant B. was married to Miss Veronica Stewart at St. Margaret's Church, Glasgow. Miss Alice G. Lyon became the wife of Driver (I.C.) Einig A., at the Church of St. John the Evangelist, Knotty Ash, Lancashire. Congratulations to both parties and may they enjoy long life and happiness.

We welcome to our happy family Corporal McDougall from "A" Corps Signals. He has joined the staff of the S.T.C. University, or should we say Education Centre? We trust he will have a pleasant stay with us.

C.S.M. Mills has added another medal ribbon to his string. Congratulations on being awarded the Indian General Service Medal. In the normal course of events the next one should be the M.S.M., but that is about another twenty years away.

Instrument Mech. Class No. 71 have finished training and joined Field Units. We understand that some of them have proceeded on draft leave since they left us. We hope they will enjoy their new Units.

Quite a number are now residing on Whinny Hill in tents. The Quartermaster is expected to add two new items to his monthly indent sheet: "Canoes, other ranks, for the use of" and "Suits, swimming, soldiers, for the use of." So far the weather has been kind to those of our Company who have just gone under canvas, but none of us dare to think what the future may hold in store for us.

We should like to congratulate the soccer team of the Militia Training Battalion on their splendid record of being unbeaten. In a few days' time the members of the team, who are Reservists, will return to their jobs in civilian life. We wish them all the best.

Replies to Correspondents.—"Conscientious" of Aldershot wants to know where he can learn quite a lot about the Phantom Circuit. All I can say, "Conscientious," is to advise you to attend Classes on Spiritualism.

Picked Up.—We will now take our roving microphone on a short trip and see what we can pick up. The first stop is in the

darkness of the Guard Room verandah, the time being midnight.

Sentry : " Halt ! Who goes there ? "

Voice out of darkness : " Orderly Officer."

Sentry : "Advance, Orderly Officer, and be exercised."

The roving microphone takes up another position, this time underneath a meat pie about to be attacked by an " old hand " in the Canteen.

Old Hand : " By the way, Bill, what is the march that the whole British Army would march past to ? "

Comrade-in-Arms : " In these days of sympathetic training, I should say it must be ' We are the Ovaltineys.' "

(Oh, to have been in the Army of yesterday !)

As the setting sun rests over those hills behind the 30-yards Range, we reluctantly tear ourselves away from the home of Donites. In the distance we can see a silhouette against the sky. Who is it, you may ask. It is

ACK PIP BEER.

"E" Company, Training Battalion.

August.

General.—The August leave terminated with a pleasant surprise for all the Company. Negotiations between our C.O. and the Militia Training Battalion started a great trek from the Camp site at Whinney Hill to the Barrack rooms at Kemmel Lines, and in less than an hour we were settled down in our old bed spaces.

Appointments.—Congratulations are extended to T/Lance Sergeants Smith H. and Scott P. on their appointments. We were sorry that Smudger did not have time to finish his Cook's Course at Butlin's Holiday Camp.

Arrivals.—Lance Corporal Fish H. has rejoined from a Cook's Course at Aldershot. We are sure he can do his stuff.

Departures.—We bid a sad farewell to Lance Sergeant W. J. Lavelle, who has proceeded on leave prior to being posted to Nigeria, R.W.A.F.F., and we hope he likes his new station. Don't forget to let us know all about it, Paddy !

The names of the numerous postings would take up too much space, but we hope that No. 83 Squad are enjoying their new station, and also that the Egypt draft can now *Arraf Arabic tamam.*

Swimming.—The Training Battalion water polo team did very well in the Garrison Water Polo League, winning all their matches (with the exception of the R.T.R.). " E " Company were well represented, and the following were presented with " Jimmies " : 2nd Lieutenant Rowntree, Lance Sergeants Banham and Scott, Corporal Summers, Signalmen Smith A. and Etherington, all of " E " Company, and Signalmen Baker and Spencer of " D " Company. They put up a good show and next year we are going out to win all our matches.

Agony.—To Bert Eason (T.A., Stratford) from Reg. (H.Y.B.).

G. W. S.

"F" (Boys) Company Training Battalion.

August.

General.—The past month has been one which will be often recalled during the new " term." The Company proceeded on leave on 13th July and reluctantly returned on 12th August.

The mere phrase " proceeded on leave " may sound commonplace enough, but actually the details it involved amounted to an historical event. To start with, we had at least three weeks of hard work to be completed in one evening. Nevertheless, things were so well managed that a casual observer might have described the scene in this manner : " The O.C. waved his hands and Gandale Camp disappeared, the C.S.M. waved his whip and we were paid and issued with rail and furlough forms, the Orderly N.C.O. waved a roll board and busses appeared and we waved farewell."

Returning from leave was, however, a much more dismal affair. A long procession of glum faces poured into the Guard room staggering under the weight of cases containing everything from supplies of cherry blossom to hard boiled eggs. Now that we are all back we are doing our best to drown that after-leave feeling in that happy state of affairs known as routine.

Some time ago publicity was given to the new quarters which are being built for us. This building has almost become a legend among our more sceptical wisecracks, but it seems as though we can now confidently expect to move into these in the near future. Among the numerous amenities afforded by this new type of barracks is hot and cold water, central heating, porcelain tiles in the annexes and cookhouse and a lovely view of our present Company Office.

Promotions and Appointment.—We extend our congratulations to the following on obtaining their new ranks : S.S.M. Murphy, Sergeants Kirby and Manning, Lance Corporal Dixon (Paid).

Congratulatory.—All members of the Company wish to congratulate Ex-Boy Martin on obtaining a commission in Royal Signals. The Company is proud of you, sir, and we trust that we may find some more boys to emulate your excellent record.

In Conclusion.—Once more we must apologise for the shortness of these notes. If the reader has ever tried to think back after a month's hectic revelry we feel sure he will sympathise.

A. JAY.

ALDERSHOT NEWS

"A" Corps Signals.

No. 1 Company.

August.

After a very busy month the Company has returned from a short summer break. The outstanding events of last month were the Corps Command and Staff College Exercises. We must hand a bouquet to the Reservists for the splendid work they put in on these exercises. The majority of them had not before worked with Quad Cable or the mechanised cable layers, but the speedy manner in which they adjusted themselves to these new methods of working deserves considerable praise.

Our Reservists have now returned to civilian life and we hope they enjoyed their two months' stay with us.

We welcome to No. 1 Company Sergeant Pope T. who joins us from Liverpool Supplementary Reserve. Unfortunately for us he has been warned for service overseas, so we will have the pleasure of his company for only a short period.

Fourteen Indian leave attachments have joined us pending their return to " Punky." Roll on that boat !

Sergeant Nash R. has left us for Liverpool Supplementary Reserve. Lucky man ! R.Q.M.S. Foley and C.S.M. Storey have joined Nos. 2 and 3 Companies respectively.

Sergeant Dallimore T., and Signalman Petherick have been warned for service in Malta, embarking early in September.

The discharges were Lance Corporal (" Mush ") Kennedy and Signalmen Lee and Murphy. We wish them every success in civil life.

No. 2 Company.

General.—Well, the summer break has come, and gone ! Short though it was, it provided a welcome respite from the various schemes, and now we are all set for the big show in September. We certainly got around during the aforementioned schemes, and saw quite a lot of Hampshire and Hertfordshire, stopping at and passing through picturesque villages and hamlets of whose existence, I must confess, most of us were unaware. As usual, the main snag was the inclement weather which, however, despite its drawbacks, has clothed the countryside with the richest green mantle seen for years. It would certainly please

you fellows overseas to see the beautiful colour of the grass and trees this year.

Reservists.—To-day we say farewell to the Reservists, the first party are leaving for their home towns once again, and I anticipate a great wailing and gnashing of teeth from these men who have to go out and work for their livings next week. At any rate, we all wish them the best of luck and trust they will long remember their two months' service with us.

While we are on the subject of Reservists let us extend a hearty welcome to the second party due to arrive on the 15th of this month.

Regulars.—Once more the call from overseas is sapping our manhood and No. 2 Company, excluding Reservists, is again in a sad state of health, but we can take it!

Promotions and Appointments.—Congratulations to C.S.M. Lockyer on being promoted Company Sergeant Major, and also to Lance Sergeant Pitney on appointment to that rank.

Conclusion.—I hope to make my next instalment cram full of interesting items, but this month I'm using the departure of the Reservists as an excuse for very short notes. We are terribly busy. All the best.

MAINSPRING.

1st Divisional Signals.

15th August.

General.—We bid farewell to Lieutenant-Colonel A. L. Harris, M.C., our former Commanding Officer, who has left us on expiration of his Command and we take this opportunity of wishing him the best of luck in his new sphere of life. We hope to see him whenever his work brings him Aldershot way. We hear that you are living at Staines, not far away, sir!

Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. Nalder has now taken over the Unit officially and may we congratulate you, sir, on your promotion.

The first batch of Reservists have left us for their return to civil life after their good work and discipline during their two months' stay; they put in some excellent work and showed a fine example of *esprit de corps*. We wish them the best of luck on their return and hope they have settled down into their old jobs once again. At the same time we welcome the second batch of Reservists to the Unit. Looking round there are quite a number of 1st Divites who used to be here.

The Unit has had a short August break in two batches and is now back in harness once again and ready for anything.

We have to prepare for the General's inspection on 23rd August, so burnishers are the order of the day. The inspection is much earlier this year.

The Militia wing is now being formed in preparation for the first batch of Militiamen, who arrive from the Depot early next month; according to reports they seem to have settled down with enthusiasm. The Militia hutments are almost complete and will be ready when needed.

Our congratulations are extended to Major and Mrs. T. C. Thompson on the birth of a daughter.

In reply to "Tommie," the new book will be passed on by the author *en route* during the forthcoming trooping season. Another addition to this phenomenal library is "The Black Out" by A. R. P. Trew. Keeps you completely in the dark; nerve thrilling, yet a welcome to the young.

Some interesting "War games" have been part of the Units' Exercises, which have included the 1st Division Signal Exercise. The Corps Skeleton Exercise and the Staff College Exercise, all around the Bordon-Alton area. They were all very successful from a Signal point of view.

Congratulations are extended to the following on their recent promotions or appointments: W.O.II (C.S.M.) Pickering E., Sergeant Choulerton, T/Sergeant Wattle W., Lance Sergeant Robertson J., T/Lance Sergeant Verlander E., T/Corporals Barlow F., Goldsmith T., Wright C., Cocking A., Bowler J., Rainford R., T/P/Lance Corporals Keating J., Rogers J., Knight F., Sewell H., Cooper H., Bush H., Trott W., Barry F., Brooklyn H., Rae A., Greening C., Thornton J. F., Anderson W., Carter I., Chandler A., Parker C., Brown G., Pitt T., Ridler G., Raitt W., Bish E., Carlson W., Flint S., French A., Lovell H. and Costin A., P/Lance Corporals Dunaway E. F., Westbury A., Wilmshurst J. H., Willis V. H., Beckley J. and Strong S. H.

The following have extended to complete twenty-one years with the Colours on completing their two months' reserve period: Lance Corporal Cooke A., T/Lance Corporal Blake D., Signalmen Durbar J., Goodall H. and Lewis A.

We would like to welcome Signalmen Gray D., Geddes I., Karn P. and Lunt F. from the Training Battalion.

2nd Divisional Signals.

No. 1 Company.

August.

This being the first day after the August holidays, we hope to be excused if these notes are not up to standard. Much activity has been witnessed since our last notes. Schemes have followed each other and we understand they were successful. The weather was not kind to us, but, in spite of this severe drawback, we managed to get "through." Unfortunately, the weather has also proved an obstacle to those of our Company who have gone with the London T.A. Signals to Beaulieu. This detachment, comprising Regulars and Reservists, left us on 31st July. A splendid effort was made to get as many men as possible away for the August holidays, with the result that only a small percentage of this Company has failed to obtain leave.

Preparations are now well advanced for the returning of the first batch of Reservists to "Civvy Street." We wonder if there will be any regrets? They settled down wonderfully well and have proved themselves jolly good chaps, so much so that we are even inclined to think that we had been favoured by Records, or was it because they found it easy to fall in with the happy life of the Company.

Six of the Company are now on draft leave, and we wish them a happy time at their new Stations.

We also congratulate all those who have stepped up the ladder of fame.

Our congratulations and best wishes to Reservists Farley and Beaumont who are now married men.

Perhaps at this juncture it would be a happy idea to extend the hand of friendship to the next batch of Reservists, who are due on the 15th, and trust they will maintain the record of good behaviour and fellowship which has been set up by those who are with us now. To use a "Western Brothers" term, we say to those Reservists with us now, "Good show, you cads."

We also extend the hand of welcome to those who have joined our Company recently.

The Company appears to be full of budding Robert Taylors for we observe that many of the men have submitted passes to places through which we passed during our recent Schemes.

Last month we mentioned the capacity shown by the Reservists for beer drinking at Thursley. Having spent a few days on Schemes in the Company of the N.C.O. i/c D.R.s, we think he can be safely described as the champion tea drinker. The nickname "Sponge" will doubtless follow him throughout his Army career, provided he does not burst beforehand.

Some of the officers and men will soon sally forth in order to try their hand with the anti-tank gun, and we anticipate some good results.

Many thanks to No. 3 Company for the merry little game of cricket given to the H.Q. personnel of this Company, but we regret to report that no special talent was found for the Div. amongst those of No. 1 Company.

No. 2 Company.

General.—We appear to have struck a lull in the typica English weather. Those of us who were fortunate enough to

arrange that the summer break coincided with the break in the weather, can consider themselves truly favoured, for several T.A. camps caught the weather at its worst. The gentlemen of the Press and the camera were quick to publish very muddy accounts of the difficulties encountered. We even read of "Ruritanian" eggs appearing upon the breakfast table! No doubt this was the result of the damp confusion. Nevertheless, in spite of weather conditions, we played out part in the various Exercises, and the experience gained should help us during our autumnal excursion to the Yorkshire moors.

Departures.—Our first batch of Reservists have left us, and with them go our best wishes and regrets. They were a tower of strength, and lost little time in familiarising themselves with the changes in equipment, etc. We are certain that they will take back into civilian life very happy memories and the assurance that the Corps of to-day is all right.

Welcome.—To the second batch of Reservists a very hearty welcome and our very best wishes for a happy stay.

Warning Notices.—The annual turnover of the Company during the coming trooping season is foreshadowed by the number already warned for overseas. Here's wishing all those already warned a very happy tour and good Stations. Our local "static" is in a very oscillatory state at the moment. Just now the indications are that "he can't take it," but time alone will tell.

C. P. R. S.

No. 3 Company.

General.—The Company has now returned from the summer break and our young Romeos have left their Juliets behind; but there is still the consolation of knowing that they can rely on the Post Office to continue their romances.

Welcome.—We welcome the second batch of Reservists, who have been called up for training, but we wonder what is going to happen when they have gone. Thanks to Mr. Records, who has just about cleared us right out of man power, it looks as though the Militia or the T.A. will have to step in and take over the empty bed spaces that will be left in No. 3 Company. We read that thousands of recruits are joining the Corps these days, but probably Mr. Records has forgotten us.

Departures.—We have said goodbye to Signalman "Badgy" Hard of R.A. fame, who is leaving us for that desirable little spot called Blackdown, in order to join the A.A. Brigade Signals. Well, "Badgy," we are sorry to lose you, and wish you all the best in your new Unit.

Jews' Mail.—To Lance Corporal (Bill) Craine. "How is the Militia Wing going? You must keep that elbow up, Bill. Morry."

W. S. M.

Armoured Divisional Signals.

Bulford Fields, Wiltshire
11th August.

Donning waders, bathing costume, and endeavouring to wipe the mud of Bulford Fields from our eyes, we commence once again to inform all and sundry of our doings, provided we can write *finis* before going down for the third time. So notorious has the weather been of late that the building of an Ark (complete with personnel) has been contemplated, life-boat drill is in the offing and the local demand for water wings has been appalling, as for our "civvies," they are no longer suits, they have become splashboards. To make preparations for bed means rubbing down oneself with whisky, smothering in grease and sticking on mustard plasters to prevent us from pushing up daisies. Our Reservists will not vouch for the above, as their boast is that it has rained but once. It started the day after their arrival and, like "Johnnie Walker," is still going strong.

Upon the termination of their training our Reservists once again rejoin "Civvy Street," leaving behind the joys of camp life for the hardships of their occupations before being called up. We are aware that you have had to take the rough with the smooth, but are you sure that you can take it? What price bacon and beans?

The 17th-22nd July saw the Unit, with the exception of a few who remained in camp, on the active business of schemes. Stops were made at Trowbridge, Dunster, and Chideock. Everybody gave of his best and though some 12,000 miles were covered by our vehicles, thanks to the good road sense and driving of our drivers no accidents took place. Our dashing D.R.s must be commended for their good work, one of them covering 750 miles during runs. Keep it up!

A careful observation of our bright sparks will bring home the fact that thoughts of August leave are still strong in their minds. Trudging through quagmires and lugging their suitcases behind them, their return bore a strong resemblance to Napoleon's retreat from Moscow.

When the end of the day's work is in sight our Junior N.C.O.s can be seen learning the intricacies of Elementary Drill, so keep the old flag flying.

The end of July saw the finish of Nos. 5 and 6 Drivers' Squads. They have qualified as Drivers I.C. under the careful tuition of Lance Sergeant Cullen M. and Lance Corporal Hircoe ("Ginger" to you). Some are being posted to 3rd Divisional Signals (our neighbours), so we bid them *adieu* and hope they will drop in and discuss general matters over a cup of tea.

Unit Sports Day provided us with some laughs and good wins. Special mention must be made of the finish of the mile, won by Signalman Shaw S. of "C" Troop. On the last 100 yards he was lying some 20 yards in the rear to Driver Shaw L., but came home to first place in the true Wooderson fashion. The success of the Mixed Relay Race (hop, skip and a jump) was the cause for loud laughter, but you cannot train on beer. No. 3 Squadron were triumphant in the tug-of-war, pulling No. 4 Squadron in a fashion that is the envy of all weak and feeble males.

Entertainments.—A concert was given by "Big Bill and Company." Can you live it down, Barton? Several good turns, including some witty jokes and several good remarks were much appreciated by the large audience, who had come to see the leading lady. In this respect we make a correction. We have been informed that a leading lady goes looking for the producer and not the producer for the lady (so sorry, Bill).

Jews' Mail.—Corporals Rotherham and Gibson wish to be remembered to the old D.R. Training Staff of "C" Company, Catterick Camp.

Camp Cameos.—If you want to find several map references always ask the third D.R. you come to.

BEEBEE.

4th Divisional Signals, Canterbury.

No. 2 Company.

August.

General.—Our usual scribe has left us on a further chase for the "baton," *via* Sandhurst, and having been unable to find anyone else, am compelled to try this job myself.

The last few days have been excellent bricklayers' weather, and our new barrack blocks are coming on apace. Further excavations are also taking place at the other end of the square on the site of our Unit ballroom—sorry, Gymnasium.

A large trench is being dug for the drains across the corner of the football pitch, and we understand the football committee are thinking of developing it along the lines of "Reilly-Foul's" elephant pit. If you see our outside right progressing by a series of short hops, look out. You have been warned.

Reservists.—Our first batch of Reservists left us on 15th August. Six of them decided that Army life was, after all, the goods, and have signed on the dotted line. They are: Signalmen Duly, Bennett, Armstrong, Eccleshall, McConnell and Hayward.

Promotions and Appointments.—Not quite so many under this heading this month, a fact which is obvious from a study of the Bar stock book.

Congratuiations to T/R.Q.M.S. Nicolson to Substantive R.Q.M.S., Corporal Brooke A. to T/Lance Sergeant; Corporal Satchwell A. to T/Lance Sergeant; T/A/U/Lance Corporal

McRobert J. to U/Lance Corporal; and Signalmen Whalley, Rye, Armstrong and McConnell, and Driver Teague to U/Lance Corporal.

Departures.—Lance Corporal Rye to the Militia Training Battalion, Harrogate; and T/Lance Sergeant Brooke A. R. to qualify for higher pay and fabulous allowances. All the best, chaps!

Cupid's Corner.—Three transfers to the ranks of the benedicts this month—with qualification for F.A., H.R.R.A., M.Q., and all the rest of it. Congratulations to Lance Corporals Whalley and Roberts, and Driver Bramley on their conspicuous bravery. Personally, we think it was just a dodge in order to avoid taking over the Cadre barrack-room.

Deep Depressions.—Trooping orders, provisional and final warnings are just going through the "Roneo," so get your applications written out.

P.S.—Will the Reservists (first batch) please send the writer something to cure smokers' throat?

Palestine Press.—"Bunny" (Sarafand). "Coming to see you in October. Bob."

PIP.

No. 3 Company.

August.

There is little of interest to report this month. The first batch of Reservists have already packed up their suitcases and returned to "Civvy Street." One or two have decided that the Army of to-day is somewhat easier than it was in other days, and have signed on the dotted line. We, therefore, have to welcome to No. 3 Company, Lance Corporals Bennett and Duly, complete with glowing accounts of life in the raw, which sounds like extracts from "Struggles for Existence." Is it really as bad as all that?

Recruits still insist on paying a visit to this old cathedral city, and we welcome the members of Nos. 20 and 22 Squads. These are too many to mention individually, but we hope their stay with us will be an enjoyable one.

Mention must also be made and a hearty welcome extended to Captain W. L. J. Dryland, Royal Signals, on his return from Catterick in order to take over the reins of the Company. We are all glad to see you back, sir.

The football season is once more under way, and a trial match was held on Thursday, 17th August, to discover new talent. From what we have seen in action it is apparent that the Company will be well represented in the Unit team, that is if Mr. Records leaves us out when he works out his draft orders.

Work has commenced on the construction of a gymnasium. Some describe it as a "Chamber of Horrors"! The new gym. is being built on the western side of the square, and the fine weather has enabled the builders to make good progress with the foundations. The outlook is definitely good, as most gyms. make first-class dance halls, and this Unit has lacked this useful accommodation. In the past we have used the new dining hall, an arrangement which results in a certain amount of inconvenience.

An N.C.O.s' Drill Course has commenced under the R.S.M., and many gloomy faces were observed in the Corporals' Mess when the order was published. This was only to be expected, but soldiers are noted for grousing, although we are certain that all concerned are looking forward to a successful and useful Course.

Until next time, cheerio!

SLIM (R.H.S. II).

5th Divisional Signals, Catterick Camp.

August.

The undermentioned Squads were passed off the Square during the last month. Our congratulations to the whip winners, who were:

Squad.	DRILL.		P.T.	
No. 117 ..	Signalman	Brant H.	Driver	Renwick J.
,, 118 ..	,,	Howell B.	Signalman	Hencher R.
,, 119 ..	Driver	Findlay J.	,,	Carey H.
,, 120 ..	Signalman	Armstrong D.	,,	Kinniburgh J.
,, 121 ..	,,	Bean G.	,,	Lewis T.
,, 122 ..	,,	Barker J.	,,	Perry D.
,, 123 ..	Driver	Arnold	,,	Howells V. B.

No. 2328531 Signalman Hencher won both the whips for his Squad, but actually the whip for Drill was given to Signalman Howells B., who was a very close second. We wish those who have left us to go to the Training Battalion the best of luck.

Command.—Lieutenant-Colonel G. C. Winckley, M.C., Royal Signals, has arrived and took over command of the Unit from Major A. J. Hannah, Royal Signals, on 19th July. We all offer him a hearty welcome and hope that his tenure of command will be an enjoyable one.

August Break.—At 5 p.m. on Thursday, 3rd August, Recruits' training stopped, and all men who could be spared were allowed to go on a week's leave.

At 6 p.m. that evening the Unit parade ground resembled a bus terminus, as loads of recruits were taken off by bus to the station and some to London. It must be a weary journey from Catterick to London by bus, but everyone looked very comfortable and it is hoped that they enjoyed the trip.

During the week they have been away, an unusual silence has descended on the Unit, and we who have remained behind quite miss the "chat" from the square. However, the holiday has been a great help to the Messing Staff, who have been able to close some of the Dining Halls and do a little spring cleaning.

Gardens.—There has been a great gardening campaign in the Lines and barrack-room gardens are all looking neat and tidy. Now that we know that we will be staying in Le Cateau Lines for at least another year, we hope to have some exhibits for the Horticultural Show next year.

Sergeants' Mess.

An Officers v. Sergeants cricket match was played on 1st August; that is to say, the Officers batted whilst most of the Sergeants had to content themselves with returning the ball from the boundary. The following scores make a further description of the game unnecessary:

Lieut. A. Trapmore, c.	10	Sgt. Barnicott, b.	0
2nd Lt. J. de D. Yule, not out	34	,, Offord, run out	4
Capt. E. D. Good, not out	13	,, Stirk, not out	42
Lieut. Jelf, not out	38	,, Grigg, c.	0
Capt. R. C. Yule, c.	10	,, Perkins, st.	2
Colonel Winckley, b.	6	,, Stowers, b.	0
2nd Lieut. D. Horsfield, b.	13	The R.S.M., c.	0
M. Horsfield, c.	2	Sgt. Sherriffs, b.	2
Lieut. G. Gee	7	,, Stonestreet, b.	0
Mr. Baxter	18	,, Stevenson, run out	3
Byes	3	,, Denham, st.	2
		Byes	2
Total	154	Total	57

Just as a matter of interest we would like to mention the scratch soccer match which was in progress on the same ground with the touch line almost on top of the cricket pitch. At least two of the fielders were engulfed in a swarm of howling soccer players most of the time and the absence of any broken heads can only be due to the marvellous lifting power displayed by the batsmen as they swiped the Sergeants' bowling to all points of the compass.

"Pride cometh before a fall." "Don't count your chickens, etc." So confident were the Sergeants of the result that a stuffed duck had been obtained for presentation to those officers whose performance merited such a presentation. As can be seen, this bird had to be shared amongst our own stalwarts.

After the game a smoker was held in the Mess, and the Sergeants were able to regain some of their lost prestige at indoor sports. It was noticed, however, that one or two officers displayed amazing accuracy at the dart board, and should the question of handicaps ever arise, they will undoubtedly be on top of the roll.

We are beginning to rely on Captain Good as the main contributor to our entertainments programme. His latest game,

" The Little Old Man," had the whole Mess on its toes. Several people were frequently seen to be examining their knuckles during the rest of the evening.

Departures.—Lance Sergeant Cully (Y. and L. Regt.) left us to rejoin his Regiment on 22nd July. The news of his posting gave us a jolt. We had almost forgotten the fact that he was not in the Corps. He was an " old stager " in the Depot Battalion before joining us in January and hundreds of our recruits have passed through his hands during his attachment to the Corps. We are very sorry to lose him, both as a P.T. Instructor and a Mess member. He rendered invaluable assistance to the Entertainment Committee and could always be relied upon to keep the ball rolling during a Mess function. We are pleased to know that he enjoyed his stay with us and wish him the very best of luck for the future.

R.Q.M.S. Dowie F. J. made a very hurried departure on 31st July. His posting was not unexpected, although the short notice of his move left us rather breathless. We hope that he has found his feet in Chatham by now and that before very long we may offer our congratulations on his promotion to commissioned rank. It will be a long time before we can enter the billiard room without remembering the old familiar crv, " Fall out the R.Q."

As we were unable to stage a farewell show, we would like to take this opportunity of wishing him the very best of luck and hope that we shall have the pleasure of renewing acquaintance at some future date.

Lance Sergeant Justice proceeded to take over the duties of P.S.I., No. 3 Company, 50th Divisional Signals, at Gateshead on 9th August. He has been the mainstay of the Company administrative branch since January, and we feel we have lost the services of a most valuable N.C.O. We trust he will soon accustom himself to the T.A. system of working and are confident that his presence with the 50th Divisional Signals will further improve the efficiency of that Unit.

Arrivals.—We extend our greetings to Sergeant Gandey G., who arrived on 9th August from 50th (N.) Divisional Signals, T.A. As he has had considerable experience already as a D.I. it goes without saying he has made himself quite at home in this Unit.

Northern Ireland District Signal Company, Belfast.

August.

Again the D.R.s hit the headlines with yet another smashing victory in an Ards M.C.C. Trial. The liquid nature of the course was rather a surprise, and Mulderig found it necessary to climb a tree to see his way through. His front forks are now rather revolutionary in design, but they carried him through to enable the team to beat their nearest rivals by 70 points.

Apart from this, things have been rather quiet lately, arrivals and departures being the chief events. Captain McConnville has joined us from Catterick, and great interest is now shown from this side of the Mess room counter. Mulderig has great difficulty in saying *Paté de foie Gras*, but manages *caviare* quite well. Three new D.R.s, Signalmen Pearson, Steele, and Franklin, have arrived from Catterick and will shortly make the acquaintance of the Belfast tramlines.

C.Q.M.S. Double has left us for Bulford, and Lance Sergeant Mann for Catterick Militia Unit. Was it the tear-dimmed eye or the beer-filled tummy that made you forget your kit, " Tich " ?

Lance Corporal Reece and Signalman Cassidy have returned from Magilligan just in time to start work. The speed of their arrival almost equalled the speed of their immediate departure on a Scheme.

We almost forgot to mention the departure of Signalman Hardwick *en route* for Malta.

We are afraid this brings us to the end of a rather meagre supply of news, apart from the N.I.D. tennis championships which will be found in the sports section, and we come to the fifth of our world-shaking revelations of life in the outposts : " The Dark Horse of the Jalan Besar " by Digger.

SOAPY.

Signals Unit, Queen's University (Belfast) O.T.C.

7th August.

The outstanding event of the past few weeks has been the annual camp. It looked very much as if we would not be able to hold one, but presumably the powers-that-be relented and a voluntary camp was held at Greypoint on the shores of Belfast Lough from 8th to 22nd July. There were about 120 in camp, including 32 members of the Signal Unit. The Signals were lucky in obtaining two new army huts as barrack rooms which, as the weather was occasionally inclement, was a distinct advantage.

As the camp was voluntary, we had only our O.C., Captain Patton, and P.S.I., R.S.M. McDonald, as instructors, and so quite a lot fell on the shoulders of the holders of Certificate B and the senior N.C.O.s, and as a member of the Medical Unit remarked, " everyone worked like horses."

The first week was passed mostly in drill and fairly elementary signal work, but in the second week " life was real, life was earnest." We had several schemes involving cable, wireless, lamp and all the adjuncts of Battalion and Brigade Signals. The high spot of the camp was a night scheme which started at 22.30 hours and lasted until 04.30 hours, the whole contingent taking part as two opposing armies, and the Signals forming two Battalion Signal Platoons. During the course of the night one of the cables from a Company to a Battalion was cut and buried, and great credit is due to the two linemen who found and repaired the fault in the darkness and over very broken country. The only fault the O.C. contingent had to find with the Signals was that they were too efficient and he wished they had made more mistakes so that he could have shown the effect these mistakes would have had on the rest of the Units.

The Signal Unit had the honour of having in camp with them the only representative of the band, Lance Corporal Pinkerton, and we will remember for a long time the sight of the Infantry moving off for a route march led by a one-man band complete in kilts and plaid, with bagpipes.

Both Classification and Certificate A and B examinations were held towards the end of camp and we must congratulate ten members on classifying, and eight in obtaining Certificate A practical, and three Certificate B, particularly those recruits who classified and got Certificate A, as the majority had only been in the Unit about three months.

Congratulations also to our C.S.M., S. N. Smith, who was called upon to act as R.S.M. to the contingent during camp, and who fulfilled the arduous duties of this position with ability and honour, and also to those who on 1st August started to climb the ladder of promotion.

Thanks also are due to Sergeant Brown S. and Lance Corporal Gerton, Northern Ireland District Signal Company, who accompanied us with W/T cars on most of our Exercises.

AREFF.

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The subscription is only 2/- per annum
Ask your Unit Representative for further details.

MILITIA NOTES

Militia Training Battalion, Catterick Camp.

Unit Headquarters.

Signal Training Centre, Catterick Camp.

August.

Since our last notes the Unit has both good and bad news to chronicle.

Bad ! Because, after two months' hard work in preparing the ground for the Militia Training Battalion at Catterick, the majority of our Reservist Instructors and a number of officers have left us to return to their respective civilian occupations. Their job was an arduous one, to say the least of it, but under the able leadership of our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel C. K. Thursby Pelham, M.C., it became a task well accomplished and they take with them our united best wishes for their future.

Good ! Because we extend the welcome hand to those who have arrived to carry on the good work. We wish them also the best of luck and a happy stay with us.

There is, of course, much still to be done and difficulties to surmount, but the latter will be overcome in due course, and we look forward in anticipation to the time when we shall be able to move into our own lines, which are still under construction.

Capt. C. A. Bridgland, D.F.C., O.C. "A" Company.

"A" Company.

Under the command of Captain Bridgeland, D.F.C., this Company rapidly got under way and is full of promise. The Militiamen number 156; 100 Drivers (I.C.) and 56 Despatch Riders.

Under Lieutenant Robinson (S.R.), Sergeant Rawson and his various Unit Instructors, they do their gravel walking (sorry, drill).

Sergeant Crowley (A.P.T.S.) does his stuff, aided and abetted by various Junior N.C.O.s, who tackle their job remarkably well.

Technical instruction is under Lieut (T.M.O.) Adcock, who has S.S.M.s Tudor and Edge, Sergeants Wood and Hesford, Corporals Bain (Jordy of football fame), Meddycott, Wright, Haslam, Adams, Booth, and many Signalmen to assist him.

The office staff comprises Captain Hancock, C.S.M. Prior, Corporal Sneddon and a few clerks, not forgetting our one and only Quartermaster, Bill Bennett, and his two Scottish staff, Signalmen Hall and Shelley.

Militia Arrivals.—After all arrangements had been made for the arrival of the men on Saturday, July 15th, the staff were staggered by the premature arrival of three Militiamen on Friday evening. The Militia had beaten us to it, and even Ben was heard to say, " What a to-do." "

The departure of Sergeant Rawson and staff on lorries at 7 a.m. on Saturday morning was the signal for the Militia advance. The various batches were sorted out on arrival by reception clerks (S.S.M. Morris and staff) and passed out to the Companies.

Our own Company personnel then marched each batch to Quartermaster Bennett's Store, where they received their small kit, and were then taken to the huts for a bed and a hot meal. This procedure continued throughout the day.

Next day (Sunday) clothing, etc., was issued, and at 7.30 p.m. a concert was arranged in the Newbiggin Hall, which was enjoyed by all.

On Monday, a lecture by the Commanding Officer was followed by equipment issue, a lecture by Company Commanders and allotment of Squads by rooms and trades. Thus were the first Militia recruits initiated.

Training started on Tuesday and all went well.

In passing we should like to recount the episode of the arrival of General Gordon Finlayson and staff from London.

The General expressed a wish to be treated exactly as though he were a newly-arrived Militiaman—and he was. He was duly asked for his " particulars, etc.," in the reception tent, passed on to the Quartermaster and issued with a small kit, for which he signed on a special form, then told to sit on a form—barracks, soldiers, 6 ft.—and wait for the Junior N.C.O. to take him to his room. These instructions were dutifully carried out and the General afterwards expressed his complete satisfaction with the arrangements. One may perhaps be forgiven for asking if the Quartermaster is now one complete set of kit to the good !

It was thus that the Militia arrived at Catterick.

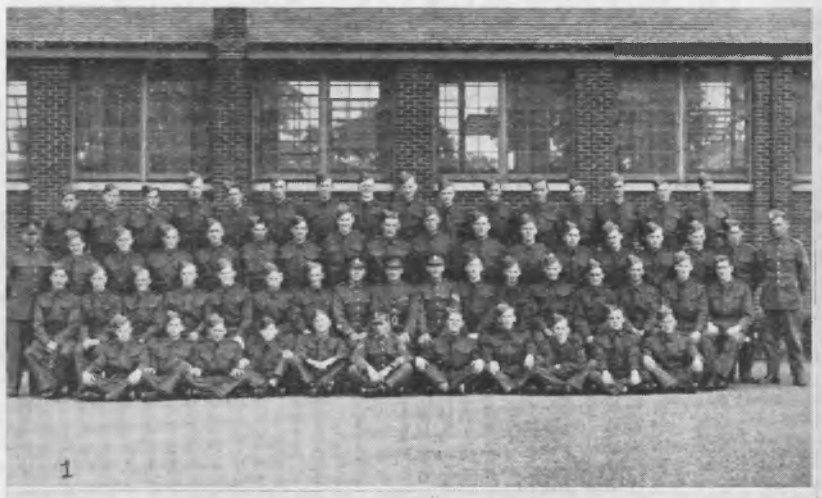
There were, of course, the usual incidents, two of which at least are worth recording.

The C.S.M. who replied, when whistled to by a recent arrival : "All right, sonny, I'm coming ! " and the Reservist who received his " calling up " papers after having completed a month's training. Shades of Chatham.

Football.—Our "A" Company Reservists (played 5, won 5) are going great guns and below we record their wins :

v. School of Signals	.. ..	Won 4—1
v. " D " Company, Training Battalion	.. ..	Won 6—1
v. School of Signals	.. ..	Won 4—2
v. " D " Company, Training Battalion	.. ..	Won 4—3
v. School of Signals	.. ..	Won 6—5

MILITIA TRAINING BATTALION, CATTERICK CAMP.



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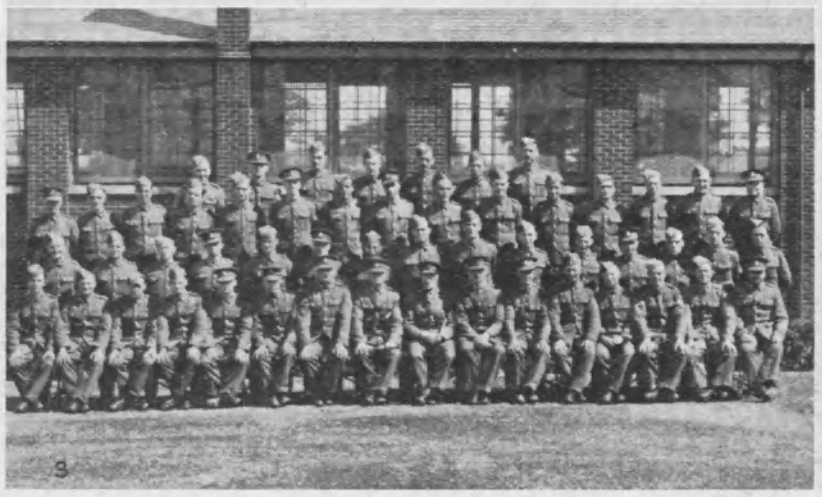

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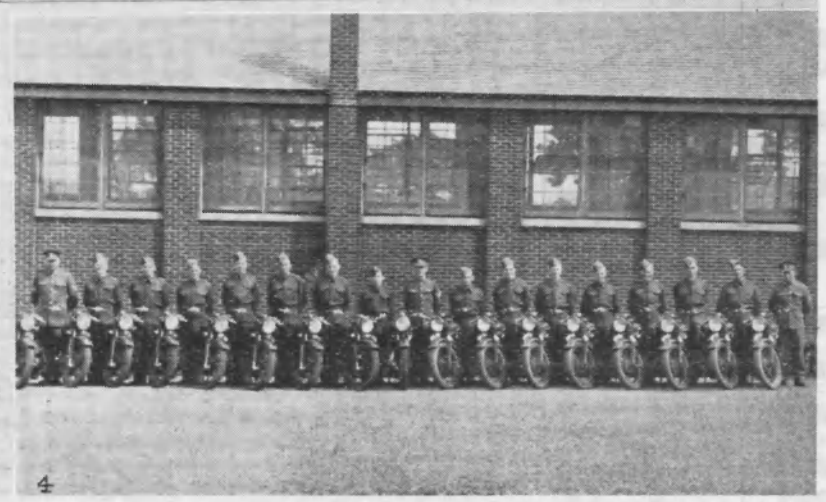

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1. "A" Company Militiamen.
2. "A" Company Transport Drivers.
3. The Corporals.
4. "A" Company Despatch Riders.

Signalman Shelley in "A" Company's "Woolworths."

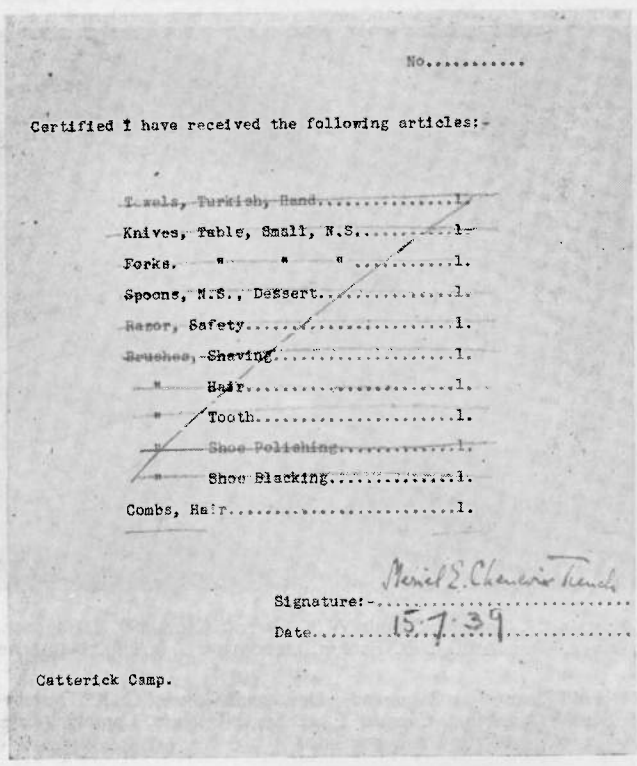
In a friendly match against the Depot Battalion we ran out winners by 4—3, thanks to Gomm and Co., but it was due to "Jordy," who got the game going.

Now, lads, there is now't else except its RAINING! Someone said, "Just a passing shower." It has been passing—backwards and forwards—for days. Still, lovely Catterick!

Militiamen, in group, passing four Sergeants, sitting on a form. Voice from group: "How do, fellow-workers?" Collapse of Sergeants!

Quartermaster collapses as C.O. gives away the Multi-coloured C Comb to a lady visitor! (One down, eh, Ben!)

Overheard.—Reception Clerk to W.O.: "What name, sir?"
W.O.: "Brown, Charlie."
Militiaman: "No, sir. Clarence, not Charlie."



No.....

Certified I have received the following articles:-

Towels, Turkish, Hand.....1.
Knives, Table, Small, N.S.....1.
Forks, " " " .....1.
Spoons, N.S., Dessert.....1.
Razor, Safety.....1.
Brushes, Shaving.....1.
" Hair.....1.
" Tooth.....1.
" Shoe Polishing.....1.
" Shoe Blacking.....1.
Combs, Hair.....1.

Muriel E. Chevrier French

Signature:-.....
Date.....15.7.39.....

Catterick Camp.

Militiaman: "Why are these wrinkles in the mixed fruit, Serg.?"
R.O.S.: "Because they are hung from the roof by hooks and cured; not old age!"

"B" Company.

10th August.

Arrivals.—Since the last notes were sent 251 Militiamen have arrived in this Company, and it cannot be denied that they are a very fine body of men. Our first arrivals were three men from the South of England, reporting on the evening of 14th July, twelve hours before schedule. However, organisation was not disrupted! They were "bedded down" and fed.

At 7 a.m. on 15th July the staff were all set to receive the Militiamen. The men arrived throughout the day and were met at Kemmel bus stop by N.C.O.s, who conducted them to a marquee beside the Depot Battalion Square. There they were presented with an identification form, which showed their Army number, and the Company to which they were posted. They were then conducted to the Company reception tent, where they were allotted to their huts. The N.C.O. i/c of their hut was waiting for them with open arms. He took them to their place of residence and issued them with the immediate essentials of their kit, bedding and equipment. Those arriving before the normal meal time were given refreshments. (Quite a number of them have been eating ever since. Must be the Catterick air.)

They were then conducted on a Cook's tour of the Camp area, all places of interest being pointed out to them. They were then left to their own devices until 9.30 p.m., by which hour they were to stand to their beds. The majority of them were either in bed or preparing for bed at this hour. The Company Commander visited each barrack room and was greeted with pleasant countenances from all.

Alas! The work of the staff was not yet over for the day, as the last train was not due in at Richmond until about 11.30 p.m. A welcome 'phone message was received to the effect that there were no more Militiamen for us that night.

They were issued with their clothing on the 16th, the pre-arranged time for completion being 5 p.m., but every man was clothed by 4 p.m., with the exception of a few "out sizes."

On Monday, the 17th, they had a very full day. They were individually interviewed by the Company Commander, allotted to Squads, shown how to make a bed "Up and Down," told the names of the various parts of their equipment, lectured on the badges and ranks of the Army, and in their spare time attended a "Question and Answer" debate. Lance Sergeant Marshall, M.B.E., was the general enquiry agent, and the questions put to him were many and varied. Even now it is surprising the number of questions that are still being asked.

The anticipated programme stated that the Militiamen would commence their training on Tuesday, 18th July. Sufficient to say, training commenced on that date. Minor setbacks were experienced, but they were all overcome. Training traditions have been broken. Technical training, drill and weapon training, P.T., and anti-gas training have been combined. The system evolved, although very hard work for both pupils and instructors, is proving a success.

"B" Company are training 200 Operators Wireless and Line, and 50 Operators Keyboard. The first 250 Operators will be leaving for Field Units in the very near future and we feel sure that they will pull their weight in their new sphere. The rudiments of Signal sense will be instilled into them by the time they leave here and I think the majority will not prove themselves "passengers."

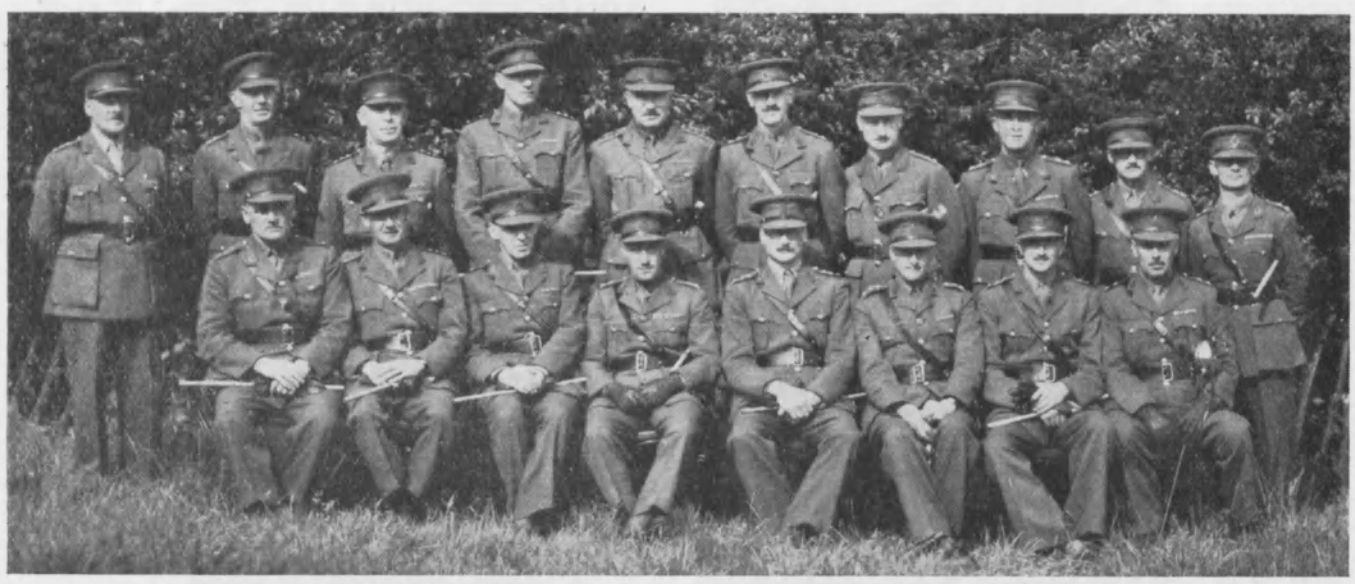
Departures.—By the time these notes appear we shall have said farewell to the majority of our first batch of Reservists, as well as the 250 Militiamen mentioned above. To mention them all by name would be impossible, but to the Reservists we must say "Thank you" for all the assistance that has been rendered during a very trying and tiring time. Their work at times may not have been congenial, but necessity knows no law.

MILITIA TRAINING BATTALION, CATTERICK CAMP.

Back row, left to right : Corporal Baines, Lance Corporal Gillett, Signalman Gomm, Lance Corporal Boot, Signalman Robertson, Signalman Blair, Corporal Lambert.

Second row, left to right : Lance Corporal O'Donnell (Shorty), Signalman Mottershead, Captain D. E. Hancock, Lieutenant-Colonel C. K. Thursby-Pelham, M.C., Commanding Officer, R.S.M. Murray, G. P., Signalman Snowball, Lance Corporal Nicholson, Signalman Kendal.

Front row : Signalman Murray S.



Standing, left to right : Captain W. D. Weir, Lieutenant (T.M.O.) J. Adcock, Captain J. J. Graham, Captain W. K. Carroll, Captain D. E. Hancock, Lieutenant R. H. E. Robinson, Lieutenant F. G. G. Davey, Lieutenant J. D. Rankin, Lieutenant J. B. Ellis, Lieutenant (Quartermaster) A. E. Smart.

Seated : Captain T. H. Dalton, Captain C. A. Bridgland, D.F.C., Major R. F. Holwill (Second in Command), Lieutenant-Colonel C. K. Thursby-Pelham, M.C. (Commanding Officer), Capt. H. L. B. Kealy (Adjutant), Captain E. L. Smith-Masters, Captain W. G. Daubney (C.I.), Lieutenant G. N. Cook.

We have had ten Corporals of the Cavalry attached to us as Drill, Weapon Training and P.T. Instructors. They had a few days refresher course and then took over the training of the Militiamen. They were handicapped in many ways, new drill to learn, and a new Corps to work with. They have worked very hard and have proved themselves a credit to the Regiments to which they belong, and to the Corps with which they have been working. To them all we wish a special farewell, and trust they will take happy memories of a branch of the service which is new to the majority of them.

Humour.—Without humour we should have had a miserable time. Funny stories are still being invented. Some are printable, others . . . Stories of the Sergeant-Major are getting played out, but the following is true :

On the evening of the 15th, when the O.C. visited the barrack rooms, the C.S.M. asked one man what he thought of the Army. He said that what he had seen up to then was O.K. He was then asked, " What about this Sergeant-Major fellow you heard about on the wireless and in the newspapers ? "

" Oh, we haven't met him yet," was the answer.

" Who the wotname do you think I am then," replied the C.S.M.

There are more, but I think one is enough this month.

Postal.—To Pat, Ken, Jock and Maurice. " Thanks for the remarks about Signals Week. I will write some day. Eric."

Termite.

"C" Company.

When we last wrote the atmosphere was tense with expectancy. We had made elaborate preparations to receive—we did not quite know what—something entirely new by the way of soldiers, or the material with which to make them. We had heard all sorts of rumours about the Militiamen—good, bad and indifferent, and although we could form our own impressions and read between the lines of the varied comments of the daily press, we did rather wonder what proportion would turn up, whether some might think better or worse of it and disappear *en route*. And what about those who did arrive ? Would they be fed up from the start, and want petting and humouring day and night ? All kinds of possible snags had been prepared for, as far as could be. Conferences, dress rehearsals and so on had taken place for days, and various suggestions considered, and, where possible, adopted. We had spared no pains and hoped for the best.

And then the great day arrived—Saturday, 15th August. Friday's rain had been sufficiently copious to make us hope there was none left for Saturday, and so it proved ; Saturday was fine —comparatively.

The usually quiet station of Richmond, Yorks., was all activity from an early hour. At 7.55 a.m. the first Militiaman stepped out of the first official train, to be met by the Battalion Commander's camera, which duly recorded the notable event.

The main interest, however, was centred at the other, or receiving, end at the Signal Training Centre. Here the scene was somewhat like a cross between a regimental sports meeting and a country fair. There were marquees, but no flags or band. The reception committee was composed of all the Officers, N.C.O.s and Reservist Instructors, an imposing array. The senior N.C.O.s dressed in " blues," and everyone polished to the last button. We hope the Militiamen were impressed. The first batch were somewhat overwhelmed, perhaps, because the receptionists outnumbered them by 5 to 1, or so. Having been carefully assisted off the army lorry which had brought them from the station, they were taken gently by the arm and ushered into an adjoining marquee. Here they were deprived of certain documents and handed others in exchange. Then, with becoming ceremony, they were conducted to a further marquee, where other rites were performed, questions of a simple nature asked and answered. After that they were introduced to a third reception tent, and here was a pretty scene indeed. Tastefully arranged in neat rows by a thoughtful Quartermaster Sergeant, with an artistic touch, was the most delightful assortment of articles, toilet, Militiamen, for the use of. Commencing with a towel and followed by a razor complete with blade (a very thoughtful provision), then brushes, hair, tooth, polishing; combs (hair) and so on. So overwhelmed were some of the Militiamen at such generosity that they dropped a few items here and there on the floor, and then the most unusual spectacle of an otherwise rigid C.S.M. stooping gracefully to recover them. Having safely collected this assortment, the men seated themselves on a form outside in the sunshine (sometimes) or inside in the rain (more often) to wait till a batch of eighteen, forming one barrack-room, was complete. This party (note that we have now formed the most elementary militia formation, a " party ") is then conducted by the N.C.O., whom henceforth they are to know as their Barrack-room N.C.O., to the first room. Here they are introduced to eighteen beds on either side of the room. Behind and above each bed is a convenient locker for clothes.

The first impression of the erstwhile civilian may be that the room is somewhat plainly furnished, but this has its advantages. They may be a little disappointed in the mattress, but this also has advantages when reveille is at 6 a.m., as there is less inducement to lie in bed. The N.C.O. tactfully asks if anyone is hungry or thirsty. There is a chorus of approval, and a move is made towards the Cookhouse. Here again the furnishings are somewhat plain, perhaps, but the impression is one of cleanliness and efficiency, and the tea and food provided is of the best. Refreshed and encouraged by a few explanatory remarks from their guide, they proceed on a tour of the " lines."

This process went smoothly on throughout the day and far into the night. No one seemed to get tired or bored. It was all so interesting and novel. The last Militiaman arrived about midnight, and still the hot tea held out, and so finally all went to bed satisfied with the good day's work. The snags we expected vanished into thin air. So far, so good.

Sunday brought uniform, boots and other essentials in the transformation of civilians into soldiers. There was some more of that on Monday and a few speeches of welcome from the Battalion Commander, the Commandant and the G.O.C. of the Area.

On Tuesday morning the training proper commenced, and from the very start the Militiamen helped the process by their keenness and willingness to learn. Now they are half-way through their first eight weeks at the Depot, and it is easy to err on the side of enthusiasm for the progress they have made. It is undoubtedly a source of satisfaction to all who have witnessed the results from day to day.

Undoubtedly the main responsibility and the corresponding share of praise for the results falls to those Reservists who were recalled to the Colours. They have quickly picked up the threads of Army life again, and in a short space of four weeks have turned these raw recruits into very fair soldiers.

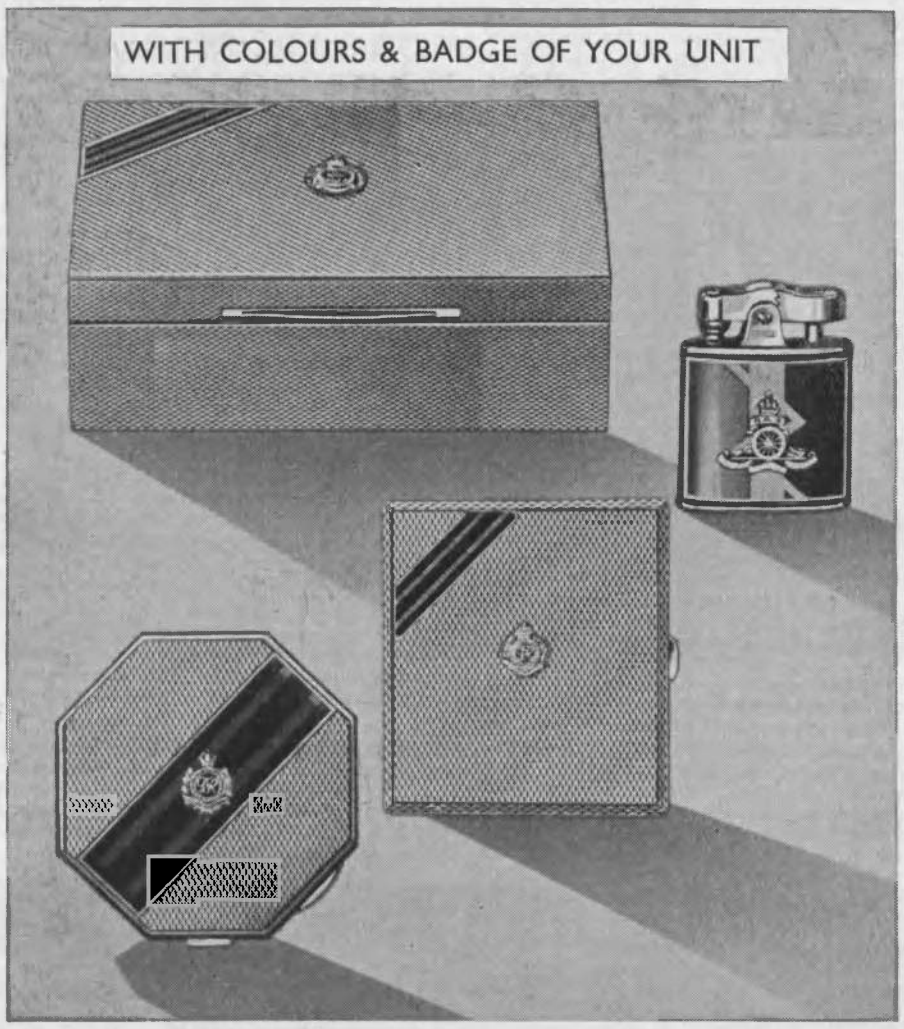
Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess.

Introduction.—Yet one more Sergeants' Mess has been formed at Catterick, making a total of five Royal Signals Messes. We are at present accommodated in two large marquees, pitched on the Depot Battalion Sergeants' Mess tennis court. Our thanks are due to the Depot Mess for the loan of the court, which has enabled us to start our Mess and save a little cash in preparation for our house warming.

Social.—At the moment we are unable to hold the normal functions, but we are really quite sociable. On Sunday, 16th July, we entertained a concert party from Darlington who had come over to entertain the Militiamen.

We have played the Depot Battalion Sergeants' Mess at cricket and were beaten by one run. It was a very enjoyable game, played in delightful weather. The match was well supported by our wives and children, who were very ably entertained by the Depot Housekeeper. Having parked the children, the members of the Depot Mess gave us a very pleasant evening, the concert party from Darlington providing some excellent turns. During the interlude we had a demonstration of eastern music by " Wally and Jimmy."

Departures.—We have said good-bye to the following members of the Supplementary Reserve : Sergeants Coburry, Ferguson, Chrystal and Holden. They have been employed with us as Instructors and we hope they enjoyed their stay here.



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Sergeants Hatcher, Bainbridge and Marshall, who have been with us since our formation, leave us for " Civvy Street " on 31st August. We wish them the best of luck.

Arrivals.—Among the many arrivals we notice that " Pensioner " Devlin has re-enlisted as a Drill Instructor, and is now Sergeant Devlin once again. It appears that there is life in the old 'uns yet.

THERMITE.

* * *

Well, chums, the Mess has duly got under way at Catterick. Our number in Mess is forty, and we are lucky to have R.S.M. Murray G. as President. We should have a fine Mess when we give up this marquee and transfer to our Mess in Marne Lines.

Here are the names of the members: R.S.M. Murray G., R.Q.M.S. Lombard, C.S.M.s Prior, Marchant, Morris, McDowall and Udell, C.Q.M.S.s Bennett, Tenant and Dodd, S.S.M.I. Crowley, S.S.M.s Winder, Edge, Tudor, Grocott and McBride, Sergeants Bain, Hatcher, Saunders, Rawson J., Wood, Hesford, Chistie, Gilchrist, Baker, Williams, Pearson, Mattock, Marshall, Mallett, Burton, O'Hara, Coburn, Ferguson, Holden, Honeybourne, West, Linton and Bainbridge.

The Darlington Theatricals have visited the Battalion and entertained the Militia; the party afterwards came to our Mess.

The Depot Mess played us at cricket, a grand match ending with a win for the Depot by one run. Better luck next time, Militia! For this show our thanks are due to C.S.M. Pack (Bill) and his satellites, and R.S.M. Carpenter, Depot Mess.

Things We Should Like to Know.—Did Walley, of Liverpool S.R. fame get the bird or band when he returned from his foreign station? What a gripper!

Has Nebby any shares in the fishing fleet?

What happened at Blackpool? Ask Jock!

T. O. C.

Corporals' Mess.

By the time these notes appear the bulk of the above Mess will have returned to civilian life, as most of the N.C.O.s are Reservists and some " old hands " at that. We bid farewell to them with heavy hearts as they were a good set of lads. Their task (in conjunction with the Regulars) has not been an easy one. To train the first peace-time Militia was no mean order, often sacrificing many hours of well-earned spare time to help their charges. In both technical and non-technical they have used the utmost tact and consideration. We wish them the best of luck and a safe return to their homes.

We thank the Junior N.C.O.s of the Training and Depot Battalions for their generosity in giving us a Smoking Concert. The " gripping " that was done at this smoker was amazing; in fact, " Tom Pepper " has nothing on some of them. It is not yet possible to return the compliment as having only just started our Mess we are " on the floor " financially, but the President has given us the impression that we shall not be there long. Next month we hope to give you some idea of the life of a Junior N.C.O. as an instructor in the M.T.B.

The following have decided to re-enlist for three years: Corporals Baines, Hardy and Farley and Lance Corporal Gillott.

Before closing we extend a hearty welcome to the second batch of Reservists, due to arrive on 15th August, and hope that they will enjoy their stay as much as their predecessors.

S. H.

Anti-Aircraft Militia Training Battalion, Harrogate

August.

Last October the political situation forced the S.T.C. to abandon its annual Old Comrades' Reunion, but any uninstructed observer at Catterick on 15th June last might have been excused for thinking that the delayed ceremony was then taking place. Reservists from all over the country arrived in shoals and were received with open arms at the Education Centre by Lieutenant-Colonel Parkes and his merry men to be documented and clothed, before being handed over to Lieutenant-Colonel Cary and his satellites for accommodation and food.

In Messes and canteens that evening, old acquaintances and friendships were renewed in the traditional Signals manner. One heard on every side many outlandish names, such as Chanak, Sarafand, Koi Sanjak, Ghalanai, Wucha Jawar and Shanhaikwan as memories were revived of old times.

After a brief refresher course, our own Reservists, re-inforced by a number from various cavalry units, who were attached for duty as drill, weapon training and anti-gas instructors, were divided between the two Militia Battalions of the Corps, and the advance party of this Unit left Catterick, after a fortnight, to establish camp at Harrogate.

On arrival at the camp site, only a bare field awaited them, and then tentage and equipment began to arrive in lorries, all of which had to be unloaded and stacked, simultaneously with the pitching of tents and arrangement of cooking places and all the other necessary adjuncts of camp life.

The weather, which throughout June had given no cause for complaint, suddenly took a turn for the worse, and the passage of many vehicles turned parts of the camp into a morass, but our " old hands " cheerfully buckled to and slogged into the work like trojans. Of course, they groused a bit (that's the soldier's privilege), but they got the work done under the most adverse conditions. Cooking in the open with field kitchens, up to the calves in mud, they served up palatable meals, erected fifty-odd store tents—sixteen in one day—and then it was found that they were in the wrong positions, so that they had to be struck and re-erected, all in the same day. There were also over thirty marquees and more than a score of bell tents.

When the Militia arrived they found awaiting them what is probably the best-tented camp and happiest Militia Unit in the country. One must not forget to mention the ten N.C.O.s from various Supplementary Reserve Units who arrived as Teleprinter Instructors, and shared in the labours. The Regular Army is represented in the Battalion by only a very small skeleton staff, which then included only one Signalman, since increased to eleven.

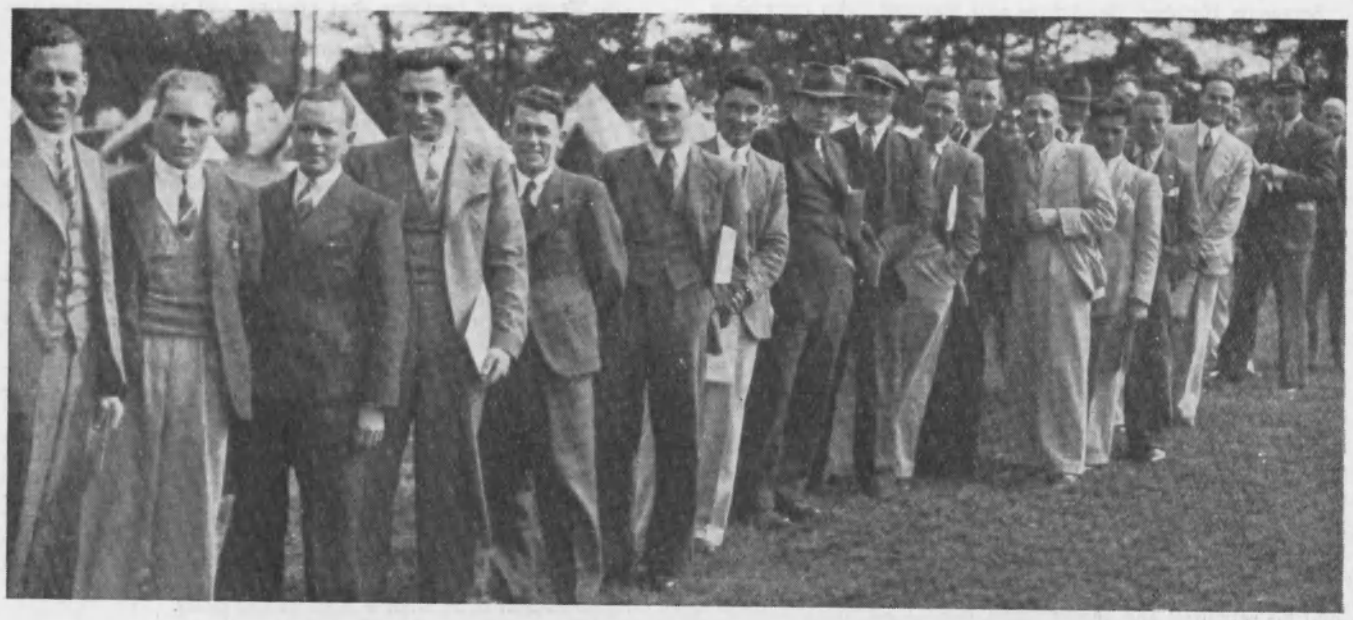
When the Militiamen arrived they were greeted at the station by escorting N.C.O.s and brought to the camp by coach, being served with a hot meal immediately on arrival, and then taken in batches of eighteen to the fitting tents, where they were issued with complete kits, and then taken for a brief talk by the C.O., who welcomed them to the Unit.

The " Q " staffs worked continuously from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday, with short breaks for dinner and tea, and similarly on Sunday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. This intense activity was rendered necessary by the fact that training was to commence on the following day. Owing to the short period available, this has to be of the intensive type, but the Militiamen of this Battalion are keen and are rapidly absorbing the instruction.

We managed to forward some photographs of the arrival of the militia for publication in last month's WIRE, but we were all too busy to take any of the actual work in the erection of the Camp, and in any case, in the eyes of the Press, the regular soldier and the reservist hold none of that elusive quality known to journalists as " Human Interest."

Despite the bad weather that greeted the militia on their arrival, the camp proved an attraction to the inhabitants of Harrogate, as well as to such relatives of militiamen who could get here. A number of these attended a N.A.A.F.I. concert in the evening.

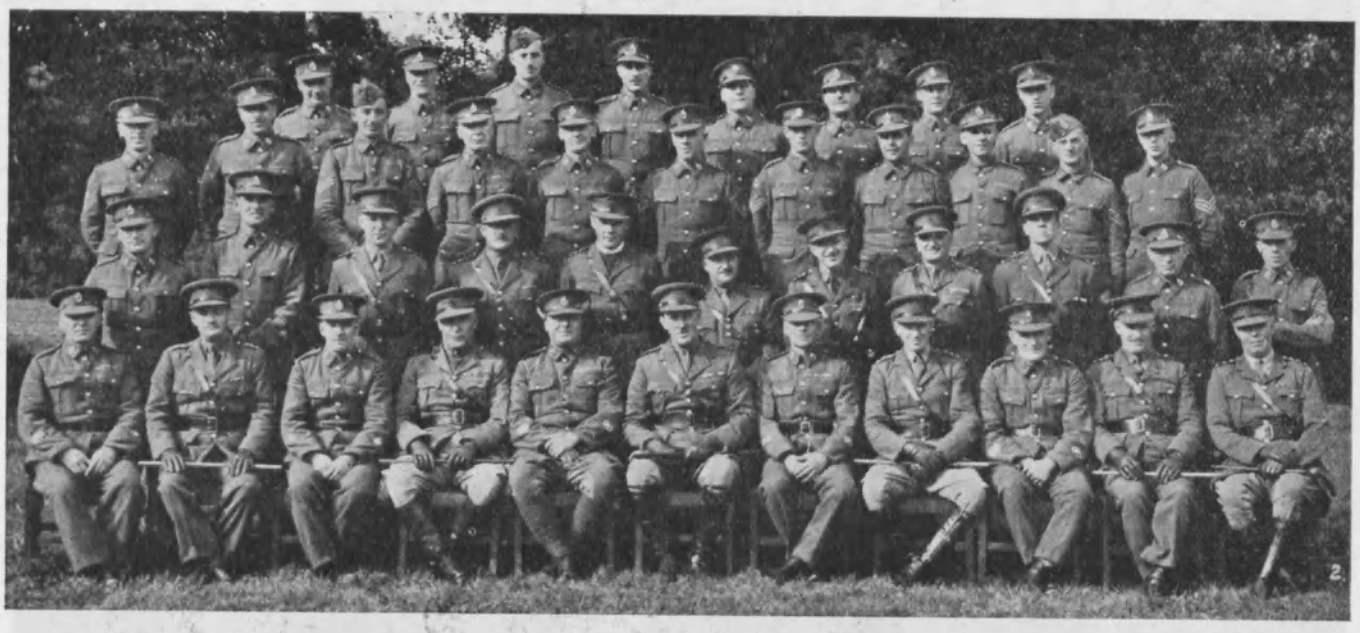
Both the N.A.A.F.I. and the Y.M.C.A. have catered very well for us in the matter of concerts since the arrival of the Militia, but before that, a very popular feature had been instituted in the N.A.A.F.I., known as " In Camp To-night," under the direction of C.S.M. Holness, ably assisted by Lance Corporal Ward (S.R.), who acted as both pianist and talent-scout. Other notable performers who will be missed are our illusionist, Lance Corporal Cooke, and the popular Scottish and Irish songs of Corporal Brown. They have now gone back to the S.R., and subsequent losses include Lance Corporal " Wally " Read and Drivers Tumilty and Cooper, all to the R.A.R. However, the ice has been broken, and under the persuasion of our compere, Sergeant Bourne (S.R.), the Militiamen are displaying hidden talent, and giving us hope that we may yet have a successful concert party and dance band.



Reservists of the Second Party queue up at the Q.M. Stores for clothing.

[Photographs by kind permission of "Sunray" Studio, Harrogate.

"Goodbye old chap, thanks for all you've done." The departing S.D.I. receives a parting handshake from the Acting R.S.M.



A.A. MILITIA TRAINING BATTALION, HARROGATE.
Officers, Warrant-Officers and Sergeants on formation of the Unit.

[Photograph by kind permission of "Sunray" Studio, Harrogate.
A farewell wave at Harrogate Station. Reservists of the First Party.

[Photograph by kind permission of "Sunray" Studio, Harrogate.

"Cheerio"—Militiamen give a departing Reservist a helping hand.

Only two *contretemps* have occurred. One lad was sent into hospital at York, and on his discharge to duty was told by the M.O. there, " Now go back and report to your own doctor," so he calmly trotted off to his home-town ! In the other case, it is extremely injudicious to ask a certain C.Q.M.S. for size 12 in boots. The physique of the Militiamen proved to be of such a high standard that it was found that the clothing, and more especially the boots, which had been obtained in the average sizes required for the regular recruits were much too small, and a large number had to wait a few days while larger sizes were indented for. A delay on the part of a very overworked Ordnance Department kept us waiting for the largest sizes, and in the interim, one lad's civilian shoes succumbed to the clinging mud. The C.Q.M.S. was instructed to take the lad concerned into Harrogate and get him a pair of boots which would fit. Visits to *nine* large boot shops proved unavailing until one firm telegraphed to Northampton for a pair.

We are fortunate in that the upper soil is very shallow over a clay base, so that a few hours of sunshine dries up the mud and water very quickly, but precautions have been taken, and some hundreds of tons of gravel and clinker have been deposited to give a decent surface to the tracks used by vehicles, and between them and inside the tents there are some thousands of duckboards.

As these are notes and *not* Part II Orders, very few names can be mentioned, but we hope that all concerned will accept our greetings on joining the Unit, and our congratulations upon the myriad promotions both substantive and temporary. These greetings apply to all, from those who were in the Unit at its inception to the Reservists who only rejoined recently. The Reservists, both of the R.A.R. and the S.R.—Signals and Cavalry alike—will, I know, realise how grateful the Regulars are to them for all the help they have given.

On a previous visit, the Commandant, Signal Training Centre, Brigadier R. Chenevix Trench, O.B.E., M.C., thanked them on behalf of the Army and the Corps as a whole. The gratitude of the Battalion was expressed in a few well-chosen words by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel V. J. E. Westropp, on the occasion of a farewell " smoker " held in the N.A.A.F.I. on the evening of 12th August, when everyone present had a very enjoyable time. The other officers of the Unit also made short speeches, thanking the Reservists on behalf of their own branches of the Battalion.

In conclusion, may we express our best wishes to them and to the following officers of the R.A.R.O., who have so ably assisted in the running of the Unit since its formation : Major Gray, Captains Pearce and Sutcliffe, Lieutenants Edwards and Rendle. Good luck to all of you, and many thanks.

Sports Notes.—It is regretted that owing to the weather we have been unable to make much progress in this direction, although several practice games have been played between Squads and Companies at soccer, while cricket practice at the nets is in full swing. We hope, before the end of the season, to tackle some of the local teams ; some short friendly games have already been played. The weather, however, has been against successful matches at either game.

SPASIGS.

SIGNALS IN INDIA

NORTHERN COMMAND ..... INDIAN ARMY

1st Indian Divisional Signals, Rawalpindi.

August.

General.—During the last month, in addition to Trade Boards, we have been busy mastering the mysteries of a new Weapon Training Course. The second half Course is now in full swing, a very difficult period for outdoor work owing to the monsoon.

Most of the B.O.R.s who were on the first Course have returned to their Units, or proceeded to Waziristan in relief of others who have now joined the Courses.

On a recent Church Parade, our C.O., Major J. F. Charlesworth, presented Long Service and Good Conduct and Frontier Medals, to seven of our members. After the C.O. had spoken we all realised what it is to receive a "Rooty" medal. We congratulate Sergeant Minchin and Lance Sergeant Richardson on receiving theirs. We heard it mentioned that it took the latter 18 years to get it and less seconds to lose it. He was unfortunate on the way home, and we are still searching for it.

The Buffalo Football Cup reposes in the Sergeants' Mess. More about it in the Sports News. It holds over a gallon.

A number of our members are leaving us for England as Instructors. *Bon voyage* and good luck to all.

Promotions these days are far too numerous to record. Congratulations to all. Our new establishment of S.S.M. has been filled by S.S.M. Wedgebury, late of "A" Corps Signals. Lance Corporal Hall is now a father in addition to Pay Corporal. His name is Michael, but he will, no doubt, some day develop the "Nobby." Congratulations Corporal. Lieutenant Daniels has rejoined us from leave in England. He says, "Richmond is an awfully nice place." We'll be seeing you soon Richmond.

Sergeants' Mess.—With the assistance of a comrade from Kohat District Signals, we had some nice musical evenings. Aubrey and his silent song caused much amusement. Sydney, whose wife will shortly take him in hand once again is as bad as ever. Lance Corporal Davidson can stutter awfully well.

We should like to know what the A/R.S.M.s lucky number is. Can he win "House!" How do you do it, sir?

The Officers kindly loaned us their tennis courts for a match with the Junior N.C.O.s. It was a success, especially the tea. We were sorry that the weather put paid to a return, but we "did our stuff" to the tea just the same. Someone actually shifted two plates of brown bread—can he eat!

Plains Detachment, Rawalpindi.—Much better weather these days, thank you. We have just completely changed over with ranks from Upper Topa.

"K" Section, Razani.—We regret the Notes as promised have not reached us yet. Come along Dickey, do your stuff.

1st Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Risalpur.

30th July.

Warning.—At the beginning of these notes I would like to publish a general warning notice. WARNING.—To all residents in U.K. (especially a resident in London). Last seen heading in your direction, one large moustache complete with owner. For information and precaution it should be stated that when he does come out from behind that "fungus growth," and removes his topee, no less a personage than Gripper Bill Bailey will be seen.

New Features.—Two new features have been released in Risalpur during the past month in the form of: (1) "The Trail of the Lost Patrol," by I. T. Wood Breaka-Snakesback, starring Lance Sergeant Pike; and (2) "Things to Come" or "P.B.M.M.," by Iva Tash (*alias* Signalman Bailey).

The first incident happened during a night march in which Sections were given a map reference to march to, from whence they took a bearing and marched across country until they met the main body. One bright party got the map reference all right, but unfortunately didn't march far enough along the line that the compass gave. It is a pity, because there was a nice bottle of beer at the other end. Still, I am glad to say that the same N.C.O. got in at the "kill" at his next attempt.

The second feature is that we are losing our Unit gripper, i.e., Bill Bailey. He is proceeding to Blighty, where he is to be employed as an instructor to the Militiamen. Hence my opening remarks of "P.B.M.M." Still, here's good luck to you, Bill!

ODE TO A GRIPPER OR OUR BILL.

Who's only a couple of feet or more?
Who's almost nature in the raw?
Who's good at laying down the law?—
Our Bill.

Who one day rode a motor bike,
Ran out of juice and had to hike,
Around in circles, dopey like?—
Our Bill.

Who night time in the canteen sits,
Competing with the local wits?
Who tears the British press to bits?—
Our Bill.

Who has no fear when Hitler "Heils"?
Who smirks at Mussolini's wiles?
Who, when there is a crisis, smiles?—
Our Bill.

Who, regularly every night,
Has an argument, almost a fight?
Who puts the map of Europe right?—
Our Bill.

Who now predicts the "Things to Come"?
Who says he knows? Who's keeping mum?
Who spouts till everyone sits dumb?
Our Bill.

Who on his upper lip has reared
A fearsome growth, a sort of beard?
Who called it a moustache and leered,
Our Bill.

Who gives this clump of hair a pinch,
And often "Brylcreems" every inch,
'Fore starting on a "pukka kinch"?—
Our Bill.

Who'll twirl the ends and lick his lips ?
Who grips and grips and grips and grips ?
Who'd drink a million chota nips ?—
Our Bill.

A really decent chap they say,
When he's got nothing more to say ;
Who was it said " That'll be the day " ?—
Our Bill.

F. T. C.

Recently one of our neighbouring Units had the misfortune to have a horse-stampede, as a result of which several horses were posted as missing. The following day one of our bright junior N.C.O.s espied a horse grazing just outside the police station (of all places), so he at once dashed for a feed tin and, making a nice capture, brought the horse back to the lines. A very commendable feat, but who got the red-neck when the Police Inspector sent for his horse ?

Of late we have had a few more swimming trips to Jalala. These were very enjoyable as, owing to the burning experience of the first trip, the sales of olive oil went up a hundred per cent. One or two leeches were caught, accidentally, but they were minor occurrences compared with L'Hommes' snake.

Johnny Weismuller would have looked like a novice compared with the Flying Welshman. When he reached the bank only the soles of his feet were wet. We have all heard of firewalkers, but it is the first time we have seen a water runner. How did you do it, Taff ? We have since heard from local naturalists that L'Hommes' eel now calls himself a tough guy.

Then, of course, there is the story about the C.O., a junior N.C.O. and a glass of water. But that is another story. All we would like to know is : Was that water wet, sir ?

DIZROA.

Waziristan District Signals.

Headquarters.

Razmak.
1st August.

General.—The married personnel of the Unit are once again tripping up to Murree to visit their families, and the important question is : " Have you got my warrant and toll pass ready yet ? "

A Course for football referees and hockey umpires was held during July (hockey under Lance Sergeant Foster), with favourable results. How did you manage to get 100 per cent., Bill ?

Lance Corporal Dyson has shown his willingness to extend his tour in India by a further year—" don't blame me." Corporal Crammond and Lance Corporal Crossley decided that the Service is the best thing after all and have extended their period of service to 12 years with the colours. All the best, Bill.

Departures.—Lance Corporals Crossley, Fowler, Bond, Brown, Furtado and Stevens, Signalmen Markendale, Stubbs, Yard and Warden left us on 25th July for the U.K. to be repatriated as Militia Instructors. We wish them all the best in their new surroundings, and sincerely hope that they will not treat the newcomers too harshly. Some Inter-Section postings have taken place, but these are too numerous to mention ; however, we wish all who have been posted the very best in their new Sections.

Arrivals.—A draft of twelve B.O.R.s arrived from the U.K. in replacement of the Militia Instructors mentioned above. We wish them all the best, and sincerely hope that they will like the Land of the Mystic. Remember, boys, 1943/44 is not so far away !

Promotions and Appointments.—Congratulations to the following on their promotions and appointments : W.O. III (S.S.M.) Wales, Sergeant Best, T/Sergeant Mulcahy, Lance Sergeant Bell, Lance Corporal Furtado, U/Lance Corporals Penn, Richmond, Mole, Nolan and Baldwin. Cheer up, Dickv, you can start hoping now.

Basket Ball.—The " boys " have been playing basket ball just lately before breakfast, and with extraordinary results—some bruised, some bent, and some rent. However, everyone has a good time, so why worry.

The Razmak Brigade Athletics are due to be held during the month of August, and the B.O.R.s and I.O.R.s are training for the events. How much do you weigh, Paddy ?

Sport.—Very little sport has been played during the month, owing to the rain, which has very much damped our feelings. It was noticed, however, that " Standing Orders " managed to get in a couple of games.

DLANOD.

W.O.s' and N.C.O.s' Mess.

26th July.

General.—This month has been rather quiet in the way of social activities as quite a number of our members have been on leave to the Murree Hills. During the spare evenings we have played " Housey " to pass the time away.

The enclosed snap was taken at a recent hockey match. Standing (right to left) : C.S.M. Gudgeon, Sergeant Daw, Lance Sergeant Bell, Corporal Barton. Sitting : Corporal Crammond, Lance Sergeants Foster and Dickenson. We cannot produce a Mess photograph at present, as quite a few members are still on leave, but here is a list of members : C.S.M. Gudgeon, W.O.III Wales, C.Q.M.S. Parker, Sergeants Hodgson, Daw, Mulcahy, Gordon and Best, Lance Sergeants Foster, Dickenson, Marshall and Bell, Corporals Barton, Pollicella, Mackenzie, Loakes, Crammond, Roake, Roberts and Grant. Attached are : Sergeant Clackett and Corporal Williams, both of Kohat District Signals.

Home of the M.T. Section.

A Snap taken at the Hockey Match.

Congratulations.—To W.O.III Wales, Sergeants Best and Watson. Also to Lance Sergeant Bell on coming under the eagle eye of Records. I wonder when the clothing department are going to issue those crowns.

Wisecracks.—Superintendent, handing a message for the British Battalion to Gurkha orderly : " Here, Johnny, take this to the *Safed Lashkar* (white gang)."

If a battery is wrongly connected to a W/T Set, does it have the same effect as cheese on a mousetrap ?

Arrivals.—Sergeant Hodgson has returned from Jubbulpore, where he has been on an " S " Course.

We were pleased to see Sergeant " Tich " Freeman, who has just returned from leave, enjoying a spell at Razmak. He has been preparing N.C.O.s for a Course at Poona, but rumour has it that he came here to recuperate.

Confidential.—During the forthcoming month the Farrier Corporal will give a series of lectures on " Phantom Circuits " and " Tie-Backs." Now, boys, no barricading !

KIKO.

Bannu Signal Section.

General.—Bannu Signal Section, *alias* " Tocol " Signal Section, is once more coming into its own. At present the signs are very obscure, but the early worm informs us that several pack sections are to be seen engaged in exercise under loads and what not. For further details, call " Wazdist ooo " and ask for Mher Dil or Faqir of Ipi, failing which, ask the sweeper in the horse lines.

Militia Boys.—Some fellows get all the plums. There's young Furdie (Lance Corporal Furtado), for instance, came out here in 1937 and now he is returning to England, with ambitions of being a Militia Instructor. There is Lance Corporal Brown, who has secured a berth on the boat at the last moment. Friends Yard and Warden also hope to see the shores of India from a good view-point by the end of the month, and we wish them all *bon voyage* and happy hunting among the Militia.

Heard Over the Line.—" Where is my wandering boy to-night ? "

Leave.—Leave is the chief topic these days. The Section Sergeant is being coerced and the Section leave roll is oft in demand as many of us have visions of a cooler time up the hills this year.

Further Outlook.—Fair. Trade Boards, I.T., Columns (perhaps), dances (we hope) and to some, the boat.

Razmak Signal Section.

2nd August.

General.—Except for R.P. Duties, which cause many a sigh and a quick run to the notice board to see who is on the camp set, we are still holding them back inside the walls of Razmak (all ex-Razcolites to note).

Promotions and Appointments.—Three members of our Section have been lucky this month : Lance Sergeant Watson to Sergeant ; U/Lance Corporals Byron and Burman have started the upward climb to those " dizzy heights."

Arrivals and Departures.—There are several new arrivals to our Section. Signalmen Johnston, Davies and Baish from Bannu Signal Section ; Signalmen Clarke and Dutch from Blighty, and, last but not least, Jock " Izzy Mac " Cohen has left Ireland for ever and has arrived in Razmak. The last-named three are on loan from Bannu Signal Section, and we sincerely hope that their stay with us will be very pleasant.

Sergeant Freeman joined the Section for a fortnight to take the Preparatory "A.I." Course, and his voice could be heard in the lines practically all day. He was, however, eager to leave us and did not " retire " on the night prior to his departure.

Births and Marriages.—None of the latter—sorry !

Of the former, " Brandy " (of last month's notes) has produced ten in all ; just a few more, and she could have managed one each all round the Section.

Sports.—The Section has started training for the Brigade Athletic Cup, which we annexed last year with a combined team from " H.Q." Section, and we have " high " hopes for this year's event. " Albert," our fat boy, has been taking Ovaltine to help build up his frail body in order that he may " put the shot." With the help of Lance Corporal Waite's " small jumps begin," we should all be very fit.

Things We Want to Know.—Who was the operator, working on a frequency of 47 metres to the Light Tank Corps, discovered them at 43 metres, and on asking them to " come up," found, to his consternation, after a few minutes, a Tank complete, outside the Wireless Store ?

H. W. R.

EASTERN COMMAND..... INDIAN ARMY

3rd Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Meerut.

JULY.

General.—Woe is me ! There I was right in the middle of my summer hibernation and a very thoughtless person with a Steele(y) glint in his eye whispers in my ear, " Wot abart the WIRE Notes ? " Shucks, if the Troop don't give me something to write about where do they get their " toot " from when there are no notes ?

This Troop is like Utopia—nothing disturbs them, anyway. I could tell you all about the nice weather we are having and how it is making the chaps feel full of life, but I won't because I am really not very good at telling lies.

I have told you about the gymkhanas we hold every Thursday, haven't I ? Well, we don't ! Instead, a party goes out for instruction in jumping and the only trouble seems to be who needs it most. However, in the next jumping contest we intend to take all before us (including the jumps).

We are going in for facial redecoration in the Troop at the moment. One N.C.O. had a wasp injection between the eyes and he looks years younger—like a chubby little lad, in fact. Another was playing in one of those rough games and retired with a swollen face and a hand painted eye. It strikes me you were only jealous " Red." Now Bill Craggs has followed the fashion by letting his remount use his head as a football. That P.T. Course may have toughened you Bill, but not all that much, still, the remount's hoof is quite O.K. thank you.

More Akkers Please.—A few of the lads have just finished an uphill climb to higher ratings and all we are waiting for now is confirmation of the confidence the said laddies have in their abilities. Let us hope there is not a slide down the hill again. The second party were somewhat disappointed when the next Course was cancelled—never mind, better luck next time.

At the Sign of the Glad Hand.—We welcome back to the Troop after three months' Blighty leave, our Troop Officer, Captain A. B. McVittie and his wife. Glad to see you back again, sir, and we hope you had a real good time. Its the C.O.s turn now and he left by air from Delhi for two months break. Happy landings, sir. Our Troop Officer will be leaving us in November for the T.A., and Lieutenant D. A. Pringle relieves him in this Unit.

Jock Hounsom has returned from his Gas Course and now knows the meaning of A.R.P. He gives us weekly lectures on " Gas " but no mention of how to avoid " gassing." Our bit of Yorkshire " pudden " Nobby, was heard to say that Jock is in his element now that he can talk for 90 minutes with no one to say him nay, or even undo his collar.

Departures.—Lance Corporal Leebrick A. left us at the end of July to take up a job with the Militia. Treat them gently, Ginger, after all, they're not rissoles, you know.

Signalman Mills A. went home at the same time but as a Class " A " invalid. He has had a rotten time of it and all the lads join with me in wishing him better health and luck in the Blighty cantonment. We will always remember him for his pluck.

The Boat.—Rumour has again been upheld. The four year tour will not affect us this Trooper and this has upset a lot of plans and will, I suppose, cause a few sighs from the fair sex at home. On the other hand, the undermentioned will soon be

catching a boat coming this way from Blighty leave: Corporals Gedney, Turner, Godly and Kelley, Lance Corporal Rainbird and Signalmen Hills, Forrest and Thackray. Hope they like their spot of duty with " A " Corps Signals. Lance Sergeant Douglas-Beveridge was always " jammy." He stays at home having four years in this trooping season. All the best Douggie, we'll send your kit on.

The D.R. Section.—N.C.O.: " Did you go out on your bike four days ago ? "

D.R.: " Yes, but I haven't been out on it since."

N.C.O.: " Well, I used it this morning and burnt my leg on it."

D.R.: " Coo, hasn't it cooled off yet ! "

Congratulations.—To Unpaid Lance Corporals Popple and Cooke on their appointments. The way it's going will see them at least Brigadiers before they finish 21.

Au revoir.

P. O. P.

SOUTHERN COMMAND ..... INDIAN ARMY

4th Indian Divisional Signals, Trimulgherry.

16th August.

Introductory.—As we have been in a state of flux for some months, the finding of a WIRE correspondent has been difficult. S.S.M. Marchant, otherwise " TERMITE," filled this office for a brief period, but was posted to the Home Establishment, and so month by month our doughty doings have passed unrecorded —other than in Part II Orders, which are cold fare. This is unfortunate in several ways, for much has happened to the Unit recently.

The biggest bombshell for years was the increase in our hitherto very small cadre by thirty B.O.R.s from Western (Independent) District Signals, Quetta. This entailed some rapid adjustments in all branches, all of which were successfully dealt with. The new-comers—far too numerous to welcome by name—threatened at first to swamp us, but were quickly made to feel at home until they were snatched away for greater things.

Arrivals and Departures.—Lieut.-Colonel G. P. Pavey, M.B.E., has the Unit's condolences when, after being in command for so short a time, he was compelled to proceed to the U.K. on sick leave on 15th August. We sincerely wish him a speedy recovery.

Major W. M. Clapp, M.B.E., Royal Signals, arrived from Peshawar District Signals on 5th May to take over command, and was welcomed whole-heartedly. His efforts on behalf of the Unit are deeply appreciated, particularly the interest he has taken in the welfare of all ranks.

Lieutenant E. F. Mervyn-Smith, Royal Signals, came from 3rd Indian Divisional Signals on 1st August, and was immediately plunged into activity on assuming the duties of Adjutant whilst Captain J. M. C. Hoblyn, Royal Signals, is on leave.

The comings and goings of other ranks have been far too numerous to recount in detail.

R.S.M. Day C. E., and wife arrived early in the year from 1st Indian Divisional Signals, Rawalpindi, and speedily resumed his task as Quartermaster. His branch is now a thriving concern. (" Q " Branch are toying with the idea of challenging the remainder of the Unit at hockey, cricket and football).

The departure of Sergeant and Mrs. Champion for Simla left a gap in the ranks hard to fill. Mrs. Champion—that well known life of the party—will, indeed, be missed by the Sergeants' Mess. Sergeant and Mrs. Norman (Sergeant and Mrs. Champion's successors), arrived from Jubbulpore and a hearty welcome is extended to them.

Amongst those arriving from the Northern Command Units, as part of the expansion scheme, were Sergeants Hockley, Wootton and Green, together with their families.

Signalmen Hale, Gourley, Hughes and Hampson, comprising the first draft of this trooper, arrived on 26th July, at a time of feverish activity and preparation. All but Hughes just managed to say " Hello ! " and " Good-bye," so that all we can do is hope that they will be happy in their new Unit.

The home-going draft of selected personnel—and indeed they were select, as Lance Corporal Bristow will doubtless inform you in his first five minutes " grip "—comprised Lance Corporals Bristow, Topping and Morgan, and Signalmen Coyle. They were chosen as Militia Instructors for the New Army. We are uncertain whether to sympathise with the former or the latter, but the departures have our very best wishes.

Last of all to go was the recently promoted C.Q.M.S. Hart and his family, to the Army Signal School, Poona. Just as he was settled in the Pay Branch, too !

Batons.—There will be some feverish hand-plunging into haversacks for the elusive emblem of Field-Marshaldom as the new promotions flash forth. The well-thumbed tome, the Blue Book, is now scarcely recognisable as amendment after amendment is pasted in.

Congratulations are proferred to W.O.s III Jessop and McLoughlin, C.Q.M.S. Hart, Sergeants Archer and Maguire, Lance Sergeants Abraham and Cavill, Corporals Adam, Lea and Heatherington (otherwise Fannie, Annie, and Buelah), and T/Corporals Stanley (now Corporal), Mozley, Lawson, Sadler and Field.

We also have to report the recent appointment of Lance stripes to Signalmen Green, Hodgson and Dobb. We hope that their feet are firmly planted on the first rung.

In this blaze of glory we have almost overlooked that worthy legionnaire, " Gustav " Lewin, now a Corporal, and, therefore well in the running for a Dictatorship if he only had a better grasp of affairs in Europe. (Blame the Mess set, George !)

Stop Press News.—A pencil, belonging to a former Press editor, is now in possession of Corporal Rawcliffe, and will be forwarded to the owner some time this trooper—perhaps !

To all concerned. The " Grippers' Medal " has now taken up permanent residence in the left-hand drawer of the Pay N.C.O.'s table.

Things We Want to Know.—Is it true that Sergeant Brennan, of Troop fame, intends to turn out a hockey team capable of beating the Div.—in silence ?

Is it true that Corporal Mozley has taken out a Life Insurance Policy owing to mechanisation of the Indian Army ?

EYEWITNESS.

OTHER STATIONS ABROAD

No. 3 Company, Egypt Command Signals.

"B" Line Section.

27th July.

Hullo, folks! This is the awakening of the new Ranch "B," the home of the high riding, straight shooting lineman. We will first introduce the "Boys of the Outfit."

Officer i/c Section: S.S.M. Lewis C. N.C.O. i/c Section: Sergeant Burgess C. Section N.C.O.s: Lance Sergeants Harris and Newman, Corporals Hales and Nurse, and Lance Corporal Shanley. Section personnel: Signalmen Rix, Bannister, James E., Williams, McGuire, McMeecham, Jones, Ibbotson, Prestwich, Brady, Westwell, Hawks, Havlin, Farrelly and Garvie, Drivers (I.C.) Hill and Atkinson.

The personalities of the "outfit" are: Two-ton Ibbotson, 470 lbs. in his socks. Jeep Rix, of the Information Bureau fame. Wimpy Atkinson, the mystery man of the East. Round the World Brady. Horizontal Champ. Hill, rather unusual, with Bannister helping. Silent avenger "McMeecham." Wee Jock Garvie, always playing a tune on his mouth organ, "Some day my 'Boat' will come."

General.—Upgrading Courses. Our C.3 linemen are becoming ambitious, especially with "Ye ole Plough You" and with the No. 1 mechanised cable layer.

The Section has relieved "D" Section by taking over the maintenance of all ranges in Cairo and district area, and "Ye ole Plough" did his part, so Sergeant Burgess will tell you.

Arrivals.—Lance Sergeant "Tubby" Harris and Lance Corporal Shanley. We hope their stay will be a long and happy one. They are no Joskins. Corporal Nurse is attached to us and we wish him the best of luck during his attachment.

Departures.—R.S.M. Brandon has left us, after a short stay, for promotion in the Aldershot area. Best of luck, sir!

Photographs.—The accompanying photographs were taken whilst the boys were working hard in the vicinity of those far-famed stones, the Pyramids.

Hospital.—Two members of this Section recently had the misfortune to enter hospital. We wish them a speedy recovery.

Promotions.—Congratulations to Lance Sergeant Newman on dropping the "Shoey" and being brought on the Corps Roster in his present rank.

Births.—To Signalman and Mrs. Hawks, at the Families Hospital, Abbassia, on 9th July, a daughter, Sylvie Burdis.

Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.—Congratulations to "Jerry" on attaining his. Better late than never.

"The Big Dig."—Everyone is looking forward to this wonderful fatigue. We are told that it is to be the soldier's paradise in years to come.

Things We Want to Know.—Is it true that the "civvies" are going to do schemes for us?

Who is the fellow who hides his equipment each night so that the mosquitoes will think that he is on guard.

Agony.—"Tubby" Harris is still waiting for a line from "Joe." Now then, what about it?

BBB.

"E" SECTION.

General.—Since the last time I related the activities of "E" Section it has been very calm and still in this corner of the globe. As a matter of fact we have had little to stir the mind, other than an outburst of inspections of varied kinds.

The main item of interest has been the arrival of our new Section Officer, Lieutenant A. G. Paris, Royal Signals, who has joined us from Singapore. We extend to him a very hearty welcome and hope that his stay here will be a very pleasant one.

Gleaned from the Courses.—"Electricity is gathered on an iron spike placed on the top of a building, from whence it may be shorted to earth and killed!"

What kind of speech does a W/T set give when it is not switched on? (Ask Lapthorne.)

NOMAD.

"K" SECTION.

Obituary.—We regret to report the death of another member of this Section, Signalman Hunt H. He died as the result of injuries and burns sustained in the same accident in which we lost the late Corporal Marsh E. Signalman Hunt was one of the old hands of this Section and will be remembered by many in other lands.

General.—Although we know it sounds strange to both "E" and "J" Sections, we get through quite a fair amount of work with a small personnel, and even dashing off on stunts can become tiring. Still, someone has to keep the canal open.

Visit of H.M.S. "Fleetwood."—A welcome change was obtained when H.M.S. "Fleetwood" arrived at Lake Timsah and remained for a few days. We invited the Signal and W/T personnel to pay us a visit. The No. 1 Set held their attention and admiration, more so since they had been working to us, and had wondered what sort of a "musical box" they had tuned in to. Lance Sergeant Lee gave them the inside "griff" on the 120-watt of the permanent group. They were afterwards entertained in the Garrison Institute.

We repaid the visit the following day by storming the "Fleetwood," and being entertained by the Senior Service.

We are looking forward to meeting them again.

Grunts from Misers.—Simpson, 6569. "Even the postman calls here. Georgie, 6572."

Hall, Bulford. "What about a line, Ginger? Nunnick 596."

Photographs.—Promises from the young generation (Joskins) to provide photographs of interest having come to naught, some attempts will be made to call on the old lads to do the necessary, as of old.

Arrivals.—Mosquitoes, millions of them, and with that, *adieu*.

SUEZ WATCH-DOGS.

Egypt Armoured Divisional Signals.

August.

No. 1 Squadron

August, 1939.—Contrary to our expectations, the summer has so far proved uneventful—we hope it continues so. The Unit is now undergoing its second period of Individual Training, which is due to finish in October.

Major B. B. Kennett has now rejoined us and Captain H. N. Crawford has left for leave in the U.K.

Promotion and Appointments.—Congratulations to the following: S.S.M. Aitken J., Lance Corporals Hargreaves and Sale (note the "U" has been dropped since our last issue.)

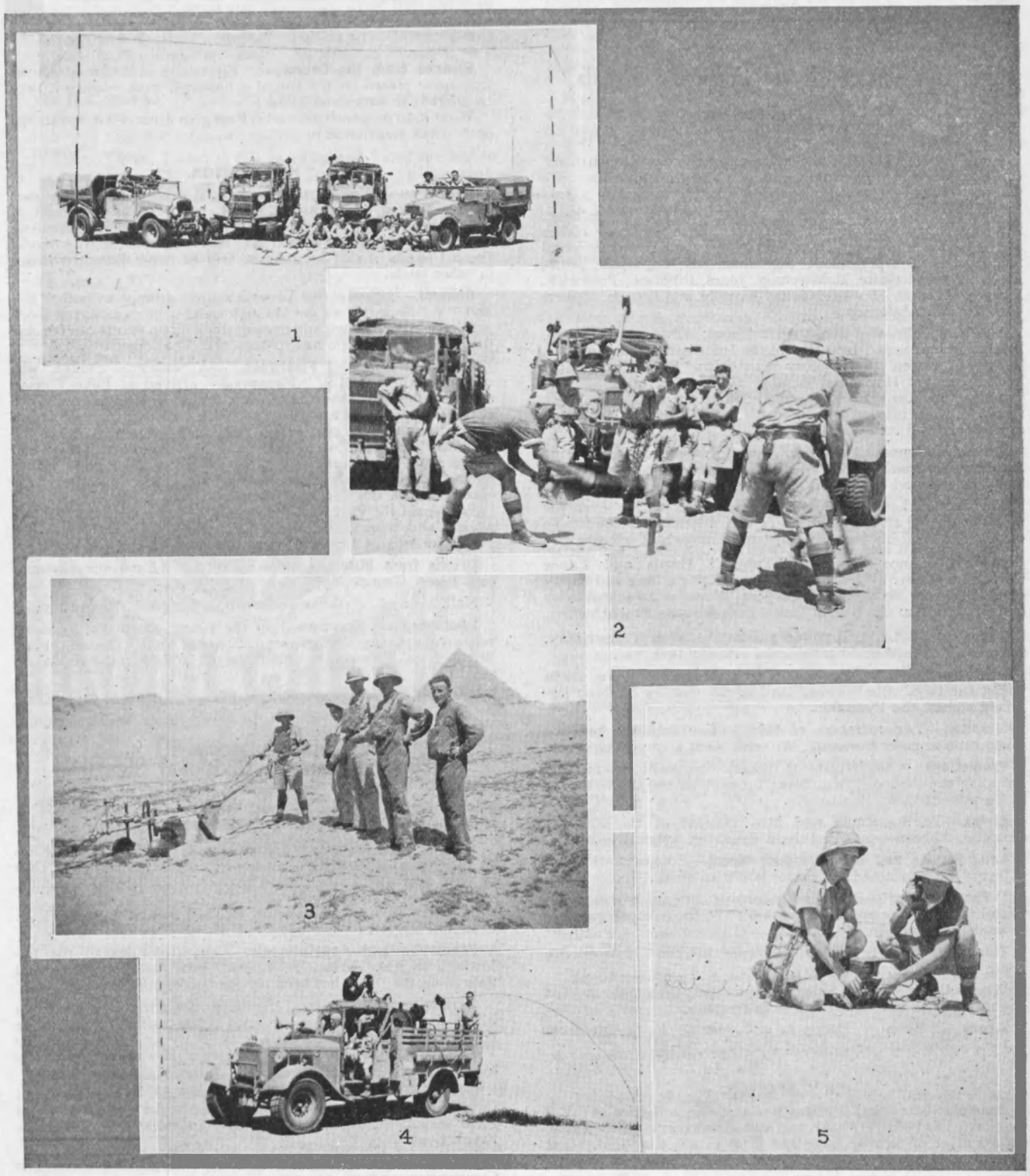
Swimming.—Our natural modesty prevents us mentioning all (?) the No. 1 Squadron successes in the Swimming Gala. We congratulate Lance Corporal Crerar, however, on winning the *Victor Ludorum*, and the Unit H.Q. team on winning the Inter-Section Relay.

Cricket.—The Corps team lost to the R.A.S.C. in the Command Cup, but thanks to a very stout-hearted effort against the 31st Field Regiment, R.A., winning by four runs, are still in the Frank Cook Cup.

Hockey.—The Squadron still has an interest in the Garrison Competition and we hope we can announce in the next issue that the Cup is ours.

Passball.—All No. 1 Squadron teams have now entered the third round of the Garrison Knock-out Competition.

"B" LINE SECTION, No. 3 COMPANY, EGYPT COMMAND SIGNALS.



1. "The Last Round-Up."
2. Tough Cads.
3. "Ye Ole" Plough.
4. The Mechanised Layer in action.
5. All's Well Mister!

No. 2 Squadron.

Since the last time of writing the Squadron has been as busy as ever. One set of Courses finished, then there was a break of a week and another series started. The word " break " is misleading, for during that week we were inoculated, vaccinated and nearly assassinated, AND we fitted in a short Scheme.

This Scheme, under the heading of " Loading. Trials," produced the following : " We'll need twelve gallons of electrolyte on that lorry, sir." " What the ---- do you want electric light for ? "

Parties from the Squadron have visited Shell Co. building to see films depicting the progress of car design and lubrication. These films were extremely interesting, but a few people deplored the fact that there was no Mickey Mouse.

Musketry training has started and we find that bullets continue to follow the usual path through a rifle.

One day last month, while we were waiting for the word to " fall-in " on maintenance parade, no word came. Instead, a trumpet blast rent the air. The surprised assembly showed its appreciation in the usual manner and acting upon a suggestion from the crowd that the call was " Stables," it " fell-in." " Feeds-away " was not sounded for petrol issue.

We do have fun. Just before one parade, an old soldier was seen driving a " water-bug " slowly round the square. All taps were on and it was thought that under the new system of sympathetic training the sand was being watered for the benefit of new-comers, but one also wondered if vocational training had started in Egypt.

We extend a hearty welcome to any new-comers who may join us. If they start saving now, they'll have a jolly good time at Christmas. At the present rate of exchange, £E1 equals 10s.

SAVARAN.

"W" Troop.

General.—The new I.T. Courses have started and we hope to have some budding " Kay Dons " soon.

Lance Corporals Adam and Dixon have just returned from Alexandria after a fortnight's leave.

We regret that Signalman Goslin has been admitted to hospital due to an accident at work, but we are glad to say that he is on the road to recovery.

Arrivals.—We welcome Lance Corporal Byron, Signalmen Watts (Dodo) and Ryness from " Y " Troop ; Signalmen Cross and Blenkinsop from " Z " Troop ; Driver (I.C.) Vaughan from Palestine Signals.

Congratulations.—To Sergeant Dunn F. on being awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

Cricket.—Results :v. " J " (E.C.S.), lost by 1 wicket ; v. " D " (E.C.S.), won by 5 wickets ; v. No. 1 Squadron, H.Q., won by 9 wickets. The bowlers were Signalmen Lawrence and Taylor.

Tennis.—Results : v. "A" (E.C.S.), won 6—3 ; v. H.Q. and " D " (E.C.S.), lost 4—6 ; v. " F," " Z " and " X " (A.D.S.), lost 4—6. Team : Lieutenant B. J. Walker, Sergeant Dunn, Lance Corporals Bowen, Dixon and Byron, Signalmen Brown and Lawrence.

Things We Want to Know.—Why does Palestine Force Signals graduate such good " Stranglers."

MAC.

Sergeants' Mess, R. Signals (Egypt).

With the formation of two Signal Units in Egypt, the strength of our Mess has been considerably increased since notes were last sent in. During last month the " chair " was handed over by R.S.M. Brandon to R.S.M. Shilton. Mr. Brandon has been posted back to Blighty, after being here just long enough to know us all.

Entertainments.—During the month we rather surprised the other Messes in the Garrison by getting into the final of the Darts " Knock Out " Competition after finishing bottom in the league. With all due credit to our winning opponents, I think we should have won the Cup had not Records removed R.E. Fixture Bill Ponsford to U.K. and granted Freddie Homan leave to U.K., which meant bringing in two reserves on the final night. Anyway, we congratulate the 7th Hussars on their win.

In the tennis world we are also a power to be feared, as we have played and won four matches to date in the Senior Ranks League. We hope that Jack Stone will lead the shield into the Mess at the end of the season.

The Mess and families were invited to the Officers' Mess for a garden party and we should like to thank the officers for a very enjoyable afternoon ; the faces of the children when told that there was unlimited ice cream should have been sufficient reward for the hard work of the Mess Committee.

Next Saturday we are having a " Welcome " to the Beds. and Herts. Regiment, who have just arrived in the command. But more of this next month.

Congratulations.—To Sergeant Teal on his recent marriage in England. To W.O.s II Pronger and Aitken on their promotion to that rank. To C.Q.M.S. Anderson, Sergeants Dunn, Stevenson and Davenport on the award of the Long Service and Good Conduct medal.

F. H. D.

"X" Troop Signals, Helmieh.

August.

General.—To those who have missed our notes lately and also those who did not even notice, we tender our humble apologies, and put it down to pressure of work.

We miss our notes much more than you, and it has always been our ambition to send some of those pretty " circuit diagrams " which help to fill the WIRE. The fact that our " circuit diagrams " and " location charts " change almost daily tends to make this a very difficult task.

Our Troop oscillates between Palestine and the Western Desert with regular monotony. It has been worked out that if we did come to rest it would be in Helmieh, but, as we spend so little time there, it has not been possible to check up on this.

However, we have just managed to train eighteen Driver Operators of the Regiment between two of the crises. They hope to pass off next week.

It would fill a book to tell of all our work during the last few months, but the Troop maintained its usual standard, so need anything further be said ?

Promotions.—We offer our congratulations to our T.S.M. on his promotion to W.O. III, even though we received no beer. To Corporals McGinn J., Moore A., Reynolds K. and Standen S.

Mick.

on pulling their second, and thanks for the party. To Lance Corporal Blackburn H. on receiving the pay which goes with it. Lastly to Lance Corporals Henderson G. and Dalton G., who, by sheer grit and determination, have at last managed to get their feet on the bottom rung of the ladder.

Departures.—We have recently had to say good-bye to three of our members, Corporal Slaymaker E., Signalmen Perrin H. and Watson A., on their departure to the U.K. We were very sorry to see them go. Our good wishes go with them.

Sport.—A team was entered in the Regimental Inter-Troop Passball Tournament. We managed to get through the first round, but failed at the second hurdle to the tune of 22 points to 13. The team Captain, on being interviewed afterwards, stated that the team had trained on " Galantine."

Agony.—To all Ex-" X " Troopites. " History repeats itself. Shades of '35."

To " Sammy," believed to be in Aldershot. " What's wrong Sammy ? Did Connie throw you out ? "

MICK.

He is only a little fellow,
  Weight barely fourteen pound ;
Happy, jovial, mellow,
  Our little black and white hound.

He goes by the name of Micky,
  And is known to all around ;
In all he does he's tricky,
  This little black and white hound.

For nine long years he's lived out East,
  And knows every inch of the ground
From Mersa Matruh to Palestine,
  Our faithful little hound.

He's always lived with Signals,
  And understands each sound
That emerges from a Signals room ;
  Yes, he's a " knob-on " little hound.

A hero of a thousand scraps,
  He'll always stand his ground ;
Is very rarely beaten up,
  A courageous little hound.

He is growing fat and lazy,
  And some say he should be drowned ;
But as long as he can eat and drink,
  In " X " Troop he'll be found.

If he's ever in a hurry,
  You'll know he's homeward bound ;
To get to his bed on the blankets,
  A poor little tired hound.

When his wanderings cease, and his fights are o'er,
  We trust his days will be crowned
With a place in the dogs' Valhalla,
  Our true and faithful hound.

Next year I leave for Blighty,
  'Twill be with regret profound ;
But I know to those of " X " Troop
  He'll still be a treasured hound.

HOOK.

Palestine Force Signals.

Headquarters, Jerusalem.

July.

We begin this month's notes by congratulating our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. R. Steward, M.C., on being awarded the O.B.E. He was also *Mentioned in Dispatches* quite recently. All ranks, who have served in Palestine Force Signals, join us in saying, " Good show, sir ! "

We are also glad to report that Mrs. " Vick " Vize is recovering from her illness.

It appears that Headquarters are immune from this so-called fighting business, but please remember the old saying that still waters run deep. We certainly do our bit even though we are H.Q.

To the personnel of Force H.Q. Signals, who have withstood the " discomforts " of the Signal Office for so long, we say, " Well done. You are not forgotten. The scribe has tasted the joys of the ' Hut,' and sympathises with you."

Nothing changes in the Holy Land, and time—the great healer—passes on without living up to its reputation, and some day we shall probably jump out of the frying pan into the fire. Rumour whispers that we may be called the " Reich " Signal Section. Who knows ?

Just a word or two about such bad or even horrible stations like Nablus. Ask any Nablusite for an exchange and we are invariably met with the reply : " What ; Jerusalem ! Haifa ! No fear." The dhobi is willing to change with anyone—so there

In any case, we cannot have any of Three Section evacuating Nablus, for only experienced personnel can cope with the bombs and " foo." (I never discovered what the last word meant, and presume it means some other horror. Anyway, it came from No. 3.) It is hoped to run a leave party down there for a little break.

It would be unusual if we did not have something to say about the weather but, as it is always about the same, what's the use ! We have noted several leaving barracks complete with topee and raincoat. (It may rain outside barracks, but the married personnel doubt it.) Some even take their dogs with them. Any excuse is better than none, and the dogs do need a run.

The annual " Pokey-drill " Course has just commenced and, if the Miniature Range results are anything to go by, we shall get some good scores. The Revolver Week showed a good profit, and it is to be hoped that we shall maintain the traditions of the Corps—even at our little outpost.

The Junior N.C.O.s and the Orderly-Room " Quarterbloke " (we mention him by request—no names, no " Smilers ") have completed a new Drill Course, which has something to do with forming fours from three ranks. No doubt we shall find out all about it in due course.

Will some expert please forward suggestions on "How to grow tomatoes "—preferably in three lessons—for ours do not appear to be progressing any too well. Whether the frost has got at them or withering glances of envy upset them we cannot ascertain, but " Smiler " is worried, so worried in fact that the word tomato seems to crop up on every page of the statement of evidence in the case of . . . Well, that's telling.

Promotions.—Congratulations to R.Q.M.S. Tebbey on his appointment. There is no difference in his appearance, but decidedly a slight difference in the " necessary." Also to Lance Corporal Boozer, who has secured the little extra on dropping the " U."

Sport.—Cricket. Only practice games have so far been played, and there seems to be some talent about. We expect big things from Talbot and Corporal Thorpe.

Tennis continues to be the vogue, and the new courts are always well patronised.

The Sergeants' Mess still continues to " beat up the population," but very soon we hope to give their best player a bit of practice.

Marriages.—This is a very sore point in this Unit, and it appears to be a race between H.Q. and No. 1 Section. No. 1 Section may just " Pip " it with a little "persuasion" from both parties concerned. Perhaps there will be more news next time.

Tailpiece.—Don't say these notes are weak—we know it. If some of the " college " men would like to try their hand, no applications are needed.

Next month's notes will record some big changes in this Unit ; and all ex-Palestinians, we feel sure, will be interested.

BUCK.

No. 4 Section, Haifa.

Fire Call.—We are becoming so accustomed to hearing this call by the " Foresters " that it almost sounds like a signature tune, but this time we spent a thrilling time watching other people dash about carrying buckets of water. After listening to the onlookers' free advice on how to extinguish fires, we have no doubt about our usefulness as members of the Auxiliary Fire Fighting Service if we ever get away from this place in time to be within the age limit.

Many rumours are in circulation to the effect that Palestine is definitely to be a " two-year " station. We are informed by someone that someone else was told by someone with absolute authority that in, say, ten years we shall be back in Blighty. If, however, we want real facts, then we just ask the sweeper or, failing him, his pal the dhobie.

Esprit de Corps.—Do all our lady readers feel sorry for poor No. 3 Section out at Nablus. That Section is so frightfully modest, for the only time they break into print is when they wish to defend their honour from the " acquiring " methods of this Section, and when they try not " to embarrass No. 9 Section " who, after all, are newcomers to Palestine, and have not yet learned how appalling Nablus can be.

Having suffered silently in bygone days at bad out-stations (including Nablus *before* the fort was modernised), we can only hope that some of Barleux's faithful lady readers (and we know some of them) will turn their attention to a misused body of men. We, at any rate, will be much happier men ; as the poor, benighted Nablusites will be so busy answering fan-mail that they won't have time to air their woes in the WIRE, and we of the " Fighting Fourth " will not have to waste time piping them down.

Promotions.—A few more this month, just to keep the ball rolling. We congratulate Corporals Patient (Biff), Donnelly (Tommy) and Evans (Taffy), and also U/Lance Corporal Purvis L.

Hospital.—Not a cheerful subject, but we are able to state that both Rice G. and Clark, who are in the Military Hospital, Haifa, are progressing satisfactorily. Both have secret plans for the future, but we are not at liberty to reveal them. We are sincerely sorry to learn that Mrs. Powner is in the Government Civil Hospital here, and all wish her a speedy recovery.

Curfew.—Street scene, Haifa. Cafe (Arabs supping coffee, cognac, arak—or what have you.)

Bomb !

Exit cafe *avec* Arabs supping coffee, cognac, arak—or where are you ?

CURFEW !

Twenty-four hours later. Curfew lifted.

Twelve hours later. Same scenery, different street, different Arabs.

Bomb !

CURFEW !

And so on, *ad nauseam*. (H . . . !)

No. 6 Section, Sarafand.

General.—The last month has seen several changes in the Brigade, especially here at H.Q. The 7th (Medium) Regiment, R.A., have arrived from India and taken over the billet at Ramleh from the 1st Battalion, Bedfs. and Herts. Regiment, who now occupy Lone Tree Camp, Sarafand. Most of the personnel who were attached to Brigade H.Q. have gone home, and right in the middle of the change-over the painters descended on us and painted everything in sight, except the new teleprinter, so that everything was looking clean and fresh when Colonel W. C. V. Galwey, M.C., paid his first visit to the Section in his capacity as C.S.O.

Horoscope.—For those born under the sign of Vices—the Gripper—1st January to 31st December. A long sea voyage in the near future. You should save money. If things don't alter they'll stay as they are. This applies to the remainder of what was 7th Divisional Signals, who will be enjoying a spot of leave in the U.K. next trooping season.

Departure.—Driver Ricci has left us for No. 9 Section, Haifa, because he has heard the streets are paved with gold—or something. We hope he will find them less dusty than those at Sarafand.

Arrival.—Welcome to Driver Bird from Haifa *vise* Ricci.

Promotions.—Congratulations to Corporal Cox on discarding the " T " and to T/Corporal Heward and U/Lance Corporal Walker on their promotion and appointment, respectively.

Individual Training.—Our Correspondence Course has now commenced, but we cannot write much about this subject owing to the possibility of a stern note of protest from the be-collared " Nablites " to remind us that it was their idea.

Obituary.—It is with the deepest regret that we announce the death of Robin Stevens, son of Sergeant Stevens, at the R.A.F. General Hospital, Sarafand, on 17th June. The funeral took place at Ramleh Cemetery the following day, the Section providing the bearers, guard and escort. All ranks tender their deepest sympathy to Sergeant and Mrs. Stevens in their sad bereavement.

Cricket.—Out of four games played during June we won two and lost two. We had a very close win over Jaffa Police on 10th June, scores being 66 and 68, respectively. On 14th June we suffered at the hands of the Royal Scots Greys, losing by 55 runs and 3 wickets. We won against Jaffa C.C. by 44 runs and 3 wickets, and lost to the R.A.S.C. combined team by 66 runs.

On 4th July we again faced Jaffa Police in a two-innings match. The first innings found us with 30 all out against 49 for 4 wickets. In the second innings the Police declared with 41 for 6 wickets ; then Barr and Vacha, playing for the Section for the first time this season, pulled us up with a first wicket stand of 70, giving us a win by 10 runs.

P. F.

No. 9 Section, Haifa.

According to Starkey's wireless and Toby Crackitt's bunion, a terrific snow-storm should hit Haifa about a week after these notes are sent to press, but the fact that the working capacity of the Unit has been praised should help to brighten even these two pessimistic hill-billies.

Explorers in Asia Minor claim to have discovered the " oldest egg in the world," but they have not searched No. 9 Section cookhouse.

Cricket has now started, and our team members are beginning to understand the rudiments of this village green mystery. " Come, Roberts ; give us the G.R.I.P." The other day, a cricket match between A.R.P. Wardens and the Palestine Police ended in a draw. It is untrue, however, that the former complained against the bright light and demanded a " black-out."

Between " Lights Out " and " Reveille " we hear whispered propoundings of " E. and M.," for the instructors have told us that a wireless wave is invisible. Frankly, we don't quite see it. Allgood must talk about Poles.

Congratulations to Corporal Cooper on his promotion to that rank.

The Felucca Club is sailing along merrily, and we observe Commodore Sergeant Barry and his Able Seamen—Blundell and Hamilton—practising reef knots on the tent ropes. No. 3 Section should have a silencer fitted to their WIRE correspondent because, according to statistics, another bomb has found its way into Haifa.

That elusive subject, leave, has popped up again, but has not yet found a place in our Daily Orders.

N. MC. LEOD.

Hong Kong Signal Company.

Whitfield Barracks, Kowloon.
1st August.

General.—On 17th August the Unit is due to move over the water. The move will probably take a week to complete. Our next epistle will tell you all about it.

A.R.P.—We had a complete " black-out " on 27th July. It lasted for two hours. According to the experts it was quite successful.

Troopships.—The " Dilwara " comes in on 4th August, but as far as this Unit is concerned, it might as well be a junk What's the use of sending these troopships out here if we don't use them ?

Anyway, it is said that we shall soon be travelling home in style, P. & O. in fact !

Things We Would Like to Know.—Who was seasick on the Ferry recently ?

Why do six certain individuals gaze longingly out to sea every afternoon from West Fort ? Are they expecting mermaids ?

What is the dress for linemen repairing the submarine cable ? Bathing costumes ?

Who is the tough guy working in the M.T. Office ? He shows his muscles to the C.Q.M.S. once daily.

" Wire " Letter Service.—Phipps 912 would like to hear from Dalton and Toby Cracket.

Water Polo and Swimming.—Under the leadership of Lance Corporal Dignan better team play has been accomplished, and, with the help of the already well-experienced players, a first-class polo team has been formed. One of the local papers refers to us as "Army Champions."

After our successes in the Departmental League, the team challenged the undefeated Colony champions (the Victoria Recreation Club). The game was fast and tricky with hardly a point in favour of either side after the first four minutes of play. The first goal was scored by Hutchison, the V.R.C. centre-half, who, after a brilliant swim away, netted the ball with a powerful shot. Then the V.R.C. centre-forward vollied the ball into the net, giving the V.R.C. a lead of 2—0 at half-time. After three minutes' play in the second half, Corporal Ashford took a shot at goal from just over the half-way line and beat the opposing goal-keeper, making one up for the Signals. Then Lance Corporal Pitcher, receiving a well-positioned pass from Lance Corporal Bedford, equalised with a hot shot in the corner of the net. The V.R.C., with their knowledge of the bath, positioned themselves to playing four forwards up, and not the standard three. They scored in the last minute of play and we admitted defeat by 3—2. Considering the opposition, it was a good performance.

Our second team have played three matches, beating the Royal Scots (3—2) and twice drawing (2—2) with the 1st Battalion, Middlesex Regiment.

The Combined Small Units' Gala is being held on 2nd August, in the Y.M.C.A. Baths, and the Company Gala on 26th August, so look out for next month's notes.

Table Tennis.—Table Tennis is still as popular as ever, despite the many outside attractions that the Colony has to offer. Only two remain of last year's unbeaten team (Lance Corporal Scully and Signalman Love), but already the new blood is proving its worth and we are now the best Army team in the Colony. The Chinese teams are vastly superior, but they provide some useful practice, as many are South China players. A second team is now being raised and will, no doubt, give a good account of itself. Result of matches played recently :

v. St. Andrew's	Won	5—2
v. Argyle Street Boys' Club	Won	7—5
v. Kwong Wah A.A.	Lost	0—5

Billiards.—Our team is doing quite well, considering we have to compete against battalion teams. The team is selected from : Q.M.S. (F-of-S) Thorpe, Lance Sergeant Brackenberry, Corporal Blount, Lance Corporal Pitcher, Signalmen Morgan, Murphy, Medford and Wright.

Although we are not very well placed in the League, we expect to be in at the finish when the competitions are played.

We got through the first round of the Garrison Challenge Cup by defeating 22nd Fortress Company, R.E., 837—646. We had a welcome return to form that night ; all except our Foreman-of-Signals, for whom nothing seems to go right. Corporal Blount made an excellent break of 40 to celebrate his return to form. Scores :

Q.M.S. (F-of-S) Thorpe (break of 22) ..	Lost	95—150
Lance Sergeant Brackenberry (break of 30) ..	Lost	142—150
Corporal Blount (breaks of 40 and 23) ..	Won	150— 55
Lance Corporal Pitcher	Won	150—100
Signalman Morgan	Won	150— 84
Signalman Murphy	Won	150—112

In spite of the fact that we have not done particularly well in the League, everyone takes a great interest, and the team spirit is excellent. Results : Won 2, lost 5 ; points 16.

KONGITE AND BEE BEE.

Sergeants' Mess.

General.—News gathering has not been very successful on the part of the Mess sleuths.

For Sale.—Old ancestral pile, the " Whitfield," less bar and furnishings. Tenders to reach this office before 1st September, 1939. (Signal Units need not apply.) In short, we evacuate Kowloon on or about 1st September.

" ODE TO WHITFIELD."

There lay the bricks, once so finely set,
Now smashed and broken, showing board " To let,"
'Neath which, so many have often met,
Never dreaming they would have to " get."

Sporting Events.—" Field." Now we are coming to it. A series of relay races have been held ; distance, one end of the Mess to the other. Winner, Sergeant Gibson by 15 seconds. Possibly your Sunday night training, George !

Billiards and Snooker.—At the moment we have several budding enthusiasts, so enthusiastic in one case that he has to wear bandages to prevent chafing. Nice work if one can get it though. The Billiard Book is quite a history, too. On close inspection, three games at 20 cents appeared just lately. Enthusiasm ! Simply colossal !

Social Functions.—A " nil return " for July. We don't want any until we get a new Mess !

Au revoir till next month !

U. B. LIGHT.

Corporals' Room.

31st July.

Moving.—We leave Whitfield Barracks, Kowloon, sometime during August. Most of us will be sorry to go, although the new barracks are rather elegant and the old ones a bit gloomy.

This is like trying to make bricks without straw or straw into gold, for I've nothing to write about. I tried to get Dickens to embrace holy matrimony, so that I could make a splash, but he won't ; still keeps dithering on the brink. Dignan was approached. Would he make another kind of splash, off the roof of the Star Ferry Pier—and he refused. Willie Hodge does provide an item, though. He went to bed in his quarter the other night and left the bathroom tap running and the people in the flat below were swamped out. I would like to think that it was a Sergeant-Major on whom the cascade descended (not our own Sergeant-Major, naturally, but another ; one with a fierce bristling moustache and great brawny arms). Up the stairs he would run in his dripping nightshirt, leaving large pools of water behind him on every step ; out of bed he would drag poor Willie. " What have you done, Corporal ? " he would thunder, with clouds of smoke bellowing from his great nostrils. And Willie would crawl under the bed, from where he would answer : " Please, sir, I didn't do anything. Not a drop or a splash would I let fall on you, except, perhaps, a sprinkle of rose water at the present minute to soothe your fevered brow." I'd like to think that all this happened after Willie's bathroom tap overflowed, but Willie says that it didn't.

The S.S. " Foch " sails from Hong Kong on 4th August for Singapore, Samaranda (Borneo) and Java, and with her go two of our most adventurous souls—Brown and Dickens—on a voyage that is unique in the annals of the Hong Kong Signals. Not for these stout ones a holiday on the beach at Stanley or Cheung Chou. Ah, no, they prefer to take their pleasures hardy on an old tramp steamer, scrubbing the decks and thankful for a bite of navy cake when it comes their way. Who can but admire them ?

Apropos nothing, I don't think that soldiers should work in the afternoons in the Far East, in Hong Kong, anyway. A little siesta from two till four, a cup of tea brought to the bedside, some more sleep till six o'clock, a cold shower, dinner and other refreshments and then to bed is the ideal routine. Alas, this has not happened to-day ; it is a quarter past two already and I'd be much more usefully employed resting. And so to bed.

PADDY.

"EYES RIGHT!" [*Photo by C. W. Wal.*

Malaya Signal Company, Singapore.

Alexandra Depots.

3rd August.

The glorification of the soldier abroad. We hope the enclosed photograph will set at rest the minds of various members of the Corps. Proof positive that we are still alive. What a line.

Business has been fairly slack this past month. Everyone has started studying mathematics. References to the unknown quantity and its half-back "Z" are common. On the other hand, the second batch of operators on training finished the Course and sat the test; they are now awaiting the results, but there is no rest for the wicked. The instructors have started again. This time with a batch of R.A. personnel.

Corporal White, Signalmen Ruddock, Wild, Laker and Elliott pushed on into the wilds of Penang. We were hoping that there would be a few WIRE notes forthcoming this month, but we guess the jungle needs a lot of trimming.

The Malayan for "Hail!" is given to W.O. II Q.M.S. White A., who arrived from the Southern Command Signal Company on 30th July. May his stay be a pleasant one.

Lance Corporal "Chippy" Wood has been posted to the Depot Battalion, when he returns from Netley Hospital. No need to warn them about him. It is not so long since he left it.

Sergeant Penny returned to his old haunts at Changi for a short while.

Congratulations to the following: U/Lance Corporals Parent, Sherratt and Hudson on receiving their stripes and Lance Corporal Soppett on getting paid for his. Lance Sergeant Norton on getting his clasp, Mohdmand, 1933.

The football team on finishing fourth in the Small Units League and on beating the R.A.O.C. in the S.A.F.A. League. See sports notes.

Building has started. When the coolies are comfortable there is a chance that the new bungalow will shoot up.

The usual topic of conversation as referred to in previous notes has changed somewhat. I do not want to say much on the subject, but just watch "Jonah's" eyes when quarters are mentioned. Even Albert is interested in this marriage by proxy idea.

Two great sayings this month: (1) "I think I will write to her C.O. to see if she can be made to write"; (2) "Lagi dinner." "Sharps" the word.

Pete wants to know if ping pong can be played with rubber bats and woollen balls on a Witney blanket.

Lastly, to Ricardo, Burdes and Haggis. "*Es tut mir leid.* I'll be writing soon."

Football.—S.A.F.A. LEAGUE. This month the Unit played five games in this League. The results were as follows: v. R.N., Malaya, lost 2—4 (Duckworth and Edwards); v. R.A.F. (T.), we took the points in default; v. R.A.M.C., lost 0—3; v. Publishers, lost 1—2 (Duckworth); v. R.A.O.C., won 3—2 (Laing 2, Duckworth). This is the first time we have beaten the Ordnance in a league match. Well done!

SMALL UNITS LEAGUE. The league is now finished, and the Unit battled up to fourth place. The table is as follows:

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Goals. F.	A.	Pts.
31st Battery, R.A.	22	13	2	7	71	28	33
11th Battery, R.A.	22	11	5	6	42	24	28
R.A.O.C	22	12	6	4	52	32	28
Malaya Signal Company ..	22	10	6	6	41	43	26
"B" Company, Loyals ..	22	11	8	3	44	50	25
"C" Company, Loyals ..	22	10	8	4	38	30	24
H.Q. "B," Loyals	22	9	9	4	59	39	22
7th H.K.S., R.A.	22	7	7	8	30	32	22
H.Q. "A," Loyals	22	9	9	4	53	66	22
"D" Company, Loyals ..	22	8	9	5	34	27	21
"A" Company, Loyals ..	22	4	17	1	19	54	9
R.A.S.C.	22	2	20	0	21	79	4

SIX-A-SIDE. The semi-finals were completed as follows:

Unit Office	3	Linemen	1
Operators "C"	4	Employed	0

The final is to be played this month.

FRIENDLIES. One match was played against the R.A.S.C. We ran out victors by 5—2 (Thompson G. 3, Slavin and Girt).

We are now preparing for hockey and hope to do something in that line.

The Gillman ping pong ladder is still going. Labrum caught up with Parent and has taken over first place. More next month.

TOMMIE.

Changi Detachment.

General.—Once again the gyrations of Changi's goons are heard on the air. Fresh from a sojourn in the north of Malaya, the scribe returns to his jungle home, and the furtive glances of the Section in general are met with quiet approval.

Things change but little in this island of demi-gods and so

sheets and sheets of WIRE notes must therefore be partly measured with the oxometer.

Signalman (Guy) Hilton, our switchboard contortionist, has had a spot of trouble this month on the No. 9 Sets, just arrived from Company H.Q. The full facts are not yet known, but it is believed that at some part of the day he mistook the Stuart-Turner for the generator and almost put the B.B.C. out of action.

Appointments.—Congratulations to Signalmen Sherratt and (Soapy) Hudson on reaching the first rung of the ladder. The tankards have now been polished and put away in readiness for the next big event.

Moves.—Signalman Fawcett to Tekong, *vice* Signalman Webb. It is pointed out to all members of the Section that the tiger and snake menace has now been exterminated and that bows and arrows may be left in the Line Store when the Tekong posting comes round again. Signalman Pierce to Changi from Alexandra.

We wonder.—If Mr. Curry can get his calls put through any quicker by turning the handle of the pencil sharpener.

If Chatterton's compound can be affected by rain. Tekong Section, please note.

If the Gallant Gunner can recognise the difference between a Barrack Office and a Signals Instrument inventory.

The Fall of a Star.—Nobby, our Section Stooge, was beaten by the Feudal Baron at table tennis in three straight sets recently.

Jews' Mail.—Rich, 404, Quetta. "How about a line. Webb, 409."

Tailpiece.—And that, dear readers, concludes Changi observations for Lagi Satu Bulan.

J. O'C.

Malta Signal Company.

Command Signal Office, Strada Torre, Valletta.

7th August.

General.—The month of July has been marked by an unusually hot spell unrelieved by any vestige of a breeze. As usual in such cases, those with great experience found outlet for gripping yarns of supermen of the '90's struggling through fever-infested jungles, and so on, *ad nauseam*.

We are advised to partake of liberal beakers of salt water, but some of our swimmers would prefer advice on how to avoid it.

We welcome back to Malta our C.S.O., Major F. H. Bury, who, with C.Q.M.S. (F-of-S) Holt has returned after a spell of duty farther east. No doubt they will agree that home is best even if it be in Malta.

We regret to record the admission to hospital of Corporal Chantry, with what appears to be a recurring foot trouble. Against that we have back with us Corporal Beard, who thought fit to leave his tonsils behind, and seems none the worse for his loss.

Promotions.—Congratulations to Lance Corporals McConnell, Reck, Williams, Murphy and Shreeve, who have laid aside their title of U/Lance Corporal and are now well on their way to swell the nation's coffers with their income-tax contributions.

Matrimonial.—It is quite a time since we had a wedding to record in these notes, but C.Q.M.S. (F-of-S) Smith sprang into the news when on 12th July he led Miss Joan Patience Dobson to the altar and emerged with the matrimonial knot well and truly tied.

On the previous day the S.M.'s table was inundated with passes to cover the great occasion. A few, however, were unlucky because, as those who know us are well aware, "the show must go on!" However, a representative gathering was present to render the necessary support. The bride, who had travelled from England and arrived only a few days before, wore a flower dress with white shoes and hat to match and was attended by Mrs. Holt and little Miss Holt, wife and daughter of C.Q.M.S. Holt, who himself was unable to be present, due to absence in Egypt.

The bride was given away by Chief Petty Officer Stevens, "Saucy Arethusa," whilst Sergeant Rowe A. acted as best man and chief jailer to the bridegroom. Ten-thirty was the time fixed for the passing of the life sentence and, true to tradition, everyone was punctual. We should except one car-load, who had come under the arm of the law and been apprehended by the police for wrongful parking whilst buying rice. However, a policy of appeasement permitted them to arrive in time for the vital part of the ceremony, which took place at Holy Trinity Church, Sliema, the Rev. J. B. V. White, C.F., officiating.

Major F. H. Bury, Command Signal Officer, who was away in Egypt, was represented by Lieutenant W. C. Ramsay. A glance round the gathering outside the church showed the already married wearing knowing smiles, on the faces of the single members a thoughtful look, whilst those we wot of who are tottering on the brink were possessed of a troubled mien we find hard to define.

"Here they come!" A whisper goes round and immediately our amateur photographers jockeyed for positions and hands produced volumes of rice and confetti. The bride and groom, together with their attendants, kindly posed for our photographers. Braving the storm of "suitable" missiles they were whirled away to the "newly-weds" flat in the bridal car with the pack in full cry. Here a reception was held and, being a hot day, cold drinks were in great demand. Nearly everyone assisted in this respect and refreshments were soon dispensed and a toast to the future happiness of the bride and groom duly honoured. After the cutting of the cake the party settled down to a steady hum and flow; the hum being conversation. All too soon came the time for dispersal and we took our leave, but not before Sergeant Freeman C. A. had risen to the occasion and expressed very appropriately our sentiments towards the bride and groom. We take this opportunity of repeating our best wishes for the future health and happiness of C.Q.M.S. and Mrs. Smith.

SKIP.

Palestine Force Signals.

No. 7 Section, Malta.

Casemates Barracks, Floriana.

2nd August.

General.—The item of greatest importance to the majority of the Section which occurred this month is best explained by the following paragraph, which is reproduced by courtesy of *The Times of Malta* dated 7th June, 1939:

NON-STOP SKATING.

ANOTHER RECORD ATTEMPT.

"Driver Sharratt, of the Royal Corps of Signals, is to make an attempt to set up a 36-hour Non-stop Skating Record at the Cafe Riche Rink, Conspicua, commencing at 2 p.m. tomorrow (Friday).

"During the first evening, A.B. Broadbent, H.M.S. "Grenville," will keep Driver Sharratt company, and at 9 p.m. a silver medal is to be presented to Broadbent to commemorate his recent record of 31¼ hours Non-stop. The Skipper of H.M.S. "Grenville" will be present, while the "Grenville" Band will enliven the proceedings."

Not mentioned by *The Times* however, was the fact that Sharratt had first put on skates only three months previously.

The first evening went by without incident, apart from the "enlivened proceedings," and our man did not so much as pause for twenty-four hours.

Many more people were interested in the attempt than could be estimated by rink attendance, judging by the number of telephone calls received asking whether Sharratt was still skating.

Taking liquid refreshment on the move, Sharratt was still going strong at 10 p.m. on Saturday—32 hours after commencement—but by accident was floored by a sailor ten minutes afterwards. The judges would have allowed Sharratt to continue after this, but unfortunately once down he was unable to get up again and so retired, holding the new record of 32 hours 10 minutes non-stop, beating A.B. Broad bent by 55 minutes.

Mention should be made of the able assistance rendered by Signalmen Roach, Walton and Millar, who took it in turns to keep Sharratt company during the whole time he was on the rink.

The medal was presented to the holder of the new record on Friday, 14th July, and everyone is agreed that the effort certainly deserved it. Well done! After A.B. Broadbent promised to break the new record, Driver Sharratt has decided to do something about the world record.

And so it goes on, chaps.

Told in the Stores.—The "Q" bloke, now looking rather worried, goes round tearing up Washing Contracts and making out new ones. They say that it has something to do with a love-letter from the washlady, which ran something like this:

"Please excuse me for the washing because I had an accident that my Auntie died."

And so the "Q" bloke nearly did when he read it. We understand that the new washlady has no aunties.

Sport.—Quite a number of games played this month, proving the old saying that "practice makes perfect." We are not yet at that stage, but we have improved a little.

Hockey results to date include one draw and three wins, as follows:

v. "D" Company, 1st Dorsetshire Regiment ..	Drawn	0—0
v. ,, ,, ,, ,, ..	Won	1—0
v. "A" ,, ,, ,, ..	Won	3—0
v. Detachment, Suffolk Regiment	Won	1—0

Three games were lost, two against the Dorsets and one against Details, Suffolks, all resulting in scores of 2—1.

At water polo we have not been quite so good, but as the team representing Malta Signal Company has not had a great deal of practice together, we are not taking the results too much to heart; they are as follows:

v. Royal Engineers	Lost	1—2
v. R.A.F.	Lost	1—8

The R.A.F. have a very good team indeed. So let's hope that by next month we can prove the foregoing proverb again.

Darts.—Congratulations to Signalman Taylor, who beat the local "hot shots" of the "Little Brown Jug" and carted off a medal—silver one, too. Who are these people who hide their lights under a casket?

Once again, *adieu* till next month.

SAHA.

Shanghai Signal Section.

18th July.

General.—Since our last appearance, some months ago, a number of changes have taken place in the Section. One thing in particular has been the effect of "Compulsory Military Training." Through it, promotion has come rapidly to this small Section, and now everyone is wondering who will be the next.

The new Area Commander, Major-General F. Keith Simmons, who assumed command of the Area on 25th May, 1939, inspected the Section on 2nd June.

The G.O.C., China Command, paid his second visit to Shanghai on 17th July, but did not carry out inspections. Just an informal visit to see the "lads."

Promotions and Appointments.—We offer our congratulations to the following members of the Section, who have recently attained the ranks shown: Sergeant Swift A. R., Corporal Gibson J. V. W., Lance Corporal Pemberton W. G. and U/Lance Corporal Dannan S. J. It is rumoured that L/Corporal (Beau Brummell) Cleveley is sweating on the top line. Look out for more under this heading!

Education.—Signalman Bloomfield is to be congratulated on obtaining his First Class Certificate of Education at the March, 1939, examination.

Two more of the Section are now "swotting" hard and we wish them the best of luck in their endeavour.

Financial.—"Oh, to be in Shanghai, now the dollar is down." Yes, it certainly is down; down to sixpence three-farthings (official rate).

It seems rather hard to have to break the news to those "old soldiers" who remember it standing at two shillings and threepence, but what an asset to us! Prices are up, yes, but not in proportion to the drop of the dollar. That excludes certain well-known establishments. You should see the "lads" walking around in expensive suits, visiting all the best places and in general "crashing in on society." "Beau Brummell" even took unto himself a typewriter costing about $200. (It should be useful for pawning purposes during the week.) "Buck" Taylor has started taking "Wakamoto" tablets, to prepare himself physically for the shock when the dollar goes up again. He is sure to feel it most.

"Nobby" (surname must be Hall) doesn't drink beer any more; much too common when a man is on $60 per week. Nowadays he lounges in one of the posh "honkey tonks" delicately sipping his glass of benedictine.

There is another side to the currency problem. Shanghai is out of copper; the cent is extinct.

This is an example of what now happens. Yours truly, requiring a bottle of hair-oil, tenders a $5 bill (when he's got one). The Canteen boy brings the required article, and then half an hour later turns up at the counter with a bag of sweeties, two boxes of matches, three razor blades, some chewing gum, a pair of bootlaces, three pieces of string, a five cent stamp, a dollar bill and owes me one cent. That is "slightly" exaggerated but it gives you the general idea. See what I mean? Anyway, I am now the proud possessor of a full set of the latest Chinese one, two and five cent stamps and am willing to "swop" these for a penny black. You know the address.

Sport.—The Section is still well represented in the field of sport, although the bad weather has cut down activities. What with recent floods and typhoons, outdoor sports have been negatived. However, the tennis and cricket enthusiasts are looking forward to more favourable conditions in the near future. Some results of their efforts next month.

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THE TERRITORIALS AND SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE

2nd London Corps Signals.

Old Hatfield House, Portinscale Road, S.W.15.
August.

General.—On 28th July we finally took our leave of Fulham House and the hospitality of the 1st London Corps Signals, and moved into our own headquarters "up the road." Perhaps "moved in" is a bit optimistic, but at least we stood outside and gazed with awe on the turreted magnificence of Old Hatfield House which is to be our home for the present. Two days later, clad in the most peculiar selection of civilian raiment, more than 500 of us were on our way to Corfe Castle for annual training.

Considering that not more than fifty of us had ever been under canvas before—and most of those in their Boy Scout days—it was remarkable how quickly everyone settled down to the routine of camp life. Indeed, so zealous in its duties was the first night's guard—composed entirely of recruits—that a certain Second Lieutenant, returning from a moonlight stroll, almost had to produce his birth certificate and passport before being allowed into the lines.

Our C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel C. A. Oliver, M.C., had decided on a training programme which, in view of the lack of equipment and shortage of instructors, was decidedly ambitious. Musketry, rifle drill, and signal training to Group "E" standard had to be imparted in about nine working days to recruits, the majority of whom hardly knew how to form fours (having done their recruits' drill in "threes"). That the full programme was carried out, to the complete satisfaction of all concerned, is due to the herculean efforts of the tiny Permanent Staff (tiny in numbers, not figure); to the co-operation of the thirty U/Lance Corporals who had worked like trojans to get through their S.A. Course before camp; and to the generosity of the Royal Tank Regimental Depot, Bovington, which allowed us the use of their range and their instructors for the Musketry Course. That any training was carried out at all reflects no credit on the clerk of the weather, who did his best to turn the whole show into a literal "wash-out."

This question of the weather is rather a sore point to your scribe. Having attempted, with some success, to persuade a number of his colleagues who visited Corfe Castle to delete the phrase "a sea of mud" from their reports, he now finds himself quite unable to find any other words which will tell the story! So we'll just say that there *were* days when the sun didn't shine, and that the rainfall during the first week should have been measured with a yardstick instead of in the customary inches of the Meteorological Office.

However, even "yards of rain" couldn't damp the enthusiasm of any of us. Colonel H. Lloyd Howard, whom we were delighted to have in camp with us, spent many hours on working out Plans "A" and "B," which could have dealt with every eventuality—including waterspouts and a hurricane.

In actual fact, so keen were we all to remain in camp, even with a little discomfort, that it was only necessary to evacuate about 170 men to the schools at Corfe Castle for one night, while the rest of us slept on tables in the mess tents. "If you've got a groundsheet and a couple of dry blankets you can sleep sound on the . . . Atlantic," one C.S.M. was heard to say to the occupants of a No. 3 Company tent. The War Office has now definitely stated that there is no truth in the rumour that three more Units had to be mechanised in order to feed the Signals at camp this year. But we must give a "big hand" to the cooks, who, right through the worst of the weather, put up a remarkably good show, under C.S.M. Griffiths. Their usual dress of bathing trunks (and nothing else) might have startled the kitchen staff of the Savoy Hotel, but they did their job all the time—even though most of them were as raw as the rest of us!

Thanks to the 1st London Corps Signals, whose camp was just across the railway, we were all able to spend one morning visiting their big Scheme, and seeing just what our own training was leading to. Most of us learnt more in those few hours of practical demonstration than we shall ever get from weeks of lectures, and those people who were getting a little tired of marching and sloping arms realised for the first time that we really have got a proper job of work to do in the Unit. Though it was, perhaps, a little unfortunate that when one party of recruits were being conducted over a C.C.M.A. Signal Office and were taken over to a "Tele. F.," to hear how an important conversation should be carried out, they should have heard the operator say: "And will you tell Molly that if I can get out of this . . . dump to-night, I'll meet her at the usual place at eight pip emma."

And talking of usual places reminds us how many Cable-laying and Map-reading Schemes managed to pass by (in theory at least) the "Square and Compasses" at Worth Matravers. Which accounts, of course, for the fact that several officers were to be found in the same hostelry most evenings. After all, reconnaissance for the next day's work is an essential part of training!

Seriously, though, this first camp of ours was a great success. We did any amount of work, we learnt how to keep cheerful under the worst conditions, we found out that the "other chap" is a very decent fellow now we've got to know him properly, and even if we did arrive as a lot of green civilians, we marched away like veteran troops. Of course, there were grouses. But who has ever been to a camp and *not* heard a grouse? It would have been a dull fortnight if all and sundry had agreed on everything! And it was very noticeable that, on the last day, everyone was saying in a somewhat surprised tone how sorry they were to be going home.

Now that we're back at Old Hatfield House again (and we really have moved in now), we start on five weeks of intensive training. But we are all used to hard work by now, and the Junior N.C.O. who remarked, after looking at his Company notice board, "What; only two drill nights a week?" is probably echoing the thoughts of most of us.

Sport.—We have had so much to do in the few weeks of our existence as a separate Unit that there has not really been much time to make any arrangements for sport. But we did manage to get in one fixture each for our soccer and rugger teams during camp.

Our soccer team played the 1st London Corps Signals and just failed to stay the course by 1—3. Our rugger team had a really good game with the Tanks Depot XV, who came over from Bovington and beat us by 12 points to 9. Once our team can get a bit of practice together, it looks as though we shall be able to hold our own against the best.

Things We Remember.—The C.O. singing the "Lambeth Walk" at the Unit concert, organised by the irrepressible Corporal Askew.

Our final Unit parade in camp with battle dress, rifles and the band of the 4th Devons. It was hard to believe that we were the same crowd who had come down in "civvies" a fortnight earlier. Even the R.S.M. was pleased!

2nd Lieutenant Pownall taking his bath by the side of the railway. Was it imagination or did the trains really slow down?

The rush every day for the hot showers. "Damme, sir—hot showers for the troops? The Army's going to the dogs!"

Our rugger team practising at 5.30 a.m. (0530 hours to you!) with the C.O. watching on the "touchline."

The sea of mud at the end of the first week. (Yes, we thought we couldn't resist that).

Mudlarks.—Will the Sergeant, who used to meet the little blonde outside Swanage pier every night, please forward her address to the R.S.M. so that it may be filed for future reference?

One point of interest was the number of men who, after a night's guard duty, seemed to know the morse code remarkably well. There's a time and a place for everything.

Talking of morse, and everybody seems to be nowadays, one bright individual asked Corporal Weedon how verbal messages were sent in the Signals. After a moment's thought, the Corporal replied: "There's a special way of doing that; we have carrier pigeons that have been crossed with parrots."

Signalman Warwick Taylor, on hearing that anyone who wished to go to another Section could be transferred after camp, was heard to ask his C.S.M. on evacuation night if it would be possible for him to join the Marines, because there they had less chance of drowning.

Another Signalman, who shall be nameless, was posted for guard duty. On being told by an indignant Orderly Officer to "look at your rifle, man," he glanced at the barrel and exclaimed, in surprise: "Coo! it's got an 'ole right frew it."

Where did Signalman Gasparro get his stock of stories for the "press gang" dinner in Bournemouth? And has Signalman Hardy had his B.B.C. contract yet?

Was there any fatigue for which Corporal Collins did not volunteer?

What did No. 1 Company do in camp? (Don't all shout together!)

CHARLIE.

44th (Home Counties) Divisional Signals.

Drill Hall, Stamford Brook Lodge, Ravenscourt Park, W.6.

14th August.

General.—Our notes seem to have gone astray in the excitement of the last couple of months and apologies are therefore extended to our hordes of avid readers.

In the period before camp, Section training was greatly intensified and a Divisional Scheme was laid out at Headquarters, in which all H.Q. Sections participated each Wednesday night. On Mondays the Sections trained independently, and it became a common occurrance to see a string of W/T trucks leaving H.Q. for pastures new, one outward sign of inward confidence that would have seemed very strange a short time ago. The fruits of this increase in keenness and labour were much in evidence during annual training, when we had one of the best Schemes ever—of which more anon.

Our H.Q. is not yet rebuilt, but the foundations of the huts have appeared. Let us hope that this does not mean that the rebuilding scheme will fade out once more into the dim and distant future. We have, however, had a reshuffle of accommodation in H.Q., which has somewhat eased the overcrowding. The top floor is no longer used as married quarters, but has become a suite of offices, an arrangement that has many advantages, but one serious drawback—we now have two flights of stairs to climb in order to ask our strings of questions. (This provides food for thought.)

The S.R. at last have an office of their own. The position is somewhat marred by the fact that a bath does not make a very good office desk and a geyser is hardly in the front line of office furniture. They are, however, making the best of things, and are consoled by the fact that the Officer i/c can, if necessary, hurl vituperation, and even more solid articles upon the heads of his Section when they are at work in the garden many feet below.

Hyde Park Review.—2nd Lieutenant Woods, in charge of fifty N.C.O.s and men, attended this Review and, despite the great amount of hectic training in progress at the time, managed to put up the usual high-quality show that we have grown to expect from our men. One slight error was made in the Park when our contingent was halted alongside the Women's Air Guard. The men became temporarily afflicted with deafness and failed several times to hear the word to move on.

Chiswick A.R.P. Rally.—A contingent of twenty-five, composed chiefly of men who had also attended at Hyde Park, marched from Stamford Brook to Gunnersbury Park on 9th July, at the head of the Chiswick column of the Chiswick and Brentford A.R.P. Rally. After being inspected, they led the march past at the close of the rally and worthily upheld the credit of the Unit.

Annual Training.—Dibgate, 1939, will certainly never be forgotten by all ranks. To begin with, the "old" boys had the pleasure of taking to camp with them about 700 "new" boys—occasionally referred to as the "Locusts" when "cook-house" sounded.

The departure scenes were quite unprecedented. Masses of friends and relations attended when the Stamford Brook contingent marched off to Addison Road Station, causing much comment amongst the experienced members of the Unit. Similar scenes cheered the Southgate and Brighton parties on their way.

The arrival of the main body at Dibgate on Sunday, 16th July, was a timely reminder to the advance party as to the reasons for their hard toil during the preceeding five days, and in very little time their canvas town on the cilff tops, overlooking the sea, was occupied and running to schedule, not to mention the Dry Canteen run by the A.T.S.—what sweet smiling faces—who dispensed hot tea and doughnuts. (Just a snack before the meat tea from the cook-house!). The introduction of the A.T.S. Dry Canteen was a great success, and proved a formidable rival to the Wet Canteen. It was reported that even Sergeants were seen partaking secretly of the "cup that cheers."

Royal Visit.—A never-to-be-forgotten day in the annals of the Unit was Tuesday, 18th July, when our Colonel-in-Chief, the Princess Royal, came to Dibgate to inspect us. Our good fortune held when the morning turned out warm and sunny and, short as had been our time in camp, the noble efforts of the advance party and some strenuous work by the Unit ensured that the camp looked at its best.

Her Royal Highness had been met at Sellindge by the Colonel Commandant, Major-General E. A. Osborne, C.B., D.S.O., and was escorted by despatch riders to camp, where she was met by the Commanding Officer. After taking the salute and inspecting the Guard of Honour, Her Royal Highness inspected the Recruits Company—some 600 strong, and the A.T.S. detachment, and then took lunch with the officers. The trained men and representative vehicles were inspected after lunch, and a memorable visit terminated with Her Royal Highness's departure through cheering ranks of recruits lining the departure route.

Some splendid amateur films—a notable contribution to the Unit film library—and numerous photographs remain to record this day of days.

Training.—The Unit had now to turn its attention to preparation for the Eastern Command Skeleton Exercise, and early on Thursday, 20th July, left camp to concentrate at Sandwich in readiness for the opening of the exercise at 9 a.m.

This Exercise, while not so hectic as others in which we have participated, was similar in its profusion of extremely rapid movements. We gather that the "landing" at, and subsequent movement of the convoy through, the town of Sandwich gave the local refugees a comprehensive introduction to unparliamentary language.

Our Division was somewhat battered about in the battle and, after a rapid raid, was driven back right into the camp area, a movement which clearly deserves high praise for its convenience.

The war closed at about 9 p.m. on Friday night, and not on Saturday morning as was anticipated, and the Unit was able to spend the night in its own beds and/or "hip-holes" instead of on the battlefield.

On Sunday, 23rd July, the Unit held an open-air Church Parade on the Recruits' Parade Ground. There was a rather high wind which made singing difficult, but the Service was, none the less, impressive.

The Sports Day, held as usual on Monday, went with a swing and proved a most satisfying day to participants and organisers alike.

Apart from the visit of the Colonel-in-Chief, the Unit Scheme held in the second week proved to be the big event of the camp, and involved the landing of a Division at Dibgate and a move towards Canterbury.

There was an all-round improvement in working.

"A" Section functioned with an amazing regularity, in spite of the difficulties attendant on a four-to-one group working. They also made most valuable use of their powers of interception.

" B " Section drew on their reserves of energy and laid some lengthy and excellent lines. A spot of umbrage was, however raised when, after following a long line for the whole of its course in search of a reported fault, they discovered that an office had taken a closing order a little too much to heart and had left the end hanging in mid-air.

" D " Section functioned efficiently, fearlessly and numerously in the open, once it had been dug out from its camp fastnesses.

" M " Section appeared to be doing a thriving tinker's trade with its travelling shop, littering the countryside with spanners.

The I.B.s and F.R.s must have enjoyed their private wars to the utmost. One, in particular, converted a raid into a most interesting botanizing excursion and netted twenty or so aeroplanes, which later hung rather heavily round their necks when they became involved with some disgraceful foreign General.

" X " Brigade, after a lethargic start, showed " signal " instinct in nosing out home comforts, and was only with considerable difficulty eventually persuaded to combine with the remaining Brigades in a magnificent defence of the Middle, Muddle or Huddle line, from which we were most conveniently forced to retire on camp just in time for tea.

In the meantime, the " Locusts," with their almost overwhelming numbers, were kept with their noses to the buzzers and other Signal paraphernalia, and in their spare time (hic !) polished off the earwigs.

Not-to-be-forgotten moments were the Motor Cycle Trials, Swimming Contests, Boxing Bouts and Section Competitions, and the cheers to our Honorary Colonel (Colonel F. Parkinson) for his generous regard for our welfare, which included splendid talkie film shows in the Canteen.

With great regrets the annual camp passed all too rapidly, and back to " W.6 " went the " new boys," now all " old hands," and taking an earnest and enthusiastic part in the work and play of the 44th.

We were saved from the horrors of striking tents this year as we left our camp standing for another Unit, and returned home a little wet, a little tired, but very much elated as usual.

Rumour whispers that we may have made " history " in going to camp as a Signal Unit nearly 1,200 strong. The sad task which lies immediately in front of us is that of splitting into two Units, and parting ways with a host of good fellows.

Musketry.—We extend congratulations to Signalman Hyam on being chosen to represent the T.A. in the Inter-Services Small Bore Shoot.

Funny Part. – Is it true that a senior officer (with a very high rank by common consent) went on a starvation diet during camp and allowed nothing to pass his lips for days and days ? And did the same officer show an acute dislike for little white posts ? And did he allow something to pass his lips when another officer steered him into Dover tram terminus instead of Sandwich Town ?

Is it true that all " suits of organisation " were packed in bundles of ten and returned to Stamford Brook on the last Saturday, leaving us without any organisation at all on Sunday ?

Is it true that all recruits are aware that mess tins are not correct for walking out ?

Is it true that a certain skipper in possession of two cars lost them both in Folkestone during one hectic evening ?

Additions to the Unit Library (mostly better forgotten).—" Tables," by the School Director ; " Motor-cycles," by the C.O. ; " Springing smartly in and out of Austin Sevens," by the Adjutant ; "A Sea of Bread " and " The Last Round-up (or Chasing 1,100 Meat Pies into Camp)," by the Messing Officer ; " Greetings " (but he did his job), by the Assistant Messing Officer ; " Steering thro' camp without a hitch," by the C.Q.M.S. ; " Pimm's No. 1," by Sergeant H—— ; " Locusts " who call one Sergeant Fish, by Sergeant B—— ; " Serving Stew with a Maternal Expression," by Lance Corporal N—— ; " I like my stripe," by Signalman Sh—— ; "Ats," by Mr. Diffy ; " What I would show my son in Folkestone," by Josie ; " Ordering chickens by telephone," by the Officers' Mess Secretary ; " Every man in step " (a fantasy) and " On parade—in swords—at the double," by Ex-Y.O. ; " Consternation (or the A.T.S. arrive at a camp concert)," by the Troops ; " How to make your job attractive," by A.T.S. Nurse ; " Recruits Guide to Trumpet Calls " (or " How to distinguish ' cook-house ' from a ' general salute ' practice "), by Messing Officer (resigned).

JOSIE JUN. AND JIMMY.

No. 2 Company.

Queen's Park Hall, Tower Road, Brighton.

Another camp which will surely rank as one of our most noteworthy has passed.

Most appreciated among our memories was, of course, the visit of our Colonel-in-Chief, H.R.H. The Princess Royal, whose gracious interest in our comfort as well as our turn-out will long be remembered by all.

Next in our memory will be our greatly increased numbers. Instead of numbering, with Nos. 1 and 3 Companies, about 400 strong, we were conscious of the expansion, having made us up to close on 1,200.

Then, again, during our first week, we took part in the 4th Divisional Exercise in the Canterbury area, and although to the individual the Company's share of work may have seemed small, we were always ready and keen to prove our readiness.

The Divisional Signal Exercise, held in the second week, gave our Section Cable detachments their opportunity to show the efficiency they have striven to attain during the year's training.

All the old hands would, we know, wish to have recorded their knowledge of the good work put in by our representatives in the Recruit School. If all reports are true, competition will be keener than usual next year.

The Company once again acquitted themselves well in the Sports. Space does not permit a full report, but mention must be made of the eighth successive annual win of our Company tug-of-war team, and the decisive victory of our boxing team.

We Salute.—Our pianist, who at Church Parade strove so valiantly to complete his piece before the Regimental songsters. Rumour is wrong in alleging it was a three-fingered effort.

Our " Basher," who once again nobly offered his face as a punch-ball in an effort to prove that other things could be utilised than a sledge-hammer when jumping a crossing.

Our Sergeant of the tattooed legs. Many desired to know the limits of the artistry.

We Salute (More Seriously).—Sergeant-Major Church W. R., our long-suffering P.S.I., on his appointment to R.S.M. of our Duplicate Unit. We wish him the best of luck, and we hope he will remember only the most pleasing events of his time with us.

G. B.

No. 32 Construction Section, L. of C. Signals

5, Springfield Road, Brighton.

August.

Sunshine in Brighton at last. With the last two months being wet and miserable we were beginning to get quite worried about our camp next month. It seemed as if groundsheets and gumboots were going to be needed. Now, with this unexpected change our spirits are high again and we are looking forward to our Annual Training.

During the August Bank Holiday we met with a disappointment, as week-end training at Compton Common was cancelled, but we were compensated for our loss. Training was held at Brighton and everyone was made comfortable in our Headquarters for the week-end. The garage made an excellent cookhouse and much must be said for the cooks, who provided many excellent dishes.

On Sunday, 6th August, we made our way to Newmarket Hill and commenced our first job on Air-line. The boys worked really hard, but it did one good to see so much enthusiasm. After

it was finished we went back over our work with the C.O., who pointed out our mistakes (and who doesn't make a mistake ?)

We hope to give satisfaction at camp. The London party departed on Monday afternoon, leaving the stores behind, so now we will be able to correct our mistakes on a Sunday.

Social Life.—On Saturdays we have still a large crowd in attendance and the lads are improving at darts. We have a darts tournament in progress. We hope to announce the name of the winner next month.

So, cheerio, till next month.

JUMBO.

51st (Highland) Divisional Signals.

We must apologise for the absence of notes from this Unit last month, but that must be put down to the stress and strain of preparing for Annual Camp, which is now a thing of the past.

Considering our large numbers the camp attendance was remarkably strong and nearly 500 members of the Unit travelled down to St. Andrews by bus on 15th July. The advance party was already in residence when we arrived, having left Aberdeen on 12th July, and had spent three strenuous days under weeping skies wrestling with tents and marquees.

The first two days at camp were spent mainly in unloading stores and initiating our numerous recruits into the mysteries of cleaning equipment and folding blankets, etc. On Monday morning our lines showed the result of this labour.

The Company and Unit Schemes went off with a bang, everyone working very hard, with the result that the Commanding Officer was quite pleased with our successful efforts in maintaining communications throughout a really difficult scheme in the Unit Signal Exercise.

The Signal School, functioning in the Madras College, St. Andrews, took over the technical training of the majority of our recruits and, judging by the results of the various tests, their labours proved well worth while.

On 24th July, the officers and N.C.O.s attended a lecture on "Aircraft and Army Co-operation," given by Flight Lieutenant Barker, R.A.F. We tender our thanks for a very interesting and informative talk.

The Unit Sports were held on Thursday, 27th July, and were greatly enjoyed by all. We must congratulate our old war horse, Sergeant Rollo W., on romping home by a comfortable margin in the Old Soldiers' Race. Our tug-of-war team also did sterling work by pulling all their opponents off their feet, thereby proving that brawn and brains can go together.

The Company held a men's smoker and concert in the Y.M.C.A. tent on Monday, 24th July, at which a remarkable amount of first-class musical talent was unearthed. Our thanks go to Signalmen Thomson W. and Ross J. R. (stars of the piano) for their work in arranging the programme and their musical numbers on the piano. We also wish to thank Lieutenant (Quartermaster) C. F. Andrews for exercising his organising ability and making things go with a swing.

Two very successful smokers were held in the Sergeants' Mess during camp, at the second of which we entertained the officers. Everyone enjoyed the musical efforts of some of the guests and members and we learned some new funny stories.

Now that we are back amidst our ruins at Fonthill we are now getting down to clearing up the loose ends after camp, and getting ready for winter Courses. We expect a large attendance at these Courses as many of our recruits have ambitions to become red-hot operators.

We trust that their ambitions will be realised.

ONECOY.

No. 2 Company.

Goosecroft, Stirling.

11th August.

Week-end Camp.—The Company Week-end Camp was held Doune on 17th and 18th June. We had a successful and interesting week-end scheme, and our spirits were not damped by the inclement weather.

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Obituary.—We regretfully record that Corporal Peter Hunt died as the result of an accident at his work on 21st June. The Company paraded and attended the funeral on 24th June. Corporal Hunt, who had seen service in the War, joined the Company in May, 1924, and was a keen and active member of the Company. All ranks join in extending their sympathy to Corporal Hunt's relatives and friends in their loss.

Annual Camp.—Our Annual Camp was once more held at St. Andrews. We arrived in mist on 15th July, but the weather cleared for us the next morning, and, except for two wet days, remained dry for the rest of our stay. "E" and "F" Sections co-operated in two Unit Schemes, one in the first week of camp and the second, an all-night one, during the second week. In addition, each of these Sections visited Buddon and co-operated with its respective Field Regiment, R.A., in a field exercise.

Meanwhile, the recruits were going to school. Every day they were to be seen in St. Andrews, marching or being transported to Madras College, where they received instruction in all branches of signalling. The results of the tests held at the end of the Course show that all had benefited from the training they received.

Sports and social functions are an important side of camp life. The usual competitions were held, including football, swimming and boxing; the Unit Sports provided an appropriate climax. We must record, regretfully, that we were not so successful as usual on the sports field, but we managed to win the Inter-Company Shooting and Basketball Cups and 2nd Lieutenant P. A. Dewar won the Golf Cup. We extend our congratulations to our successful friends and rivals in the other competitions.

It was an enjoyable camp, with plenty of hard work, recreation and fun, and during it, paradoxically, the "crisis" seemed far away. We returned home, bronzed and well, on 29th July.

Lieutenant-Colonel A. H. Lennie, M.M.—It was with great pleasure that we learned at camp that our new C.O. had been awarded the T.D., and all ranks join in hearty congratulations to him.

The Bridegroom.—2nd Lieutenant R. M. Dawson is setting an example that might well be copied. His wedding day is 12th August, and by the time these notes appear he will be, we hope a married man. On 4th August a supper was held in his honour in the Drill Hall, at which a presentation of a silver salver was made from the Officers' Mess of the Unit and of a silver cigarette case from the Sergeants' Mess of the Signals and R.A.O.C. Companies, both gifts being suitably inscribed. A good time was then had by one and all, the proceedings terminating at a late hour. All wish 2nd Lieutenant Dawson and his bride all the best in their " joint adventure."

TWUCO.

13th (City of Aberdeen) Company, A.T.S.

Fonthill Barracks, Aberdeen.

We are still suffering from a kind of camp home-sickness after the stimulating days at Barry; the other Companies—four from Aberdeen, three from Dundee, and others from Banff, Perth, Stirling, Dumbarton and Argyll—are probably in a similar condition; if not, we envy them.

The four members of this Company who were allowed to spend a whole fortnight at camp were lucky indeed; those who arrived at the beginning of the second week saw only the smooth-running side of camp life, but missed the thrill of being the very first of the A.T.S. to be under canvas; a very precious experience.

Everything was in our favour, even the weather. The neighbouring camps showed us great kindness. After a period of hard work there was always something pleasant by way of compensation. The first week we were invited to the Sports in the camp next to our own, that of the G.H.Q. Signals (S.R.). Several members of the A.T.S. enjoyed watching the most interesting succession of events, and some competed in the special A.T.S. race; this was brilliantly won by A.S.L. Angus, who led by several yards soon after the start. The 13th Company had reason to be proud. Volunteer Esson, one of the twenty members who agreed to ride pillion on motor cycles in the amusing tilt-the-bucket race, put up a very good performance in this event. Next day, at the A.T.S. Sports, she won it.

At our own sports the Aberdeen Unit won the chain of command race, A.S.L. Gadsby and A.S.L. Semple distinguishing themselves. The generous help given by G.H.Q. Signals before and during these sports was invaluable; they prepared the track, provided tilt-the-bucket apparatus and a loud speaker, and helped with the starting. We were particularly honoured in having one of their officers to preside over the loud speaker.

Yet further kindness was shown by the invitation to our Section Leaders to make use of the Sergeants' Recreation Tent in the next camp, and during the second week we took full advantage of it; many pleasant evenings were spent there playing darts, table tennis and making use of the excellent piano.

Every day several A.T.S. members were sent to the 75th and 76th R.A. camps as well as to that of G.H.Q. Signals, to undertake clerical and orderly duties, and to cook. These duties were always very pleasant, even though the work might be hard, because of the friendly atmosphere. During the first week the 75th R.A. invited our N.C.O.s to a dance in their hall at Buddon, and the following week to a smoking concert; both evenings were most enjoyable. Just before we left camp a whist drive and concert was arranged for our entertainment by the Signals. A.S.L. Angus was successful in winning the second prize at whist, and A.S.L. Geddes secured the " booby," after starting play at half-time! A most amusing item on the concert programme was the " Chelsea Pensioners' Parade."

It has been difficult to settle down again to ordinary routine. No camp will ever equal our first, although we shall look forward to being with our own Units next year.

SIGNALIA.

G.H.Q. Signals, S.R.

31, Yorkhill Parade, Glasgow, C.3.

15th August.

General.—The Unit has now taken possession of the new Drill Hall in Yorkhill Parade. We marched in on 29th July on return from annual camp while the pipes and drums played the Corps March.

It is difficult to describe this Drill Hall, which is the finest in Glasgow. Nothing has been spared to provide comfort for all ranks. Hot and cold shower baths, changing rooms, overall room and a fine large canteen are only a few of the luxuries provided, whilst the lecture rooms, signal offices, stores, orderly rooms, etc., are everything that could be desired. There should be some fine social events now that we have the facilities to hold them.

Annual Training.—The annual camp this year was held at Barry Camp near Carnoustie, Angus. All the Sections were present, with the exception of Nos. 51 and 52 Line Sections, who are going to Aldershot in September.

Advertisements!

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WILL OUR READERS PLEASE SUPPORT THEM IN RETURN?

★

The Advance Party proceeded three days before the main body to erect the tents, but the weather was so bad that very little was done before the Friday. However, on the day that the main body left, the sun came out, and from then onwards we only had one wet day. The first week in camp was devoted to training, in order to get the Unit in trim for the two-days Scheme which took place the second week.

As the Sports Day was held on the first Friday in camp, all the heats had to be run off during that week, leaving the finals for the Sports Day.

Lieutenant Hough's Section, No. 7 Line Maintenance and No. 16 Technical Maintenance were combined as one Section for the events and romped home 20 clear points ahead of the nearest rival. The first Sections were as follows :

1st.	Maintenance Sections	40 points.
2nd	No. 32 W/T and No. 11 D.R. Sections ..	20 ,,
(tie)	No. 27 Construction Section	20 ,,
4th.	Nos. 41 and 42 Operating Sections ..	18 ,,

Individual placings were as follows :

100 YARDS.—1, Signalman McGregor ; 2, Signalman Donaldson.

A.T.S., 80 YARDS.—1, Sergeant Angus ; 2, Volunteer Barnett.

220 YARDS.—1, Signalman McGregor ; 2, Corporal Bannerman.

VISITORS' 80 YARDS.—1, Miss Fleming ; 2, Miss Isobel Cumming ; 3, Miss Anne Cumming.

440 YARDS.—1, Signalman Bryce J. ; 2, 2nd Lieutenant Moody.

VETERANS' RACE.—1, Lance Corporal Osborne ; 2, Sergeant Henderson.

CHILDRENS' RACE.—1, Robert Murray ; 2, Frank Paul ; 3, Albert Paul ; 3, Gordon Sinclair.

HALF-MILE.—1, Signalman Sim ; 2, Signalman Carmichael.

THREE-LEGGED RACE.—1, Signalman Fowkes and Signalman Saunders.

PUTTING THE SHOT.—1, Signalman McKay ; 2, Signalman McKenzie.

TILTING THE BUCKET.—1, Volunteer Robertson and Signalman Bate.

OBSTACLE RACE.—1, Signalman Fairbairn ; 2, Signalman Archer.

A.T.S. AND V.A.D. OFFICERS.—1, Company Assistant Hunter ; 2, D.P.C. Downie.

LONG JUMP. — 1, Signalman McKenzie ; 2, Signalman Donaldson.

POLE CLIMBING.—1, Sergeant Morrison ; 2, Corporal Irons.

PILLOW FIGHT.—1, Signalman Donaldson ; 2, Signalman McNiven A.

OFFICERS' RACE.—1 (dead heat), Lieutenant Hough and Lieutenant Brady.

HAMMER AND JUMPER.—1, Signalman Myatt ; 2, Signalman Carmichael.

ROLLING PIN.—1, Mrs. Strain ; 2, Mrs. Murray.

HIGH JUMP.—1, Signalmen Fowkes and Saunders.

MUSICAL RIDE.—1, Signalman McInnes ; 2, Signalman Galbraith.

MINIATURE RIFLE.—1, Lieutenant Hough ; 2, Sergeant Blanchard.

TUG-OF-WAR.—1, No. 27 Construction Section ; 2, No. 11 D.R. and No. 32 W/T Section.

The Sports Day was a huge success and everyone had a good time.

This year we had the A.T.S. next door to us and we were able to give them some valuable experience of their duties in the event of hostilities. Some worked for us in the dining tents, some in the Sergeants' Mess, whilst others found employment in the Unit Orderly Room and the Company Offices. They were very efficient indeed in every department, and we hope that they enjoyed being with us as we enjoyed having them.

The second week at camp was devoted to training. Brigadier Chenevix Trench, O.B.E., M.C., with the C.S.O., Scottish Command, Colonel Wheeler, paid a visit to Barry to see the troops in action.

On Thursday, Major-General J. S. Drew, C.B., D.S.O., M.C., paid us a visit and presented the Scottish Command Badminton Cup to the captain of the team and medals to the full team.

Left to right : Lieut. (Q.M.) J. F. J. O'Connor, Major W. M. Smith, Lt.-Col. G. W. Cumming, T.D., Lt.-Col. A. H. Campbell, Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders.

Signalman McNiven A. bowls over his opponent in the Pillow Fight.

Friday was devoted to packing up stores and trade tests. Congratulations are tendered to whose who passed, and better luck next time to those who did not.

The Glasgow Detachment left at 8.30 a.m. on Saturday morning, leaving the Edinburgh Detachment and the rear party to square up the camp. On arrival at Glasgow station the Unit formed up and marched to the new Drill Hall, where the men were invited to look round before dispersal.

Farewell.—The Unit has lost its first Commanding Officer, for Lieutenant-Colonel G. W. Cumming, T.D., who has been appointed to a Temporary Commission in the Regular Army, is posted to Western Command Signal Company, Chester. It is difficult to imagine the Unit without him, for it was in a very real way his Unit, and everyone felt that in working for the Unit they were working for him. His influence was felt everywhere, and the great success of the Unit during his tenure of command reflects his great powers as a leader. It is with real affection that we wish him farewell and good fortune in his new appointment.

Congratulations to Major H. A. Ashdowne on succeeding to the command of the Unit, and we hope that under him we will continue to go from strength to strength.

TICH.

OFFICERS

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54th (East Anglian) Divisional Signals.

No. 2 Company.

August.

It is so many months since this Company submitted notes that it is with an apologetic mien that we once again take up the familiar item, which is mightier than the sword, in an endeavour to regain our niche amongst the scribes of the " Brains of the Army."

Much work has been accomplished during these past few weeks in connection with the transfer and distribution of our Second Line Unit, and it is with regret that we find we have to relinquish quite a few old hands of the Company in order to enable them to assist in the training of the recruits. We have had some good times which will always be remembered and we have also had some bad ; but we have always done our job, and know that the recruits will have a good start.

We extend our sincerest congratulations to Captain Nettleship, who is now our Company Commander, and feel that with his live assistance we shall be drinking out of " pewter " which our lips have not touched for a long time.

We welcome 2nd Lieutenant Jones to the Company, and hope that his stay with us will be a happy and interesting one.

Congratulations to C.S.M. Hitchens on his promotion and " Long Service." Have you been asked yet, Chippy ?

To all those, too numerous to mention, who have been promoted, congratulations ! Go to it, and in your endeavours remember that the Company relies on your success.

We are feverishly preparing now for our annual camp, which is being held at Folkestone this month, and will enable us to revisit our " Pasto." More anon !

In reply to Hong Kong mail. Shades of Safari on Folkestone Pier. C.Q.M.S. Sayers can shoot corks, cherries or 22—we know !

EYE.

2nd Anti-Aircraft Divisional Signals.

Drill Hall, Derby Road, Nottingham.
10th August.

General.—It is pleasing to write that the second period Coverture Party have well upheld the good name of the Unit, as did the first party.

Since the 13th July the C.O. (Lieutenant Colonel I. W. Nicholson) has been embodied and a considerable amount of his time has been occupied in visiting the various detachments at work, and conversing with Staff Officers of the various formations. The latter have been full of praise for the way these newly attested men have tackled their many new problems.

From other A.A. Unit notes one can see that this praise is general and it is our sincere hope that the good standard set up can be maintained by those now emboded and by future embodied groups.

A busy time is in front of many of those employed this week in the G.O.R.s throughout the area, during the extensive Home Defence Exercises. Volunteers from those not embodied have been called on to assist, and the required numbers have been obtained from our No. 5 Section at Leeds and No. 7 Section at Hull. Some of these men have already done their embodied service—a good keen spirit this.

Forthcoming Training.—It is hoped to have the whole Unit together for a week-end camp next month at a beautiful little village spot named Blythe. Like many other A.A. Units we have not been able to get together yet, and this week-end camp will be a grand opportunity to do so; the short time at our disposal will be utilised in carrying out a Divisional Signal Exercise in miniature.

Friendly rivalry is expected between the two, both in sport and efficiency.

Sport and Social Activities.—During the month the C.O. called for Company sports meetings to be held, at which he presided. We in Nottingham heard from him how keen No. 2 Company are, and how extremely anxious to get going on the sport and social side.

It is known that they in Rotherham have the great advantage of having a much larger drill hall with well furnished Officers', Sergeants', and Men's Clubs.

We cannot say much of No. 2 Company's activities, but we imagine they were quite prepared to do all the " donkey work " in connection with the Unit's forthcoming social activities. However, we know this was not agreed to as No. 1 Company had still to hold their general sports meeting, and no doubt No. 2 Company was told that No. 1 Company was also as keen to get going.

From the feeling of the meeting held here last week this was truly amplified. In an introductory talk the C.O. told us of a very welcome gift of money from Lord Nuffield, a share of the huge sum placed at the disposal of the authorities, for the benefit of new Units in obtaining sports gear, a real encouraging start this. 2nd Lieutenant Hayes agreed to take over the duties of Sports Officer for Headquarters and No. 1 Company, and from the way he afterwards explained what could be done, it is clear he will be a live wire. Committees for all branches of sports, both outdoor and indoor, were then formed and names collected of those interested. Needless to say, the names of all present now appear on one or more of the sports lists. It is now the duty of these sub-committees to get together as a general committee and decide on ways and means to start their respective branches of sport and social activities, and until this is done we cannot report further progress. Many useful suggestions were put up and discussed. The biggest difficulty to overcome will be shortage of suitable playing grounds. This is a difficult problem in Nottingham for many clubs.

On closing the meeting the C.O. offered a challenge from the Officers and W.O.s to the O.R.s at darts, to inaugurate the social season. This naturally was accepted and each formed three teams of five-a-side. The C.O. captained one team, which appeared to be formed from Headquarters, consisting of the Adjutant, R.S.M., R.Q.M.S., and C.S.M. No. 1 Company. Other teams were captained by Major W. H. Arnold and Captain C. F. Haseldine.

The results of the match were entirely satisfactory to the other ranks as the Officers' team had to pay for the beer in all

cases. The O.R.s won 2—0, 2—0, 3—2. The club bar must have done good business that night!

In our next notes we hope to report the outcome of these really enthusiastic meetings.

Promotions and Appointments.—Again this paragraph can be included, and pleasing it is to write. Pride of place is to 2nd Lieutenant R. S. King, who was gazetted on 12th July from the ranks. 2nd Lieutenant King enlisted on 7th February in the very early stages of the Unit's history, and is extraordinarily keen. He is to do his embodied service from 3rd September and no doubt will enjoy this period of training. Other promotions and appointments this month are: C.S.M. Woodger F., Corporals Sellers C., Swann L., Farnsworth T., and Pharaoh N.; Lance Corporals Cadogan L., Kidd E., Wilson K., and Moore A. All should receive full pay of their respective ranks for the period of embodiment.

Re-Commissioned.—We are pleased to welcome Captain M. Gordon (late 3rd Battalion, Hampshire Regiment, and saw service with that Unit during the Great War and up to September, 1919) as our Administrative Officer. Captain M. Gordon reported for duty on the 17th July. No doubt the Adjutant is more than pleased to have his assistance at this time of constant change.

Trade Tests.—I only know of five during the past month, they are: Despatch Riders, Signalmen Stafford G., Swindell G., and Cronk J.; Operators Keyboard, Signalman Salton C.; Operator Switchboard, Signalman Crawcour W. Good wishes to all of them.

We have still not heard that the trade of Operator Switchboard has been authorised by the War Office. No doubt other A.A. Divisional Signal Units also complain of this complication affecting as it does the pay of the tradesman concerned.

Greetings.—We should like to offer our congratulations and best wishes to the 3rd A.A. Divisional Signals, Edinburgh, first, for introducing themselves so well in the August issue of THE WIRE, and second, on their possessing such a first class sculptor and designer. A Regimental Badge such as that designed by Signalman Gladstone would add to the appearance of any Drill Hall.

G. G.

3rd Anti-Aircraft Divisional Signals.

Unit Headquarters.

42, Palmerston Place, Edinburgh, 2.

15th August.

Apology.—We must apologise for the absence, once again, of news from No. 3 Company, Glasgow. The personnel of No. 3 Company are evidently suffering from a surfeit of work.

Training.—The second period Couverture Party has followed in the work-worn wake of its predecessor, the Pioneer Party. We trust that "a good time was had by all"; the results, at any rate, were satisfactory. The third party commenced operations on the 6th of this month, and we hope to be able to report another successful month in our next notes. We should like to publish a list of promotions, trade musterings, etc., but as this would take up too much space, we must confine ourselves to tendering our congratulations *en bloc*.

Courses.—The undermentioned officers of No. 2 Company, Edinburgh, attended the following Courses and obtained satisfactory reports: 2nd Lieutenant D. V. Seddon, P.A.D. Course, Tregantle; 2nd Lieutenant E. E. Bailey, Attachment, S.T.C., Catterick. Congratulations!

Administration.—We extend a slightly belated welcome to our new Administrative Officer, Captain A. B. Wemyss.

Births.—May we offer our heartiest congratulations to Signalmen Thorne W. J. (No. 1 Company), Quinn M. P. (No. 3 Company) and MacKay R. M. (No. 2 Company) on the presentation to each of a daughter. The happy events took place on 13th May, 6th June and 25th June, respectively.

Marriage.—Another occasion for rejoicing. This time the marriage, at Northumberland, of Signalman Hutchinson B., on 15th April. Of course, our best wishes for Signalman and Mrs. Hutchinson's future happiness.

Accommodation.—The hope has recently been voiced that No. 2 Company may be supplied with a new Drill Hall within the next twelve months or so. We wonder!

ACK-ACK.

No. 1 Company.

Northcliffe House, Gallowgate, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

15th August.

General.—Owing to the prevailing exigencies, Company and Sectional training present their problems, but at some not too distant date we hope to call these Headquarters our own. Meantime, Couverture provides an excellent medium, although it is known that Mr. Dunstan is able to suggest an alternative to a ten miles' midnight dash to an outstation with linemen, only to discover it was a Bank Holiday at the seaside!

On 30th July, Lieutenant-Colonel Darby visited the L/M Section at Harlow Hill, and all were gratified to learn that their work was regarded with satisfaction. At the present time the Section is in camp at Guisborough, and is, we learn, maintaining the already high reputation of the Unit. Guisborough is admittedly a more salubrious spot than Gallowgate, but the homesters probably admit compensatory features. Could one mention, for instance, "Adeline" and a departed "Admiral"?

Welcome.—To 2nd Lieutenant A. E. F. Lane on his return to Newcastle, and also to 2nd Lieutenant H. Beastall on his attachment from Glasgow.

Social.—Couverture has been the means of putting the social activities of the Company on a businesslike footing. A special word of thanks is due to C.Q.M.S. Robson S., Lance Corporal Duncan and Signalman Mynott, for the hard work they have performed in making the Canteen the profitable venture it has become. A satisfactory feature is the comradeship amongst all ranks which has, at such an early stage in our history, manifested itself. An example is that of an illustrious Lance Corporal who was so loath to leave Headquarters on the termination of his month that a little gentle manual persuasion had to be resorted to. He returned on the following day and offered his services for a further month.

Then there is the story of one who, off duty, dug stones in Gallowgate, some time early in the morning, and hurled them at the Drill Hall. He only wanted to come in! Yes, the real club spirit!

Promotions and Appointments.—Congratulations to the undermentioned: Corporals McEvoy W. and Welch W., Lance Corporals Spence N., Beer J., Passmore J., Bailey W., Fay E., Coulson R., Connon T., Stevens J., Proud R., Sedgwick F. H., Hotchkiss F. A., Finlay A. and Hardy R.

GEORDIE.

No. 2 Company.

5, Osborne Terrace, Edinburgh.

15th August.

General.—The absence of No. 2 Company's contribution to the opening notes of the Unit is regretted, but we have taken our embodiment so seriously that our scribe has not been able to spare any time. So far, the Line Maintenance Section has been the only part of the Company to carry out their job under real service conditions, as they were attached to a searchlight Company and existed on Army rations. It is said that the linesmen now know every form of stew which can be produced, but we have no doubt that our R.E. friends could still find another name for the same concoction!

The rest of the Company are doing their bit under better conditions, as they live at home, and we have had no complaints of the food from them so far!

We should mention that we have had a number of men from No. 3 (Glasgow) Company attached to us for training purposes. We regret that the weather so far has prevented them from enjoying the amenities of Scotland's capital city to the full, but according to the newspaper placards, summer has come at last, so we may yet send them home slightly bronzed—as all handsome men should be. We sincerely hope that they are picking up a mass of information to take back to their own Company, as well as pleasant recollections of their association with us.

Things We Want to Know.—Why do our D.R.s prefer their own motor cycles?

When are miniature rifle targets going to be enlarged?

REEKIE.

SPORTS NOTES

Depot Battalion, Royal Signals.

Tennis.—The Catterick Garrison Lawn Tennis Championships were held at the W.O.s and Sergeants' Club, Catterick, during the period 17th-22nd July. The Depot Battalion entered Sergeants Grese and Bunce, who gained the following successes :

CHAMPIONSHIP, OPEN SINGLES. Winner : Sergeant Grese. Beat S.S.M. Murphy (Training Battalion), 6—1, 6—1 ; Signalman Palling (School of Signals), 6—0, 6—0 ; Sergeant Brammer (R.A.O.C.), 6—1, 6—1 ; W.O.II Smith (A.E.C.), 6—0, 6—2. Final : beat Corporal Locke (R.T.R.), 6—0, 6—2.

INTER-UNIT DOUBLES. Winners : Depot Battalion (Sergeants Grese and Bunce). Beat Q.M.S. Layton and A. N. Other (R.A.O.C.), 6—1, 6—1 ; B.S.M. Jackson and Sergeant Lapinere (R.A.), 6—0, 6—2 ; W.O.II Rogers and W.O.II Smith (A.E.C.), 7—5, 7—5. Final : beat F/Sergeant Benniens and F/Sergeant Green (R.A.F.), 6—3, 6—0.

OPEN HANDICAP DOUBLES. Winners : S.S.M. Murphy (Training Battalion) and Sergeant Grese (Depot Battalion). Beat : Armourer Sergeant Knev and Sergeant Brammer, 7—5, 6—2 ; W.O. Sergeant Cennel and Sergeant Smith. Final : beat W.O.II Rogers and W.O.II Smith, 6—0, 6—1.

5th Divisional Signals, Catterick Camp.

Swimming.—Lately we have been trying to put the new 5th Divisional Signals back on the aquatic map, with the introduction of a water polo team. The response from the recruits was really amazing ! Although our players are not quite up to the standard of some of the League teams, to watch some of our youngsters get in the way of more experienced opponents is a very good sign that we have some fine talent.

A great pity we have to lose our men after their eleven weeks' training. Three promising players have just left us for other Units : Signalman Perry and Anyon, ex-No. 122 Squad, and Signalman Keeling, ex-No. 123 Squad. Best luck to you three, and many thanks for your help. In their places we have brought forward silent fellows like Signalmen Burton and Hillsden, of No. 127 Squad, who, by the look of things, will soon be doing their stuff in grand style.

Association Football.—When we were at school we were told that winter was one of the four seasons of the year and that in winter time people either played or watched games of soccer, rugger, hockey and the like (pass-ball excluded). What we were not told, however, was that there are parts of the country which enjoy nine months of winter followed by three months of bad weather. Accordingly, when winter started a few weeks ago, our football season also started. We have started an Inter-Squad Football League, which we are running on the same lines as any other league. But to add (it is hoped) a great deal of interest to the league, we have allotted each Squad on training some popular First Division football team's name. So now, instead of having, for example, No. 520 Squad playing No. 531 Squad, we have Brentford v. Arsenal. When No. 520 Squad passes off, Brentford will become spare ; then No. 535 Squad, which has just started training, will play for Brentford for the next eleven weeks. Get the idea ?

We publish the results of matches and issue league tables every week. All we want now is someone to forecast the results of matches, a football pool promoter and a trainer for Chelsea. Maybe they will reach the top of this table ! Maybe !

SEE PAGE 386 FOR SITUATIONS FOUND DURING THE PRECEDING MONTH

Northern Ireland District Signal Company, Belfast.

NORTHERN IRELAND DISTRICT TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS, 1939.

INTER UNIT TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP.—Winners : East Lancashire Regiment ; runners-up : N.I.D. Signal Company. Team : Major E. MacD. Burns, Lieutenant G. F. Bayliss, Sergeants Adams and Wainscoat, Lance Corporal Picken, Signalman Fisk.

OPEN SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP.—Winner : Lieutenant G. R. G. Roberts, R.A. ; runner-up : Lieutenant A. R. Carr, R.A.

INTER-UNIT OFFICERS' DOUBLES.—Winners : Lieutenant T. C. Palmer and Lieutenant G. R. G. Roberts, R.A. ; runners-up : Captain S. J. Martin and Lieutenant S. J. Boycott, R.A.

OFFICERS' MIXED DOUBLES.—Winners : Lieutenant and Mrs. G. F. Bayliss (N.I.D. Signal Company) ; runners-up : Lieutenant G. R. G. Roberts and Miss B. James.

OTHER RANKS' SINGLES.—Winner : Lance Sergeant Whelan J. A., R.A.P.C. ; runner-up : C.Q.M.S. Crossley, J., East Lancashire Regiment.

OTHER RANKS' INTER-UNIT DOUBLES.—Winners : Corporal Mooney T. and Bandsman Bevan W., East Lancashire Regiment ; runners-up : Sergeant-Major Smith G. M. B., and Sergeant Bailey, C., R.A.M.C.

N.C.O.S' AND MEN'S NOVICES SINGLES HANDICAP.—Winner : Bandsman Fuller R., East Lancashire Regiment ; runner-up : Corporal Hood A., R.A.M.C.

JUNIOR N.C.O.S' AND MEN'S INTER-UNIT DOUBLES.—Winners : Corporal Mooney T. and Bandsman Bevan W., East Lancashire Regiment.

OTHER RANKS' MIXED DOUBLES.—Winners : Lance Sergeant Whelan J. A. and Mrs. Beetham ; runners-up : C.Q.M.S. and Mrs. J. Crossley.

1st Indian Divisional Signals, Rawalpindi.

Football. Buffalo Tournament, 1939.—We are proud to announce that the Soccer team has *at last* won a Cup. In the first game of the Buffalo Challenge Cup, held on the Northern Command Football Ground, Murree, we were drawn against the 20th Bomber Squadron, R.A.F. We emerged victors by 4—1, the team showing brilliant patches of football.

We met the Leicestershire Regiment in the second round and after a hard struggle won 2—1. This is in the shape of an achievement as the Leicestershires were a far heavier team.

Next came a series of replays with extra time being played in each case. " B " Company of the 1st Battalion Devonshire Regiment were our opponents. In the first game we managed to draw level during the last three minutes of the game, thanks to a brilliant free kick by Lance Corporal Taylor (our Scotch centre-half), and determined co-operation by Lance Corporal Cox (who, by the way, played brilliantly throughout the whole of the tournament, scoring the majority of our goals). Extra time provided no further change in the score (2—2). The replay decided the matter and we came out on top by 2—1, the team playing really constructive football.

In the final, against " R " Battery, thrills galore were provided by both teams, play of a high standard being maintained throughout the game, the whistle blowing with the scores level 2—2. The replay, supported by practically the whole Unit, was won in typical " Pompey " style, the score being 4—1 for us. We should like to congratulate the " Gunners " for making such a good fight of it right up to the end of the game, despite several injuries.

Our team was : Lance Corporal Latham ; Signalman Stanford, Corporal Kippen ; Corporal Donaghy (captain), Lance Corporal Taylor B., Lance Corporal Adcock ; Lance Corporal Cox F., Signalman Earl, Signalman Green, Signalman Begbie, Signalman Davy.

THE WIRE

THE CORPS MAGAZINE OF THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

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VOL. XX.—No. 236. OCTOBER, 1939 PRICE—SIXPENCE

TO ALL RANKS OF THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS

" I am most grateful for the kind message I have received from my Corps.
" At this anxious time my thoughts are with you all, and I know that I can rely on you, scattered
" though you must be all over the world, to maintain the high standard of efficiency upon which
" every portion of the Army depends for the effective conduct of the war.

" (Signed) MARY,
" Colonel-in-Chief,
" September, 1939 "

Her Royal Highness has been graciously pleased to send the above message in reply to the following which was forwarded to her by Major-General E. A. Osborne, C.B., D.S.O., Colonel-Commandant of Royal Signals :

To Her Royal Highness,
The Princess Royal, C.I., G.C.V.O., G.B.E.,
Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Corps of Signals.

" At the commencement of a time when all will be called upon to exert themselves to their utmost, all ranks of the Royal Corps of Signals wish to offer their humble duty to their

Colonel-in-Chief and to assure your Royal Highness that they will endeavour one and all to act in such a way as will give your Royal Highness reason to be proud of the Corps.

" The interest which they know your Royal Highness always takes in your Corps, and their affectionate loyalty to yourself will be an inspiration to every Officer, Warrant Officer, Non-Commissioned Officer, and Signalman in the stern days that are to come.

" (Signed) E. A. OSBORNE, Major-General,
" Representative Colonel-Commandant,
" Royal Corps of Signals."

Business as Usual.—We are authorised to state that as long as a sufficient quantity of " copy " is forthcoming from Unit correspondents, the Corps Magazine will continue publication.

With that object in view the Central Committee express the hope that every effort will be made by Unit representatives to continue their monthly news bulletins, and to supplement such articles with snapshots, group photographs or other topical illustrations whenever it is possible to do so.

It is realised that the exigencies of the Service may not always provide opportunities for lengthy or descriptive contributions, but so long as a REGULAR supply of news can be maintained it will enable the Editorial Staff to continue with the production of a hitherto unbroken record of Corps History.

The collaboration of all concerned in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

In this connection it will be interesting to note that the latest official ruling regarding continued production is briefly as follows :

(*a*) War Office hope that Journals will carry on.
(*b*) Each Editor to be his own censor.
(*c*) Publish no details of unit locations nor any contentious articles.

As a result of that ruling no less than twenty Corps and Regimental magazines representing other arms of the Service are remaining in circulation, and it would be a distinct reflection on the team work of the Corps as a whole if, for any reason we were prevented from continuing regular issues of THE WIRE, or allowed hostilities to interfere with the traditional high standard of production.

A special appeal by Brigadier H. Clementi Smith to all ranks of the Corps in connection with this matter is published on page 440 of the current issue.

Obituary.—It is with very great regret that we record the death of Lieutenant-General Sir John S. Fowler, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., D.S.O., who passed away at Harrogate on Wednesday, 20th September, and was buried at East Knoyle, near Salisbury, on Saturday, 23rd September. Further particulars will be found on page 444 of this issue.

Colonel-Commandant Royal Signals.—We are authorised to state that the duties of Representative Colonel-Commandant are being taken over by Brigadier H. Clementi Smith, D.S.O., for the remainder of the current year, *vice* Major-General E. A. Osborne, C.B., D.S.O., who is prevented from officiating in that capacity owing to the exigencies of the Service.

Situations Vacant.—A number of suitably qualified applicants are required for immediate employment as EXPERIMENTAL WIRELESS ASSISTANTS (wireless operators) by the War Department.

SALARY : 80s. per week rising to 84s. after one month's service and then by annual increments of 2s. to a maximum of 96s. per week.

LEAVE : Eighteen days annually, plus public holidays.

QUALIFICATIONS : A high standard of proficiency in transmission and reception of W/T signals under all conditions is essential. Tests will include reception of weak signals with interference. Candidates must possess a good standard of general intelligence, their handwriting must be good and they must also be able to write block letters legibly at speed. Potential applicants are advised to consider whether they conform to requirements before incurring travelling expenses for interview and test.

ESTABLISHMENT : Experimental wireless assistants are eligible for consideration for appointment to pensionable establishment in a vacancy after three years' unestablished service.

Those desirous of nomination should submit their applications together with full particulars of army service, qualifications, etc., to " S.W.S." c/o The General Secretary Signals Association, 95, Belgrave Road, London, S.W.1, for onward transmission to the Department concerned.

Morse Operators.—We are authorised to state that certain units of the Corps are prepared to receive applications from ex-wireless operators and/or ex-telegraphists for special duration of war enlistment in the trades specified.

Consideration will be given to applicants with good qualifications as operators and any ex-R.Signals Warrant Officer, N.C.O., or man up to 55 years of age is eligible to apply. Further particulars will be supplied by the Editor on application.

Royal United Service Institution.—The Members' side of the Royal United Service Institution is open as usual and the Journal will continue to be published and distributed. The Lecture Theatre can be made available for Service meetings on due notice being given to the Secretary.

The Royal United Service Museum is closed for the duration of the war.

Contemporary Publications.—According to information just received the following Regimental publications representing other arms of the Service will also remain in circulation for the time being :

" The Gunner " (Royal Artillery), published monthly.
" The Sapper " (Royal Engineers), published monthly.
" Royal Army Ordnance Corps Gazette," published monthly.
" The Tank," published monthly.
" The Globe and Laurel " (Royal Marines), published monthly.
" R.A.S.C. Journal " (Royal Army Service Corps), published monthly.
" St. George's Gazette " (Royal Northumberland Fusiliers), published monthly.
" Queen's Own Gazette " (Queen's Own Royal West Kents), published monthly.
" H.A.C. Journal " (Hon. Artillery Company), published monthly.
" Green Howards Gazette," published monthly.

" London Scottish Regimental Gazette," published monthly.
" The Covenanter " (Cameronians), published bi-monthly.
" Suffolk Regimental Gazette," published bi-monthly.
" The Borderer's Chronicle " (King's Own Scottish Borderers), published quarterly.
" H.L.I. Chronicle " (Highland Light Infantry), published quarterly.
" Army Education Corps Journal," published quarterly.
" The Iron Duke " (Duke of Wellington's Regiment), published three times a year.
" XXIV Journal of The South Wales Borderers," published three times a year.

Sports Clothing and other Articles in Corps Colours.—The following articles are held in stock at this office, and can be supplied by return of post at the prices quoted :

BLAZERS : BARATHEA—In Corps colours .. .. from	47/6
SWEATERS : White woollen with Corps colours neck and cuff .. .. from	12/6
JUMPERS : White woollen with Corps colours at neck (sleeveless) .. .. each	12/6
SCARVES : Woollen, Corps colours .. .. .. each	7/6
SILK SQUARES : Corps colours .. .. .. each	10/6
TIES : Silk, double-ended, Corps colours each	2/6 and 3/9
CORPS RIBBON : ½ inch for Christmas cards and decoration purposes .. .. per yard	6d.
CAR BADGES : In chromium plate, with Corps colours, in enamel .. .. each	15/6

Postage extra. Cash with order.

EDITOR.

Signals Association and Ex-Service Old Comrades Branch Notes

EMPLOYMENTS.

Situations found during the preceding month with the co-operation of the National Association for the Employment of Regular Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen :

1	Ex-N.C.O., Yorks	Postman
2	Ex-Signalman, Cheshire	Labourer
3	Ex-Signalman, Bury St. Edmunds	Cook
4	Ex-Signalman, Bury St. Edmunds	M.T. Driver
5	Ex-Signalman, Croydon	Labourer
6	Ex-Signalman, Bristol	Doorman
7	Ex-N.C.O., Bristol	Pipe Fitter
8	Ex-Signalman, Nottingham	Storekeeper
9	Ex-Signalman, Nottingham	Storekeeper
10	Ex-Signalman, Shropshire	Labourer
11	Ex-Signalman, Chester	Driver
12	Ex-Signalman, Stoke-on-Trent	Labourer
13	Ex-Signalman, Yorks	Labourer
14	Ex-Signalman, Coventry	Machine Hand
15	Ex-N.C.O., Coventry	Postman
16	Ex-Signalman, Sheffield	P.O. Engineering Dept.
17	Ex-Signalman, Sheffield	P.O. Engineering Dept.
18	Ex-Signalman, Manchester	P.O. Driver
19	Ex-Signalman, Manchester	W/T Operator
20	Ex-Signalman, Manchester	Postman
21	Ex-Signalman, Manchester	Teleprinter Operator
22	Ex-Signalman, Manchester	Clerk
23	Ex-Signalman, Manchester	Fitter
24	Ex-Signalman, Manchester	Fitter
25	Ex-Signalman, Manchester	Teleprinter Operator
26	Ex-Signalman, Manchester	Teleprinter Operator
27	Ex-Signalman, Manchester	Telephonist
28	Ex-N.C.O., Aberdeenshire	W/T Operator
29	Ex-N.C.O., Sussex	Clerk
30	Ex-N.C.O., London	Examiner
31	Ex-Signalman, London	Storeman
32	Ex-Signalman, Sussex	Postman

GENERAL SECRETARY.

Benevolent Fund Notes

The Administrator gratefully acknowledges receipt of the following :

CASH SUBSCRIPTION from :
Lieutenant (I.P.C.) G. H. R. Flynn, M.B.E.
Mr. C. Greive.

GIFT OF CLOTHING from :
Colonel A. H. French, D.S.O.

APPEALS dealt with :

			£	s	d
1	Ex-Signalman, Doncaster	Grant	1	0	0
2	Ex-Signalman, Worcester	Grant	1	0	0
3	Ex-Signalman, Oxford	Loan	1	10	0
4	Ex-Signalman, Kent	Grant	3	0	0
5	Ex-Signalman, London	Grant	1	0	0
6	Ex-Signalman, Scotland	Grant	2	0	0
7	Signalman, Aldershot	Grant	5	8	10
8	Signalman, Aldershot	Grant	4	5	7

(Signed) T. H. L. SPAIGHT, Lieutenant-Colonel,
Administrator, Signals Association Benevolent Fund.

ROYAL SIGNALS CAR BADGE.

The above illustration describes a new Car Badge, which has been designed to meet the requirements of all Royal Signals car owners.

It is a highly finished production of excellent workmanship—Chromium plated with a central background of Royal Signals Corps colours in enamel—and can be obtained on application to The Secretary, Signals Association; 15/6 each.

Corps Promotion Roster.

Subsequent Amendments.

[The figures in the last column indicate the pages in the Corps Promotion Roster (published in April, 1938), on which the respective names may be found. This information cannot, of course, be given in the case of Lance Corporals appointed since that date.]

Appointed Regimental Quartermaster-Sergeant.

†2307520	C.S.M. Bawden A. E.	21/5/39	7

Promoted Warrant Officer, Class II (C.S.M.).

4027251	C.Q.M.S. Wheeler C. (Antedated without pay (for seniority purposes) to 21/6/38.)	11/7/38	18

Promoted Warrant Officer, Class III.

739952	C.Q.M.S. Deamon V. E.	4/4/39	22
2310676	Sergeant (T/W.O. III) Thorne G.	13/4/39	25
2310581	T/W.O. III Prees J. W.	13/4/39	25
2313030	Sergeant Gresham H.	13/4/39	25
†3123511	Sergeant McDonald W.	13/4/39	25
724953	Sergeant Pearce E. C.	13/4/39	25
2309741	Sergeant Toogood F. B.	13/4/39	26
*2312580	C.Q.M.S. Snow H. A.	13/4/39	90
*2309775	C.Q.M.S. Bell H. P.	13/4/39	90
*2314715	Sergeant Wedgbury A. J.	13/4/39	93

Foreman-of-Signals Roster.

Promoted Company Quartermaster-Sergeant (Foreman-of-Signals).

2317009	Sergeant Smith A. T.	18/12/38	40
2316158	Sergeant Birkett F. J.	18/12/38	41
2561306	L/Sergeant Morris J. C.	18/12/38	53
2320240	L/Sergeant Barron A. W.	18/12/38	53
2319811	L/Sergeant Allen C.	18/12/38	53
2319878	L/Sergeant Speakes F.	18/12/38	55
2317039	L/Sergeant West G.	18/12/38	55
2318837	L/Sergeant Ashworth J. S.	18/12/38	58
2318512	Corporal Davies E.	18/12/38	60
2314919	Corporal Boughten E.	18/12/38	69
2323116	Corporal Rowland G.	18/12/38	75

Promoted Company Quartermaster-Sergeant.

4027251	Sergeant Wheeler C. (Antedated without pay (for seniority purposes) to 10/1/37.)	24/2/37	18
2311593	Sergeant McIntosh W. G.	29/3/39	21
2309008	Sergeant Miles H. S.	4/4/39	23
2312512	T/C.Q.M.S. Sykes F.	13/4/39	24
2310781	Sergeant Bennett F.	17/4/39	25
*2314867	Sergeant Wagg W. T.	13/4/39	93
*2312430	Sergeant Jarvis L. C.	13/4/39	93

Promoted Sergeant.

4027251	L/Sergeant Wheeler C. (Antedated without pay (for seniority purposes) to 17/10/27.)	11/12/27	18
2318470	T/Sergeant Winder T. J.	31/3/39	44
2315119	L/Sergeant Archer F.	4/4/39	13
2316771	T/Sergeant Shipton W. A.	4/4/39	44
3903614	T/Sergeant Trew J.	8/4/39	44
25365	T/Sergeant Davenport P. S.	12/4/39	44
2313623	T/Sergeant Fairclough R.	13/4/39	44
2316950	T/Sergeant Allen W. A.	13/4/39	44
1025395	T/Sergeant Swift A. R.	13/4/39	44
2318651	T/Sergeant Bennett E. T.	13/4/39	44
†2313711	L/Sergeant Eason A. V.	13/4/39	44
2313665	L/Sergeant Hatton T.	13/4/39	45
2316995	T/Sergeant Walker C. P.	13/4/39	45
6134549	T/Sergeant Barnicott A. W.	13/4/39	45
2319141	L/Sergeant Oliver J. G.	13/4/39	45
2313683	L/Sergeant Harbury W.	13/4/39	45
2316934	L/Sergeant Page C.	13/4/39	45
759563	L/Sergeant Bull G.	13/4/39	45
2315227	L/Sergeant Wood J.	13/5/39	45
2310857	L/Sergeant Shove J. C.	17/4/39	45
2309584	L/Sergeant Feltham A. E.	17/4/39	45
2316543	L/Sergeant Wright H.	17/4/39	45
2316223	L/Sergeant Teal L.	17/4/39	45
2316525	L/Sergeant Hopwood C. D.	24/4/39	45
2318021	L/Sergeant Hothersall P.	27/4/39	45
725518	L/Sergeant Hunt J.	27/4/39	45

Appointed Lance Sergeant.

2317820	Corporal Marsh H. G.	4/4/39	43
2320537	Corporal Robson F. C.	5/4/39	52
2322408	T/L/Sergeant Potts J.	7/4/39	55
2317468	T/L/Sergeant Mullins T. S.	13/4/39	55
2318665	T/L/Sergeant Milligan R. A.	13/4/39	55
2320032	T/L/Sergeant McCunnin P.	13/4/39	55
2322354	Corporal Fenton G. P.	13/4/39	55
2314119	Corporal Carver C. H.	13/4/39	55
2316218	Corporal Park D.	13/4/39	55
2315067	Corporal Pickett J.	17/4/39	51
2320312	Corporal Bond J. W.	17/4/39	53
2314263	Corporal Greenland A. E.	17/4/39	53
758130	Corporal Brown G. S.	17/4/39	55
1850345	Corporal Newman R.	24/4/39	13
3521105	Corporal Harrison A. W. H.	27/4/39	55
2320051	Corporal Marshall A. E.	27/4/39	55
778624	Corporal Parsons K.	27/4/39	56
†2320082	Corporal Grimes G. A.	27/4/39	56
2321118	Corporal Surfleet G. E.	27/4/39	56
533756	Corporal Hayes R. P.	27/4/39	56
2924889	Corporal Steele J. G.	27/4/39	56
740032	Corporal Govey W. E.	27/4/39	56
2314202	Corporal Simpson T. G.	27/4/39	56
2321221	Corporal Jackson A. E.	27/4/39	56
2320851	Corporal Hesford J. A.	27/4/39	56
2319892	Corporal Chambers T. G.	27/4/39	56

Promoted Corporal.

2321656	L/Corporal Lowman C. W.	1/4/39	76
2569727	L/Corporal Gibson J. V.	2/4/39	78
45164	T/Corporal Fairclough E.	2/4/39	78
2319066	T/Corporal Finch, C. S.	4/4/39	78
2315563	T/Corporal Burke C. S.	5/4/39	78
2319799	L/Corporal Summers G. W.	13/4/39	78
2323475	T/Corporal Driscoll D. D.	13/4/39	78
2318812	T/Corporal Blount W. H.	13/4/39	78
2324107	T/Corporal Gulliford H. B.	13/4/39	78
2323389	T/Corporal Harris W. C.	13/4/39	79
2323231	T/Corporal McTavish A. G.	13/4/39	79
2323589	T/Corporal Keighley F.	13/4/39	79
2321421	T/Corporal Knight A. H.	13/4/39	79
2323093	T/Corporal Bliss P. T.	13/4/39	79
4031839	T/Corporal White C. F.	13/4/39	79
2323147	L/Corporal Hall W.	13/4/39	79
2322350	L/Corporal Thomas W. J.	13/4/39	79
2323000	L/Corporal Last C. W.	13/4/39	79
2319212	L/Corporal Hooper M.	13/4/39	79
2321111	L/Corporal Parry D. B.	17/4/39	74
2320053	L/Corporal Pearce H. T.	17/4/39	75
2324145	L/Corporal Spence P.	17/4/39	76
6975858	L/Corporal Hazard J.	17/4/39	77
5883252	L/Corporal Lewin R. G.	27/4/39	78
2323659	L/Corporal Dowell F.	27/4/39	79
2317746	L/Corporal Gee W.	27/4/39	79
2321542	L/Corporal Robertson J. G.	27/4/39	79
2320231	T/Corporal Cox A. H.	27/4/39	79
4265066	L/Corporal Robertson W. J.	27/4/39	79
2323021	L/Corporal Williams V.	27/4/39	79
2322224	L/Corporal O'Donnell J.	27/4/39	79
2320581	L/Corporal Boldison J.	27/4/39	79
2320841	L/Corporal Rose P. L.	27/4/39	—
2322244	L/Corporal Martin J.	27/4/39	79
2322159	L/Corporal Hamilton T.	27/4/39	79
2322454	L/Corporal Parker G.	27/4/39	79
2317449	L/Corporal Dewhurst H.	27/4/39	79

2323776	L/Corporal Horne F.	27/4/39	79
2321183	L/Corporal Trusselle S. H.	29/4/39	79
2321257	L/Corporal Sweeny J. R.	29/4/39	80
2316980	L/Corporal Sutcliffe R. C.	1/5/39	80

Appointed Lance Corporal.

2322472	Signalman Webster E.	1/2/39	—
836265	Signalman Waite J. A.	1/2/39	—
5616363	Signalman Floyd K. H. G.	1/2/39	—
2323198	Signalman Fleming R.	1/2/39	—
2571832	Signalman Overton R. W.	1/2/39	—
2321822	Signalman Verlander D. A.	1/2/39	—
2323334	Signalman Crowe R. H.	1/2/39	—
2319981	Signalman Kitson R. E.	1/2/39	—
2322063	Signalman Smith J. C.	1/2/39	—
2312031	Signalman Borrow H. C.	1/2/39	—
2322091	Signalman Hunt F. H.	1/2/39	—
2321529	Signalman Prescott J.	1/2/39	—
2323161	Signalman Fowler W. S.	1/2/39	—
2324888	Signalman Hope G. W.	1/2/39	—
553299	Signalman Egerton T.	1/2/39	—
2323660	Signalman Eden W. T.	1/2/39	—
2326544	Signalman Dinneen E.	1/2/39	—
796543	Signalman James W. J.	1/2/39	—
2323140	Signalman Smith F. W.	1/2/39	—
2323517	Signalman Forslind C. W.	1/2/39	—
6397839	Signalman Baxter J.	1/2/39	—
59306	Signalman Boynton A. L.	1/2/39	—
2325962	Signalman Drake E. E.	1/2/39	—
827903	Signalman Valinder J.	1/2/39	—
2322062	Signalman Williams F. W. J.	1/2/39	—
3525745	Signalman Barrett R.	1/2/39	—
2323857	Signalman Rumford E.	1/2/39	—
3186054	Signalman Young S. D.	1/2/39	—
2324067	Signalman Dignan J.	1/2/39	—
2325084	Signalman Hunt A. R.	1/2/39	—
809571	Signalman Foster V. J.	10/2/39	—
784587	Signalman Poole H. E. M.	11/2/39	—
816185	Signalman Talbot G.	11/2/39	—
2321985	Signalman Green F. N.	11/2/39	—
838391	Signalman Robinson G.	11/2/39	—
2321801	Signalman Bond H. G. R.	13/2/39	—
2322463	Signalman Morrison A.	14/2/39	—
2321765	Signalman Hutton T.	20/2/39	—
2322404	Signalman Campbell J.	21/2/39	—
2323366	Signalman Davidson A.	22/2/39	—
2323925	Signalman Madin A.	22/2/39	—
2321793	Signalman Green J.	26/2/39	—
2323712	Signalman Rotherham H.	26/2/39	—

* Special Roster.
† Held Supernumerary.

Corps News—Officers.

Extracts from "The London Gazette."

[War Office, 21/7/39]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Robert Norman Dobbs, M.C., D.C.M., M.M., is granted a temporary commission as Lieutenant, 22/7/39

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE—ROYAL SIGNALS.

The undermentioned Majors to be Lieutenant-Colonels, 24/5/39:
F. S. Morgan, R. S. Smith, M.C., D.C.M.

The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants:
Brian Godfrey Lund, 15/7/39.
Lance Corporal Sinclair Norman Frank McInnes, 22/7/39.
Eric Sharpe, 22/7/39.
William Hinselwood Scaife, 22/7/39.
Desmond Sydney Pullin, 22/7/39.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Lieutenant Robert Bryan Scully to be Captain, 22/7/39.
Albert Leslie Ottway to be 2nd Lieutenant, 10/5/39 (next below 2nd Lieutenant R. T. Lightoller).
Lieutenant Thomas John Evans, O.B.E., M.C., to be Major, 23/5/39.
Major J. T. Evans, O.B.E., M.C., to be Adjutant, 23/5/39.
Major V. D. Warren, M.B.E., to be Lieutenant-Colonel, 22/7/39.

SPECIAL LIST:

Lieutenant J. O. Crabtree to be Captain, 17/5/39.
Lieutenant A. D. McLaren to be Captain, 15/7/39.
Lieutenant B. L. Carlaw, B.SC., to be Captain, 15/4/39.
Lieutenant D. C. Lindsay to be Captain, 22/4/39.
The date of appointment of 2nd Lieutenant Dennis Edmund Finch is 19/5/39 and not as notified in the "Gazette" of 6/6/39.

[War Office, 25/7/39]

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE—ROYAL SIGNALS.

The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants, 26/7/39:
Richard Geoffrey Hugh Coles, Frederick de la Court Chard, John Robert Hall, Ronald Herbert Harrison.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

2nd Lieutenant (temporary Captain and Adjutant) R. S. Clifton to be Lieutenant, 2/7/39.
Captain J. B. R. Machan to be Major, 5/5/39.
The date of appointment of 2nd Lieutenant James Patrick Heenan is 1/5/39 and not as notified in the "Gazette" of 16/5/39.
John Gordon Gordon-Wright to be 2nd Lieutenant, 21/5/39.
2nd Lieutenant P. L. Yorke to be Lieutenant, 29/6/39.
The date of appointment of 2nd Lieutenant Robert Hugh Priestley is 10/6/39 next below 2nd Lieutenant B. F. M. Franks and not as notified in the "Gazette" of 6/6/39.
Captain M. N. Ford (from T.A. Reserve of Officers) to be Captain, 27/6/39.
Lieutenant F. M. Greaves (from Royal Signals) to be Lieutenant, 1/5/39.
Lieutenant S. C. Cadogan (from T.A. Reserve of Officers) to be Lieutenant, 26/7/39.
2nd Lieutenant R. Dickinson resigns his commission, 1/6/39.
2nd Lieutenant R. S. Wight to be Lieutenant, 23/5/39.
Captain I. Mackenzie (from T.A. Reserve of Officers) to be Captain, 27/4/39.
The undermentioned Lieutenants to be Captains:
Lieutenant A. P. Jack, 1/5/39.
Lieutenant C. Nettleship, 28/5/39.
Lieutenant E. E. Gosderham, 31/5/39.
Lieutenant C. M. Galbraith, 31/5/39.
Lieutenant G. B. Lloyd, 2/6/39.
Lieutenant G. J. Bulmer, 19/6/39.
Lieutenant D. T. Bastin (from T.A. Reserve of Officers) to be Lieutenant, 18/5/39.

[War Office, 28/7/39]

COMMANDS AND STAFF.

Lieutenant Hon. R. E. Denison-Pender, Royal Signals, T.A., to be A.D.C., 1/7/39.

ESTABLISHMENTS.

Major and Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel C. R. H. Firth, A.M.I.E.E., from Inspector to be Deputy Chief Inspector, 15/6/39.
Lieutenant-Colonel H. A. J. Parsons, M.C., to be local Colonel whilst specially employed, 10/7/39.

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Cadet Robert Bujnowski to be 2nd Lieutenant, 15/7/39.
The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants, 29/7/39:
Philip Henry Jones, Victor George Rumbelow, Lance Corporal Raymond Jarvis, Henry Frank Stephens, Cyril Alfred John Lawden.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Captain R. M. Chatterley to be Major, 9/6/39.
Lieutenant N. E. Dixon to be Captain, 17/5/39.
Charles Harry Tilson to be Lieutenant, 26/5/39.
R.Q.M.S. William Hamby Robinson to be Lieutenant (Quartermaster), 29/7/39.
Lieutenant B. M. Nichol to be Captain, 1/5/39.
Captain Andrew Philip Barnett (late Royal Signals) to be Lieutenant and relinquishes the rank of Captain, 29/7/39.
Signalman Duncan Douglas Livesey to be 2nd Lieutenant, 19/5/39.
Signalman Raymond Colin Hase Pinchen to be 2nd Lieutenant, 29/7/39, with seniority 29/10/38.
Captain T. A. H. Lea, M.M., to be Major, 6/7/39.
Hon. Colonel The Lord McGowan, K.B.E., vacates the appointment of Hon. Colonel on completion of tenure, 23/6/39.
The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants:
Rupert Mackworth Arthur Jones, 18/5/39.

Lance Corporal Gordon Hamilton Gray, 6/6/39.
Michael Clifford Ackernley, 7/6/39.
John Alexander Allerton, 8/6/39.
Trooper Ernest Thomas Bilham (from R.A.C.), 15/6/39.
Archibald Hugh Campbell, 18/5/39.
Private Ernest George Barnes (from H.A.C.), 18/5/39.
Sapper Isaac Stewart Webster (from R.E.), 25/5/39.
Eric Montagu Robson, 30/5/39.
Sapper Bartholomew Robert Tilbury (from R.E.), 31/5/39.
Rifleman Eric Donald West (from London Rifle Brigade), 31/5/39.

[War Office, 1/8/39]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

The undermentioned, on completion of tenure of service as Regimental Lieutenant-Colonels, are removed from the regimental list and remain on full pay, 1/8/39 :
Lieutenant-Colonel St. J. D. Arcedeckne-Butler.
Lieutenant-Colonel A. L Harris, M C.
Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. R. Neale, M.I.E.E.
Lieutenant-Colonel R. T. O. Carey, M.B.E.

The undermentioned, on completion of tenure of service as regimental Lieutenant-Colonels, are placed on the half-pay list, 1/8/39 :
Lieutenant-Colonel A. W. Roberts, M.C.
Lieutenant-Colonel H. V. von S. Thorne.

Major G. Rooker retires on retired pay, 1/8/39.

Lieutenant-Colonel George William Cumming, T D. (from Supplementary Reserve) is granted a temporary commission as Major, 1/8/39.

The undermentioned Majors to be Lieutenant-Colonels, 1/8/39 :
Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel R. F. H. Nalder, B.SC.
Major L. B. Nichols.
Major J. L. Henderson, B.A.
Major C. M. F. White.
Major C. K. Thursby-Pelham, M.C.

ESTABLISHMENTS—MEMORANDA.

The undermentioned retire on retired pay, 1/8/39 :
Major D. H. Cunynghame (half-pay list).
Major R. A. Bagnold, M.A., A.M.I.E.E. (half-pay list).

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Captain T. H. L. Turner ceases to belong to Reserve of Officers on account of ill-health, 1/8/39.

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Captain J. J. Graham (from Regular Army Reserve) to be Major, 1/8/39.

The undermentioned 2nd Lieutenants to be Lieutenants:
M. G. Mathews, 10/6/39.
J. Knox, M.SC., 24/6/39.
W. F. Hickox, 24/6/39.

The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants :
George Wilson, 15/7/39.
George Moore, 2/8/39.
Cadet Donald Andrew William Cuthbertson-Smith, 2/8/39.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Captain The Viscount Malden to be Major, 17/7/39.
Captain Hon. S. A. Maxwell, M.P., to be Major, 17/7/39.
Lieutenant-Colonel and Brevet Colonel M. E. Holdsworth, T.D. (D.C.S.O. for T.A. duties, Southern Command), to be Hon. Colonel, 2/8/39.
Lieutenant (Quartermaster) G. H. Smith, M.B.E., from Lieutenant (Quartermaster), Royal Signals, to be Lieutenant and Adjutant and to be granted the temporary rank of Captain whilst holding that appointment, 1/7/39.
Wyndham Matabele Davies to be Lieutenant next below Lieutenant A. P. Barnett, 2/8/39.
William Calverley to be 2nd Lieutenant, 2/8/39.
Signalman Charles Joseph Davies to be 2nd Lieutenant, 2/8/39.
Lieutenant A. C. A. Stedman to be Captain, 14/7/39.
Lieutenant-Colonel C. J. M. Peel, M.B.E., T.D. (from Royal Signals) to be Lieutenant-Colonel, 1/8/39.

[War Office, 4/8/39]

REGULAR ARMY—COMMANDS AND STAFF.

Captain A. S. Milner is seconded, 7/6/39.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Captain R. A. Stevenson to be Major, 17/6/39.
The undermentioned Lieutenants to be Captains, 17/6/39 :
D. Mucklow, R. F. A. Turner, R. A. Waldron.
Cadet Andrew Gawen Goodman to be 2nd Lieutenant, 28/6/39, next above 2nd Lieutenant S. R. Rickman.
Captain T. H. Kinder to be Captain, 8/7/39.
Captain J. B. Challen to be Major, 31/5/39.
2nd Lieutenant F. E. Saunders to be Lieutenant, 27/6/39.
William Arthur Judge to be Lieutenant, 19/5/39

SPECIAL LIST :

Cadet Victor Edwin Claydon to be Lieutenant, 5/8/39.
Captain A. R. B. Dobson to be Major, 12/7/39.
The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants, 5/8/39 :
Signalman David Duncan Simmons. Cadet Peter Leech.

(India Office, 4/8/39]

COMMANDS AND STAFF.

Major R. G. Smith, Royal Signals, vacates the appointment of Staff Captain, 6/6/39.
Colonel L. G. Phillips, C.B.E., M.C., vacates the appointment of Chief Signal Officer, 26/6/39.
Colonel R. E. Vyvyan, M.B.E., M.C., vacates the appointment of Chief Signal Officer, 26/6/39.

[War Office, 8/8/39]

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Captain J. H. A. Patton, M.C. (from R. U. Rifles) to be Captain, 9/8/39.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Cadet Robert Latham Baillieu to be 2nd Lieutenant, 9/8/39.
Stanley George Walter Vignaux to be Lieutenant (Quartermaster), 9/8/39.

TERRITORIAL ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Captain W. F. Billingham resigns his commission, 29/6/39.

[War Office, 11/8/39]

REGULAR ARMY—COMMANDS AND STAFF.

Captain R. N. Seddon, Royal Signals, to be Adjutant, 3/7/39.
Captain H. L. B. Kealy, Royal Signals, to be Adjutant, *vice* Captain L. W. J. Dryland, A.M.I.E.E., 14/7/39.

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Captain S. E. H. Daw resigns his commission, 11/8/39.
Lieutenant Robert George Randall (late Cheshire Regt.) to be Lieutenant, 12/8/39, with seniority, 8/2/39.

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE—ROYAL SIGNALS.

The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants, 12/8/39 :
Albert Victor Emery, Ralph Frank George Gurney, Alexander Lyon Donaldson.

TERRITORIAL ARMY ROYAL SIGNALS.

Cadet Ernest John Broom to be 2nd Lieutenant, 12/8/39.
Cadet Frank Geoffrey Edis Bates to be 2nd Lieutenant, 12/8/39, with seniority, 12/11/38.
Cadet Thomas Peter Kenneth Lanceley to be 2nd Lieutenant, 12/8/39.
Captain D. B. Murray to be Major, 27/6/39.
Cadet John Robert Thomas Hooper to be 2nd Lieutenant, 12/8/39, with seniority 12/11/38.
The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants, 12/8/39 :
Nigel David Clive next below 2nd Lieutenant J. R. T. Hooper, Signalman Nicholas Thorn Warren, James Joseph William Wardman, Corporal Hugh Thomas Dennis Lonsdale Hessling (from R.E.).
Signalman Dennis Clifford Duckett to be 2nd Lieutenant, 15/6/39.
Lieutenant T. C. R. Walker to be Captain, 28/6/39.
Lieutenant J. L. Harrison to be Captain, 29/6/39.
Lieutenant S. A. Woods to be Captain, 29/6/39.
2nd Lieutenant M. B. Price to be Lieutenant, 1/7/39.

TERRITORIAL ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS.

SPECIAL LIST :

Lieutenant (temporary Captain and Adjutant) R. S. Clifton to be Captain, 12/8/39.
Signalman Cuthbert John Dixon-Johnson to be 2nd Lieutenant, 12/8/39.
Signalman William Robert Cambage to be 2nd Lieutenant, 12/8/39.
Major A. Hemsley, M.B.E., T.D., to be Lieutenant-Colonel, 1/8/39.

2nd Lieutenant D. C. Blair, A.M.I.E.E., to be Captain, 2/5/39.
Lance Corporal Joseph Edmund Hinde to be 2nd Lieutenant, 20/7/39.
Cadet Arthur Sydney Dunstan to be 2nd Lieutenant.

[War Office, 15/8/39]

REGULAR ARMY—COMMANDS AND STAFF.

Captain Hugh John Cann, Royal Signals, from Supplementary Reserve is granted a temporary Short Service commission as Captain, 16/8/39.
2nd Lieutenant Basil Scrymgeour Hewett, B.SC., Royal Signals, from Supplementary Reserve, is granted a temporary Short Service Commission as 2nd Lieutenant, 13/8/39.

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Lieutenant R. F. B. Bucknall to be Captain, 22/6/39.
2nd Lieutenant R. J. Mander resigns his commission, 16/8/39.
Cecil Edward Boys to be 2nd Lieutenant, 16/8/39.

[War Office, 18/8/39]

REGULAR ARMY—COMMANDS AND STAFF.

The undermentioned are granted temporary Short Service Commissions as Lieutenants, 19/8/39:
David Kennear Pilkington (late R.E.).
Cyril Tennant Williams (late General List).

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants, 16/8/39:
Signalman John Trevor Drew Mitchell, Signalman William Colin Travis, Sapper David Clifford Johnston Bell (from R.E.).
The date of appointment of 2nd Lieutenant P. Leech is 12/7/39 and not as notified in the "Gazette" of 4/8/39.
Lieutenant C. F. Kerr to be Captain, 12/7/39.
Lieutenant H. J. Boyle to be Captain, 12/7/39.
Lieutenant W. A. Tomlinson to be Captain, 13/7/39.
Captain J. Gray to be Adjutant, 15/7/39.
2nd Lieutenant A. J. Stevens relinquishes his commission on appointment to the R.A.F., 22/7/39.
The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants:
Private Arthur Reginald Glanville (from R.A.), 25/5/39.
Private John Sylvanus Brock (from 6th Battalion, Essex Regiment), 4/6/39.
Signalman Ronald Frederick George Morrison, 5/6/39.
2nd Lieutenant J. J. Milburn to be Lieutenant, 31/5/39.
Cadet Edgar Ian Hunter to be Lieutenant, 18/5/39.

[War Office, 22/8/39]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Lieutenant-Colonel St. J. D. Arcedeckne-Butler, from unemployed list, to be Colonel, 10/8/39, with seniority 1/10/38.

COMMANDS AND STAFF.

Lieutenant-Colonel George William Cumming, T.D., from Supplementary Reserve, Royal Signals, is granted a temporary Short Service Commission as Major, 1/8/39, and the honorary rank of Lieutenant-Colonel (substituted for the notification in the "Gazette" of 1/8/39).

ESTABLISHMENTS.

The undermentioned has been granted a temporary Short Service Commission and not a temporary commission as stated in the "Gazette" of 14/7/39:
Lieutenant G. Alder.

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Lieutenant R. L. Holmes resigns his commission, 19/8/39.

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Captain J. C. Rau to be Major, 24/5/39.
2nd Lieutenant W. J. Outram resigns his commission, 23/8/39.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

The appointment of Lieutenant V. E. Claydon is in the rank of 2nd Lieutenant and not as notified in the "Gazette" of 4/8/39.
The undermentioned Lieutenants to be Captains:
L. N. Norris-Rogers, 1/7/39.
B. J. Rowe, M.M., 3/7/39.
A. H. Horton, 5/7/39.
2nd Lieutenant D. T. Gibbs to be Captain, 2/5/39.
Captain J. S. Usher, Royal Signals, to be Adjutant, 21/8/39.
The date of appointment of the undermentioned 2nd Lieutenants is 30/7/39 and not as notified in the "Gazettes" of 8/8/39 and 11/8/39:
J. R. T. Hooper (with seniority 30/10/38), R. L. Baillieu, N. D. Clive.
Cadet Sydney Herbert Loosley to be 2nd Lieutenant, 2/6/39, with seniority 2/9/38.
The date of appointment of the undermentioned 2nd Lieutenants is 16/7/39 and not as notified in the "Gazettes" of 1/8/39 and 11/8/39:
W. Calveley, H. T. D. L. Hessling.
The particulars of Captain G. F. Falk, A.M.I.E.E., are as now described and not as notified in the "Gazette" of 27/6/39:
Captain E. H. Clarke (Royal Signals) to be Adjutant, 4/9/39.

[War Office, 25/8/39]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. R. Neale, M.I.E.E., from unemployed list to be Colonel, 15/8/39, with seniority 1/4/39.

COMMANDS AND STAFF.

Colonel O. P. Edgcumbe, M.C., from Chief Signal Officer, to be Inspector (tempy.) and is granted the temporary rank of Brigadier whilst so employed, 15/8/39.
Colonel R. H. R. Neale, M.I.E.E., to be Chief Signal Officer, 15/8/39.
Lieutenant Charles McDermot-Roe (late Lieutenant, General List) is granted a temporary Short Service Commission as Lieutenant, 26/8/39.

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE—ROYAL SIGNALS.

The undermentioned 2nd Lieutenants to be Lieutenants:
G. ff. Bellairs, B.S.C., 1/7/39.
W. H. Oliver, 4/7/39.
D. H. S. Simpson, 11/7/39.
L. G. Dunford, A.M.I.E.E., 18/7/39.
R. G. O. Wearn, 22/7/39.
H. Bett, 22/7/39.
S. Horrox, 22/7/39.
U. M. Ward, B.A., 5/8/39.
P. E. C. Smith, B.SC., 22/8/39.
Alfred Edmund James Sims to be 2nd Lieutenant, 26/8/39.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Philip Fletcher (late Lieutenant, Royal Signals) to be Lieutenant, 1/1/39.
Lieutenant Maurice Gordon (late 4th Battalion, Worcester Regiment) to be Captain and Administrative Officer, 17/7/39.
SPECIAL LIST:
Lance Sergeant John Evans Holgate to be 2nd Lieutenant, 26/8/39.

[War Office, 29/8/39]

REGULAR ARMY—COMMANDS AND STAFF.

The undermentioned Lieutenants to be Captains, 27/8/39:
E. I. E. Mozley, B.A., H. Prince, G. Thomson, G. B. Stevenson, J. P. North, M.B.E., J. M. S. Tulloch, G. E. G. Brown, S. J. Dagg, B.A., D. M. Rhind, B.SC.
The undermentioned 2nd Lieutenants to be Lieutenants, 27/8/39:
W. E. Jelf, R. Lyall, B. R. M. Hayles, G. A. B. Sutherland, D. R. Horsfield, J. de D. Yule, J. B. Birkett, R. E. Stoney, E. N. L. Brown, B.A.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
SPECIAL LIST:

Lieutenant P. W. Mallins, Royal Signals, is appointed Adjutant and is granted the temporary rank of Captain in the T.A. with pay and allowances of a Lieutenant whilst so employed, 19/7/39.
Lieutenant J. E. Hobson to be Major, 26/7/39.
Captain T. Mackenzie to be Major, 30/7/39.
Major Charles Edward James Reynolds (late Indian Army) to be Major and Administrative Officer, 8/6/39.
Lieutenant Barron Hockley French (late Supplementary Reserve) to be Captain, 26/6/39.
Captain R. C. Conway-Gordon, Royal Signals, to be Adjutant, 15/6/39.
Signalman Alexander Brodie to be 2nd Lieutenant, 30/8/39.
Signalman Edward Craig Stephenson to be 2nd Lieutenant, 30/8/39.
Lance Bombardier Anthony William Day (from R.A.) to be 2nd Lieutenant, 2/8/39.
The date of appointment of 2nd Lieutenant H. J. S. Llewellyn is 27/4/39 and not as notified in the "Gazette" of 20/6/39.
The date of appointment of 2nd Lieutenant J. H. T. Barley is 31/5/39, next below 2nd Lieutenant C. A. H. Thellusson, and not as notified in the "Gazette" of 14/7/39.

THE CORPS ASSOCIATION

Having received official sanction for the continued production of " THE WIRE " during the period of hostilities, I make this appeal to All Ranks of the Corps for their continued support and co-operation both in the matter of SUBSCRIPTIONS to Association Funds and also in the REGULAR submission of " Unit Notes " and " Articles " intended for publication in that Magazine.

The Corps Association has now been in active operation for nearly twenty years and during that period it has laboured unceasingly and successfully in the after-welfare of Warrant Officers, N.C.O.s and men on discharge to Civil life.

It has been the direct means of accommodating an average of more than 400 candidates per annum with congenial employment, whilst from the funds at their disposal the Committee have been able to apportion and administer between £300 and £400 each year to deserving applicants in necessitous circumstances.

In addition to this, the Association has been charged with the production and distribution of three publications, viz. : The Corp's Monthly Magazine—" THE WIRE "—" Royal Signals Quarterly Journal " and " Royal Signals Officers Quarterly Gazette."

It is not possible at this juncture to determine how the two latter productions may be affected by the present situation, but having received authority to do so, it has definitely been decided to carry on with " THE WIRE " as long as possible and thus ensure a complete record of Corps History without any break in continuity.

A regular supply of articles and contributions from Units, therefore, is urgently requested to keep the publication in circulation.

It is feared that the Committee may be faced with MANY ADDITIONAL CALLS upon their resources during the period of hostilities, and in making this Special Appeal to ALL RANKS for their generous support, I do so with the firm conviction that it will be instantly responded to in a manner worthy of Royal Signals.

Business will be carried on AS USUAL from 95 Belgrave Road, London, S.W.1, and the General Secretary will deal with all correspondence as expeditiously as a depleted staff will permit.

H. CLEMENTI SMITH, Brigadier,
Chairman, Central Committee,
Signals Association.

Correspondence

1138 Third Avenue, N.W.,
Moose Jaw, Sask., Canada.

13th June, 1939.

The Editor, THE WIRE.

DEAR SIR,—I recently received some copies of THE WIRE from a friend of mine, Major W. H. McMurray (formerly of the Canadian Corps Signals), and I was greatly interested in the contents, particularly in the reunion group photographs, as I recognised many old pals.

I served during 1903-4-5 with the old 2nd Telegraph Battalion, R.E., under Major Godfrey-Faussett. During the earlier stages of the war I was with the Signal Section, 2nd Indian Cavalry Corps. I was later with the Third Army Wireless Company and was detailed as Sergeant in charge of a wireless section which accompanied the Canadian Corps on the "March to the Rhine."

I enclose two photographs, which might be of interest. One was taken at the Cavalry Barracks, Bonn, and the other shows the wireless station erected on the bank of the Rhine, at Bonn. If you use these I would much appreciate a copy of the issue in which they are published, and also their return.

With kind regards and every good wish for the welfare of the Signals Association,

I am,

Yours sincerely,

T. W. KEARNEY,
(Formerly No. 12042, Sergeant, R.E.)

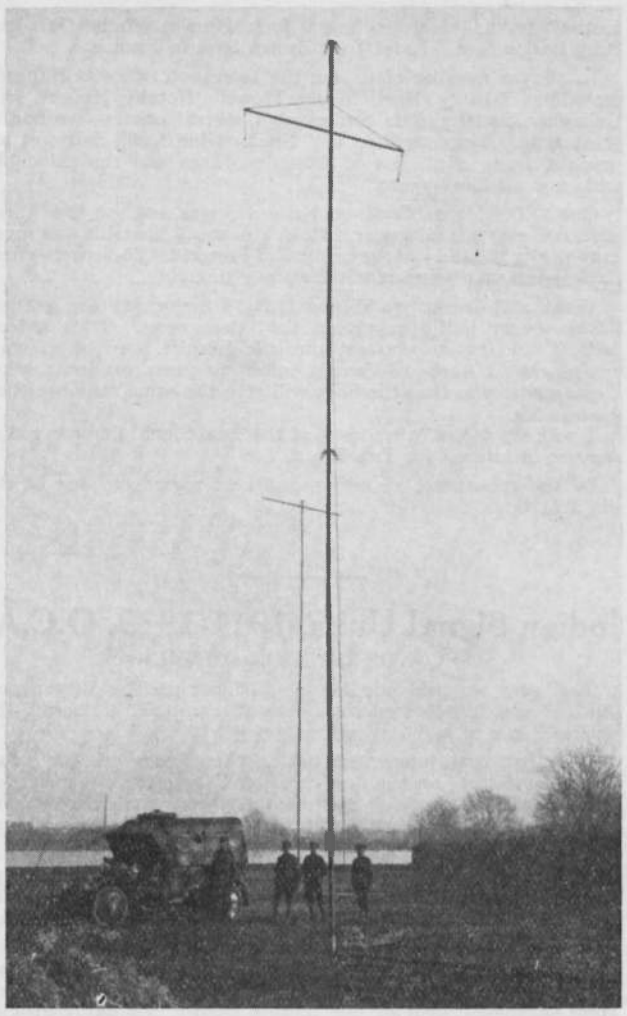
1138 Third Avenue, N.W.,
Moose Jaw, Sask., Canada.

31st August, 1939.

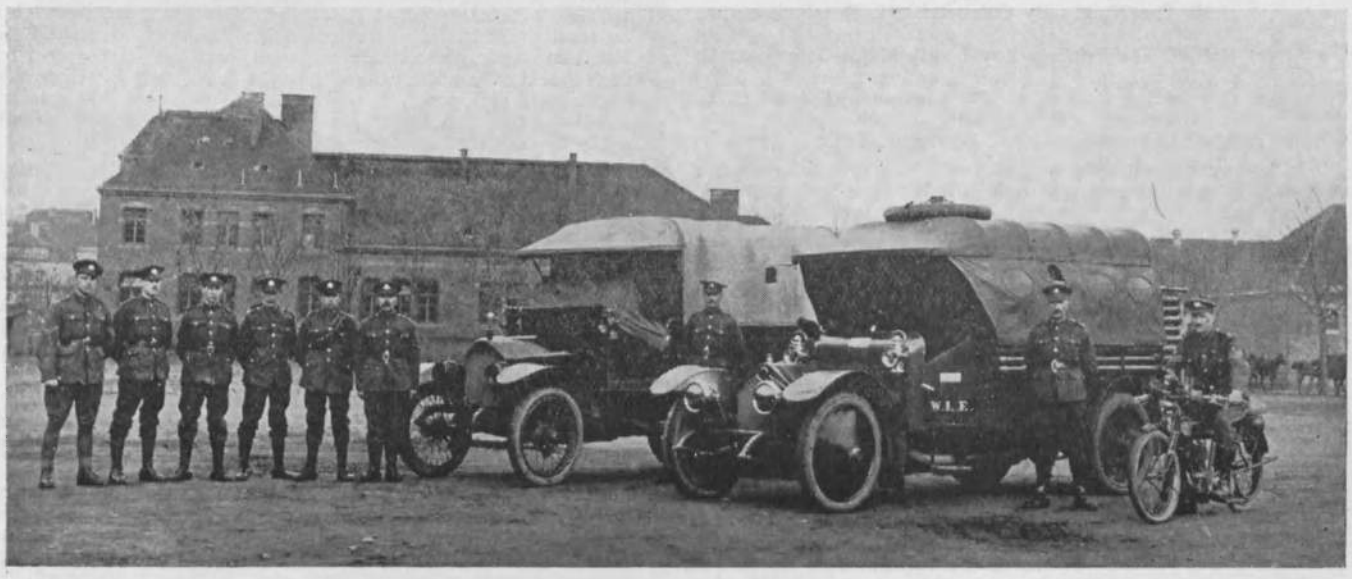
The Editor, THE WIRE.

DEAR SIR,—I was very pleased indeed to receive your interesting letter of 26th June, and also copy of THE WIRE for August, which included the group photograph of the "Reunion." I recognised many names and was particularly pleased to see Jack Bray in such a prominent position.

Although it is 37 years since I first struck Chatham, I have many recollections of the time I spent there, and later at Aldershot. It was my good fortune to be billeted in the same room in "G" Company, St. Mary's Barracks, as the old service battalion



On the banks of the Rhine (Bonn) February, 1919.



CAVALRY BARRACKS, BONN, GERMANY, 1919
Left to right.—Corporal Ferguson, —?—, Signalman Johnston, Dick Mattinson, Tom Graham, Bob Graham, Jimmy Law, ? Chauffeur, Sergeant T. A. Kearney.

football team, which included Jock Brown, Wally Garsden, Billy Barlow, etc. I met Jock Brown later in France.

In 1905 a number of us ran the Telegraph Office at Bulford, including Tommy Noel, Wally Howell, Notchy Knight, Bill Gallagher, Smithy, Tim Stokes, and several others—we had a great time. Your mention of " Sticky Glue," Bill Solly, et al, brought many memories of Stanhope Lines and the old cable carts and air line wagons.

Our O.C., Major Godfrey Faussett, was one of the finest officers I ever served under. I can still recall his telling us most graphically the story of the capture of Pretoria. These were great days, when war was farthest from our thoughts.

What a different world now! As I write, we are getting flashes every half-hour giving the latest news. It is indeed critical, and before you get this the Empire may be at war. From what I know of Canada, after 32 years residence here, I can assure you that the boys will give the same response they gave in '14.

I will try to get a write-up of the local Signal Company that may be of interest for THE WIRE.

In the meantime, *au revoir*, and best regards to any of the old T.B. boys.

Yours very sincerely,
T. W. KEARNEY.

Indian Signal Units, 1911-1919, O.C.A.

SECOND REUNION DINNER.

This year we held our Reunion Dinner at The Restaurant, Bush House, London, on 10th June at 6.30 p.m. Colonel L. H. Queripel, C.M.G., D.S.O., presided.

The attendance was much better, there being present 72 all ranks, against 54 on the first occasion. Owing to the unsettled state of affairs, many of our members were unable to attend, being on military and other duties. However, we hope things will be more settled by the time our next Reunion is due.

The appointed time of assembly was 6.30 for dinner at 7.30 p.m. Many had arrived well before that time, and it was not long before the lounge was full. This hour was spent, as usual, going from one group to another, meeting old friends.

At 7.30 we were requested to take our places for dinner, where the accompanying photograph was taken. Dinner over, the Chairman called for one minute silence, for our comrades who had " passed on."

This was followed by the following toasts :

(1) H.M. The King. By Colonel L. H. Queripel, C.M.G., D.S.O.
(2) H.R.H. The Princess Royal. By Major-General L. V. Bond, C.B.
(3) Our Indian Comrades. By Lieutenant-Colonel C. L. Day.
(4) Absent Comrades. By C. Lawrence, Esq.

In connection with the second toast, the Chairman read a message of greeting received from H.R.H. The Princess Royal, as follows :

" I have received with much pleasure the good wishes you have sent me on behalf of all members of The Indian Signal Units, 1911-1919, Old Comrades' Association who are assembled to-night for the Second Annual Reunion Dinner. Please express to one and all my sincere thanks and assure them of my constant interest in the welfare of their Association. MARY, Colonel-in-Chief."

The toasts were brief, and some very complimentary remarks were passed in connection with those given to " Our Indian Comrades " and " Absent Comrades." They were followed by speeches from Major Humphries, M.C., D.C.M., and Lieutenant J. L. Cowan, in the form of some humorous experiences they had had while serving with Signals.

Then followed a short break, after which we carried on with the business side of the O.C.A.

First a number of telegrams and cables were read. Besides these there was a bundle of letters conveying greetings, and good wishes. Time would not permit the reading of these, but they were displayed. We thank all who kindly sent us good wishes and greetings.

There were two items on the agenda to come up for discussion :

(1) Proposed by Colonel G. L. G. Pollard, M.B.E. : " That the period for membership be extended from 1911-1919 to 1911-1921, or that B.O.R.s who served in Indian Signal Units during 1911-1921 be accepted as Associated Members, with full rights as Members." This was opposed by Brigadier-General H. S. Franklin, C.M.G., D.S.O. He proposed, and it was seconded by Captain H. Marshall, that they be admitted as Honorary Members. This proposition was put to the vote and carried. In this connection, any officer, or B.O.R., interested should apply to the Secretary for particulars.

(2) Colonel Hawtry had suggested that as the Indian Military Telegraphist O.C.A. has ceased, or will cease to exist, their Members should be absorbed into this O.C.A. The meeting was not in agreement with this suggestion, and it was not carried.

There was on sale at this Reunion a very neat button-hole Membership Badge and a Booklet containing the names and addresses of all Officer and B.O.R. Members. Price 2s. post 2d., 3½d. abroad. Members requiring them should apply to the Secretary.

Note.—The Committee regret to announce the resignation of the President, Colonel L. H. Queripel, from office, and the O.C.A. We take this opportunity of expressing our thanks for the help and advice he has always most willingly given.

The Committee were unanimous in their selection of Brigadier-General H. S. Franklin, C.M.G., D.S.O., as the new President. General Franklin, apart from being one of the original four Commanding Officers, has done, and is still doing, very valuable work for ex-Servicemen, and his services will be very much appreciated.

W. A. DOWLING, Secretary.

OFFICERS

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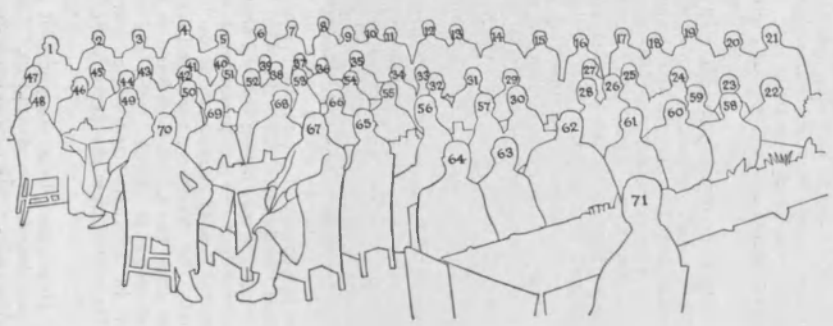


1 Vesey, B.
2 Shepherd, G.
3 Murphy, J.
4 Harris, F.
5 Diffey, H. J.
6 Marshall, H., Captain.
7 Fiddaman, E., Captain, M.C.
8 Wood, C., Lieutenant.
9 Hoffton, P. N., Captain.
10 Ferriday, T. B., Captain.
11 Humphries, E., Major, M.C., D.C.M.
12 Knight, J. H., Lieutenant-Colonel, D.S.O.
13 Bond, L. V., Major-General, C.B.
14 Franklin, H. S., Brigadier-General, C.M.G., D.S.O.
15 Queripel, L. H., Colonel C.M.G., D.S.O.
16 Johnson, G. F., Lieutenant (Quartermaster).
17 Roberts, F. E.
18 Whillier, R.
19 Hains, E. M.
20 *
21 Walker, R. H., Captain.
22 Morrell, M. C., Major.
23 Day, C. L., Lieutenant-Colonel.
24 Booth, F., Colonel.
25 Cowan, J. L., Lieutenant.
26 Ind, W.
27 Pollard, G. L. G., Colonel, M.B.E.
28 Hannan, A. E.
29 Wolstencroft, E.
30 McLaughlin, C.
31 Lawrence, C.
32 Earwaker, T.
33 Gough, W. R.
34 Green, W. E.
35 Wrathall, F.
36 Clifford, W.
37 Addington, F. C.
38 Coxhill, H.
39 Pelham, W.
40 Rose, H.
41 Burton, G.
42 *
43 Wise, F.
44 Elliott, C.
45 Clark, —.
46 Wood, F.
47 Webb, A. C.
48 Fox, W. H.
49 Seaton, —.
50 Godding, F.
51 Crate, J.
52 Waller, —.
53 Soan, F.
54 Frost, F.
55 Clewlow, P.
56 Adney, S.
57 Dilley, H. J.
58 Keepen, A. T.
59 Barlow, E. H.
60 Lewis, J. H.
61 Rainbow, F. O.
62 Cook, A.
63 Yates, H. T.
64 Cates, B. A.
65 Johnston, T. E.
66 Gould, J. H.
67 Witham, R.
68 Blunt, J.
69 Angell, J.
70 Dowley, W. A.
71 Springett, F.

* Not known

With acknowledgments to *The Times*, 21/9/39

Lieutenant-General Sir John Fowler

Development of Army "Signals"

Lieutenant-General Sir John Fowler, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., D.S.O., of Manor House, Wilton, who died at Harrogate on 20th September, was a sapper who, as a young officer, saw a considerable amount of fighting on the North-West Frontier of India. He afterwards played a great part in the development of Army "signals," being Director of this service on the Western Front throughout the last War.

John Sharman Fowler, the second son of Mr. R. Fowler, of Rahinston, County Meath, was born on 29th July, 1864, and went to Cheltenham before passing into the Royal Military Academy. He received his commission in the Royal Engineers in January, 1886, and first saw active service with the Isazai expedition of 1892 in the Black Mountain region. During the Chitral campaign of 1895 he was at first with the Gilgit Force in the fighting at the post of Reshan, and, after being wounded, was subsequently captured and then released—an extraordinary adventure. Later he accompanied the Relief Force and was present at the action of Mamagai, his services being mentioned in dispatches and rewarded with the D.S.O. He was promoted Captain in September, 1895. In 1897 he saw something of the operations in the Mohmand and in the Tirah country, being again "mentioned." He came home from India to enter the Staff College as a specially selected candidate at the beginning of 1898, and graduated after the outbreak of the South African War. He arrived at the Cape in February, 1900, and in June was appointed Director of Telegraphs in the Orange River Colony. This post he held until the peace and after, receiving another "mention" and a brevet majority.

Promoted substantive Major in the Royal Engineers in December, 1903, he went to the 2nd Division at Aldershot in March, 1905, as D.A.A.G., later becoming D.A.A. and Q.M.G., and served the full four years there. In January, 1911, he was given the brevet of Lieutenant-Colonel and appointed an Instructor at the Staff College, where Colonel (later Field-Marshal Sir) William Robertson was then Commandant. He reached the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel in his Corps at the end of 1911.

General Fowler left Camberley to become Commandant of the Army Signal Schools at Aldershot and Bulford in April, 1913, and when, at the outbreak of the last War, the British Expeditionary Force was mobilised his appointment to be Director of Army Signals in France was an obvious selection. He remained at G.H.Q. in that capacity until May, 1919, shouldering great responsibilities for the development on progressive lines of signal communications—personnel, equipment, and organisation—as the Armies expanded and the character of warfare changed, was a matter of first importance. In 1915 he was created C.B., and in January, 1916, he received the brevet of Colonel, being promoted Major-General a year later; he was made K.C.M.G. in 1918. His services were mentioned eight times in dispatches.

Under his direction the few Signal Companies Royal Engineers of 1914 had grown during the War into an establishment of some 70,000 men. Increasing use was made of wireless and of buried telephone cables, and he had no compunction in calling upon General Post Office experts to assist in perfecting and standardising equipment. He sponsored the policy by which Army Signals became an integral part of the machinery of command, operating directly under the General Staff; and, when, after the War, the Royal Corps of Signals was formed it was fitting that he should become its first Colonel Commandant. The appointment was made in September, 1923, General Fowler vacating it on reaching the age limit at the end of 1934. In February, 1921, he became G.O.C. at Singapore, and was given the China Command in the following June. He returned home in March, 1925, and was promoted Lieutenant-General in February, 1926, the year in which he was made K.C.B. He retired from the Army in March, 1928.

In 1904 he married Mary Henrietta Olivia, daughter of the late Mr. John M. Brooke, and leaves two daughters. Lady Godley, wife of General Sir Alexander Godley, was his sister.

Ave Atque Vale

JOHN SHARMAN FOWLER, LIEUTENANT-GENERAL.
1864—1939.

Your portrait hangs upon our wall
To bid God-speed to those who go
From out this place, to let them know
They go in answer to your call.

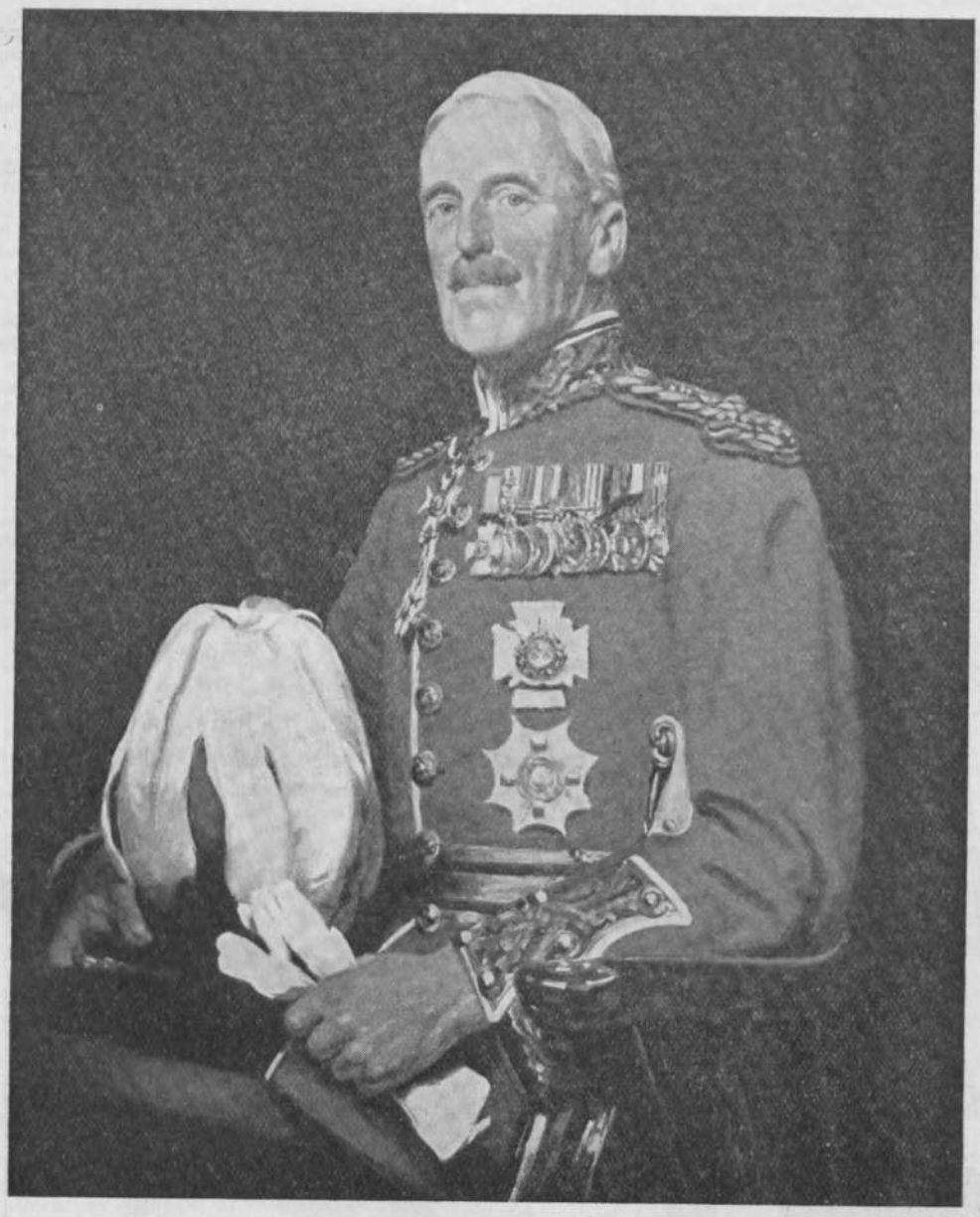
You gave your Chiefs your counsel clear
Through four long years of wartime stress;
Were ever ready none the less
With wise and kindly word of cheer

To us who were but learners then.
We knew that you were in your turn
Yourself a Signals subaltern
And loved your horses and your men.

Then on the stones so surely laid
We built anew with you as guide;
And still we build. It is our pride
That you found good what we had made.

Hail and Farewell! To tell to all
Who follow in our footsteps here
We honoured you and held you dear
Your portrait hangs upon our wall.

J. S. Y.



LIEUTENANT-GENERAL SIR JOHN S. FOWLER, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., D.S.O.
COLONEL COMMANDANT ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS

With the B.E.F.

Readers of THE WIRE will no doubt be interested in the trials and tribulations of a small unit of Royal Signals with the B.E.F. and, with due reservations, I will endeavour to convey as much news from time to time as the exigencies of the Service permit.

I have it on good authority that our own unit was the first complete Royal Signals formation to land in France, but that statement needs verification and remains to be proven at a later date. Suffice it to say, however, that we were well among the first contingents and reported "All present and correct" on 11th September.

Our own particular convoy took rather a long time on the journey and there was a good deal of speculation amongst the troops as to whether the skipper had lost his bearings. We duly arrived, nevertheless, and as our vehicles had preceded us we were soon busily engaged in getting clear of the docks.

"All Set," and ready to move off under sealed orders, the drivers were first enjoined to pay full attention to the new "Rule of the Road" and then commenced what transpired to be a long and interesting journey through scenery which was, in many places, reminiscent of the rural countryside which many of us had recently left.

We halted the first night in a small village where the troops were feted and made much of by the inhabitants. Our C.O., much to his surprise, was taken by the local Mayor to the latter's house and given a royal reception.

In superb weather we moved off again early the following morning and, making good time, reached our objective at about 20.00 hours, where excellent billets were provided for us in a spacious Chateau. For the benefit of our 1914 warriors I might here add that the "smells" of France remain unchanged and one immediately felt himself to be in familiar surroundings.

Work in earnest commenced the following day and the various "lay-outs" were completed in the shortest possible time.

During the first week, letters were prohibited, but both outgoing and incoming mails are now functioning smoothly and efficiently. For the information of our 1916-1917 ex-Boy readers, V. Little is in charge of the Base Post Office and sends kind *salaams* to his ex-Boy cronies.

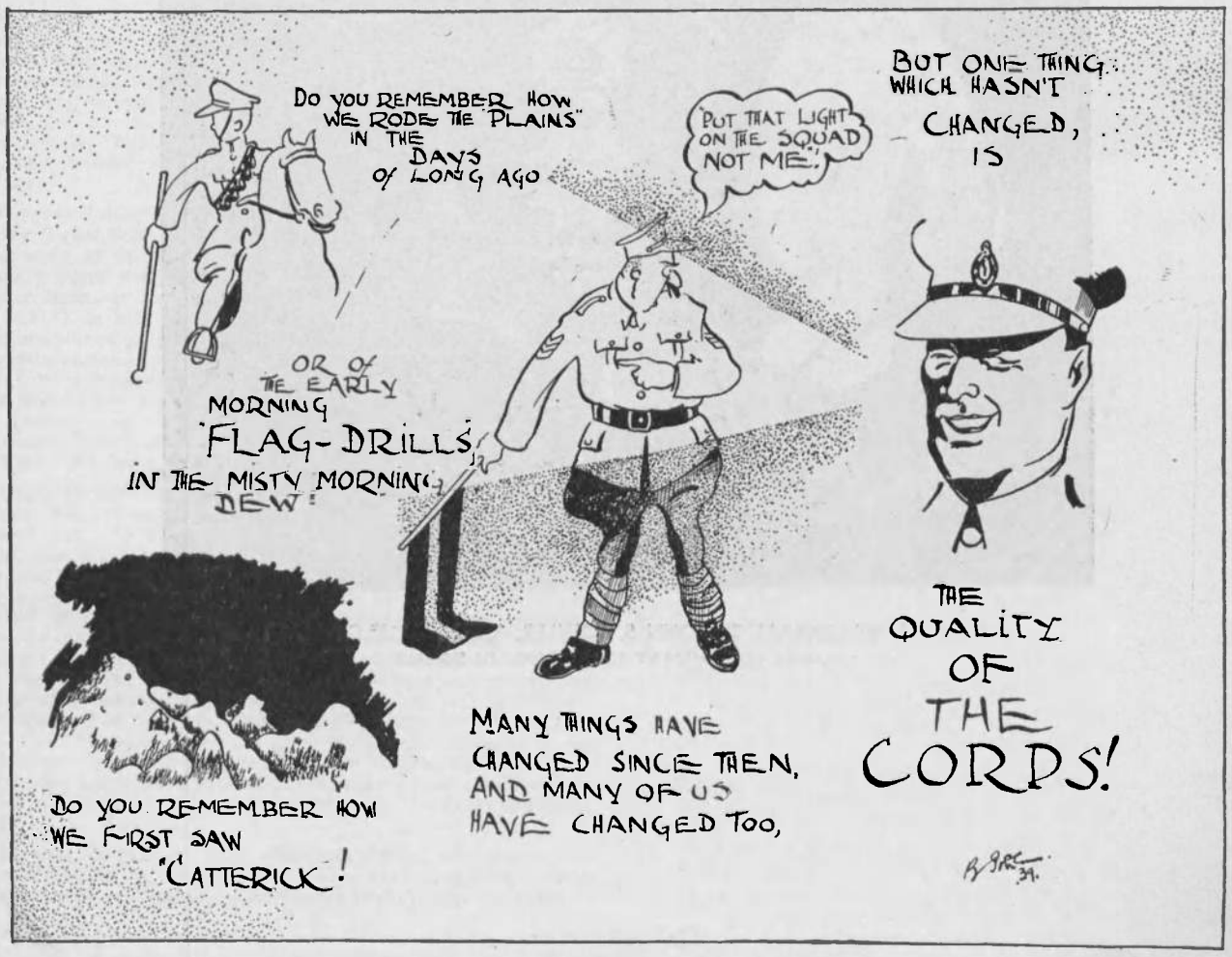
Language problems did not present any very great difficulties, for such is the make-up of the average 1939 "Tommy" that he very soon acquires a working knowledge of every-day requests and expressions which are as efficacious as they are often amusing to the native population. One wag of the Unit greatly surprised a member of the fair sex by his quick perception and ready wit, but we will defer that anecdote for the next Old Comrades' Reunion gathering at Aldershot.

In conclusion, may I add that it would be very greatly appreciated by all B.E.F. readers if BARLEUX could be prevailed upon to start a series of his popular Elementary French lessons whenever he can find time to recommence those "Plain Tales" contributions which all readers of the Corps magazine find so diverting and which are much in demand at the present moment.

Time and circumstances permitting, I will endeavour to keep a monthly bulletin going.

W. J. A. N.

(Thank you, W.J.A.N. Your contribution is much appreciated.—ED.)



Big Game Shooting in Uganda

The following notes and photographs have been received from Lieutenant F. H. Pellow, Royal Signals, who was recently acting as A.D.C. to Sir Bernard H. Bourdillon, K.C.M.G., K.B.E., Governor and Commander-in-Chief, Uganda Protectorate, by whom the photographs were taken.

* * * *

I. WHITE RHINO.

White rhino habitate the Northern Province of Uganda near a place called Rhino Camp—a little one-man harbour on the Nile—with only a few natives and a wharf to mark the place. Our first afternoon in search of them proved blank. Many tracks could be plainly discerned, yet we were unable to come upon the beasts themselves. Our only excitement that day proved to be a black mamba, one of the most poisonous snakes of Africa. This one was about 6 feet long and, on being disturbed by the party as we marched, went down under a tree root into a small hole. By peering down the opening it was possible to see the brute lying coiled up, with its head guarding the entrance. We decided to " execute," so one of the party put three rounds into him.

The following morning we made an early start, and, taking breakfast with us, set off on some very fresh white rhino tracks. Usually at about eleven a.m. all game lie down and rest in the shade during the heat of the day, and, unless disturbed, remain in much the same locality until about four o'clock in the afternoon. A very sensible proceeding !

After about ten minutes our guides returned in great excitement to tell us that there were five rhinos about a quarter of a mile away, and that they had not settled down for their mid-day siesta. We soon came within sight of all five of them, bossed by one big bull whose horn must have been nearly three feet long. This horn was peculiar in that it protruded horizontally instead of vertically from the nose, and was almost straight instead of curved. They were about 200 yards off, moving slowly away from us, and grazing in the most leisurely fashion. By bending down and keeping behind cover we were able to get up to within 40 yards range, and my chief began photographing to his heart's content. After a while the big bull got suspicious of our presence, though I am sure he neither saw nor winded us, and he began moving up in our direction. We were crouching down behind ant hills and any other cover we could find while my chief's cine-camera was working like mad, and I think it must have been the whir of the camera that had aroused the bull's curiosity. When he was within some 18 yards of us, and still advancing, my chief shouted at him, whereupon he spun round like a two-year old and went off at a rapid canter, taking the other four with him. The back view of a rhino is simply absurd, because he has a little tail which he puts straight up and curls like a pig's whenever he is disturbed.

There are two reasons advanced for the name of " white " rhino, but I do not know which is correct—probably neither. The first is because they were discovered by a man named White. The second is because they are lighter in colour than the ordinary rhino. This second theory is a fallacy, and it is an established fact that the colour of the two types is almost similar. The white rhino, however, when compared with the black, is considerably larger, has a much longer horn (strangely enough the cows often have longer horns than the bulls), has a different shaped lower lip and jaw, is much better tempered, and is not allowed to be killed. They usually roam in large herds which keep to a definite area in the country.

II. ELEPHANT.

Elephant are only found in certain parts of the country, but where they are found they are very numerous, and often do considerable damage to native plantations and " shambas " (native dwelling places). The natives, and for that matter any white man on the spot, may shoot a " shamba destroyer " without entering him on the game licence. There are, however, certain restrictions about the ivory, the shooter only being allowed to keep one tusk or two-thirds of a tusk, the remainder being taken by the Government. To shoot elephant you must have a £30 elephant licence, which entitles you to kill two elephants in the year. It is a well-known fact that in Uganda elephants are increasing and therefore a certain amount of shooting is encouraged. For instance, officers of the K.A.R. may go out and shoot " shamba destroyers " without a licence but, as always happens, it is never the elephants with the big ivory that demean themselves by destroying " shambas." Natives have been known to kill elephants with spears, but the big fellow usually manages to have a couple of natives to his credit before he finally succumbs.

In the Northern Province there is a large area known as the Elephant Sanctuary, in which no elephant may be destroyed, and it was to this neighbourhood that my chief came with the intention of photographing them when he found them inside the Sanctuary, and of shooting them when he found them outside.

On our first day out the guides reported a large elephant some five miles outside the Sanctuary, which was in due course blotted and killed. He must have been an old fellow, and he had very good ivory weighing 110½ lbs. and 115 lbs. A curious custom of the natives, when an elephant is shot, is to cut off its tail. I suppose the idea is to show it to those who remain behind in camp as proof that an elephant has been shot. That night the whole of the native population must have camped round the carcase and indulged in a terrific orgy, because there was not much of it left in the morning.

A few days later another elephant of reasonable size was reported some two miles from camp, and we went to have a look at him. We found him enjoying his siesta under some palm trees, but my chief, who judged him to be only an 80 pounder (80 lbs. per tusk) and hoped to get something better, decided not to shoot, but to photograph him instead. For this purpose we moved up to within about 50 yards, and were just erecting the cine-camera when he became suspicious and bore down upon us. A charging elephant is undoubtedly a splendid sight, which is considerably enhanced if you are not the other party to the affair. He spreads out both ears, like two enormous sails, and, slightly raising his trunk, lumbers towards you with a curious sort of rolling motion. My chief and the game warden boldly stood their ground while I seized the camera (which my chief had hastily exchanged for his rifle) in the hope of carrying on the photographing—without much success I may add. When within 20 yards of us my chief fired, hitting him straight between the eyes for what he considered a perfect frontal brain shot. A post mortem examination, however, showed that the bullet never entered the brain, but became embedded in the spongy bony mass which surrounds it. This shot was quite sufficient to turn him and, as he lumbered off to our left, my chief fired his second barrel at the heart. Still going strongly, the elephant turned down into an empty river bed which went past our flank. We quickly got into position on the edge of this river bed, and as he went past presented him with another three rounds which killed him. His ivory turned out to be slightly more than we had anticipated, being 86 and 82 lbs.

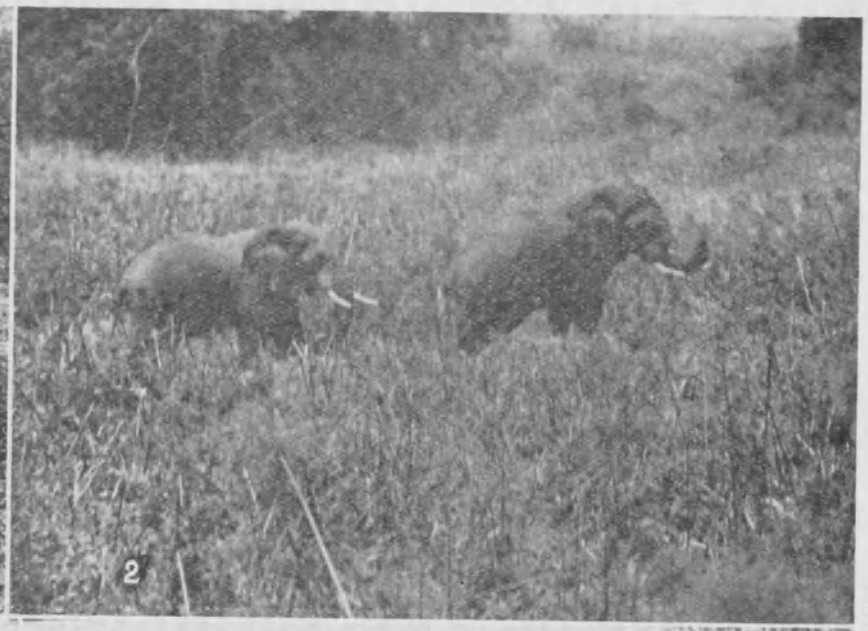
That ended the shooting part of the " safari."

This last episode had made my chief determined to have a cinefilm of an animal charging.

It was not, however, until some few days later that we came across a big solitary bull. Without much difficulty we got up to within seventy yards of him and began photographing at our leisure. Gradually he moved off, with us following him, and when he had got into an open piece of country my chief threw all discretion to the wind and advanced boldly towards him. It was not long before the elephant began to grow suspicious and, wheeling round, stuck out his great ears and began to advance towards us. When he was within 25 yards we all shouted, and that caused him to halt for a moment peering in our direction. He must have seen us, however, because he came on again, definitely meaning business this time. When he was 18 yards away the game warden fired. He fired high deliberately, so that the bullet entered the spongy bony mass of skull above the brain, his intention being not to kill the animal, but to turn it. When this fellow was hit he stopped in no uncertain manner. In fact he almost fell over, and a great cloud of dust rose from his forehead where the bullet hit him. He then backed five or six paces—a ludicrous sight—then, turning to one side, he scuttled away like a scared duck.

The whole of this my chief recorded on his cine-camera, and it resulted in a wonderful film.

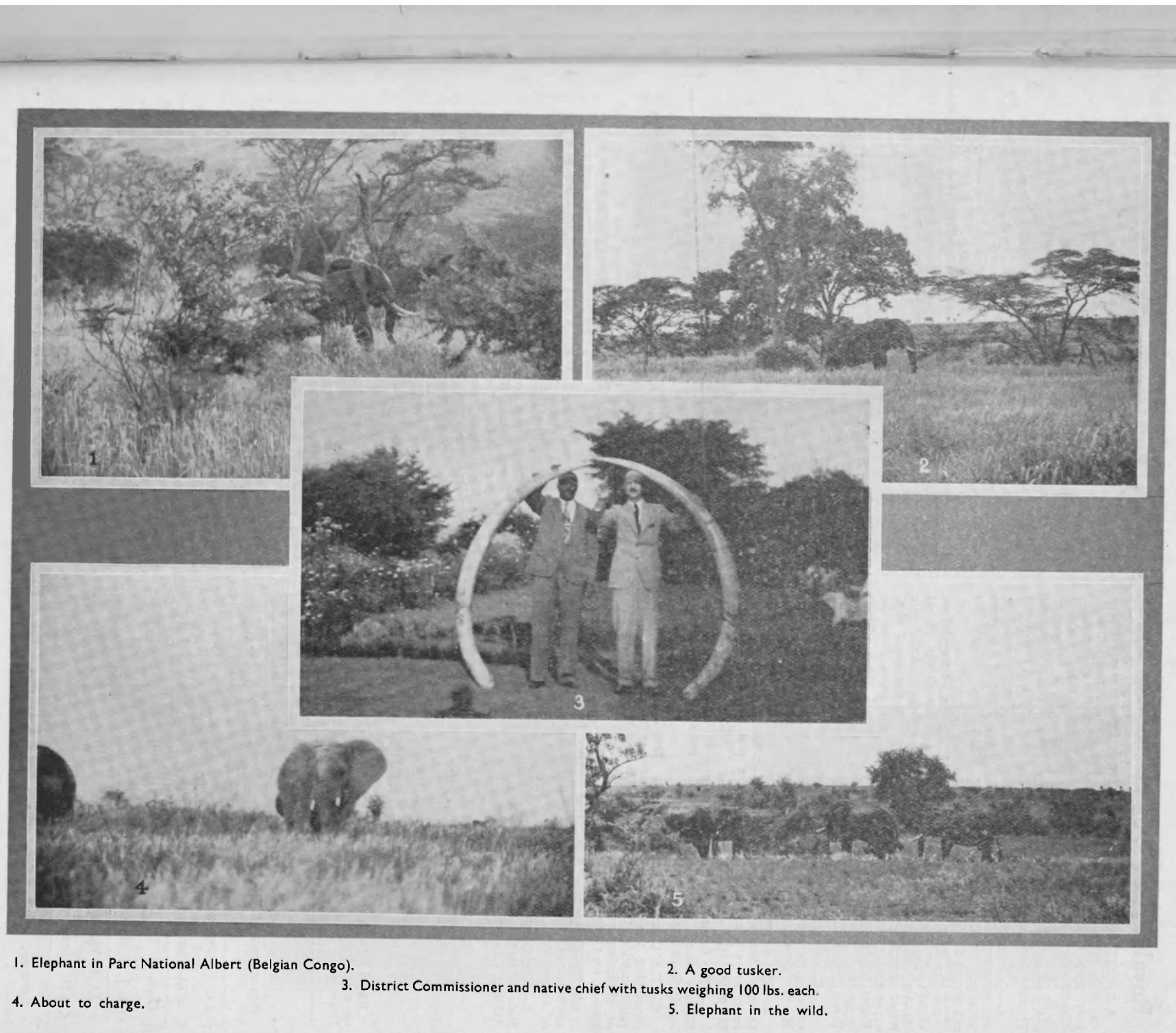
1. White rhino at 30 yards.



2. Elephant in the wild.

3. Elephant with ears extended as when charging.

4. The elephant which later charged us and was shot.



1. Elephant in Parc National Albert (Belgian Congo).
2. A good tusker.
3. District Commissioner and native chief with tusks weighing 100 lbs. each.
4. About to charge.
5. Elephant in the wild.

Royal Signals Officers' Games Club

A Special Meeting of the Royal Signals Officers' Games Club was held at the War Office (Room 254) on Wednesday, 19th July, 1939. Present—Lieutenant-Colonel M. F. M. Parkes, M.C. (Chairman), Signal Training Centre ; Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel R. F. H. Nalder, Aldershot Command ; Major H. M. Sylvester, M.C., Southern Command ; Captain T. W. Boileau, Signal Training Centre ; and Major L. C. Boyd (Secretary and Treasurer)

1.—A loan of £250 to the Royal Signals Sailing Association was approved. The loan to be repaid over a term of ten years without interest. The request for an annual grant of £50 was not agreed to.

2.—The draft of a letter from the Chairman of the Royal Signals Officers' Games Club to the Secretary of the Royal Signals Corps Committee was discussed and approved. The letter contained the information in para. 1, suggested that expenses for Sailing should be dealt with under para. 11 of the Royal Signals Officers' Games Club Rules and made certain suggestions for the clarification of the financial power of the Royal Signals Officers' Games Club Committee.

3.—The Committee agreed that expenses incurred by teams entering for the " Ordnance Challenge Cup " at the Army Golf Meeting should be met under Rule 11.

4.—The Committee agreed that the refund to Royal Signals Officers' Games Club (India) should be increased from 50 per cent. to 75 per cent. of subscriptions paid by Officers serving in India.

5.—The Committee noted that Major L. C. Boyd, School of Signals, would be i/c Cricket until a suitable officer became available at Aldershot.

6.—The Committee approved an amendment to Rule 11 concerning the payment of Detention Allowance to officers taking part in Corps games. The amendment places the onus of obtaining quarters, whenever possible, in Royal Signals Messes, on Officer i/c Games.

7.—The Committee noted that Major L. C. Boyd would continue as Officer i/c Hockey until a suitable officer was available at Aldershot.

8.—The Committee approved the payment of expenses under Rule 11 to two officers who took part in the Army Individual Athletic Championships.

(Signed) L. C. BOYD, Major, Royal Signals,
Secretary, Royal Signals Officers' Games Club.

Lawn Tennis

Royal Signals v. Royal Engineers.—Match played at Aldershot on 29th July. Result : R.E., 3 wins ; Royal Signals, 1 win ; Draw 5.

	Royal Engineers.		
Royal Signals.	Cowley and Cocks.	Hunt and Butt.	Whitehouse and Knife.
2/Lt. G. Sumner and 2/Lt. Fletcher.	R.E. 6—1, 6—2,	Draw 11—9, 1—6, 0—1	Draw 6—2, 1—6, 2—2
Capt. G. Tucker and 2/Lt. J. B. Birkett.	Draw. 1—6, 5—5	Draw. 5—7, 7—5	Royal Signals 7—5, 6—3
Lt. P. Watts and C.S.M. Shardlow.	R.E. 3—6, 1—6	Draw. 3—6, 6—4, 2—1	R.E. 4—6, 2—6

Remarks. Owing to bad weather, several matches had to be curtailed.

Royal Signals v. R.A.S.C.—Match played at Aldershot on 30th July. Result : R.A.S.C., 5 wins ; Royal Signals, 4 wins.

	R.A.S.C.		
Royal Signals.	Bright-Holmes and Scroope.	Lenty and Turner-Cooke	Walch and Briggs.
2/Lt. G. Sumner and 2/Lt. Fletcher.	R.A.S.C. 6—1, 6—2.	R.A.S.C. 7—9, 6—3 6—3	Royal Signals 7—5, 6—0
Lt. P. Watts and C.S.M. Shardlow.	R.A.S.C. 6—2, 6—1	R.A.S.C. 6—3, 10—8	Royal Signals 3—6, 6—4, 6—3
2/Lt. E. Brown and Capt. G. Tucker.	R.A.S.C. 6—0, 6—1	Royal Signals 2—6, 6—2, 6—4	Royal Signals 6—2, 6—3

Remarks. A very good match ; finished at 7.45 p.m., in the dark.

By Road through Central Europe and the Balkans

By J. ALLAN CASH, A.R.P.S.

(The well-known miniature camera specialist.)

My problem as to where to go last summer* in search of journalistic photographs was solved by the timely appearance of a friend with a car and some time on his hands.

" Let's take a trip through Czechoslovakia, Rumania and Hungary," he said. " Things look like happening there before long."

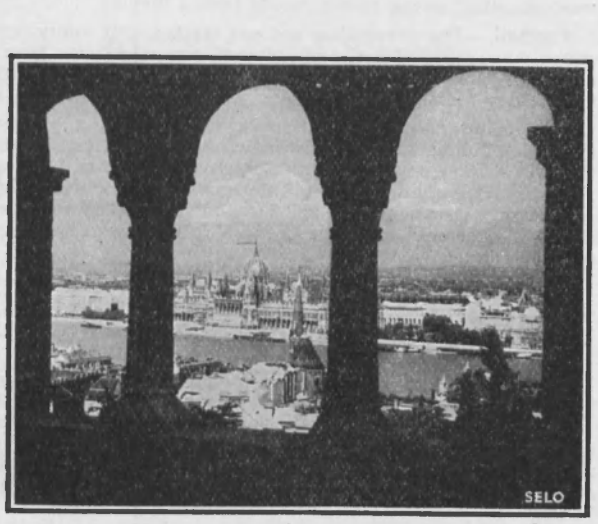
Little did we realise how much was to happen there in a few short months, or how timely our photographs would be when we returned to England.

I set off with my usual array of equipment—Leica camera, Correx Developing Tank, sundry lenses, view-finders, etc. I bought two half-litre bottles of developer early on the journey ; half a litre is nearly twenty ounces and thus I was able to mix my developer and fixer without the necessity of always measuring the water. As before, I used Johnson's Super Fine Grain Developer containing Meritol, but on this trip I used the new Selo H.P.2 film. I was a bit doubtful whether the grain would be as fine as that of the slower film I had been using in view of its great speed, but I must say at once that the grain is every bit as fine as that of the previous film. I was frankly quite astonished at the results I obtained with H.P.2 film. At first I was inclined to over-expose because I did not quite believe the extra speed was all there, but as soon as I realised that it really was, my negatives came out with delightful uniformity.

I developed my films, as usual, in hotel bedrooms when I could find satisfactory running water and a dark-room for loading my Correx Tank. Wardrobes usually made good dark-rooms, and it was an advantage having a friend with me who could lock me into them. Often during this trip we were camping, and much as I was tempted at times to try developing out of doors, I never quite trusted the running water in streams and rivers to be clean enough to wash miniature camera films without doing them harm. The result was that my undeveloped spools of film piled up alarmingly and had to be developed in large batches in such places as Prague, Bukarest and Budapest. I even had some left to do in London on my return, for in all I exposed some 42 rolls in the course of three and a half months and 7000 miles of travelling.

Our route lay directly across Belgium and Germany to Prague, through Eger and Carlsbad, now, of course, part of Germany. After making contacts in Prague with the Foreign Office and all the political parties, from the Henleiners to the Communists,

(*Continued on page* 464)



BUDAPEST. Taken with Leica-Summar *f*/2 lens. 1/100th second at *f*/6.3 with x2 green filter. Selo H.P.2 film.

TRANSYLVANIAN MARKET. Taken with Leica-Summar *f*/2 lens. 1/100th second at *f*/6.3. Selo H.P.2 film.

RUMANIAN PRIEST. Taken with Leica-Summar *f*/2 lens. 1/60th second at *f*/3.2 inside church. Selo H.P.2 film.

WOMEN OF SLOVAKIA. Taken with Leica-Summar *f*/2 lens. 1/100th second at *f*/6.3 with x2 green filter. Selo H.P.2 film.

HOME STATIONS

"F" Boys Company

General.—Even Old Moore's Almanac could not forecast this little argument we are having with a nation of " goose-steppers " and synthetic egg-eaters. Nevertheless, the news of this state of affairs has already reached us, much to the delight of Marlow, who rubs it in with " I told you so " and " It won't take more than a fortnight." As soon as we discovered that Britain was about to straighten out international tangles once more, we moved into camp with only a few hours' notice. The efficiency with which this movement was carried out was largely due to the C.S.M., and " The noble order of the Shining Toe."

The space allotted to us was rather limited, but we derived consolation from the fact that there was little work to do. During the week spent under these conditions, we witnessed the departure and arrival of many Reservists and Territorials. Taking into consideration the number of men that the cooking staff had to cater for, they managed quite well. Yet, when we were informed that we were to return to barracks on the following day, there was much jubilation. This took the form of a sing-song, which is a Company expression meaning a lot of noise by a large crowd.

Returning to barracks presented no difficulty, and we are now more or less settled. We say " more or less " because lack of accommodation has made it necessary for a few more beds to be placed in some of the huts, consequently there is a certain amount of quibbling over who shall " swing " a hut job.

The following conversation was heard between two important members of the Company :

" Lot of those W.A.T.S. at the Depot."
" Those whats ? "
" Yes."
" Yes what ? "
" Yes, that's what they are, W.A.T.S."
" What's what ? "
" I'm telling you, not asking you."

After this the conversation became rather involved.

The Company operators are having a busy time, maintaining a permanent watch on the various stations. Which budding operator scrounged some tea from the Orderly Cook on the pretext that it was for " Sergeant Newstead " ?

One bright youth suggests that we dig P.A.D. trenches on the potato patch, since the spuds seem to insist on growing at least seven feet down.

Departures.—Among the number of recent postings were some of our old retainers, namely : Brooks, Adshead, Baines, Weeks V., Collins and Dixon A. We wish them luck in their new Units.

To all who have left us recently we bid *au revoir* and extend our heartiest wishes for their well-being.

Although we have enjoyed an overdose of sunshine lately our panicky pessimists refer to it as being the calm before the storm. Please don't think us ungrateful, but we know our local weather.

A. JAY.

SPORTS NOTES.

Cricket.—We rounded off the cricket season with two wins against 5th Div. and "A" Company respectively. 5th Div. made 95 and " F " Company replied with a total of 96 for 6 declared. "A" Company were put out for 27 on a matting wicket, and we made 28 for 4. After we carried on with a game of rounders and this ended in a victory for " F " Company. These two games placed " F " Company second in the Inter-Company Cricket League.

Rugby.—After a month's leave some of the Company were called upon to represent the Training Battalion against the Militia. They were : Sergeants Ballard and Hatton, Sergeant Boy Smith, Lance Corporal Boy Marshall and Boys Render and Forsyth. They put up a very good show and played a big part in the two victories that were gained.

Swimming.—Captain Boileau arranged a water gala, but this was cancelled, owing to the recent trench-digging.

Football.—The season has not yet started, but many scratch games have been played and a lot of new talent has been discovered. We hope to have quite a few games this season and are looking forward to the season with much anticipation.

Cross-country.—A week after leave a straggling column of struggling humanity was seen wending its way up the plantation ; this was " F " Company on its first cross-country run (or walk). It is doubtful whether we shall do any more, but if we do you can be sure that the team will have all its old efficiency under the able leadership of Lance Corporal Blades, who never seems to lag behind.

M. & D.

Aldershot Command Signal Company

No doubt many have imagined that we, as a Unit, were defunct, but such is not the case, despite the lack of WIRE notes.

It must be realised that the duty of Unit scribe is not an envious position, and in view of such a high standard of journalism having been set up by past scribes, we who follow are acutely aware of our shortcomings ; nevertheless, medals must be earned.

Since the last WIRE notes the staff has been practically completely changed, and increased. We have a new O.C., new superintendents and new operators, but despite these drastic changes we have managed to pull through, and, astounding as it may seem, we have actually doubled the traffic return, and maintained communication during hours hitherto undreamed of in the history of this Station. This was, of course, before Adolf Fiddler started righting the imaginary wrongs of dubious minorities.

Needless to say, like all Signal Units, a daily classification of " Grippers " has to be carried out, due to the keen competition. Without doubt the shield lies for a long period in the hands of " Tando " Charfield, whose amazing original variations and topical methods of strangulation have drawn gasps of envy from his rivals.

Of course, like the rest of the Army, we have lost some of our comrades ; some of whom will live in our memory as long as there is a Mint. One of the departing heroes was none other than Ferry, our draughtsman. His performance in climbing " Stools, Sergeants, wooden-headed," and the frantic efforts to touch Mother earth with his toes is one to be remembered.

With the outbreak of war came the increase of staff and we are pleased to welcome Lieutenant Sheldrake, our Signalmaster, not forgetting the Supplementary Reservists and ex-Corps re-enlisted men. We hope that they will enjoy themselves as long as they are with us, or we with them.

Every day and in every way we are becoming more conscious of that re-incarnated Force, the Women's Army, or A.T.S. We saw them, heard them, and now we've got them.

Various suggestions have been offered for training the A.T.S., but no doubt the Signalmaster will introduce some idea of his own. However, despite the newness to the job, they have quickly mastered the system of transmission, and will no doubt prove their worth when the time comes.

Talking of the opposite sex reminds me that two members of our staff have spoken the fatal sentence, " I will," and we wish to offer our congratulations to the grooms and condolences to the brides in the case of both Lance Corporal Gibson and Signalman Angier.

Thanks to force of circumstances and wanton expenditure of War Loans we have been issued with our staff limousine, an aptly named eight-cylinder Mercury. Married personnel can now be seen calculating probability of conveyance; even Harold is thinking of disposing of his Silent Four.

The Unit recruited 20 D.R.s, who arrived one day in mufti, were clothed the next day, drew motor cycles and were on D.R.L.S. runs on the third day. No time wasted here.

Our latest-joined recruit, one Mr. Tibble, aged 61 years. Can you beat it?

Well, our contribution and the War, we hope, must come to an end, so until next month, even if we are in our A.R.P. shelter, we will say bungho.

G. H. L.

4th Divisional Signals

No. 2 Company

General.—The atmosphere nowadays does not lend itself to compiling "newsy bits of Signals' doings." No use meeting trouble halfway, however, and with that qualification we claim a share in our journal.

The building of the new Barrack Blocks and Gymnasium goes slowly ahead, but we feel we may not be the first to occupy them.

Many changes are becoming necessary and anxious W.O.s and N.C.O.s wonder just what their new jobs will be and which rank will successfully cover the added responsibility.

Promotions.—Congratulations to W.O. III Honor V. C. on reaching Warrant Rank so early in life. (It is rumoured that "Seven Stars" is the aim in view.)

Departure.—R.S.M. Laing J. has left the Unit and while we much regret his departure, we congratulate him very heartily on his impending promotion.

Arrivals.—Several new officers have joined the Unit and we hope that they will be as happy in it as we are.

Sport.—Cricket is over, football and hockey trials have commenced. Several old "Indian killers" were noticed in the first hockey trial.

Agony.—It has come to our ears that there is a slight possibility of "Blackey" doing an emergency tour abroad, after 19½ years in England.

Auxiliary Service.—Great numbers of the A.T.S. are working in these parts. We are considering giving them a chance to show their abilities at hockey. It is hoped also that we shall be able to entertain many of them at Unit dances and entertainments. There are rumours, too, that they are going to entertain us.

(They might even be persuaded to contribute some "Notes" for the Corps Magazine, suitably illustrated by snap-shots for preference.—Ed.)

H. K.

No. 3 Company

September.

General.—Coinciding with the advent of the cold blasts of winter came the trial match for the Unit hockey team. A really enjoyable game was witnessed by the officer and seven N.C.O.s who ventured forth to give support. It certainly seems that we shall be able to field a better team than was possible last year, although it is still the same few who form the back-bone of the team.

Construction proceeds apace with the new Gym and Barrack Blocks. The recent stretch of good weather has enabled good progress to be made and the roofs will soon be completed. It certainly makes the square look small, but no doubt we shall get used to that.

On 29th August, in the N.A.A.F.I., an impromptu concert was given by members of the Unit, under the auspices of Major Maguire. Considering that it was arranged and fixed at such short notice, a really good show was put up by the performers, and few cases of stage-fright were noticed. Thanks are due Mrs. Macintosh for her kind co-operation.

Promotions and Appointments.—Congratulations are extended to the following on their recent promotion and appointment to the rank shown: T/Lance Sergeant Preston to T/W.O. III, Corporal Lewis to T/Lance Sergeant, U/Lance Corporal Bennett on losing the "U," and to Signalmen Heap, Ward and Scholfield on gaining the dizzy height of U/Lance Corporal (we hope they will soon be discarding the "U" part of it, too).

Education.—Congratulations are due to the following for passing in the subjects named towards their Second Class Certificate of Education: Signalman Beynon: English, Maths. and Map Reading; Signalman Kellard: English, Military History, Geography and Map Reading; Signalman Stamp T.: English, Military History, Geography and Maths.

Departures.—These are fairly numerous this month. We bid *au revoir* to the following: R.S.M. Laing and Sergeant Wilson to Eastern Command Signal Company; Sergeants Walsh and Twigger to the Militia Training Battalion; Sergeant Brown and Corporal Urquhart.

Slim.

5th Divisional Signals

General.—Since our last notes many changes have taken place in the unit as a result of the war. The first change occurred in August, when our new Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel G. C. Winckley, M.C., Royal Signals, was ordered at a few hours' notice to report for embarkation.

With "mobilization" we said *au revoir* to many old friends of long standing and we take this opportunity to wish them all the very best of luck wherever the exigencies of the Service demands their presence.

The Recruits Company should also have gone. Had they done so all would have been well, but, unfortunately, owing to the rush of reservists rejoining the colours, the Depot Battalion had no accommodation to offer them.

Our sorely depleted cadre, therefore, were left with the administration of some 400 recruits in addition to preparing for the move of the unit to pastures new.

Men were wanted, however, and our recruits dug enough trenches to accommodate about 480 men. Good trenches they were, too, some being complete with roof and seats.

On 30th August, Lieutenant-Colonel H. D. Beadon, M.C., Royal Signals, arrived to take over command of the Unit.

On 8th September we moved from barracks and proceeded to make ourselves comfortable "under canvas." Fortunately the camp we were to occupy was being vacated by the Training Battalion, Royal Signals, who left their tents for us to walk into.

Our stay at camp was short and pleasant. The weather was most kind to us, and very little rain fell. We were there exactly a week before we returned. Events move quickly nowadays, however, and there is no telling where we may be in a few days time.

A.R.P.—A practice air raid alarm was given to try out our P.A.D. scheme, and to make things more realistic, tear gas bombs were exploded in various parts of the lines. In spite of the "Gas" warning, which had been given, there were several people with streaming eyes who had failed to get their respirators on in time.

The following observations were heard during the "raid":

"Look-out Man (with three weeks' service): "Hey, send an Orderly; there's a 'casualty' over here!"

Orderly (with less service), arriving at the double: "Where's the tragedy?"

Sergeants' Mess.

The Mess took rather a knock-out blow on Mobilization; we lost two members within a few hours and then the following day we received instructions to post another five seniors. Our old friends, George Gandey, Bob Shurer and Co., were among them. On top of all that all our Infantry (attached) Sergeants received orders to return to their Units. In all, twelve members left the Mess in four days. We hope they are doing well wherever they may be.

On 8th September we handed over about 400 recruits and proceeded to camp. The brewer had very kindly left a marquee for our convenience, and after a hard day's work we retired to the Mess tent to find the bar going strong and the tent full of old-timers—what a reunion! Some of our present Sergeants had the pleasure of renewing acquaintance with their previous squad instructors on the same footing.

To the delight of the W.O.s and Sergeants of Category "E," we arranged an impromptu smoking concert, which, of course, was a success before it started. Colonel Beadon, Captain Good and all our officers came along and the show nearly turned into a "gripping" match. However, there was no lack of other talent and the R.S.M., in the chair, had an easy job keeping the show going.

We left camp on 15th September and are now fairly comfortable, but there are already rumours of another move and where our next Sergeants' Mess will open out none of us at present know.

We welcome to the Div. and the Mess the W.O. and Sergeants posted to us, mostly seniors who were enjoying leave from India when Mobilization was ordered. For the benefit of friends abroad, here are their names: C.S.M. Toogood, Sergeants Coles, Bray, Strachan, Griffin and Godly.

2nd Anti-Aircraft Divisional Signals

September.

Our Headquarters have moved and we are now housed in much more roomy quarters than we were at the main Drill Hall. Having been brought up to full working strength it became absolutely impossible to remain in the totally inadequate accommodation formerly allotted, and the move resulted through the requisition powers that came into operation on Mobilisation.

This Unit's notes have always ended with the hope and forecast of future events. These, however, never seem to materialise as more important matters invariably crop up to occupy our attention. In our last notes we mentioned the very optimistic plans for the social and sporting activities of the Unit. Needless to say, like all other Units, there has been no spare time for such enjoyable activities. Maybe at some future date we may still find time to make a start.

Recruiting.—When general mobilisation came, No. 1 Company was soon recruited to full strength.

Raising of New Company.—Mobilisation coincided with the birth of a new Company, which was authorised with effect from 1st September, 1939. Captain T. C. Loveday has been selected to command it and to date the following officers have been selected to assist him: 2nd Lieutenants E. J. Reeve, E. T. Price and E. N. Clark. As C.S.M., the Company is fortunate in having an experienced P.S.I. in the person of C.S.M. Hinds W. H., promoted and posted to take up that position and to assist in the raising of the Company. Last week the writer was able to accompany the C.O. on his round of visits. We found the troops comfortably housed and tents erected in the garden for sleeping and messing. A complete system of well-dug trenches showed how busy they had been in the few days of the Company's existence. No one (except the C.S.M.) is yet in uniform, but there was plenty of evidence of the keenness of all in this completely new type of work.

The C.O. (Lieutenant-Colonel I. W. Nicholson) in welcoming everyone to the Unit and the Corps in general, informed them that the present No. 2 Company have received nothing but praise from the powers that be for the splendid work already done since their formation, and he expected this would be upheld by all ranks. It was gratifying to see such a fine type of man being attested. A real gem of a cook, too, ex-naval rating—so no complaints of the feeding arrangements expected. Cook himself tremendously keen.

The house includes well-furnished Officers' and Sergeants' Messes and men's club; a generous T.A. Association in that district apparently. It makes for greater efficiency and keenness to have such clubs provided. This has been clearly demonstrated in a Unit which has three different T.A. County Associations with which to work. In later notes I hope to be able to say something about the N.C.O.s selected for the Company.

Promotions.—Again quite a number to report, but this month it is not possible to enumerate them all by name. One cannot pass, however, without recording the name of 2nd Lieutenant J. E. Holgate, promoted from the rank of Sergeant on 26th August. This is the first commission from the ranks of No. 2 Company and the Unit's hearty good wishes to 2nd Lieutenant Holgate on his well-earned promotion.

Now that the Unit has its own independent headquarters it is hoped to form an Officers' Mess, the absence of which has been greatly felt up to now. The Mess Sergeant will be A/Sergeant Emerson A. W., who was enlisted some months ago for this particular job.

With the Unit now doing its full work in the scheme of defence it is pleasing to note that hardly any misfits have been reported. This speaks well for the selections made in the choice of N.C.O.s to fill the many important positions within the Unit.

In Memoriam.—It is with deep regret that we have to report the death of Signalman Underwood F. H., who was accidentally killed on 4th September as the result of a motor cycle accident. A semi-military funeral was held, at which the Despatch Riders supplied the bearer party. Our sincere sympathy is offered to his parents. The late Signalman Underwood enlisted on 30th March last, and was well liked by all who knew him.

News has now reached us that a further loss has occurred in the Unit. Signalman Smith A. P. (a Despatch Rider) is the man concerned, but no details are available, except that he was accidentally killed whilst on an official run.

Regular Readers.—Now that Companies are fully embodied it is hoped that all personnel will become regular readers of the WIRE, and Companies and Sections have been asked to give full publication to the appeal for active Company contribution to the notes as well as for 100 per cent. subscribers. At present the notes are being compiled at Headquarters and it is difficult to make personal contact with our many detached Sections. If all Sections were to forward a few paragraphs for inclusion each month they would be very welcome and certainly given full publicity.

Here and There.—(1) Recently the staff at Headquarters were surprised to see the Orderly Room Sergeant at last dressed in uniform. An extraordinary fit. We believe he had answered a well-known tailor's advertisement on "How to dress well."

(2) Casualties—No. 1 Company. The cook. Required: three cooks (who can cook).

(3) We offer our sympathy to Signalman Wright C., who was admitted to hospital with a broken leg, the result of a motor cycle accident whilst on duty. We all hope he maintains satisfactory progress.

G. G.

3rd Anti-Aircraft Divisional Signals

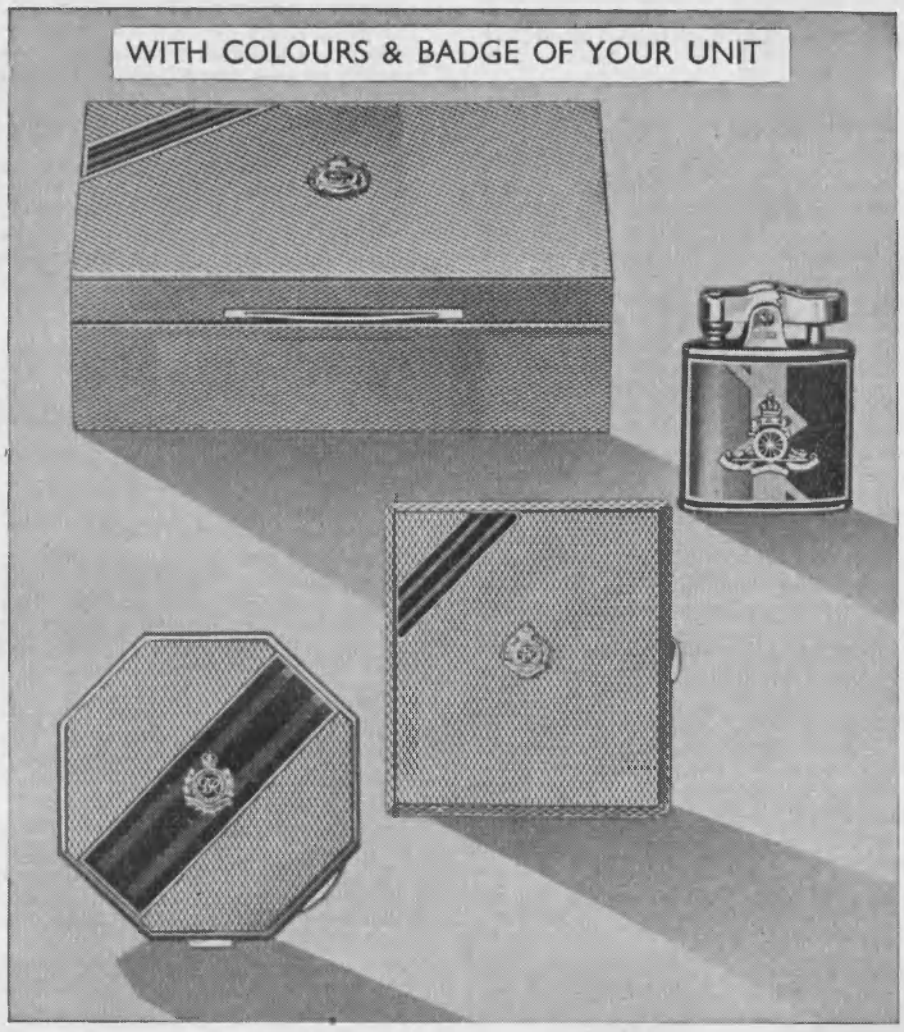
September.

Change of Address.—The outbreak of war on 3rd September gives pride of place to only one other event—the removal of this Headquarters.

Re-organisation.—Another event worthy of mention is the re-organisation of the Unit, resulting in the formation, with No. 1 Company as the nucleus, of the new 7th A.A. Divisional Signals. It is understood that Major T. S. Mensley, T.D., O.C. No. 1 Company, will assume command of the new Unit, and that Captain J. Baines is to be O.C. No. 2 Company. The Adjutant, Captain J. S. Usher, spent a few days with us, and we hope he found his visit both helpful and enjoyable.

Births.—Signalmen Harte T. and Harkis J. G. have both recently added sons to the number on the Unit Cradle Roll (commonly known as Part II Orders). Congratulations!

Promotions and Appointments.—We welcome the undermentioned N.C.O.s to their respective new ranks: Sergeant Chapman A., Lance Sergeant Beer J., Corporals Jacques T., Farrell B., Hall T., Stevenson J. H., Connon T., Passmore J., and Finlay A., Lance Corporals Smith E., Wright W., Thomas H. W., Wilson R. P., Toal G., Farrell C. and Duncan T.



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Promotions—Acting Ranks.—We also congratulate the following N.C.O.s on their promotions to acting rank: A/C.S.M. Broadhead H., A/Corporals Howieson W. B., Muir G. R., Anderson R., Chalmers W. P., McKenzie A., Miller R. M., Richardson J. R. and Cameron D., A/Lance Corporals Gemmell R. L., Baillie J., McKenzie J. M., Robertson J. M., Weir J. C., Pollock W. W. and McLeod J.

Ack-Ack.

No. 1 Company

September.

General.—It will be noticed from our heading that we have made a numerical advance since our last notes. This change has meant the temporary loss of two of our officers—Captain P. J. Robson and 2nd Lieutenant W. J. G. Barnett—to whom we wish the best of luck in their new appointments. We shall also feel the loss of " Eagle Eye " Smith, our very worthy P.S.I., who becomes C.S.M. of the —— Company. May we wish him every success.

Well, this war, which seems to be rather topical, was received with the greatest decorum by our Company. The Line Maintenance Section stopped their afternoon tea (China); the Brigade Signal Offices stopped whistling " South of the Border " (advt.); the G.O.R. Section laid aside their " True Romances " (doubtful), and the Divisional Signal Office indented for a pail of sand (water ditto). In order to show the public how well organised and undisturbed we were, one of our officers has even decided to get married. Therefore may we extend to 2nd Lieutenant Park our congratulations and very best wishes for his future happiness.

Since mobilisation, despite our many duties, we have found time for periodical route marches and other exercises, including a very jolly game our P.A.D. devised. It is called " Filling the Sandbag," and can be played by an enormous number of people. This has nothing to do with the supply of uniform for our outsize personnel which has now come to hand.

We have had a further extension to our quarters by the addition of a house for our Line Maintenance Section, complete with Vinery and Night Picquet, who find the black-out is no mean disadvantage.

Things We Would Like to Know.—What is the present address of our Unit Headquarters?

Where is the Line Maintenance car? (Reward.)

Where should the tin hat be worn? (*Vide* Company Orders.)

Reekie.

1st Air Formation Signals

No. 2 Company

This Company was in process of being formed when war was declared. The Officer Commanding, Major J. J. Graham, took up duty on 30th August, with a Headquarters Establishment of three Sergeants, *viz.*, Sergeants Brown, Parry and Carlton. Sergeants Brown and Parry were posted from other Units, and Sergeant Carlton is from the Royal Tank Corps.

Recruiting proceeded rapidly, so that on Sunday, 3rd September, on the declaration of war, 60 men had enlisted, which figure had reached the 100 mark by the following week-end.

On the day of mobilisation, 1st September, the following officers were posted to the Unit: Captain J. R. Sutcliffe, Lieutenants H. J. H. Webb and J. F. V. White, 2nd Lieutenants K. J. Aspinall and S. Brock.

On 11th September, No. 3 Company, Line of Communication Signals departed to an undisclosed destination, and the reduction of the commissioned personnel of this Unit to war establishment made a number of the officers redundant; of these, Lieutenants J. Reid and K. L. Sanders were transferred to No. 2 Company, 1st Air Formation Signals.

The temporary headquarters of the Unit are in a house previously used as a nursing home and two 36-gallon barrels of beer now recline on a stone slab in the cellar popularly supposed to have been the mortuary slab.

Under the able direction of Lieutenant White, the house and garden have been transformed to meet the requirements of P.A.D., the former back lawn now being intersected by a five-foot trench in square wave pattern. Very fortunately the sub-soil was good quality brown sand, which provided excellent filling for the wall protection bags.

The necessity for providing more N.C.O.s became apparent as the bulk of the three Sergeants' time was taken up with recruiting and its attendant documentation. The following U/Lance Corporals were created from the array of recruits: Lance Corporals Allen, Allinson, Elliott, Gleeson, Hammond, Leese, Littler and Smith.

Lance Corporals Elliott and Littler were solicitors in civil life, so they were put on Administrative Duties and Lance Corporal Leese, who was an accountant, was made Pay Duties N.C.O. All these had a very difficult task, as our supply of manuals, regulations, forms and stationery had gone astray and it was

A Businesslike Lot. No. 2 Company, Air Formation Signals.

a question of working on verbal information supplied by neighbouring Units, who were most helpful.

Lance Corporal Allen proved to be the champion " scrounger " of the Unit and succeeded in obtaining the first uniform and also a petrol supply.

By a " beg, borrow and steal " process we gradually accumulated more kit and equipment, so that at the time of writing half the men have uniform.

The training has been based on 50 per cent. drill and 50 per cent. technical training, and a remarkably keen spirit has been shown by every officer and man in the Unit.

Lieutenant Webb, who, as P.R.I., uses higher mathematics to calculate the day-to-day retail prices of beer per glass according to the remaining contents in each barrel, is thinking of setting up as a publican and sinner *apres la guerre*.

GRADELY LAD.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles School Wireless Section

General.—Once again we offer our apologies for the absence of notes from this Section in the last issue of the WIRE. The usual scribe was enjoying a few days well earned (?) leave and those of the Section left behind were fully employed.

It was surprising to see such a number of Corps ties worn by Post Office officials all over the country. Wandering into post offices as far apart as Jersey, Abingdon, Uxbridge and Bournemouth one saw them and a few words with the wearers soon unearthed mutual acquaintances, sometimes resulting in black looks from waiting customers ! One presumes that most of these " ex-Corpites " are again with Regular Units and that their interest in sixpenny postal orders is, for the time being, suspended.

This month's WIRE sported the faces of many old hands, among whom one recognises the oozy ex-half-back of the 4th Divisional Signals. Militia man, eh, " Snowie " !

The arrangements for handling an increased number of students are working satisfactorily and the indications are that we shall be able to handle all who come to us.

Arrivals and Departures.—W.O. III Murphy, whose promotion to that rank was not reported in our last issue of notes, left us a short time ago. Sergeant Coy took his discharge to pension and re-enlisted in the Territorial Army as P.S.I. We wish him every success in his new job—and hope the cough doesn't trouble him too much !

T/Sergeant Thornton has arrived to join the Section and we hope his stay will be long and pleasant. Just one point : we don't know whether the messing is quite to his liking, but rumour has it that he will be feeding out soon.

Marriage.—Despite many warnings from the wedded members of the Staff, Sergeant Wilbraham qualified for the blood-stained ration bag, bike and accumulator on 29th July.

Agony.—Ross. " Still waiting. W."
Nunn. " What price rissoles in lieu ? W."

WEEPIN' WILLO.

11th Anti-Aircraft Signal Training Battalion

It is very much regretted that important developments during the last fortnight have caused our scribe to overlook his monthly contribution, but we crave the indulgence of the Editor—even if he relegates us to the Stop Press column.

[Your co-operation is greatly appreciated, " Spasigs," and we trust there will be no break in the continuity of your monthly articles.—ED.]

We are no longer a Militia Unit, but the lads are the same, with their keenness and enthusiasm undiminished.

The outbreak of war did not find us without experience, for on the night of 25th August we received an urgent call for over two hundred men to perform internal security duties in a certain area. During the night, the camp was a hive of industry, for certain deficiencies had to be made up and ammunition issued. A convoy of coaches and lorries set off at the normal reveille hour for the scene of our duties. Despite the fact that they had been up since soon after midnight, the youngsters were quite happy and cheerful, and set off singing lustily.

We have heard several complimentary remarks from people in a position to judge on the bearing and general efficiency of the Militiamen. I refer to such persons as the W.D. Constabulary, with whom we co-operated. It must be remembered that at the time they had not had more than five weeks' training.

Their general bearing and turnout compared very favourably with those of the trained men who relieved them.

During their absence, the " state of emergency " cost us a week's training, for trenches for P.A.D. had to be dug, and as there was at first insufficient timber available to shore up the sides, a lot of labour was unavoidably wasted, owing to continual subsidences of the clay soil.

Other preparations included the cutching of tents to make them less conspicuous and more light-tight. Several photographs have been taken of these operations, but it is regretted that they are not yet developed. One or two humorous incidents have already occurred in this connection, notably when the protective " size " was applied in some cases before the cutching. Probably the most astounded man was the cook, who had forgotten that one of the coppers had been taken over for boiling the cutch, and later came back to see how his rabbits were stewing ! But the shock to the cutching party must have been almost as bad.

Black-out problems are as severe here as elsewhere, as was found by one of our Sergeants, who, having taken a taxi and

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said " Militia Camp," paid off the driver and tipped him generously, found that he was at another camp, two miles away, with a dark, unknown road between him and his bed !

During the " state of emergency," before the wearing of uniform became obligatory, we had to carry our respirators when out of camp. The following gem of conversation between two sweet young things was overheard : " What are those things slung on those men's backs ? " " They're gas masks, stupid." " Oh ! I've never seen so many Air Raid Wardens about ! "

Although we were not affected by the air raid warning during the Premier's speech, we had a more unpleasant one in the early hours of the following morning, but it was again a false alarm.

A last scurry around in search of further news having proved fruitless, we shall have to finish, or we shall be too late for even next month.

(Photographs would be very welcome.—ED.)

SPASIGS.

42nd (East Lancs.) Divisional Signals

The happiest event in the recent history of this Unit was the wedding of our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel E. R. Sutton, who was married to Miss Doris Jones at St. Joseph's Church, Sale, on 19th July. The ceremony was attended by many members of the Unit and the officers formed a guard of honour for their Colonel and his charming bride. At the subsequent reception, refreshment was liberally dispensed, and Colonel and Mrs. Sutton were given an enthusiastic send-off. The unit heartily wishes them every happiness. Mrs. Sutton is the cousin of Captain R. J. Presland, Royal Signals (T.A.).

Since we last contributed to the pages of THE WIRE many changes have taken place, including the departure of ——— Divisional Signals (T.A.), under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Woodham with Major Stafford as his second-in-command.

At the moment we are " somewhere in Britain " and the Unit is, of course, full of the usual contradictory rumours as to our future. We can say, however, that we are settling down nicely and the general feeling is that Hitler should be pretty careful what he does. As a relaxation from hard work, we held a Unit concert in the Canteen, which drew considerable talent and supplied good singing and witty jests, most of which would have been censored by the B.B.C. The concert was organised by Lieutenant O. Oldham, an old member of the Unit, who has rejoined us.

As I write, we hear of two promotions, Lieutenants Peter Yates and Desmond (" Dismal ") Allen to be Acting Captains. A full representative crowd in the Officers' Mess is anticipated for the time-honoured custom of " Pushing the boat out."

48th (South Midland) Divisional Signals

Whilst the call to arms is one which every Territorial as a soldier has answered cheerfully and as a matter of course, it might be more pleasant at this point to avoid enlarging upon the turmoil of this perplexing period, and to choose rather a lighter subject.

A welcome feature has been the re-appearance of many familiar faces of those who had left us during the past few years, and now came back eager to join the Colours at any cost.

As notes from this Unit have been absent from the last two or three issues of WIRE this seems to be a favourable opportunity for recapturing a few more happy memories by reference to camp.

The unexpected but timely turn in the weather gave us one of the most pleasurable fortnight's training within memory. The camp site was ideally situated on a hillside backed by a wood and presented a fine view of the sea from the lines. Bathing was also within easy reach, and of this the troops were able to avail themselves freely. The heathland in the locality provided excellent training grounds and apart from one twenty-four hours' scheme, most of the Exercises were carried out in this area.

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The Wedding of Lieut.-Col. E. R. Sutton and Miss Doris Jones at St. Joseph's Church, Sale, on July 19th.
Lieut.-Col. Sutton is C.O., 42nd (E.L.) Divisional Signals.

Work-tickets by Corporal Smith.

Divisional Headquarters.

2nd-Lieutenant Timings, Corporal Smith, Signalman Allen (looking puzzled) judging a beauty contest.

During the first week " G " Section were away with their Gunner Regiment, whilst " E " and " F " Sections left us for a similar experience during the second week.

During the fortnight the Unit was visited in turn by the Hon. Colonel, Brigadier-General R. C. A. Mc'Calmont, C.V.O., D.S.O., the Divisional Commander, Major-General F. C. Roberts, V.C., D.S.O., O.B.E., M.C., and by the D.C.S.O., Southern Command, Colonel M. E. Holdsworth, T.D. We have been very glad to note that the latter has lately been appointed Hon. Colonel to the 61st (N.M.) Divisional Signals, which experienced their first camp in our company.

Owing to a temporary shortage of Technical Stores, training was confined to P.T. and foot drill, training, however, which after all is a most essential preliminary.

We were extremely pleased to have with us again our popular Chaplain, Captain Barton.

Sergeants' Mess.—As there were ample facilities for recreation there was no call to organise the social side of the Mess. Except for the arrival of several new P.S.I.s the personnel of the Mess was much the same as last year, as those who had transferred to the 61st were still messing with us. A number of vacancies, however, have been created by the recent changes, and we shall have the pleasure of welcoming many new-comers in the near future.

Despatch Riders.—As usual the D.R.s allowed no grass to grow under their wheels. On the Bank Holiday Monday the Display Team performed twice at a place some 70 miles from camp, after a somewhat perilously hurried journey over the winding roads in order to arrive in time. On the Sunday, and in the presence of the Hon. Colonel, they improvised a short performance in camp after Church parade. On the Wednesday of the second week the Team gave a voluntary show in aid of the local Lifeboat Day Regatta. This occasion provided them with the unique experience of performing on the sands, before a huge crowd of holiday-makers, who gave them a grand reception. The show, I think it is safe to claim, did a great deal to enhance the name of the Unit in this part of the world. One wonders where the next display will be given. On the latter two occasions the team was without one of its principal mainstays in Signalman Darrall, who had met with a serious road accident as a result of which he is still in hospital, but is well on the way to recovery. Signalman Field, who deputised for him without rehearsal, did splendidly in carrying out the difficult gymnastic manœuvres originated by Darrall, whilst Lance Corporal Hadnett did well with a borrowed side-car outfit.

The Despatch Riders' Club had the good fortune to establish contact with a neighbouring motor cycle club, the members of which very kindly organised two enjoyable social runs. The nocturnal *finale* to one of them will live in our memories for a long time to come.

In conclusion, may we quote the words of the old song: " When this blinking war is over, oh, how happy we shall be! " But three years is a long time. In the meantime, we will endeavour to keep the old WIRE going.

GETCHER.

49th (West Riding) Divisional Signals

Annual Camp.—Our annual training was a pleasant though strenuous period which carried through to the end uninterrupted by the war, which already was close upon us, and we returned to civil life expecting to resume our part-time soldiering when Winter Classes would claim our attention. We had fulfilled our obligations to the Army and our thoughts were directed to our various trades and professions. Not for long were we left to go our own ways, the call came and once again we had to report for duty, this time on a more serious venture than most of us had ever tackled before.

Embodiment.—The transition from civil life to Army life was accomplished within a short time, and the ease and simplicity of the whole proceedings speaks volumes for the organisation which had been quietly prepared some time ago in readiness for such a contingency. Every detail had been worked out beforehand and each man slipped into his appointed place within a few minutes of his arrival at Headquarters.

So here we are, ready to put into practice all those things we have in the past been doing as a hobby. We are kept so busy that already civil life seems a thing of the distant past, and we have all got one ambition, to be as good a soldier as a member of the Regular Forces. Some of us are new to Army life and Army ways, but the right spirit is there and we are fully determined to master this Army job. We believe that what was accomplished by our predecessors in 1914-1918 can be repeated and whether we are on the job for three months or three years, we are here until the work in hand is finished.

Our Colonel, Lieutenant-Colonel W. F. Jackson, M.C., T.D., addressed the Unit when war was officially declared, and, amongst other things, said that if he was going to war he would rather have British troops behind him in preference to any in the world, and that is good enough for us. We do not expect a picnic and we know that things will not always go just right, but we are on the job and we intend to stay put.

Wedding Bells.—They seemed to have chimed unceasingly since the Unit embodied. Lieutenant F. E. Saunders and 2nd Lieutenant E. A. Sams started ringing the changes, followed by various members of the Unit, and finishing, *pro tem*, with Sergeant Cummings C. When the excitement has died down perhaps we shall be able to concentrate more on the war.

AQUA.

51st (Highland) Divisional Signals

No. 1 Company

September.

Since our last notes appeared times have sadly changed. Our plans for a successful winter training period, complete with its attendant social functions, etc., have gone up in smoke.

The barracks is now the scene of much martial activity by night and day. The men have been undergoing intensive "physical jerks," route marches, etc., to make them fit to stand any strain.

In common with all other districts, this place is now a yawning pit of blackness after dark, and many bad words are said by members of the Unit who grope their way down from the barracks at night.

Our officers have been brightened by the presence of several members of the clerical department of the 13th Company, A.T.S., who have done sterling work dealing with the greatly increased quantity of correspondence during the past two or three weeks.

A number of officers and N.C.O.s have departed on various Courses and we feel sure that they will equip themselves nobly at their respective Schools.

Training in all directions is proceeding apace and we should very soon be able to deal with any contingency.

ONECOY.

No. 2 Company

Since last month's notes appeared we have shared the experience of all units of the Territorial Army of becoming professional soldiers. The Company has been embodied now for ten days and we have all settled down to the routine of preliminary training.

Re-Constitution.—We now house No. 2 Company, 51st (H.) Divisional Signals, T.A., No. 2 Company of the re-formed 9th (H.) Divisional Signals, T.A., and also the Headquarters of the 9th (H.) Divisional Signals, T.A. The available personnel of all ranks has been posted to each of the Companies, and training is conducted under separate Company arrangements. Major James Cochran commands No. 2 Company of the 9th and Captain W. R. Muirhead No. 2 Company of the 51st. The re-adjustments mean the passing of the old order, and all members of the two Companies will regret the parting from old friends which must soon take place. They are confident, however, that both Companies will give a good account of themselves wherever their future duties may be.

Adjutant.—All ranks concur in offering congratulations to Captain James Gray on his appointment as Adjutant of the 9th (Highland) Divisional Signals, T.A.

Wedding Bells.—Since embodiment wedding bells have pealed for the following members of the Company: 2nd Lieutenant J. W. Barty, Corporal McFarlan D. and Signalman Denham T. All ranks wish them every success and happiness.

"Twoco" regretfully resigns his commission as WIRE correspondent of the Headquarters and No. 2 Company of the 9th (Highland) Divisional Signals, T.A., but anticipates reading the notes with pleasure of "Twoco" of the 9th in next month's edition of the WIRE.

Twoco.

52nd (Lowland) Divisional Signals

September.

Everybody to-day seems to be in an unaccustomed job and the present scribe is no exception. The previous writer of these notes is now engaged on rather more important work and the change-over in the Lowland Signals to The WIRE has left the job of "Unit Reporter" in the hands of one who is fully aware of his own inexperience, and pleads for leniency if older members of the Unit discover errors and omissions in this communication. Also, apologies to the Editor of The WIRE regarding the "T.H.I." at the head of these notes!

Camp.—This year's camp was a very successful one. How far away those happy days appear to be now! The weather, on the whole, was good, and none of our snaps show those delightful pictures of men in khaki up to the waist in mud, digging for dear life, which were sent to illustrated papers from T.A. and Militia camps in the South of England! In the hills to the south a twenty-four hours' scheme was held and all sections profited from the experience, especially certain motor transport drivers, who now know what their trucks can, and cannot, do in the way of mountain climbing.

The townspeople were very kind to us and the facilities granted for the use of the Bathing Pool were greatly appreciated.

The Unit went into camp as one group, but during camp was separated into Original and Duplicate Units, and therefore came back as two separate Divisional Signals.

The Duplicate Unit, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel V. D. Warren, has since been designated the 15th (Scottish) Divisional Signals, and is, we understand, thriving rapidly. All ranks of the 52nd (Lowland) Divisional Signals wish the new Unit every success.

Congratulations.—Having dealt with the birth of a new Unit we follow the rule of the newspaper world and turn to the Marriages. We have to report the "loss" of three good men and true! Our very best wishes to Captain R. Graham (now with the 15th (Scottish) Divisional Signals), Mr. A. E. Farnol and Mr. C. K. MacLennan, the two former having decided that Saturday, 19th August, was a specially lucky day.

Post-Camp Period.—A lot of useful spade work (in some cases in all too literal a sense) was put in by certain personnel during the month of August, and their efforts were more than justified when mobilisation commenced.

Obituary.—We deeply regret to announce the death of Signalman Clark J., whilst on duty as a Despatch Rider. Clark had proved himself a most efficient D.R. and was universally popular with all those who came into contact with him. The staff of the Infantry Brigade Headquarters to which he was attached paid the highest tributes to his keenness and his anxiety to do his job really well. Our sympathy is extended to his parents and family in their great loss.

Conclusion.—The task of the Unit scribe in compiling WIRE notes in these days must, of necessity, be a difficult one. The trouble in former days was the lack of news; nowadays the reporter's diet is so rich in detail that he may be rendered inarticulate by indigestion! We hope, however, to continue our notes from month to month, although there may be occasions when our news is almost telegraphic in its brevity.

SANITAS.

STATIONS ABROAD

1st Indian Divisional Signals

September.

General.—Early last month we welcomed a draft from U.K. We also have B.O.R.s of "A" Corps and another District Signals with us for the remainder of the hill season, to avoid the hot spell in their respective stations. All are very busy at present improving their knowledge of their respective trades; also learning the peculiarities of the country. We wish them all the best whilst they enjoy their life in India.

Training and Upgrading Courses are still in full swing and by the time these notes are in print we shall, we hope, be looking forward to our departure to our annual camp, and all it holds for us.

Elizabeth Mary is the name of a brand new daughter arrived for C.Q.M.S. (F-of-S) Sutcliffe. Congratulations, Foreman. Congratulations also to S.S.M. Ellison (Don) and C.Q.M.S. Sunderland on reaching their respective ranks. (I'll give you one when I get my M.A.)

Sergeant Holden, Corporal Kippen, Signalmen Digweed, Bateman and Begbie have left us temporarily.

The ladies of the Station have been active recently; apart from showing us how they can play hockey, we have had two very successful dances. Even Bill Reynolds can now do the Valeta, and he was last seen practising the "Boomps-a-daisy" with an isobar.

"E" Section, under the command of Lieutenant M. H. N. Travers, assisted by Sergeant Redworth, have left us to join their Regiment. We hope to hear of you in action, "E," for inclusion in our notes.

"K" Section have been very busy of late. Their Section Sergeant is at present enjoying the air elsewhere, and has promised a *precis* of happenings in due course. Do you stuff, Dicky.

Sergeants' Mess.—Not much tennis these days, owing to rain. The weekly socials are still as popular as ever. We are hoping to meet the Corporals at tennis when the weather permits. The main interest in the Mess was the wireless set, until one expert connected up the H.T. Six valves are now required, and we now get all information from the Corporals' set.

Orderly Officer (entering dining room): "Any complaints?"
Signalman: "Yes, sir. I can't taste any fish in these cutlets."
O.O. (to Cook Corporal): "What about it?"
C.C. (to O.O.): "They are pork, sir."
(Sharp's Piggery have since been requested to feed their pigs with fish.)

S.O.S.—To Ginger and Spider (E.S. 6). "How much are stamps? Top."

And so for the present we get on with upgrading.

Cheerio.

H.S.

SPORTS NOTES.

Rugby.—Practically nothing can be said on this subject for this month, as the monsoon descended upon us with a vengeance, making the playing pitches unfit for any sport. We did manage to arrange a few games of rugger with our neighbours, the Devons, and although we went "down" to them on every occasion, the games were thoroughly enjoyed.

Soccer.—"Shady's" ears are still burning. Following our soccer success in the Buffalo Tournament, we played a challenge match against the Devons, and came out on top by 4—1. Our

Headstone at Srinagar, Kashmir, India, to the memory of the late Lieutenant-Colonel P. A. Hitchcock, O.B.E., M.C., Royal Signals.

team played more brilliantly than ever, although the last three goals came in about four minutes. The spectators were thoroughly enjoying themselves. " Pat," our captain, says that he fully believes that our team could make a good game with " Pompey "—sort of " Best Amateurs " *versus* " Best Professionals." Brrr !

We have just played our first game in a Tournament, against the 3rd Carabiniers, and won after a hard-fought game by 3—1.

Next month I will describe in detail how we won the Tournament, though we've still a few more rounds to play. " Heaven help you if we don't win, Dingy ! "

Hockey.—The most notable event in hockey was a game between No. 1 Company and No. 2 Company. This was an excellent match, in which No. 1 Company gave a spirited display of first-class hockey, which left No. 2 Company rather dazed ! The game, by the way, ended in a draw, 1—1. We regularly turn out a team of " Locals " against the Ladies Hockey Club. It's like " leading lambs to the slaughter." These ladies don't " come any better."

4th Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop

August.

General.—A Horse Show was held here on 26th, 27th and 28th July, and the Station enjoyed a much appreciated three days' holiday, spent in watching the various events of the show and languishing in glorious sunshine.

The Troop was represented in practically all military events and carried off several prizes.

Captain J. N. Barker, our Commanding Officer, was responsible for all Show Jumping Courses and the provision of jumps. Separate courses were introduced for each class. For the officers and B.O.R.s' Jumping, a course of eight fences, which included, as the last fence, the well-known Continental Rails.

The lay-out of the course and the jumps provided, broke away from the styles of previous shows and horses had to be well-ridden to get round and be among the prizewinners.

The I.O.R.s' Individual and Team Jumping Courses were difficult, but much easier than the Officers and B.O.R.s' Class, there being in all, six fences in the course. The jumping of the I.O.R.s was of a very high standard indeed and the winners of both these events (P.A.V.O. Cavalry) were really good.

In the Handy Horse Competition, two I.O.R.s of the Troop were left in the final pool, Naik Mohd Lal Khan being placed second and Naik Mohd Sadiq (8255) putting up the fastest time for the course.

The Troop Pack Horse Team (Indian) took first prize out of twenty teams, which, from the high standard of judging, reflects greatly on the standard of training and turn-out of both riders and horses in the Troop.

The following are the results gained by the Troop :

Best Trained Troop Horse.
Horse No. 51—Sergeant Dilworth : 2nd prize.
Horse No. 42—Sergeant Dilworth : 3rd prize.
Remounts.
Horse No. 18—Naik Mohd Lal Khan : 3rd prize.
Pack Horse Team (Indian).
Horses Nos. 70 and 50—Signalman Fazal Hussain : 1st prize.
B.O.R.s' Jumping.
Horse No. 51—Sergeant Dilworth : 3rd prize (after a run off for second place).
Handy Horse.
Horse No. 20—Naik Mohd Lal Khan : 2nd prize.
Officers' Chargers (Open).
Captain J. N. Barker, Royal Signals : Highly commended.
Polo Ponies, Likely to Make.
Captain J. N. Barker, Royal Signals : 3rd prize.

We would like to congratulate all competitors from the Troop on the excellent performances put up at the Horse Show this year.

Congratulations.—To Lance Corporal Rawcliffe on pulling his second one.

Malta Signal Section

September.

General.—" Skip " is too busy to write his monthly effusion and as the old flag must be kept flying, someone, equally busy, must " Jump."

The Company is augmented by various grades of local personnel, to all of whom we offer our hand of welcome. May their stay with us be not too long. They are all doing very necessary work and special tribute must be paid to Luigi's gang.

We extend to the whole Corps a fervent hope that, in whatever capacity and in whatever country they may be destined to serve, the best of good wishes in all their undertakings and a speedy and victorious return.

Our congratulations are due to U/Lance Corporals Burgess and Smith A. W. on the first step up the ladder.

It is with great regret that we have to record the resignation of the Fortress Exchange Supervisor, Mr. P. C. Smith. He has been in poor health for some time past and the increased work and strain brought on by the crisis has lead to his being unable to continue his duties.

He has served with the Unit as a civilian for nineteen years and has given excellent service. His departure will leave all of us with a sense of loss and we wish him a speedy recovery and many more years of happiness.

" Jump."

Shanghai Signal Section

August.

General.—By the time these notes are in print certain members of the Section will be preparing their speeches, to be delivered in canteens at home. Gruesome tales of how they " held 'em back in '37 " and grim stories of the " horrors of war," etc. To those due for Shanghai, all we say is, " Make no promises to the lassies you leave behind." You'll break them !

It is with a feeling of pleasure that we record the fact that the summer has not been so hot as last year. On the other hand there has been a much heavier rainfall and some of us have decided that we might just as well have joined the Marines, for we live more on water than land these days. Our condolences go to our brothers in Tientsin, who seem to have caught it worse than we have.

Promotions and Appointments.—Congratulations to the following, who have recently attained the ranks shown : T/Corporal Cleveley N. C., T/Lance Corporal Dannan S. J., and U/Lance Corporal Ray S.

Upgrading.—After polishing up their operating for a couple of months two of our operators have come out on top of a Trade Testing Board and we congratulate Signalman Robb on obtaining a " B. II " and Signalman Potton on obtaining a " B. III."

Marriages.—None in the Section, but we extend our congratulations to Corporal and Mrs. Copsey, of Hong Kong Signal Company, on taking that big step. Corporal Copsey is well known in this Section and his wife is a Shanghai girl. So here's wishing them all the best !

Sport.—Area Details water polo team (in which the Section was represented by Signalman Evans) won the Inter-Company Knock-out Competition by beating " B " Company, 2nd East Surrey Regiment, by 3—2. Details were two goals down at half-time, but two beautiful shots by Signalman Evans evened matters before two minutes of the second half had gone. It was regrettable he could not manage the third, but after all he did his bit and we congratulate him on the effort.

Corporal Cleveley and Lance Corporal Pemberton are still in the Area Tennis Tournament, and we wish them the best of luck. They have, however, been rather fortunate and obtained a couple of walkovers. But Corporal Cleveley's effort against Lance Corporal Christopher, R.A.S.C., is worthy of note. He emerged the victor by 6—4, 3—6, 6—4, after a gruelling two-hours' battle.

Our cricket enthusiasts are showing up pretty well and we are pleased to record the fact that Area Details passed through the second round of the Union Jack Club Cup by beating " B " Company, 2nd East Surrey Regiment, by six wickets.

The scores were as follows :

" B " Company 2/E.S. 99 (Signalman Dixon, 6 for 33).

Area Details 109 for 4 wickets (L/Cpl. Ray 33).

Press Cutting.—Recently a party of N.C.O.s from Battalions in Shanghai was despatched home *via* Canada, for the purpose of training the newly-formed Militia. The following copy of an article contained in the *North China Daily News* on 23rd August, 1939, tells its own story. We saw a funny side to it.

" BRITISH ' MERCENARIES.' "

" The *Japan Times* semi-official organ of the Japanese Government, is known for its original political views, but these are surpassed only by its highly original news stories. Here is an item culled from a recent issue :

" ' A party of 68 British soldiers, on their way home from Shanghai to Canada, arrived at Kobe recently aboard a British ship. They had been hired in Canada to reinforce the British garrison in Shanghai, where, if need be, they were to fight the Japanese troops. They were evidently disappointed with the way things had developed, unfavourable to Britain, so that their services were no longer required.

" ' We had come, expecting to fight the Japanese troops," they were quoted as stating, meanwhile glaring at the sight of Kobe, where they were refused permission to land because they had no passports.

" ' Whether they were regular soldiers or " mercenaries," as the Kobe dispatch described them, we do not know ; whether they were quoted correctly or not, we also do not know If, however, the Kobe report is true, we doubt the wisdom of the British authorities in calling on only a handful of hirelings to reinforce the British garrison in Shanghai, where they could be of no practical value.' "

This report will probably come as a shock to Major-General F. S. Simmons, the British G.O.C. in Shanghai, and as more of a shock to the British War Office, who find that somebody has been recruiting soldiers outside the broad schemes of Mr. Leslie Hore Belisha and the Military Training Act. Garrison circles in Shanghai, naturally, have no knowledge of the party, which probably comprises a number of " soldiers of fortune," who have tried to enlist in the Chinese Army and are being sent home. But, after all, what does truth matter in Japanese news reports ?

Your humble scribe will endeavour to forward more interesting items of this type with future notes.

SUNSHINE.

Advertisements!

THOSE FIRMS WHO ADVERTISE IN THESE PAGES SUPPORT OUR MAGAZINE.

WILL OUR READERS PLEASE SUPPORT THEM IN RETURN ?

★

By Road through Central Europe and the Balkans

(*Continued from page* 450)

we set off on a long tour of the Sudeten districts. This is no place to enter into politics, but we returned to Prague in due course with a comprehensive set of pictures showing all sides of the vexed question of the Sudeten Germans. Our route then lay through Moravia, Slovakia and Ruthenia to the extreme eastern end of Czechoslovakia. We paused *en route* to do some climbing in the High Tatra Mountains, getting lost in the clouds and having to stay for a night in a mountain hut. We also inspected the beautiful factory garden city of Zlin, where Bata shoes are made The roads in Czechoslovakia we found to be uniformly good and we began to laugh at the warnings we had received about taking a small car to such outlandish places as we had planned.

However, we soon changed our tune when we entered Rumania. We happened to strike about the worst roads in the country first of all, and from then on, all through Bukovina and into Bessarabia and down to Bukarest it was a long trail of broken springs, slow and tedious progress and a certain amount of anxiety as to what lay ahead of us. But we did not let these things weigh too heavily upon us ; we passed through the most beautiful country with magnificent mountains, quaint villages, gorgeously frescoed churches, gaily costumed peasants. Wherever we stopped we became the centre of a crowd of curious peasants ; foreign cars are rarely seen in those parts, English cars never, we think, by the astonishment which was always registered when we said we came from London. Invariably we found the peasants to be most friendly, asking us into their homes to eat and to sleep just as a matter of course. We were always offered beds in their homes ; they would all sleep on the floor. We had to be most tactful in refusing and explaining that we were camping.

This also brought us into trouble with the police. Apparently camping just isn't done in those parts of the world, and several times we were arrested, once in the middle of the night. Usually it meant being marched off to the police station, always covered by the muzzles of rifles, revolvers and sometimes even bayonets. We got quite used to it but the wearying waste of time trying to explain to ignorant police who read passports upside down, and couldn't understand you anyway, rather got us down at times. But, as we would remark to each other during these " grillings," it would make a good story when we got home. We came to the conclusion that the Balkans are becoming civilised now because they no longer shoot first before they ask questions.

One thing we did intend doing was to reach the Black Sea in our car and this we accomplished with little trouble, the roads being better in the south. We camped for several days on the Black Sea shore, sleeping without the tent, under the stars, within fifty yards of the breakers. We felt we had deserved a bit of a holiday by that time.

Needless to say, all this provided us with extraordinarily good material for photographs. Rumania is a most beautiful country, widely different in its various parts, varying from the most primitive in the north to the extremely modern city of Bukarest. It is an immensely rich country, too, with its oil and minerals and rich fertile plains. I shall always be glad of the chance to return there.

Our route back lay along the International Highway from Bukarest to Budapest and eventually on to Ostend and London. This is a road that no one need fear, with any kind of car. It is beautifully paved, with no desperate gradients and it passes through endless miles of lovely country, especially in Rumania. On reaching Hungary I began to realise why so many famous pictorialists are Hungarians. Budapest and many parts of the country are simply made for photography. Everything seems to lend itself to the making of lovely pictures. I began to regret that I had left so little time for Hungary ; certainly I shall return there and spend a much longer time among its delightful people.

And now that I am back in London, and enlarging my pictures, I realise more than ever what an extraordinary film is this new H.P.2. Some of the snapshots I took indoors, in churches and peasants' homes, that I never really expected to be printable, are yielding quite good pictures that will reproduce well in the Press.

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* 1938

THE WIRE

THE CORPS MAGAZINE OF THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

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VOL. XX.—No. 237 NOVEMBER, 1939 PRICE—SIXPENCE

Editorial Notes

The Corps Magazine.—It is observed that a rumour is already current in one of our North Country Units to the effect that THE WIRE is to be discontinued until the end of the war. Like the majority of rumours, this one also is without foundation and, as already stated in our October publication, we have every intention of keeping the Corps Magazine in circulation as long as it is possible to do so.

In thanking our Unit correspondents for their loyal support and continued co-operation, despite the many calls which are being made upon their leisure time, we would take an early opportunity of enumerating the several official restrictions which have been imposed during the period of hostilities.

Since the publication of our October issue additional modifications have been ordered and the whole are quoted hereunder for the help and guidance of all concerned :

(*a*) In expressing the hope that as many Regimental Journals as possible will carry on, War Office have placed the responsibility of censorship on each individual Editor.

(*b*) Photographs of individuals and/or groups are admissible provided the background is either of a neutral nature or is blacked-out whenever necessary. (This will be done at the Editorial Office and in such a manner as will not impair the photograph for subsequent use, if required).

(*c*) That whereas it is NOT permissible to refer to the names or numbers of Units, there would be no objection to referring to Units by COUNTIES, or other general areas in which such Units are at present operating.

(*d*) Names of Officers, particularly SENIOR RANKS and those holding executive appointments, should not be mentioned, but reference should only be made to the Command held, e.g., " The Commanding Officer," " Commander of " F " Company," etc., etc. The names of other-rank personnel, however, may be freely published.

With these reservations therefore will Unit correspondents kindly submit their customary accounts of Unit activities without delay. It may not be possible to observe any strict date of publication, as in times past, but every effort will be made to distribute each issue as early in the month as possible.

A perusal of both the October and also the current issues will reveal an absence of news from many of our oversea Units. We would point out that ALL COPY RECEIVED TO DATE has been published and that any contributions not included have, for some obscure reason, been delayed in transit.

In this and other matters likely to cause momentary annoyance we crave the indulgence of all concerned. Our one aim is to maintain the Corps Magazine up to its pre-war standard of excellence, and with the continued co-operation of those who have given such valuable assistance in the past there is every reason to hope that we shall succeed in our objective.

Correspondents will greatly assist in the matter of production if they will send in their contributions early.

Sir Nevile Henderson's Final Report.—It has been suggested that for the benefit of those readers who are not in a position to obtain a copy of Sir Nevile Henderson's final report on the circumstances leading to the termination of his mission to Berlin in September last, that we should publish that document in extenso.

This is being done, and the first instalment will be published at an early date.

Engagement.—Captain Henry Stuart Kerr Wilson and Miss Gillian Louisa Bradley. The engagement is announced between " Stuart," second son of Mr. and Mrs. H. Kerr Wilson of Heswall,

Wirral, and "Gillian," only daughter of Colonel E. de W. H. Bradley, late Royal Signals and of Mrs. Bradley.

We have been asked to announce that Ex-Sergeant-Major H. R. V. Williams, late of Malta Signal Section, is now out of hospital and residing at 201, Alnwick Road, Lee, London, S.E.12. He would very much like to receive news from any of his old comrades who can spare the time to write to him.

In all future issues of the Corps Magazine, "Corps News—Officers, Extracts from *The London Gazette*" and Corps Promotion Roster information for other ranks, will be found at the end of each publication.

Sports Clothing and other Articles in Corps Colours.—The following articles are held in stock at this office, and can be supplied by return of post at the prices quoted :

BLAZERS : BARATHEA—In Corps colours	from	47/6
SWEATERS : White woollen with Corps colours neck and cuff	from	12/6
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SCARVES : Woollen, Corps colours	each	7/6
SILK SQUARES : Corps colours	each	10/6
TIES : Silk, double-ended, Corps colours	each	2/6 and 3/9
CORPS RIBBON : ½-inch for Christmas cards and decoration purposes	per yard	6d.
CAR BADGES : In chromium plate, with Corps colours, in enamel	each	15/6

Postage extra. Cash with order.

EDITOR.

Signals Association and Ex-Service Old Comrades Branch Notes

EMPLOYMENTS.

Situations found during the preceding month with the co-operation of the National Association for the Employment of Regular Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen :

1	Ex-W.O., Slough	Instrument Mechanic
2	Ex-W.O., Slough	Storeman
3	Ex-Signalman, Yorks	Postman
4	Ex-N.C.O., Glasgow	Postman
5	Ex-Signalman, Preston	Labourer
6	Ex-Signalman, Stoke-on-Trent	Labourer
7	Ex-Signalman, London	Labourer
8	Ex-Signalman, London	M.T. Driver
9	Ex-Signalman, London	Fitters' Mate
10	Ex-Signalman, London	M.T. Driver
11	Ex-Signalman, London	Wireless Operator
12	Ex-Signalman, London	Patrolman
13	Ex-Signalman, London	Clerk
14	Ex-N.C.O., London	Cleaner
15	Ex-Signalman, London	Cleaner
16	Ex-Signalman, London	Fitter
17	Ex-Signalman, London	Labourer
18	Ex-Signalman, London	Postman
19	Ex-Signalman, London	Postman
20	Ex-N.C.O., London	M.T. Driver
21	Ex-Signalman, London	Postman
22	Ex-Signalman, London	Commissionaire
23	Ex-Signalman, London	Labourer
24	Ex-Signalman, London	Salesman
25	Ex-Signalman, Yorks	Postman
26	Ex-Signalman, Yorks	Labourer
27	Ex-Signalman, Croydon	Messenger
28	Ex-N.C.O., London	M.T. Driver
29	Ex-Signalman, Yorks	Labourer
30	Ex-Signalman, Chester	Examiner
31	Ex-W.O., Essex	Clerk

GENERAL SECRETARY.

Benevolent Fund Notes

The Administrator gratefully acknowledges receipt of the following :

CASH SUBSCRIPTIONS from :
Captain J. H. A. Hallett, M.M.
Lieutenant (I.P.C.) S. C. McGregor.

APPEALS dealt with :

1	Ex-W.O., Gillingham	Grant	£5	0	0
2	Signalman, Aldershot	Grant	£2	0	0
3	N.C.O., Bristol	Loan	£5	0	0
4	Signalman, Aldershot	Grant	£4	0	0
5	Signalman, Cardiff	Grant	£3	0	0
6	Signalman, Glamorgan	Grant	£3	0	0
7	Driver, Aldershot	Grant	£2	0	0
8	Widow of Ex-N.C.O., Hants	Grant	£5	0	0
9	Signalman, Aldershot	Grant	£2	0	0

(Signed) T. H. L. SPAIGHT, Lieutenant-Colonel,
Administrator, Signals Association Benevolent Fund.

With the B.E.F.

(SECOND INSTALMENT BY W.J.A.N.)

With my first report, published in the October WIRE, it was not possible to include the names of those at present serving with the Unit, but on the understanding that movements are frequent and those referred to may be "here to-day and gone to-morrow," I will chronicle them at the end of this contribution.

Has any Royal Signals Unit, I wonder, ever covered as many miles as we have since our arrival in France ? I can picture some of our 1914-1918 contemporary wallahs with derisive grins as they peruse that last sentence, but, believe it or not, we have certainly travelled some.

There is nothing very particular to report at the moment, but I feel prompted to suggest some titles for new books which may possibly appear on the market at an early date :

(1) "With BESA from Blackdown to the Maginot," by that famous imaginative scribe, A. WEST. Unfortunately there are two chapters missing during the period BESA was carried in the covered wagon.

(2) "Seven Days with Signals in a Baby Austin." In this remarkable novel the public will, for the first time, be conducted behind the scenes of a real hush-hush unit. They will learn that when an officer "sleeps rough" he has been compelled by adverse conditions to take his rest on a camp bed in a French farm house which boasted of nothing more in the way of creature comfort and modern conveniences than "central heating" and "electric light." It describes most vividly a tale of gruelling hardships and is calculated to bring tears to the eyes of those who subsequently read this soul-stirring novel.

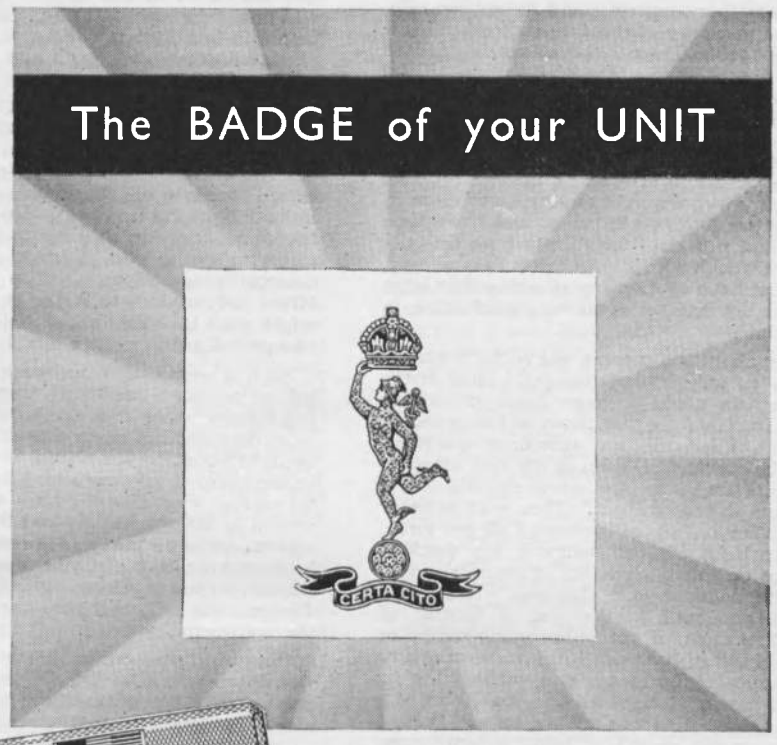
The Unit, now split up into small parties, has been touring the countryside and performing its variety of tasks quietly and efficiently during the past month. No doubt we shall all fore-gather again one of these days under the same roof, but until then, here's wishing each individual good hunting and good fortune.

I am informed that it is not permissible to publish information concerning the disposition of senior officers, but it may interest some of our readers to know that we are, at the present, hob-nobbing and on intimate terms with the undermentioned : W.O. II Shove A., C.Q.M.S. Weeks, Sergeants Morrison (fitter), Lambert A. R. and Henshaw F., Corporals Newton A., West A. and Bailey E., Lance Corporals Harkins W., Grace D. and Wilde J., Signalmen Brown N., Carmichael A., Carney L., Durack S., Ecclestone G., Humphries R., Naven J., Quilter H., Whipp D., Beck R., Brown J., Collyer E., Donnelly A., Morrison R., Preston G. and Widdowson R., Drivers Passey J., Wright D., Higgins T., Hancock J., Taylor E. and Williams L.

The light is going, the Censor is standing by, and I must bring these notes to a hurried close.

Bonne nuit, mes amis.

W. J. A. N.



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The War To Date

By E. W. S.

In a few days from now this country would have been celebrating the twenty-first anniversary of the Armistice that closed the World War of 1914-1918. These celebrations have been cancelled, because we are now at war again, with the same faithful Ally and against the same formidable enemy. Some of us, perhaps, remember that hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month twenty-one years ago, and our thoughts and feelings then. They might be summed up in the four words, "Thank God, never again." Yet here we are, and with us many who were then but children and many who were yet unborn, once more in arms, fighting the old battle for the old cause, which we then believed we had fought and won once for all. But we are in it and we must and shall go through with it. And when it is all over, and we have won, we must have another try at seeing that what has happened to us does not happen again to our children in another twenty years' time.

The most curious thing about the present war so far is that—as is the habit of ours when they actually happen—most of the thousand prophetic forecasts about it have been proved all wrong. It was generally imagined that Germany as the aggressor would choose her moment of declaring war according to a time-table pre-arranged long beforehand, as soon as she had attained her fullest possible state of readiness, and when she still had a long lead over her enemies in that respect. Then with little or no warning she would strike and strike hard with all her force. Her purpose would be to block out her enemy in the quickest possible time and enforce on him such terms of peace as could ensure her own complete domination. This was what would actually have happened, no doubt, in the case of Austria, of Czechoslovakia and of Lithuania, if the military inferiority of these little States had not been so great as to deprive them of any hope of successful resistance to Germany, and enabled her to win her victory without having to fight at all. But when she came up against Poland the position was not the same. Poland considered she had a reasonable chance of being able to resist Germany. At any rate for some little time and what was far more important, Poland had two formidable Allies, France and Britain, who had promised to come to her help if she were attacked. So when, in the spring of this year, Germany, having swallowed up Czechoslovakia and settled with Lithuania, and thereby much improved her strategic position in case of a war with Poland, made demands on that country which every Pole knew meant in the end the destruction of Poland too, the demands were rejected. Hitler had then to decide whether he would give up his purpose of dominating Poland or face the risk of a conflict, not with a single weak enemy but with an alliance of great Powers whose resources for war were considerably larger than those of Germany. It is quite clear that from that moment he decided to push on with his plan and risk such a conflict.

There is no doubt, however, that right up to the very day in early September on which France and Britain actually declared war against him, Hitler hoped that he might not really have to fight that formidable Alliance. The events of September, 1938, when he managed to carry through his bloodless overthrow of Czechoslovakia in face of the diplomatic opposition of the two Western Powers, encouraged him in this hope. As they had not, when it came to the pinch, fought then, he thought it more than possible they would shy away from actual war again at the last moment. He knew that they were trying to enlist Russia as an ally in case he attacked Poland, but he knew that this would be a difficult thing for them to do. Poland disliked and mistrusted Russia and would not welcome her help save as a last resource. The military value of Russia, even if she were to prove herself a whole-hearted and loyal ally, anyhow was a highly doubtful quantity. And he felt sure of being able, if the need arose, to do a deal himself with Russia for which purpose he could offer her more than the Western Powers could or would.

All through the long period of diplomatic tension and activity which lasted from April to August, Hitler hoped and schemed for that one end—a free hand to deal with Poland alone. He tried threats, blandishments, promises, all without success. Poland's Allies were loyal and Poland herself was steadfast. She knew full well that if war came she would have to bear the first blows of the fearsome mighty German army and air force. She realised that her own weaker armed forces would be unequal to a prolonged resistance. But if the worst came to the worst and she were utterly overthrown and conquered, her Allies would never desert her. They might not most probably be able directly to help her in her hour of need. But they would fight on until they won and when peace came, Poland, as she had done so often before in her history, could rise again like the phœnix from her ashes. Such was the faith and courage of Poland, worthy of a great people.

Hitler, therefore, having failed to divide Poland from her Allies, decided on what he hoped would be a decisive stroke of diplomacy to frighten her into submission and her Allies into deserting her. He concluded a pact with Russia a few days only before the date on which he had long since decided to attack Poland if she did not yield. He had to pay a high price even for the promise of Russia's neutrality, but he preferred paying it to giving up his plan of crushing Poland. Meanwhile, the final German preparations for the invasion were completed, and Hitler only waited to strike in the hope that his master coup might scare his enemies into yielding. He was disappointed. He had paid Russia's price and still had to fight his war after all.

Such is very briefly and roughly the story of the events that led up to what has rightly been called "Hitler's War." The full history, when it comes to be written, will, no doubt, find a more dignified but never a truer name for it. This war has been brought about by the refusal of one obstinate self-willed wrong-headed man to give up a plan he had set his heart and mind on, no matter what the obstacles or the dangers in the disastrous results to his own people and the whole world. How far Hitler was master of his party, of his people, even of himself, or whether he was more tool of forces that have by now got beyond his control, no one as yet can say. Future generations will, no doubt, discuss these and other such questions at great length appointing the responsibility fairly and finally.

Once war had been decided upon the German plan of campaign was simple and obvious. On land her forces as they stood were considerably larger than any single one of her three enemies, and fully equal to a contest with all three of them put together. In the air she was equally advantageously placed. At sea her inferiority was so great as to render any attempt to dispute its command hopeless, but much might be accomplished by a harassing campaign against the Allied commerce, carried out by surface and submarine raiders assisted by aircraft. But Germany's superiority on land and in the air was bound to be short-lived. Her war machine was at the peak of its efficiency; those of her enemies were improving week by week and would soon overtake and surpass it. The longer the war went on, the greater would become the Allied superiority not only at sea, but on land and in the air, too. German resources for war were already being utilised to the full. The Allies had enormous resources on which they had as yet hardly begun to call. The Allies, commanding the sea and financially strong, had all the world's wealth at their call. Germany lacking much needed for war, and bankrupt, could reply only on what she could export by force of arms or by barter from her few poor and unwilling neighbours. A quick and cheap victory might lead her to triumph; failing that, every day that passed brought the risk of her defeat nearer. Moreover, Hitler had accustomed his people to quick and cheap victories. Another victory of that sort would hearten them and confirm their faith in him. But it could be won only against a weak and isolated enemy, and the weakest and most isolated of his three enemies was, of course, Poland. She could be struck down swiftly and once she had been disposed of, all the German armies and air fleets could be turned against the Western Allies. They, too, might then have to be fought and struck down in their turn. Hitler, however, following out the traditional German policy of never fighting except against very inferior foes, apparently preferred to believe that the mere display of his great forces would frighten the Democracies into accepting a peace of his own devising. Understanding of other people's minds has never been a strong point of the German's mental make-up.

The first part of this plan of campaign against Poland went well enough for Germany. She gained a swift and complete victory by a daring and lavish use of her air forces and her motorised troops acting in close co-operation against an enemy ill-equipped in either arm. The inferior Polish air force was crippled in the first few days by a systematic onslaught on its

aerodromes Wide areas of the land were overrun by swift and far-reaching thrusts by motorised columns, escorted and assisted by air squadrons. This air escort guarded their front and flanks and attacked and harassed every enemy body that tried to storm or menace their advance. The Polish armies, themselves deprived of air support, and exposed to enemy air attack, saw their wide fronts pierced, their flanks turned and enveloped and their communications far to the rear threatened or cut. Their resistance soon became disorganised and disjointed. In many places whole divisions and army corps were cut off and surrounded and had to surrender. Some cut their way through the ring of foes and struggled back to safety, but only after suffering cruelly in the process.

Half the country fell into the hands of the invader in the first fortnight and half the Polish armies were put out of action. Then, just as the German tide was beginning to slacken in strength and the residue of the Poles were striving to rally on a new and shorter line for a new stand, the Russian armies in their rear moved forward to seize the prize which had, no doubt, been allotted to them as part of the bargain with Germany, and which Stalin, the Soviet Dictator, probably thought it wiser to take before the Germans could get hold of it. That stab in the back ended the Polish resistance and the Polish existence for the time being. Her armies were utterly destroyed or dissolved. Her territory was divided up between Germany and Russia. Within a month Hitler had won his first victory and had put one of his three enemies out of action. The cost of the triumph had been a heavy one—far heavier even in men than he has yet ventured publicly to announce and heavier still in aircraft, tanks and petrol. But it would have been cheap at the price had it been only his first victory and not his last up to date.

Logically this should have been followed up by a formidable blow against the Western Allies in their turn, but this, on close examination, offered no inviting prospect. On the long line between Belgium and Switzerland the local frontier was guarded by the great Maginot Line, the most powerful defensive system in the world to-day. Facing it, Germany has hurriedly thrown up in the past year a somewhat inferior but still fearsome and formidable imitation of it, the Siegfried Line, which served its purpose of preventing an Allied invasion while her main armies were busied in striking down Poland. The French declined to be lured and goaded into a costly and useless assault on that Line. Even as a desperate measure to help their hard pressed Eastern ally. But by a series of skilfully planned and executed local enterprises they managed to secure much of the wide No-man's-land between the two great defensive walls. This had the effect not only of depriving the Germans of a valuable munitions producing area of the Saar, but also of making it impossible for them to attack the Maginot Line without a preliminary operation to recover these stretches of no-man's-land. This expenditure of valuable time and force the enemy could ill afford and was, therefore, a definite gain for the Allies, for as already noted, time is on their side.

As soon as the Polish operations had come to an end it was generally expected that the Germans would rapidly transfer the bulk of their forces from the east to the west and launch a new large scale attack there. The weather in September, unusually fine and rainless, had favoured them in Poland, but a long continuance of good campaigning conditions, with the autumn well advanced, could hardly be expected, and only a few weeks of it at most could be left them. The process of transferring the highly motorised British Expeditionary Force to France was bound to be longer and more delicate than in 1914, and it was obviously desirable for them to strike before it was fully accomplished. Haste was, moreover, necessary if the great novel effect of the speedy and complete collapse of Poland was to be taken advantage of. But the process of transferring his main forces across Germany was, apparently, more prolonged and difficult than had been anticipated. The Germans' losses in aircraft, tanks and motor vehicles, known to have been heavy, and the depletion of their reserve of petrol on which the eastern campaign had made severe inroads had crippled, for the time being, it seems, the weapons which had mainly contributed to their victory in the east. And the German people had been led to believe that that victory would mean peace and a new cheap triumph for the Third Reich. For these reasons, perhaps for others even more

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urgent, Hitler decided to try and win the war in the west by words rather than by arms, only to find, as whatever may remain of his own common sense and grasp of realities should have told him, that the Allies had long since ceased to believe a single one of his fine words, and were in no mood to be turned from their declared purposes of war by more empty threats. His unpleasing mixture of boastfulness, cajolery, menace and egoism having been treated with the contempt that it merited, Hitler sought round for neutral support for his " peace move " and sought in vain. None would act as sponsor for this ugly and unpopular offspring of his brain, and in the end he found it back on his own doorstep.

Meanwhile, time and good fighting weather had passed irretrievably away, and in mid-October autumn rain and mud and cold had set in, it may well seem for the rest of the year and far into 1940. While yet the chance remained, the Germans, still unready or unwilling for any large scale effort, launched a disjointed attack which, at considerable cost to themselves and a mere trifling one to the French, regained some of the ground between the great defensive belts that had been lost to them in the first weeks of the war. So at the time of writing, the situation in the Western Front stands, and is likely to stand, in essentials unaltered, until the advent of spring, and sun and dry ground once more renders action campaigning possible. By that time the balance of force will certainly have been modified to the disadvantage of Germany, for though many of her younger classes will have been more fully trained in arms, the Allied armies and particularly the British will have grown still more in strength and efficiency.

Hitler's chances, therefore, of enforcing a decisive military victory in the west, in any way comparable to that won in the east, are unpromising and diminishing daily. In other fields, too, the omens are unfavourable to him. On sea the submarine menace, though it is, perhaps, too early to proclaim it conquered, is well in hand. Never as heavy, even in the first days of the war as during the critical period of 1917, the losses to British shipping have shown a steadily declining curve, and even these have been dearly bought at a heavy price in the shape of U-boats destroyed and their trained officers and crews put hors de combat. Surface raiders, though at large here and there, have been even less successful. British seaborne trade proceeding for the most part under convoy through any zone of possible danger, has suffered but little in the shape either of delay or of loss. German shipping, on the other hand, has been completely swept from all the seas of the world save the land-locked Baltic. The stronghold of maritime blockade, which, more than any other single factor, contributed to the Allied victory in the last war, has now been clamped down more tightly than ever in a Germany isolated without an ally in Europe, and far less well fitted physically and morally now than ever to endure its rigours for long.

In the air the vaunted German air force has so far given the world little evidence of its quality. When barely a few minutes after the British Prime Minister had declared this country at war, the first air raid sirens sounded, many of us thought that the great knock-out blow from the sky, which the champions of the air arm had so often foretold, was about to be tried. The great blow has never materialised at all—it was a false alarm and though real and determined attacks on a small scale have been made, they have all failed to get through a resolute and skilful defence. The Fleet's anti-aircraft measures have been proved fully as effective as those on the ground in repelling raiders, and our own pilots and machines have proved the masters of those of the enemy whenever they have met on anything like equal terms. Wherever and whenever they have tested our defences, the Germans have suffered casualties out of all proportion to the meagre results they have achieved, whereas our own squadrons, flying far and wide over Germany on peaceful propaganda-spreading missions, have usually gone and returned unscathed and often unmolested. The mastery of the air in the west has yet to be fought for and won, a fact in itself not without significance, for it seems to disprove Hitler's reputed confidence in his great and invincible air force. If and when that battle is joined the Allies will embark on it with the fullest confidence and hope of winning it and confirming their superiority already shown in these small preliminary encounters.

Politically Germany's outlook is little less depressing. Hitler's masterstroke of alliance with Russia on which he relied to win the war before even a shot had been fired, failed utterly to frighten his enemies, but successfully scared off and disgusted his friends. Italy, for whom with her complete dependence on foreign trade for the direct necessities of life, war with the two greatest naval powers in Europe had no attractions, cut loose the thin bonds uniting her with Germany and lapsed into a welcome neutrality. Franco's Spain for whom the civil war just ended was really and truly an anti-Bolshevik crusade, flung off in disdain all fellowship with a country that had used Spanish idealism for her own selfish ends and now for the same ends was ready to grasp the hand of the infidel. Japan, always loathing and fearing Russia, and engaged up to the hilt in an endless and ruinously costly war in China, saw in the German treaty with Moscow a traitorous bargain of her former friend with an eternal foe at her expense and to her humiliation. Three good allies were thus wantonly alienated to win one doubtful friend, who has since taken good care to get the best of the bargain and lure Germany to pay the cost of the deal in full. Germany fought and beat Poland; Russia stepped in and secured all of dismembered Poland she wanted, for nothing. Russia laid hands on the Baltic countries which, with their large German elements of population and wealth, Germany had long regarded as one of her lawful spheres of influence, and brought them fully under her control; Germany meekly acquiesced and not only abandoned her schemes but even agreed to the hurried and complete expulsion of her countrymen from the lands where many of them had lived for generations. Russia stepped in to bar to Germany the road to the south-east, the old Berlin-Bagdad line, which for fully half a century has been one of her most constant aims to secure; Germany has not ventured to try and free the door thus barred. It was, indeed, a basket of Dead Sea fruit that Ribbentrop brought back to his master from his fateful visit to Moscow just before the war.

Meanwhile the Allies are congratulating themselves on at least two diplomatic gains—the conclusion of the treaty with Turkey, which has put an end to any immediate danger of a Mediterranean war, or a German thrust to the south-east, and the decision of the United States of America to put her huge economic resources for war at the disposal of the side which can, as they alone can, fetch and pay for them. The former diplomatic gain enables them to

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enlarge their already growing and ultimately much superior efforts freely and without anxiety on the task of defeating their isolated enemy. The second will enable them to amass an ever increasing and ultimately overwhelming weight of material of war, which must in the long run prevail over the dwindling and impaired means at the disposal of Germany.

Yet, perhaps the most powerful factors of all, on their side will in the last resort be found to be the real ones. Modern war demands such heavy and prolonged efforts and sacrifices from every man, woman, and child in the countries engaged, that only a high and holy cause can evoke and maintain them. Such a cause is that of the Allies—the aim that every man should be able to live as he wishes, speak and think as seems to him good, and dwell in ease and peace and his children after him. The one moral cause that might have united Germany in some sort of holy war—the anti-Bolshevik cry—has been deliberately sacrificed by Hitler and his misguided satellites for illusory temporal gains that have turned to losses in their very hands. What other great cause is left for Germans to fight and endure and die for ? The greatness of Hitler, who has made Germans poor and Germany hated, but has successfully feathered his own nest and those of his toadies ? The right of Germany to rule in alien lands where her name is loathed and all she stands for rejected ? German honour, the very name which makes the world laugh and jeer in derision ? Certainly not for ever, hardly perhaps for long, will a great country be deluded into fighting for these false gods. This is not to say that the end of the war, and there can only be one end, is near at hand and will be cheaply won. Germany will fight hard and fight for victory with all her great power, patience and valour, but she will fight in vain, for Right is on our side, and Might, too.

Then there will come the harder, perhaps longer tussle, that of building the peace after the war, for which we shall all have worked and fought, of which we shall all have dreamed, which many of us will never see and in which, no doubt, many of us will be disappointed when we have seen. In what better spirit can the Allies wage this war and set about establishing this peace than expressed by one of the greatest democrats and greatest men of all time, President Lincoln, in his Second Inaugural Address, when the long and hard fought American Civil War was drawing to its victorious close :

" With malice towards none ; with Charity for all ; with firmness in the Right, as God gives us to see the Right—let us strive on to finish the work we are in ; to bind up the Nations' wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan ; to do all which may relieve and cherish a just and lasting Peace among ourselves, and with all Nations."

Wild Bird Photography

Written and Illustrated by ERIC J. HOSKING, F.R.P.S., M.B.O.U.

The various branches of photography are innumerable and not the least interesting of them is that relating to birds taken in their natural surroundings, as any photographic exhibition will testify. Amateurs may wonder how these photographs are taken for it is obviously not easy to approach the wild birds.

As there are very few birds that will tolerate the presence of human beings near their nests; we have to work from " Hides." A hide is constructed by pushing four six feet poles—jointed in the middle for carrying purposes—into the ground at the corners of a three-foot square, held apart at the top by heavy gauge wire. Over this framework is placed material cut to measurement and dyed green for use in grassland, or brown for woodland. It is advisable to erect this hide some distance from the nest to start with and gradually, preferably during the evening, to bring it nearer as the bird becomes used to it ; or, if it is impossible to erect the hide at a distance, for birds that nest either in the trees or in thick bushes, it should be built piece by piece at intervals. Finally, the hide should be camouflaged with foliage or other material found near the nest.

After the hide is completed, it often helps to put the large end of a ginger beer bottle in the position the lens of the camera will occupy eventually. The lens will appear to the birds as a large black eye that coldly stares at them and they take some little time to get used to it. If time permits the hide should be left in position for a day or longer before work is started so that the bird may become thoroughly accustomed to it.

It may surprise many amateurs to know that no elaborate equipment is required. The old type field camera fitted with a good lens and shutter is the best. The lens should have a focal length of eight to nine inches and quarter plate is usually the most convenient size. There is no perfect shutter, all have their disadvantages, but the " Luc " shutter is the best as it is silent until the shutter is shut, and slow and moderately fast exposures can be made according to the rapidity with which the release is pressed.

A reflex camera is very useful as there are often interesting photographs to take when walking to and from the nest under observation, but if this is used inside the hide it should be used as a field camera, i.e., with back focusing screen and " Luc " shutter, as the noise of a focal plane shutter will frighten the " sitter." Apart from these outfits quite good photographs can and have been taken with small folding cameras. These should have long extensions, back focusing screens and should preferably be fitted with telephoto attachments.

It is easier to obtain cine films than one at first imagines, for the wild birds seem to take less notice of the continuous noise made by the motor than they do of the sudden click of the camera shutter. A good stout tripod will be required whether using a cine or still camera.

The question of plates and films is a very important one. They must be rapid, for few birds will stay still for long and it is far better to work in the shade, not in direct sunlight. They must be sensitive to all colours to register the birds correctly. They must have latitude as it is very difficult to gauge from inside the hide the strength of the light outside.

For general work inside hiding places I have found Selo Hypersensitive Panchromatic Film to be the best ; it is very fast and very colour sensitive. Last season I had many satisfying results, too, on Ilford Soft Gradation Panchromatic Plates which I used in addition to the Hypersensitive material. Now I am trying out the new Ilford H.P.2 Plate and it is very likely that I shall use this regularly.

In these emulsions there is everything that the bird photographer requires with the additional advantage that they can be used at night.

To photograph the nocturnal creatures after dark by flashlight is a big thrill and an experience never to be forgotten. It is surprising how well you can see when your eyes become accustomed to the darkness, but in the pitch darkness your eyes play you false and you see many things that are not there. It is often the case that you feel positive that your subject is in the right position, but on releasing the flash you discover that the bird is not there at all. It is better to rely on your ears rather than your eyes and to wait until the former confirm the impressions of the latter.

The illustration of the hide shows the best way to fix the flashlight apparatus and it is quite easy to bring a wire into the hide so that the flash can be fired from inside. The flash-bulbs are the best for they are quicker, less noisy and not nearly so dangerous. Here again it is advisable to use hypersensitive panchromatic material as it will enable you to stop down your lens and thus make sure of plenty of depth of focus, which you will need when you are not quite sure of the exact spot to which the subject will return. (Illustrations on next page.)

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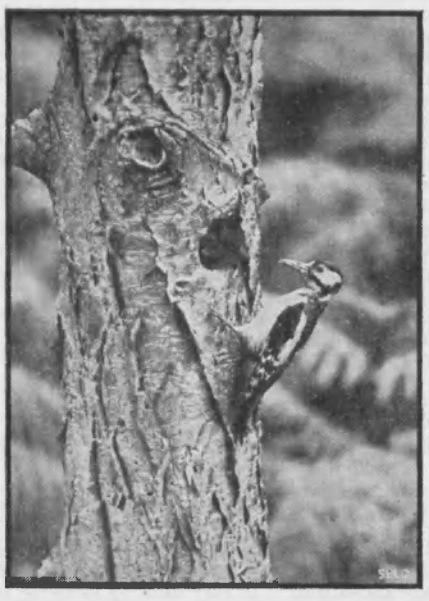
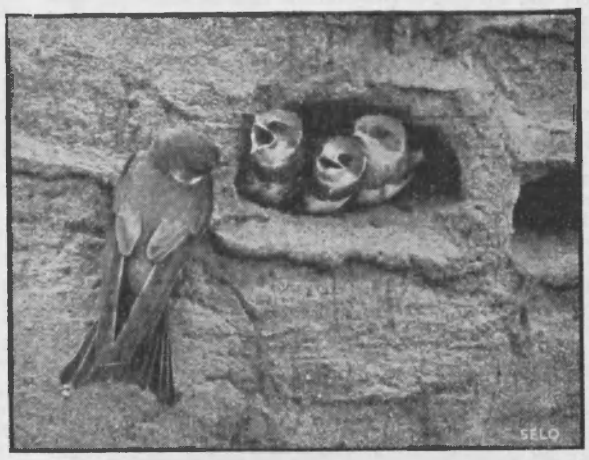
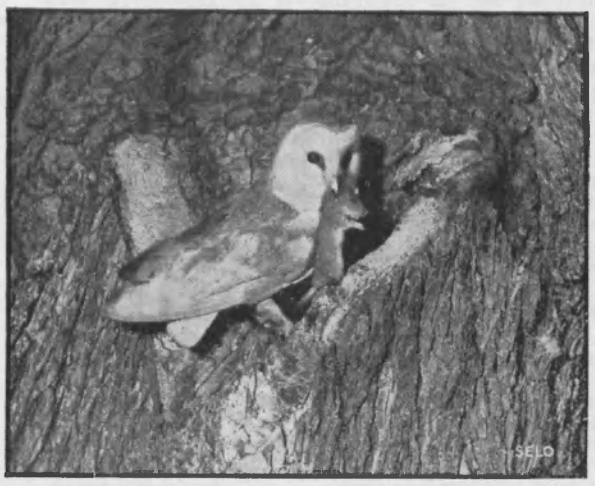


Great Spotted Woodpecker at nesting hole. Exposure ½ second at *f*/3.5 on Ilford Soft Gradation Panchromatic Plate. Taken in rain and dull light in a wood.

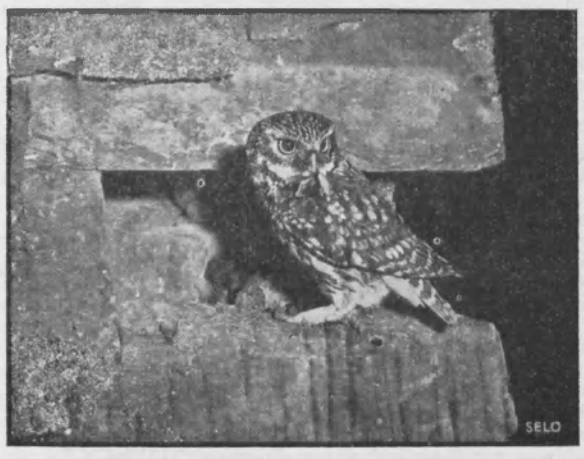


Young Sand Martins and Mother. A daylight picture on Selo Hypersensitive Panchromatic Roll Film.



Barn Owl entering nesting hole with young rat. Taken on an Ilford Soft Gradation Panchromatic Plate at night by the flash of a Sashalite bulb in reflector.

The "hide" used by Mr. Hosking to photograph the Barn Owl.



Flashlight photograph of the Little Owl with Cockchafer. Taken at night on Selo Hypersensitive Panchromatic filmpack with 8¼ in. Serrac lens at *f*/16 and large Sashalite bulb.

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This is the first contribution from an Operators Training Battalion, as the Unit was formed as recently as September last. The nucleus of the Battalion consisted of Territorials posted from various Territorial Divisions and augmented by Reservists, Regulars and Militiamen. A couple of weeks was necessary in order to find our feet, so to speak, but under the able guidance of our Commanding Officer, backed up splendidly by a particularly enthusiastic band of officers and N.C.O.s, the Unit was very soon organised on a smoothly-running basis and we can now face the future with the greatest confidence. Naturally this report is more in the nature of a birth certificate rather than an obituary, but in the next issue of THE WIRE we hope to present a more detailed chronicle of our activities. We have, of course, much spade work still to do, but a good start has been made, and this is half the battle. The Battalion has taken over two lines—one occupied by Nos. 1 and 2 Companies and Headquarters, and the other by Nos. 3 and 4 Companies.

After the preliminaries, inevitable on the formation of a new Unit, had been satisfactorily settled, training very soon got under way. Our indefatigable P.A.D. Officer negotiates those duties in his characteristically efficient manner; if one were to judge from the precautions that have been taken, THAT MAN will be wasting his time if he pays a visit.

Social.—Under the patronage of the P.R.I., tournaments have been held at darts and billiards, and a grand final will take place between the winners of each section. Many entries were received for these competitions and valuable prizes have been offered by the P.R.I. Another attempt to ameliorate the conditions of barrack life has been the formation of a Concert Party. This was the outcome of a " Go-as-you-please " Concert, held in the Regimental Institute on 5th October. Prizes were given for the best artiste in each of the four different classes, i.e., the best song, the best comedian, the best instrumentalist, and the best original act. It was a most enjoyable evening, one of the highlights being Signalman Hand's impersonation of Hitler, which " brought down the house." Lance Corporal Ball, as compere, was almost a gentleman, even if he did " put his foot in it " occasionally! Signalman Gratton mystified the younger section of the audience by his hypnotic card tricks, and Signalmen Robson and Dobson were two very accomplished pianists. Mr. Rankin sang an Irish song and related two stories in his own inimitable Yorkshire accent. This concert was repeated, on 9th October, for the benefit of Nos. 1 and 2 Companies.

The N.A.A.F.I. Concert Party presented very polished entertainments in the two Institutes, which was greatly appreciated by a large audience. These were really grand shows and we fervently hope that we shall be favoured with another visit from this talented troupe as soon as possible.

On 18th October the Unit Concert Party put on a show, popular features of which were Signalman Kirkland's monologue, " Dangerous Dan McGrew," Corporal Tyres and his Teeny Ovals, and a piano accordian duet by Signalmen Corrigan and Eglen. Other performers were Corporal Pearson, the Rhythm Rascals, Signalmen Thompson and Stones.

The E.N.S.A. Players have kindly accepted an invitation to visit us and a concert has been arranged for 21st October. In addition, we are endeavouring to form a Dramatic Society, as a change from lighter entertainment. " Housey-housey " has been revived and is proving itself a great attraction—at the weekends. Libraries have been established in both Institutes and are open for an hour every evening, except Sundays.

Postings and Promotions.—From time to time changes have been made in the personnel of the Unit, and it is with regret that we said good-bye and God-speed to the following who have been posted: R.Q.M.S. Lombard, C.Q.M.S.s Powell and Redfern, C.S.M. Woodman, Sergeant Saunders, Lance Corporal Smith, T/Lance Corporals Fudgell and Methven. On the other hand, it is with pleasure that we welcome A/W.O. III Wink.

It would be tedious to give a full detailed list of the promotions and so one must merely refer to the more important appointments. The following W.O.s and N.C.O.s have been confirmed in their present rank: A/R.S.M. Gibbings, A/C.S.M.s Morris, Jones and Marcham, A/W.O.s III Cosstick, Hunt, Pink, Wink, Winder and Hall, A/C.Q.M.S.s Dodd and Tennant, A/C.S.M. Bennett, A/Sergeant Gray, Small, Burrell, Shepherd, Bailey, Sanley and George, A/Lance Sergeants Hatton, Baines, Hardy, Gavin, Gully, Ebbage, Lilley, Spence, Summers, Williams, Scott, Cooper and Napier.

General.—It has been announced that our Colonel-in-Chief is to pay us a visit in the near future, for the purpose of inspecting the Battalion. We are looking forward with keen anticipation to this visit and are already preparing a suitable welcome.

We offer hearty congratulations to Signalman Bennett R. M. on his recent marriage, which was celebrated quietly in Southampton; and to Signalman Lock W. J., whose wife recently presented him with twins.

SPORTS NOTES.

Whatever happens, an Englishman must have his sport, and we are no exceptions. The P.R.I., who is also the Sports Officer, has rendered invaluable assistance in this connection, and Lieutenant S. C. Carwin's unaffected interest is a great encouragement. One cannot speak too highly of those " other ranks," who willingly sacrifice much of their leisure in an effort to put the Battalion on the sporting map. It is therefore very gratifying to record that this effort is meeting with undoubted success.

To date, the soccer xi has played three games, defeating 5th Divisional Headquarters and the Reserve Battalion, and with a depleted side narrowly losing to General Trades Training Battalion by the odd goal of three. In addition, having gained a walk-over against the Green Howards, we have now to meet the R.A.O.C. in the quarter finals of the Garrison Knock-out Competition. When we have disposed of them (?), we enter the final, *via* 51st Training Regiment, R.A.

The Battalion team, captained by Signalman Gomm (of West Bromwich Albion fame), consists of: Signalman Girdwood; Sergeant Hatton, Signalman Humphries; Signalman Marshall, Corporal Craig, Corporal Gillott; Signalmen Thompson, Bloomer, Gallacher, Wakeley and Gomm.

Besides the Battalion fixtures, Inter-Company and Inter-Squad games have been arranged. These matches are of the greatest importance in that they give a pointer to the talent in the Unit.

Soccer has by no means undisputed sway, however, as hockey and rugby football enjoy much popularity. There are more difficulties to be overcome in arranging fixtures, but the prospect is pleasing none the less. Inter-Company games have been played and they have shown an undeniable array of talent. Particularly is this the case with rugger, and several matches are being arranged. Our first game is likely to be against the Reserve Battalion and they will have to field a strong side if they are to avoid the fate which befell their soccer xi. Practice games have already been played at hockey and soon the Battalion will be taking the field.

OPTRAIN.

Boys Training Company

Introduction.—Shortly after the commencement of hostilities, Mr. Neville Chamberlain appealed to the Press to use its discretion over matters dealing with H.M. Forces. Later on a further warning was given to such apparently harmless periodicals as church magazines. Your unworthy chronicler feels that he must play his insignificant part in shielding the lowdown. We trust, therefore, that the readers (both of them) will forgive a certain vagueness which must henceforth cloud an otherwise brilliant literary style. One way in which to say a lot and convey nothing definite would be to copy Shakespeare's methods (shouts of indignation from Betts, Dixon and others well versed in the classics).

General.—The weather lately has included sun, rain, snow, hail, extremes of hot and cold, hurricanes, cyclones, floods and a depression over the "quiet" room owing to the increased taxation on tobacco. The non-committal manner in which this item of news is presented is due to the cause mentioned in the introduction.

Since the outbreak of war some of our Operators have maintained a permanent watch on a —— set working to ——; the names of the blokes are —— and ——.

The examinations for First Class Certificates of Education were held as usual this year, but for the benefit of enlisted boys only. It has been officially announced that Boy ---- has passed in —— with distinction.

As far as technical training is concerned, the Company is being run on more or less normal lines.

Nomenclature.—Emery has settled down for his winter hibernation. It has been suggested to "Big Alf" Render that he should reinforce his elbows with leather pads. This will make his nightly vigil at the N.A.A.F.I. counter more comfortable.

The recruits passed off the square recently and are now enjoying a spot of leave. The remainder of us look forward to the time when the Signals have won the war again and we are relaxing "Somewhere in Britain."

Doubtless there are some Ex-Rats still alive who can recall to mind the stir that was caused when work was begun on a new block. Right down through countless squads this fable has been handed as reverently as a chunk from "Corps History."

Arrivals and Departures.—Too numerous to mention; the whole cadre has departed, with the exception of those musty old retainers: Sergeant Skinner W. and Lance Corporal Blades T.

Conclusion.—The easier way to conclude a manuscript is with a full stop, thus.

A. JAY.

SPORTS NOTES.

Football.—The season started with the usual pick-up games, where a lot of new talent was discovered. Finally, a team was picked and a game arranged against the General Trades Battalion team. The Company team was: Signalman Render; Signalman Warren, Signalman Murray A.; Sergeant Boy Smith, Corporal Boy Stewart, Lance Corporal Boy Marshall; Boys Martin, Forsyth, Royle, Ward and Griffin. After a break-away, General Trades got a goal, and twice repeated the performance in ten minutes. The play was then even with a lot of hard tackling on both sides. Half-way through the second half, Boy Martin scored with a dropping shot that had the goalkeeper bewildered. The General Trades then attacked heavily, but Signalman Render brought off some very good saves and kept them at bay until a few minutes from the end, when another goal was scored.

After this match Lance Corporal Boy Marshall was picked to play for General Trades team against the K.O.Y.L.I. The following Saturday Signalman Warren played in another game with the Battalion. Signalman Render, Lance Corporal Boy Marshall and Boy Griffin played for General Trades "A" team against the Depot.

A six-a-side tournament was arranged with ten workshops' teams and ten Operators' teams. The first round has been played off and we are now waiting for the final result.

Hockey.—The hockey team was unlucky to be defeated by the R.E.s (4—2), but made up for it in the return game with a victory of five goals to one. The Company team was: Boy White; Lance Corporal Boy Murray A., Signalman Murray R.; Lance Corporal Boy Weeks J., Boy Rowe, Boy Moseley; Lance Corporal Boy Rabjohns, Boy Knight R., Boy Brodie, Boy Mole and Sergeant Boy Smith A.

M. & D.

"The Fifth"

These may be our last notes as there are rumours that THE WIRE will be discontinued until the end of the war. Owing to the strict censorship which has to be employed on all WIRE Notes as regards the location and doings of Units, it is realised that this rumour may be possibly true. [It isn't! Rumour was ever a lying jade. We refer our readers to October "Editorials," and Brigadier Clementi-Smith's appeal on page 440 of that publication.—EDITOR].

The winter slowly draws on and the days are getting much shorter. The extension of Summer Time, however, has made things easier and we are still able to play games after tea.

Training.—Although we have not yet gone to the war ourselves, we have done our bit in a small way in that we have mobilised and sent off a Despatch Rider L. of C. Signal Section and an Infantry Brigade Signal Section. The former was composed completely of reservists, whilst the latter contained many old faces from the Unit. Those who went were:

THE 14TH: A/Sergeant Bannerman J., A/Corporal Halstead J., Lance Corporal Baxter D., Lance Corporal Ryan B., Signalmen Ashcroft G., Boston E., Briggs G., Crockett C., Clement A., Hague J., Hillman H., Hall W., Harding J., Horner C., Hawes J., Kay A., Kane C., Lewis J., McKune G., Paul D., Tait E., Spedding C., Rick C., White W., Hawke W.

THE 15TH: S.S.M. Allen W., A/Sergeants Stachan H., Godly L., Corporals Smith F., Dobing L., Lind W., Lance Corporals Eden W., Truslove E., Signalmen Giles D., Haslam T., Brown S., Kelly T., Beeching C., Wilkins G., Sherry D., Jones H., Rogers W., Thompson J., Ireland W., Chisnall C., Walker F., Taylor T., Howden C., Thorpe C., Forrest D., Jebb T., Coates P., Griffiths A., Jones D., Kendall A., Onions S., Lee H., Howlett K., Cranshaw W., Driver I.C. Butt L., Signalman Mitchell D.

For those who wish to write to any of the above their address is c/o Army Post Office, London. Do not forget to put the number and correct name of the Section as shown above.

Promotions.—The following now hold acting ranks as shown: A/R.S.M. Swatton J., A/R.Q.M.S. Tucker S., A/W.O. III Allen W., A/W.O. III Stirk A., A/W.O. III Perkins H., A/W.O. III Stonehouse R., A/W.O. III Bray L., A/W.O. III Coles S., A/Sergeant Trout T., A/Sergeant Dixon F., A/Sergeant Strachan H., A/Sergeant Godly L., A/Sergeant Hughes J., A/Sergeant Griffin H., A/Sergeant Grigg T., A/Sergeant Dale M., A/Sergeant Brown J., A/Lance Sergeant Barker N., A/Lance Sergeant Fill W., A/Lance Sergeant Eggett J., A/Corporal Crosley E., A/Corporal Lind W., A/Corporal Dobing L., A/Corporal Nix H., A/Corporal Hills H., A/Corporal Tovell H., A/Corporal Church F., A/Corporal Furtado R.

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Wales

Depot Battalion

General.—Firstly, we wish to introduce ourselves as new contributors to our Corps Magazine, and hope, in the future, to give readers every opportunity of knowing our activities.

We are indeed fortunate in our Commanding Officer, and on behalf of all ranks we hope that his command will be enjoyed to the full.

Our cadre personnel has been made up from various Units of the Corps, including T.A., S.R., and Reservists, and have very quickly got down to business.

I do not propose to let you know where we are situated (it would cause such a storm of protest to the powers that be)—it is too good to be true, anyway! One still observes individuals pinching themselves on arrival here.

We must take this opportunity to welcome the many contingents of the A.T.S., also the members of the 28th Detachment, V.A.D. We sincerely hope that their stay will be very pleasant and for the duration. The glad hand is also extended to our recruits, in whom we see great promise. The way in which they are taking the "square," under C.S.M. Udell, our S.D.I., and his assistant N.C.O.s, is amazing. They are already finishing off their drill, and will soon be with their respective trade Companies. We shall be sorry to see them go, particularly one "John Henry" of No. 10 Squad fame.

Entertainments.—On the night of 30th September last, we were entertained by the "Crazy People" of the E.N.S.A. organisation, and an excellent show was greatly appreciated by everyone. Jolly good show, E.N.S.A.! We are eagerly looking forward to your next effort. Since we have been established here quite a large amount of talent has been brought to the footlights. Our impromptu concert has grown into a first-class variety show, and is given in our Ballroom each Wednesday and Sunday evening.

Finis.—This will be all for this time, people, so I will wish you all *au revoir*.

D3.

"A" Company Depot Battalion

General.—We extend a hearty welcome to the recruits who have joined this Company to learn the rudiments of soldiering. They are now in their last week of training and will be leaving us shortly to go to their Trade Battalions. We wish them all the best of luck and are really sorry to see them go.

Now a little about the Permanent Cadre. Our Commanding Officer is ably assisted by two other officers. Our Senior Drill Instructor is C.S.M. Udell, and he, in turn, is assisted by Sergeant Devlin (Mick), Corporals McConnell and Spargo, Lance Corporals Blanshard, Paytner, Emery, McDuff, Quinton, Reed and Cleverdon. Our Company Office staff is Lance Corporal Kraft (Griggle) and Volunteer L. Parry, A.T.S. The "Q" Bloke is Sergeant Jock Bain and he is assisted by Driver Watson (Sparrow). Jock was on reception duties a few weeks ago and he asked a recruit if he was married or sensible. On the recruit saying "sensible," Jock immediately put it down on his attestation papers; he was quite red round the neck when his little error was discovered by the Unit Office Staff. He has also managed a week-end or two in Crewe. We wonder why! Is he being sensible?

Sport.—The Company turned out at football against "B" Company recently and managed to win 5—0. Good show, boys! We recommend Signalmen Wileman, Rogerson and Stewart to their future Battalions as being players above the average.

GRIGGLE.

"B" Company Depot Battalion

General.—Greetings, readers! This is the Company representative introducing the Company to THE WIRE. I will endeavour to render you an account each month of the welfare and activities of this fine body of men we have here.

First of all we welcome our O.C., and hope his stay here will be enjoyable. We welcome also our recruits, who will by now have had a taste of army life and completed their initial training on the "square."

Our staff here consists of: C.S.M. Powell, Sergeant Hesford, Lance Sergeants Driscoll and Morphew, Corporals Randle, Craig, Reardon and Shipley.

Sport here, up to date, has consisted mainly of Squad and Section games in an endeavour to find the right material for Company and Battalion teams. The Trade Battalions are going to be very fortunate in this respect, from what we have already seen.

Epilogue.—To the lads "out there" we say—"good hunting."

WASS.

No. 1 Company, G.T. Training Battalion

After nearly five weeks here, we are almost settled down. I think we intend to commence Classes in the near future.

This is an ideal place for training in all subjects, and should appeal to all who are hikers, bikers, skaters, and bathers, and should one become depressed there is always the sea.

To those who remain in or at "Mons Barracks," may we say that we have S.S.M.s Bartley and Harbury, Lance Corporals Moore T., Gough A., Campbell A. and Greening C. During the month we had a batch of Militia from the R.A. and Territorials from Scotland; they came here by mistake, so we took them under our wing. We gave them the usual P.T. and squad drill, and they have now left us. We wonder what the O.C. and S.S.M. Harbury thought of them. We have received the other N.C.O.s' remarks, and you may rest assured that we are all in agreement.

And now for a record. Can any Company produce a number less than 2393664? Bags of "Civvy Street" service, what?

Promotions.—We congratulate C.S.M. Stanley, S.S.M.s Bartley and Harbury on obtaining these ranks.

Passing Thoughts.—A certain N.C.O. was returning home the other day, and was stopped by an errand boy to make a few inquiries. The errand boy immediately ceased cycling and stared in astonishment, saying: "What, another Lance Corporal! Where are the men?"

We have also our Two-ton, namely, Smith, late of Yorkshire.

GHANDI.

M.T. Training Company

Opinion.—The rapid transformation of the "holiday camp" into a S.T. Centre is slowly nearing its completion, but whether the holiday "spirit" will stay with us here is a debatable point. Nature and man have endowed us with a good billet, and one which I am sure pleases quite a lot.

Many of the "Civvy-Attached" have been moaning about having their holidays cancelled or curtailed, but whatever else he has started, Hitler has certainly sent us down to the seaside, and for that I could almost shout "Heil!"

Company activities up to date have been confined to fatigues, etc., but shortly we hope to commence work in a big way.

More Masefield Madness.—

The seashore's silence now is cleft,
Turning about—Left! Right! Left!
But when all the bawling's done,
Various "sports" provide great fun.
Skating, golf, ye olde ping-pong,
Sunday night a laugh—a song;
"Lounge lizards" seek sheltered spots,
*Instructors "E" and "M" with W.A.T.S.
Lots of romance fills the air—
I've seen it from a N.A.A.F.I. chair.

* "Potential" and Practical!

Awards.—The "Clipper" is awarded to the A/N.C.O. (no names, no near east port) who figured in the following scene:

Reservist: "Lend me your button stick, Corporal."

A/N.C.O. (five months unbroken service): "Sorry, mate; it is too frail and nearly worn out."

Query.—Who was the Orderly Corporal who couldn't get an answer from his own chalet on roll call, and reported the occupants absent ?

Promotion.—Several people are to be seen reading Unit orders with needle and cotton in each hand, but the only promotions to date are : S.S.M. Boxall to be C.S.M., Sergeant Choulerton to be C.Q.M.S., and Lance Corporal Boynton to be Corporal.

Sport.—Owing to Inter-Company postings we have not yet settled on any fixed teams, but suffice it to say that at hockey we are as yet undefeated.

That's all for now.

DE-HYPHEN.

SPORTS NOTES.

We have been making good use of an unrivalled opportunity. We pass over such frivolous pastimes as putting and tandem bicycles, though it might be mentioned that bundles of spades of the familiar seaside variety were seen in at least one Q.M.S. Store.

Hockey and soccer are in full swing. S.T.C. leagues have been formed, each with eight teams in two divisions, and outside matches are also played. Rugger is restricted to an occasional punt-about on the beach, owing to lack of suitable grounds. Swimming was very popular, but since the advent of the east winds, its popularity has rapidly waned to vanishing point. Then we have been playing tennis of both the outdoor and indoor variety. Indeed a table tennis tournament drew an entry of 29, and the speed and dexterity produced was simply amazing. A boxing ring has been erected on the stage in the Ballroom and an exhibition is to be held on 22nd October, when several well-known boxers will appear, including Kid Tanner and Lionel Gibbs.

The S.T.C. soccer team played a R.A. team on Saturday, 30th September, and won by the convincing margin of 5—1. A return match has been arranged for 14th October. A local team was beaten by the S.T.C. hockey team by 2—1.

Royal Signals (Eastern Command)

The Eastern Command Signal Company, and its 500 other ranks, is a mixture of the very fit, the not so fit, the halt and the maimed. With boys in their early twenties, and men in their late fifties, it can easily be imagined what an interesting crowd comprises this very efficient Unit.

We have men from all walks of life, Post Office workers, M.A.s of our older Universities, unemployed from the streets of Glasgow, sons and nephews of those in high places and those without kith or kin, who are all living up to the motto of the Royal Signals "Certa cito." In a visit to the Q.M.S. Stores you will find a man making out innumerable indents who is by night a Company Sergeant-Major of the King's Bodyguard, sleeping at St. James's Palace, and by day an ordinary Signalman. In the Commanding Officer's office, acting as clerk, is another of this august body.

A walk round barrack rooms will bring you face to face with the herbaceous borders (on the left chest) of many campaigns. In the wireless office and other sedentary occupations there sit men with many wounds, but, nevertheless, they can do their job as efficiently as the youngsters.

Truly can it be said of this particular Unit that it is a happy family, fathered by its old soldiers and mothered by those hard working women, the A.T.S., who feed them as soldiers have never been fed before. The Company is still open for recruits who are tradesmen. It is hoped that those who have yet to find a niche in their country's service will not be slow to enrol amongst us. (See photograph on page 477).

The "Dots and Dashes"—the versatile concert party of the Eastern Command Signal Company—gave its first performance to a full house on 2nd November.

Foremost in a very varied programme was a skit written by one of the Company, the chief characters being the popular Section Officer and the not so popular Section Sergeant. Topical allusions in this clever skit brought down the house and the men did not regret their absence from the wet canteen.

Members of the A.T.S. supported the programme and their voices would not have shamed a Madame Patti.

The grouping of the Company was extremely effective and the manager is to be congratulated on giving the lads a very cheery evening.

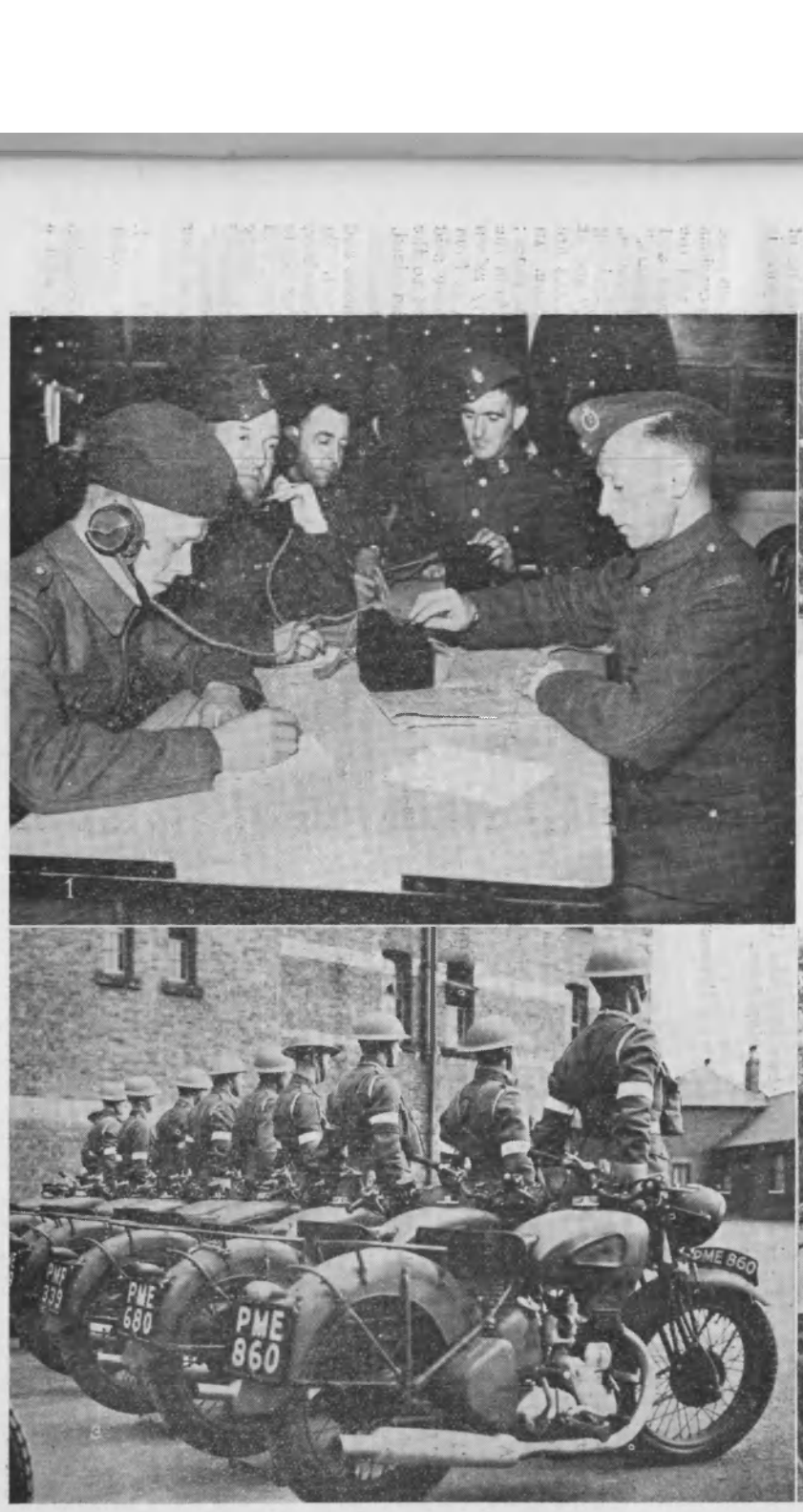
It is proposed to repeat this effort next month and all are cordially invited to accept this general invitation. **D. C-S.**

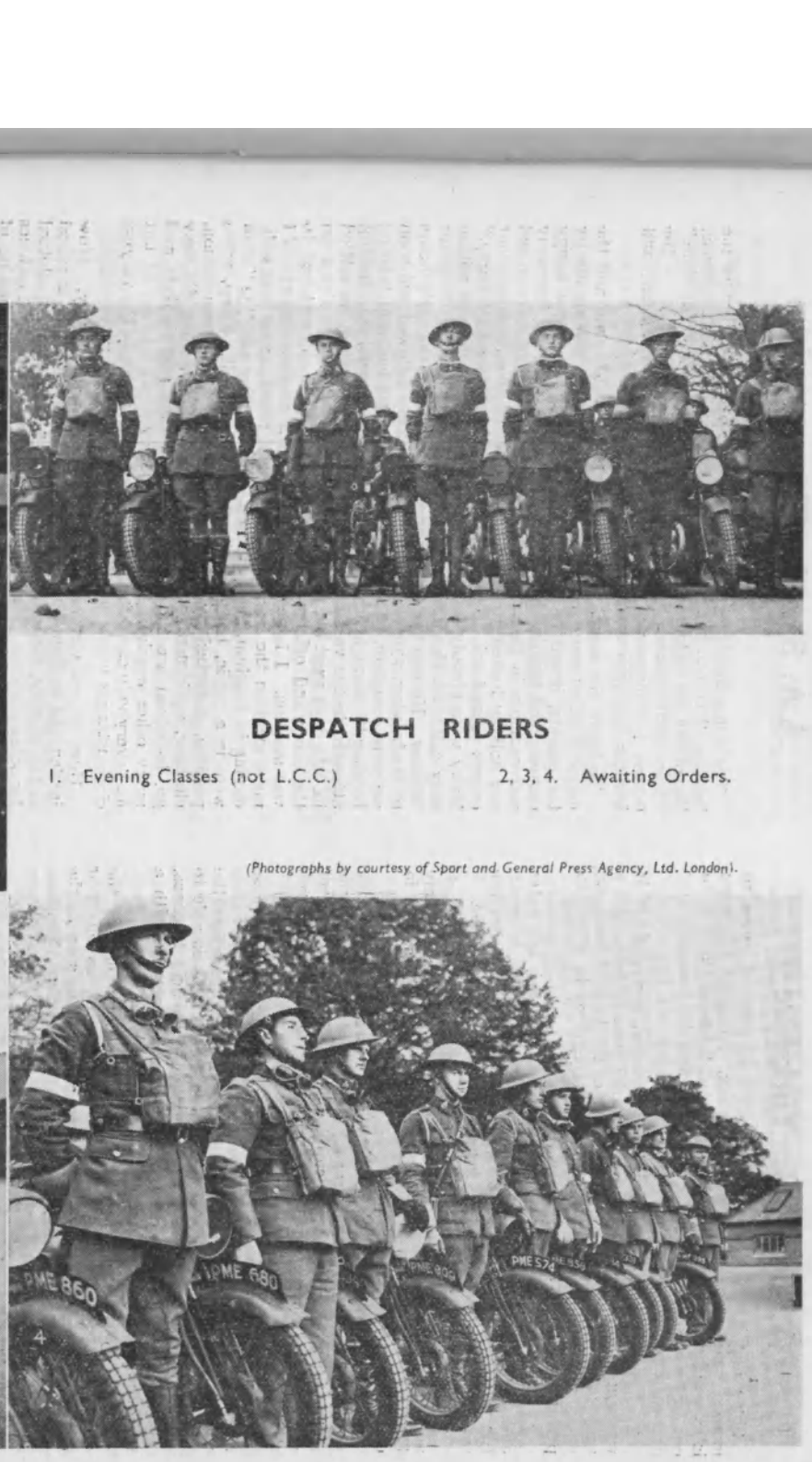
MILITIAMAN'S NIGHTMARE Sig. Dickinson A. W.

DESPATCH RIDERS

1. Evening Classes (not L.C.C.) 2, 3, 4. Awaiting Orders.

(Photographs by courtesy of Sport and General Press Agency, Ltd. London).





A.A. Signals, Yorkshire

Since our last notes appeared, our long-awaited move to more permanent quarters has taken place. Although the camp is as yet far from complete, we were glad to shake the mud of our last station from our feet, only to find that we are now deeper immersed than ever.

The move started on Friday, 6th October, and perhaps it was a good job they did not leave it to the more ominous date a week later. Naturally, as is the habit of the local climate, we were treated to a series of drenching rainstorms in which to perform the move.

At present, only half of the living blocks have their hot water and central heating apparatus in commission, but it is worth the walk across the square to wallow in a hot bath after the somewhat ineffective showers installed at our former abode.

The Officers' and Sergeants' Messes are not quite completed, and the latter are existing for the present in the Church Army Hut, while a very temporary N.A.A.F.I. has been installed in one of the instructional huts.

An event which has gladdened the hearts of our young Militiamen, and much encouraged their *esprit de corps*, is the arrival of a consignment of cap badges, and their persistent wail, " Please, can't we have cap badges ? " has at last been stilled.

To many of us, who, eleven years ago thought the cookhouse at Mons Barracks to be the last word, the new all-electric kitchen was an eye-opener, and the troops very much appreciate the far greater variety of dishes which the Master Cook is able to present to them. It will be understood that field kitchens, Aldershot ovens and such expedients cannot compete with a fully-equipped kitchen installed indoors.

Owing to the " black-out," the various Companies of the " Imperial Players " have recently been leaving us off their circuit, but we hope to get some entertainment as soon as the new N.A.A.F.I. is ready ; but, at the present time, all these marvellous tales that the newspapers publish about this new E.N.S.A. appear to us to be more like this week's fairy-story.

In the meantime, I am authorised to state that the Unit Concert Party and Dance Band are definitely taking shape.

Cheerio !

SPASIGS.

SPORTS NOTES.

Soccer.—At the outset of training as a Militia Unit, Squad were grouped so as to form three leagues—A, B, and C. The winners and runners-up of each league will take part in a knock-out competition.

The winners and runners up were :

A League : winners, " B " Squad ; runners-up, " D " Squad.

B League—winners, " L " Squad ; runners-up, "A" Squad.

C League—winners, " H " Squad ; runners-up, " F " Squad.

Preliminary rounds and semi-finals have been played, leaving " H " Squad to contest " B " Squad in the final for the medals and Inter-Squad Football Challenge Cup, kindly presented by an officer of Royal Signals. The match is being played on Wednesday, 18th October. The wife of our Commanding Officer has kindly consented to present the medals and trophy to the winning team.

When our reorganisation is complete we intend to start an Inter-Section Competition with the cup again at stake. The Unit have entered the District League, Groups A and B.

"A" team played and won their first game, against Starbeck Old Boys F.C., on 7th October, by 14—0. " B " team were not so fortunate and lost by 8—6 to Harlow Hill F.C.

Prior to the league commencement we played our neighbour Field Training Regiment, R.A., and won a well-contested match by 2—0. The play was of a high standard, despite a very strong wind. The outstanding player was our opponents' goalkeeper, who definitely saved his side from a much heavier defeat.

A.A. Signals, Gloucestershire

No. 2 Company

The notes this time, Mr. Editor, will NOT appear under the heading " Territorials and Supplementary Reserve," because, like others, we no longer wear the " T " and are now " full time." These circumstances and the excitement caused must be the excuse for absence of notes for August and September, and humble apologies are extended.

To begin the story. The rainy weather had broken and the majority of us were enjoying the sunshine and open-air life by the seaside, intent on the remaining few days being a happy camping and training holiday. No thoughts at all for the many war rumours in the air. Suddenly the telephones buzzed and our holiday looked as though it was almost over. Subsequent events proved this to be correct. " Call out the Key Party." Many were already in camp. The remainder were well within easy call. At Headquarters the honours must go to Sergeant Bristow. He was the first to report for duty in the early hours of Wednesday, 23rd August. Others quickly followed and soon we were complete. The calling-out telegrams had said " Bring bedding " (thoughtfulness on somebody's part), so, having attended to the various jobs requiring our attention, we settled in. As days went by, personnel and stores began to arrive from the camp and officers and men were hurriedly despatched to war stations. I have mentioned the first man to report, so I must mention the last. Corporal Roost ; but, as he was holidaying in Belgium, he is excused. The messing and " Q " staff were in a panic, both burning the midnight oil. Sleep, when possible, disturbed by thoughts of rationing, accommodation, clothing, equipment, who is here, who is there, when did they go, to whom are they attached, have they got blankets and many other worries. Eventually, however, all was sorted out and everybody cared for and made as comfortable as the varying circumstances would permit.

Now let us view the picture as presented to-day. How inadequate we found our Drill Hall. Billets had to be acquired in the vicinity, the various rooms in the Drill Hall being allotted for other purposes. However, with the many duties and fatigues that must be performed, additional to the normal routine of the Sections, it is pleasing to see how cheerfully everyone is facing up to the life, and the days seem to fly past.

One afternoon of the week is allotted to sports, and we hope soon to play our first real football match. On several occasions the line section has been called out on maintenance and the operating section are performing their duties with zeal and enthusiasm. In between times, as is well known by " Regulars," life consists of the usual routine of guard duty, cleaning parades, inspections and, of course, the usual coal fatigues. Training classes for operators and linemen are to be held shortly and at present, preparatory to instructing the men, the N.C.O.s are being given instruction in the administration of discipline. In this new work we are all happy, although very tired at times ; but we are glad to do our bit. Not one of us is missed from the roll and, in passing, I would like to say I am nearly asleep typing these notes. Mr. Records also has not missed us from the rolls. Transfers have commenced in that we have said good-bye to Signalman Rains on his being transferred to the R.E.s. We wish him the best of luck. As can be imagined, we are all now wondering when our turn will come.

Several family changes have occurred since our last notes and heartiest congratulations are extended to those concerned. To our P.S.I. and Mrs. Millen we record the arrival of a daughter, Janet Stephanie, on 19th August. Rather upset your home life, Sergeant, having troops in the building all day long and your quarters on the same floor as the Company Office. Plenty of company for you now (and noise), with the tramp, tramp of "Ammos " on the stairs all day long and the periodical " crooners" giving vent while having a shower or wash on the ground floor below. Hope we are not keeping the babe awake.

Signalman and Mrs. Evans and Signalman and Mrs. Morgan J. both record that their surnames are carried forward to another generation.

The "Q" bloke's only daughter has left him on the occasion of her marriage, but he reports plenty of company with a houseful of evacuees.

Lance Corporal Righton and Signalman Welch have both taken the plunge into the sea of matrimony. May the waters soon calm for these partnerships. Forty-eight hours is not long in which to do the many things one would like on such occasions.

Tailpiece.—It is reported that the "Draught" previously occasioned in the Orderly Room, when some movement became necessary, has now been eliminated. Readers, no doubt, are guessing, but this should be quite easy to the Orderly Room Sergeant and the officers of the Company.

It is 11.30 p.m. and I am tired, so, until next month, cheerio to all.

Tooco.

SPORTS NOTES.

Sports Meeting.—The results of this meeting, held on 21st August, are as follows:

100 YARDS.—Signalman Baston.
220 YARDS.—Private Dewdney (R.A.M.C. attached).
440 YARDS.—Private Dewdney (R.A.M.C. attached).
880 YARDS.—Private Dewdney (R.A.M.C. attached).
ONE MILE.—Signalman Hughes.
HIGH JUMP.—Signalman Ellis.
LONG JUMP.—Signalman Ellis.
OBSTACLE RACE.—Corporal Wilson R.
RELAY RACE.—No. 1 Company (Signalmen Horne, Hughes, Leaver and Josey).
TUG-OF-WAR.—No. 1 Company.
VETERANS' RACE.—Corporal Rogers H. G.
H.Q. RACE.—Unit Headquarters team.

A.A. Signals, Berkshire

General.—Although every effort was made last month, we regret our notes were not produced in time to be included in the October WIRE, but the contents of these notes are included below.

Camp.—Our month's partial embodiment was spent in camp during August. The came site was an excellent one and we thank our Adjutant for his foresight. Both from a social and training point of view it is doubtful whether it could have been improved upon, and it is hoped that further periods of training may be spent there. The prospects of this at present do not look very rosy, but in all wars it is often the unexpected that happens.

This was the first camp for this Unit since its formation. A considerable amount of training was carried out. The Line Maintenance Sections were, perhaps, the busiest, and it is understood that all records (and possibly, at times, methods) in construction of multi-airline, were broken. Whether this was due to the fact that the lines terminated at the local or not, I do not know, but at any rate they dismantled the lines with equal rapidity when orders were received to strike camp and proceed to war stations, the day before the camp was due to end.

Drill and route marches also played a prominent part in the curriculum and the permanent staff instructors noted with satisfaction the improvement in the bearing of all ranks towards the end of camp.

Camp Sports.—On 21st August a Unit Sports Meeting was held on the Sports Ground, kindly loaned by the local Cricket Club. Although we were partly handicapped by the lack of proper sports gear, Signals' ingenuity and good organisation made the meeting a success and quite a high standard was obtained. The best athletic standard was put up by Signalman Ellis, of No. 2 Section, who won both the High and Long Jumps. This was closely followed by our portly Messing Officer in the Obstacle Race. Congratulations are extended to Signalman Hughes, of No. 1 Company, who won the *Victor Ludorum* prize.

Camp—Social Side.—All ranks, despite the first few days of wet weather in camp, decided that there were many worse things than a wet camp, and took advantage of every opportunity for enjoying their training holiday. Of course the £5 embodiment gratuity was a considerable help in this direction. Dances in the town, cinemas and the amusement park were well patronised. Our darts players were eventually barred from trying their "luck" as the stall holders decided there was not much luck about it.

Impromptu sing-songs and a concert were held in the canteen. The "Signals Discoveries" programme brought to light much hidden talent—some high brow and some low brow. It also brought into being the Unit marching song, called, "The Quartermaster's Stores," a song which lends itself admirably to army language.

An indoor games tournament was arranged between the officers and the members of the W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess. The final results of this meeting will never be known. Score sheets half way through the evening were kept in shorthand—so short, they eventually became invisible. It was agreed, however, that it was a successful evening and presented an opportunity for the officers to meet the senior N.C.O.s of the Unit, which in some cases was for the first time.

The Officers' Mess also had its moments, especially on Mess nights. Flies can walk on ceilings—but officers! Well, I ask you!

Marriage.—Congratulations to one of our officers on his marriage, on 4th October. Good luck.

Departure.—It was with much regret that we bid farewell to our C.O., who was suddenly appointed to other duties. It seemed hard to lose him so soon, after all the work he had done in forming the Unit. On behalf of all ranks we take this opportunity of wishing him the best of luck for the future.

Promotions.—Congratulations to our new C.O. and other officers on their recent appointments and promotions, and to the numerous N.C.O.s (acting and otherwise) who have been promoted during the last two months.

The Crisis.—As we were partially embodied when the order came through for the total embodiment of the Unit, we quickly got into our stride and all war stations were manned almost the same night. Everybody has settled down to their jobs and they are carrying on as if they had been soldiering for years. Administration at present is giving the H.Q. personnel a fat head, but this will sort itself out in time.

The crisis has brought to our aid a Company of A.T.S. A fine lot of girls, who immediately set to work and have now almost made themselves indispensable. We welcome them to our Centre and hope their stay will be a pleasant one.

A.A. Signals Nottinghamshire

Much has happened since our last notes were submitted.

On 1st October we lost the whole of the original No. 2 Company, who passed into another A.A. Division. With them went their only P.S.I., namely, R.Q.M.S. Benson H., who took up that rank in the new Unit. Our very best wishes are extended to him in his new sphere.

We lost still another P.S.I. when C.Q.M.S. Hinds left us on 7th October for posting to the Scottish Command Signal Company. He, too, was posted for "Q" duties.

C.S.M. Taman F., is to take over the duties of R.S.M. Our best wishes to him when he takes up his new appointment. We hope that the "raspberries" received from those in high places will be few in number.

We are glad to say that reports of the feeding arrangements are good. The Standard Diet Messing appears to be very popular and causes far less paper work than the normal system.

Very few complaints have been heard of our hard-worked cooks. They seem to have overcome all difficulties of cooking in a very confined space and their efforts are appreciated.

Courses.—Three members of No. 1 Company are to attempt the forthcoming preliminary examination for Foreman-of-Signals. They are: Lance Sergeants Brown L. H. and Moore J. D., and Corporal Farnsworth. We naturally hope they will be successful and qualify for a vacancy at the S.T.C.

Accommodation.—We have been fortunate in gaining possession of the neighbouring house and will now be able to accommodate all personnel of Headquarters and to form complete Officers' and Sergeants' Messes. The absence of these amenities has been greatly felt since the Unit has been embodied.

Promotions and Appointments.—The following have attained the ranks shown: C.S.M. Herring C., C.Q.M.S. Briggs H., Sergeant Clee W. G., Lance Sergeants Moore J. D., Brown L. H., Sale H., McKay J. and Nicholas J., Corporals Emerson A., Watkins A., Holder F., Nicholson R., Shepard L., Nilson R., Jelley R., Cadogan L. and Moore A., Lance Corporals Glover W., Oliver A., Simnett S., Robertson B., Dadds J., Walsh M., McIntyre H., Collins W., Tripps S., Faulkes G., Adams F., Trease J., Griggs B., Garlick A., Harris A. and Harte J.

Marriages.—Lance Sergeant Brown L. H., Signalmen Rampley T., Porter E., Lofts F. and Swindell G. We are pleased to add these names to the roll of the "Happy Ones." May they soon be free to enjoy their married bliss.

Here and There.—Heard recently. D.C.S.O. of a newly-raised A.A. Division on meeting an O.R. of this Unit, during one of his tours: "If you smelt garlic, what would it be?" It is regretted that the thoughts of the O.R. are not printable.

A titled gunner of a neighbouring Unit upon presenting himself for pay expressed surprise that he was only receiving 7s. instead of the expected 14s. "But," stated the Pay Clerk, "your wife receives the other 7s." "Oh, lor," exclaimed the gunner, "I make her an allowance of a thousand a year; that makes it another seven shillings weekly as well."

The Orderly Room Sergeant and the R.S.M. have been observed doing their stuff on the lawn in the early morning lately—P.T. This appears to have got to the ears of a certain O.R., who, anticipating the extension of the "privilege," has requested the M.O. to have him excused. Nothing like getting one in first.

G. G.

SPORTS NOTES.

A very successful Boxing and Wrestling Tournament was staged recently, with the C.O. and his officers in full attendance among the spectators. Warrant officers and N.C.O.s included R.S.M. Gavey G., R.Q.M.S. Hooton S. C., C.S.M. Taman F. J., and C.Q.M.S. Pilgrim H. A.

Some excellent boxing was witnessed, but the tit-bit of the evening was probably the wrestling bout between Corporal Swann L. and Signalman Frost C. Over twelve minutes of wrestling of a high order was enjoyed (by the onlookers) before the verdict went to Corporal Swann.

The Commanding Officer presented the prizes and said that although the evening's sport had been enjoyed by all members of the Unit who were present, he regretted that existing circumstances did not permit of sport being carried on on an extended scale. It was hoped, however, to stage further boxing and wrestling bouts in the near future, which he was sure would be most enjoyable to all members of the Unit.

Results:

EVENT 1.—Boxing. Signalman Clay G. (No. 4 L.M. Section) beat Signalman Potter D. R. (No. 1 Company, H.Q.). An amusing fight, but plenty of give and take. Clay won on points.

EVENT 2.—Boxing. Signalman Douglas A. W. (7th A.A. Divisional Signals) beat Signalman Taylor R. O. (No. 1 Company, H.Q.). A good fight, but unevenly matched, Douglas having much longer reach. Douglas won on points.

EVENT 3.—Wrestling. Corporal Swann L. (No. 1 Company, H.Q.) beat Signalman Frost C. (No. 1 Company, H.Q.). First fall, 7 mins. 42 secs.; second fall, 4 mins. 29 secs. Swann was too strong, but Frost put up a splendid show and might have won with a little more weight.

EVENT 4.—Boxing. Signalman Dearling T. B. (Unit H.Q.) beat Signalman Cresswell J. W. (Unit H.Q.). A well-matched pair, even weight. Dearling won on points and did all the pressing.

EVENT 5.—Boxing. Lance Sergeant Brown L. H. (No. 1 Company, H.Q.) beat Signalman Griffin J. (No. 2 Company). Some hard hits exchanged. Griffin took a count of nine and afterwards Brown continued to press and Griffin went down for the count in the third round.

EVENT 6.—Wrestling. Signalman MacMillan H. (7th A.A. Divisional Signals) beat Signalman Priestley F. (No. 1 Company, H.Q.). First fall, 1 min. 40 secs.; second fall, 2 mins. 25 secs. An amusing bout. MacMillan did some acrobatic Apache stuff with his opponent.

EVENT 7.—Boxing. Signalman Sunderland A. (No. 4 L.M. Section) beat Signalman Ward E. (No. 1 Company, H.Q.). An unevenly matched pair, Sunderland being much heavier than Ward. The fight was stopped by the referee after Ward had been knocked through the ring and hit his head heavily on the floor.

The First (London) Ack Ack's

At the outset of the present war the 1st A.A. Unit was in course of reorganisation as a result of a new formation. The change-over coincided with a period of difficulty, but it was completed smoothly and efficiently with a minimum of inconvenience to all concerned in such a formidable task. Prior to the change, personnel were given the choice of remaining with the 1st or of transferring to the new Company, and to those of our former comrades who are now with the latter, we extend our hearty greetings and best wishes.

The members of the 1st A.A. are now settling down in their new headquarters, fully determined to make the best of their job. With the builders still at work in the existing premises, the place looks somewhat chaotic to the uninitiated. Rooms appear and disappear almost overnight, scaffolding blocks the stairways and passages, and piles of bricks and cement are placed in the most awkward spots—just as though the Crazy Gang had been invited to take a hand in the proceedings. However, the efforts to produce an atmosphere of "spit and polish" are beginning to make an impression, and the ultimate effect should be good.

What is more, rapid progress is being made with the construction of the large new drill hall, the huge steel girders now in position giving some idea of the generous proportions of the building. When this section is completed, the Unit will undoubtedly possess one of the finest headquarters in the area.

The majority of the personnel are billeted in large mansions in the vicinity, while the Don R.'s boast a "super-super" address of which they are said to be very proud. The men's mess is situated in a church hall, which is also serving as a social centre, accessory to the Unit canteen. The hall is being used for Saturday night dances, and here was recently held a splendid farewell concert to the A.T.S. detachment first attached to the Unit and now replaced by another detachment of these very useful people.

Apart from the daily routine of duties, the social side is being actively developed and every opportunity for recreation is being taken. Facilities exist for football, swimming, tennis, rowing, billiards and other games, and although the country air and camp life are missed, everybody is keeping in splendid trim and good spirits.

Plans are practically complete for the production of a Unit magazine, to be known as *The Ack Ack Mercury*, and it is claimed that THE WIRE will have to look to its laurels when this literary masterpiece makes its appearance. It will be interesting to compare this wartime effort with journals of a similar character that may be sponsored by other Companies.

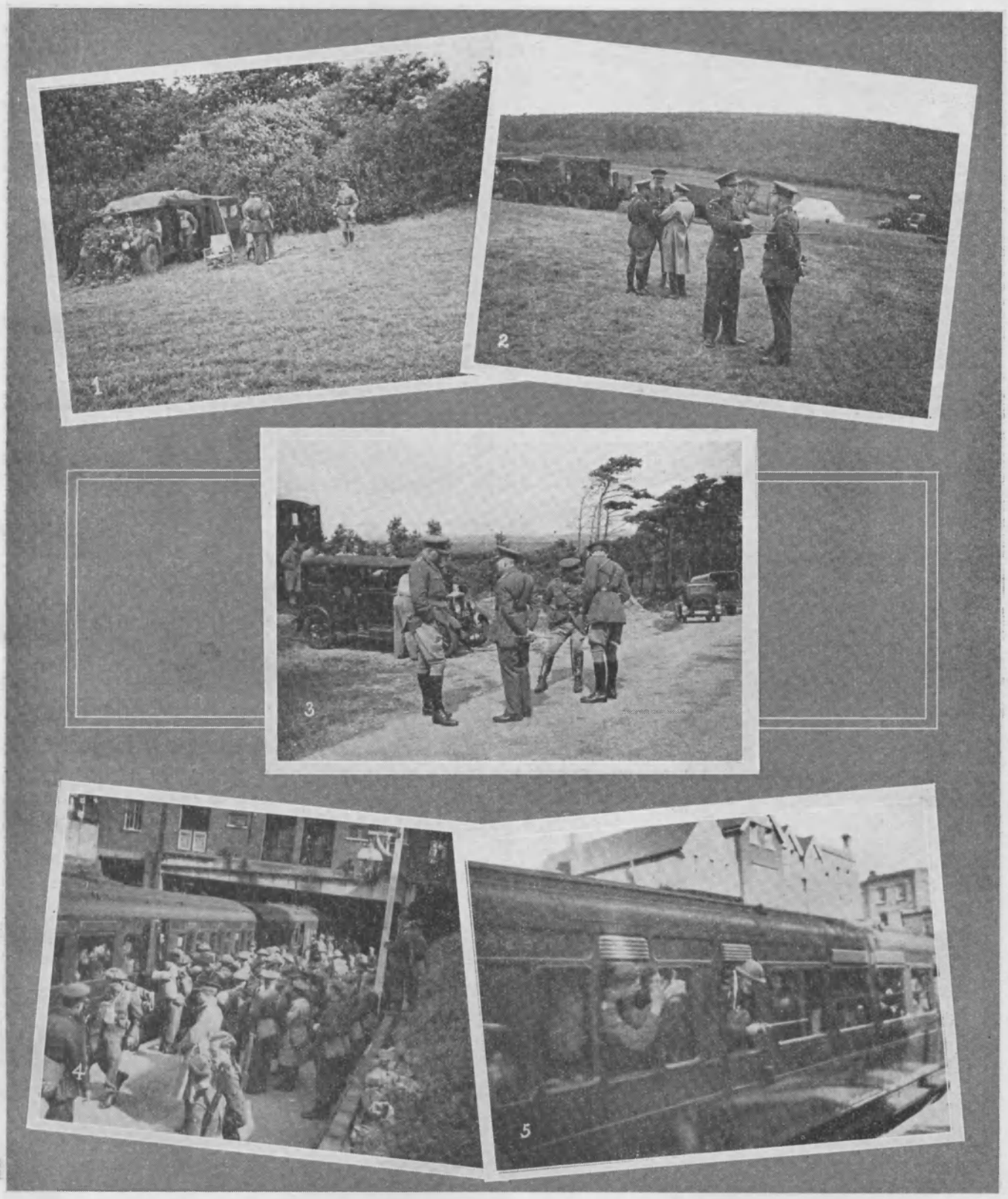
Congratulations are due to our O.C. on assuming command of the Unit, to whom the complete loyalty of his men is assured. Space forbids the inclusion of details of many promotions which have been made as a result of the recent reorganisation.

Advertisements!

THOSE FIRMS WHO ADVERTISE IN THESE PAGES SUPPORT OUR MAGAZINE.
WILL OUR READERS PLEASE SUPPORT THEM IN RETURN?

★

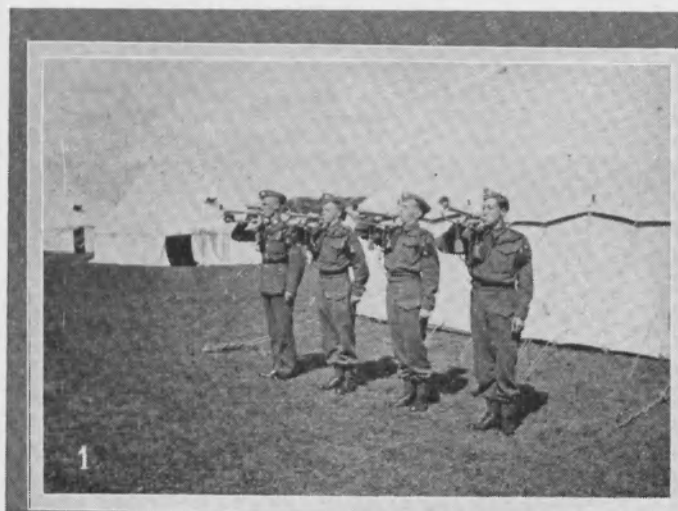
SOMEWHERE IN ENGLAND!

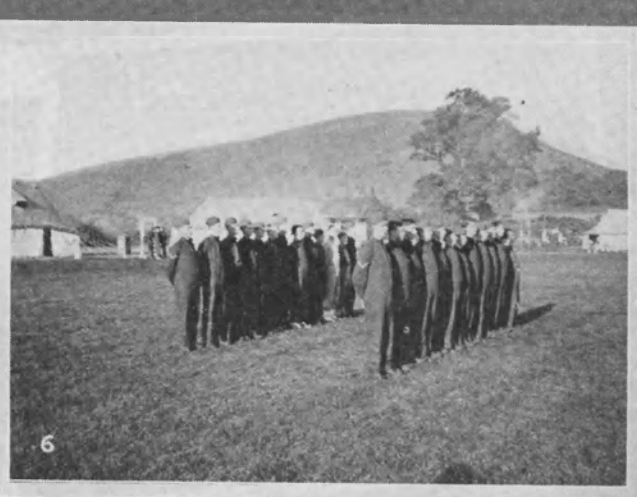


1, 2, 3. Countryside Conferences.

4, 5. Cheerio !

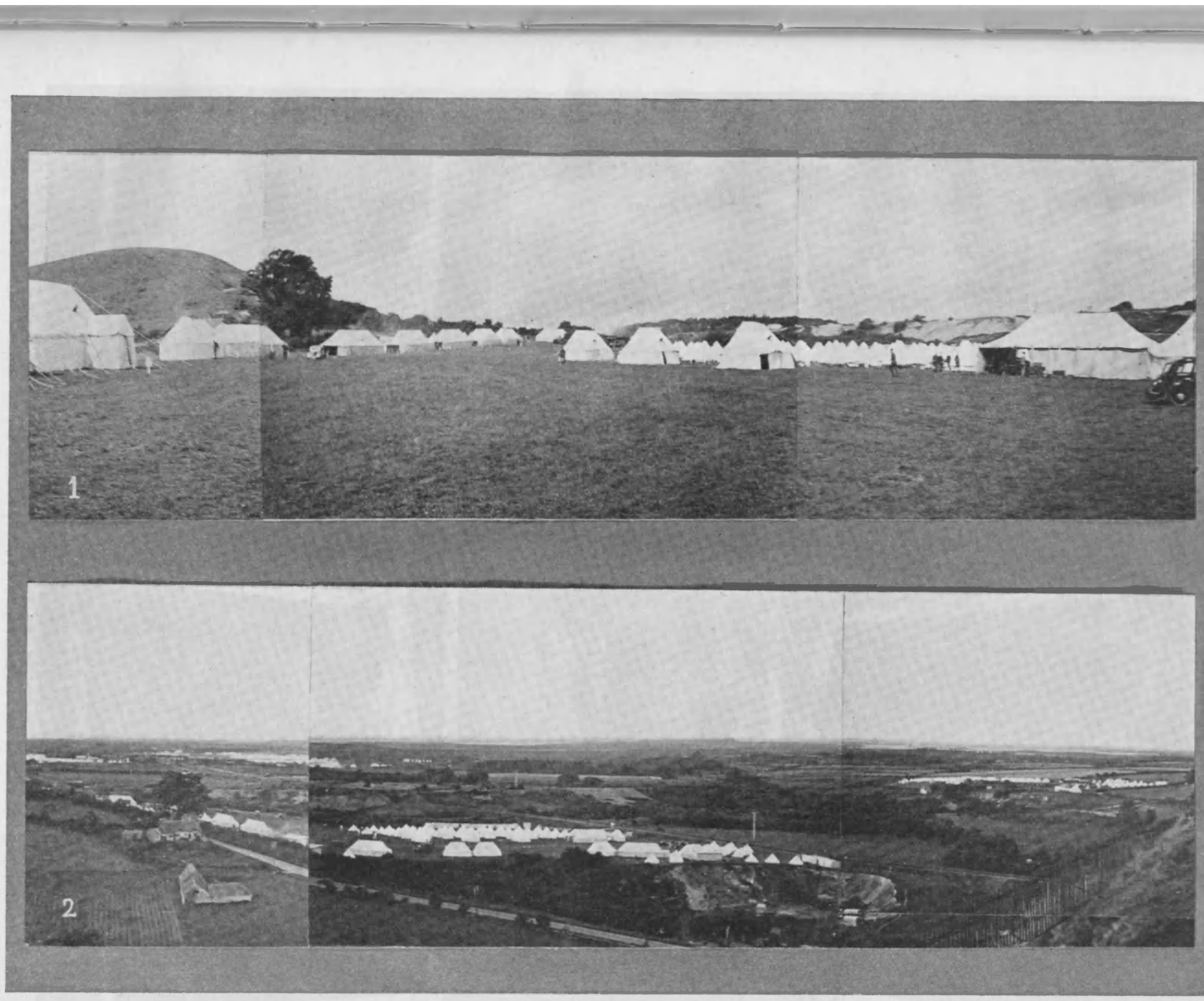
— REMINISCENCES —





LONDON CORPS SIGNALS AT CAMP, AUGUST, 1939.

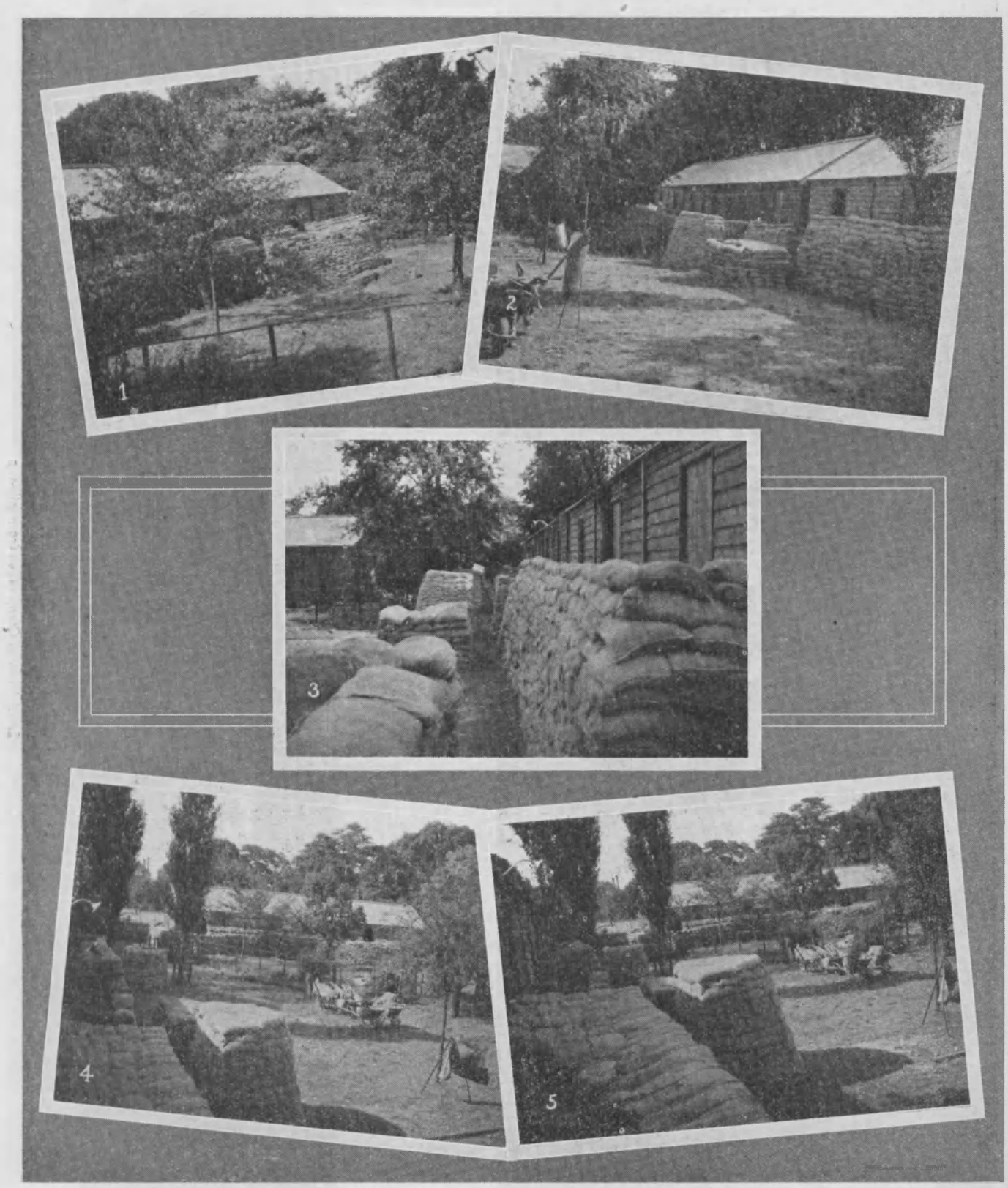
1. Reveille.
2. Who Cares.
3. Lining up for Dinner.
4. Cook House.
5. *Versus* Royal Tank Regiment.
6. The First Batch of N.C.O.'s.



LONDON CORPS OF SIGNALS AT CAMP, AUGUST, 1939

1. A Close-up of Camp
2. A View of Camp taken from hill-top

SOMEWHERE IN ENGLAND!



"BAGS" OF EVERYTHING!

West Riding Signals, Yorkshire

Training.—What a tremendous amount of ground that one word covers. It keeps us busy during our waking hours and in some cases we dream of it. One redeeming feature is that we have little time to think of less important things, such as war and Hitler. All the German Generals fade into the background when one has a "Q" Sheet hovering in view; our greatest barrier at present is not the Siegfried Line but Classification.

Food.—"Oh, yes, you are fine and dandy now, but wait until you come on R.A.S.C. rations." That is the sort of thing we were told until we waited with apprehension for the day when the R.A.S.C. should function. On the fateful day we should not have been surprised had we been confronted with biscuits and bully for breakfast. Well, now we know, and if all our difficulties have such a satisfactory ending we shall be content. No one expects to live in the lap of luxury when there is a war in progress. Suffice it to say that we are doing very nicely, thank you!

Sport.—Plans are afoot for a comprehensive programme of sports of all kinds, Inter-Section and Company, and entertainments are not forgotten. We have had some successful concerts and a preliminary check shows that the Unit is not short of talent, which will shortly be utilised to the full. If we had four pianos we could stage a star turn. Any offers?

Married Bliss.—Weddings are not taking place quite so frequently as during the early weeks of the war. The atmosphere seems calmer and, we might add, safer. Those who rushed into the attack are now slowly consolidating and we who supported them are waiting to give our assistance to the second wave.

AQUA.

North Midland Signals

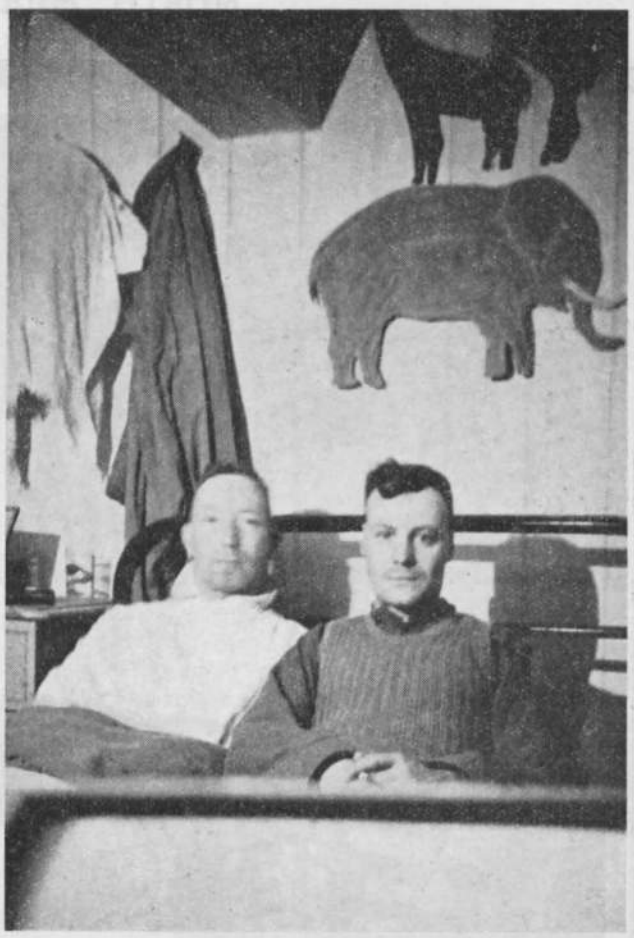
The month finds the N.M.s on "Active Service somewhere in England." R.H.Q. and No. 1 Company are billeted about a fine private park, occupying the early 19th century lodge and outbuildings, in varying degrees of comfort. Generally speaking, "home comforts" were not too elaborate at first; but it is astonishing how quickly troops can improvise things, aided by the excellent weather which has favoured us so far. "A" Section, for instance, found themselves under somewhat Spartan conditions, the occupants of a pen with wire mesh front. The elements, however, have been successfully excluded by the carpentry department of "M" Section, and the place now presents quite a snug appearance.

As time goes on changes of personnel inevitably take place, particularly among officers and senior N.C.O.s. On the other hand, quite a number who have been absent for some years have rejoined us from the Reserve.

The elimination of young soldiers and the "comb-out" made other gaps in our ranks, but these were, of course, automatically filled. In spite of all these repercussions the Unit is still very much as of old, retaining the full pride of its high standards and traditions.

Turning to the lighter side of life, recreational pursuits are not neglected. With an eye to physical fitness, and in addition to regular P.T., an Inter-Section football league is in operation, under the direction of Sergeant Simpson, and matches are played off daily. A strong competitive spirit prevails. No one has, as yet, thought of starting a Littlewood's Pool!

From football pools we turn to "Pool Petrol," and from petrol to things mechanical. The supply of hired motor cycles for training brought motor cycling in somewhat short-lived fashion in most unexpected quarters. The enthusiasm waned when the would-be trials experts discovered that the mechanical horse has playful ways, and it is not really a dignified spectacle to behold an elderly Sergeant-Major extricating himself painfully from under a pile of wreckage. And so the threat of rivalry to the Display Team has virtually passed. This is not to say that progress in driving motor cycles and other vehicles is not being made. On the contrary, training classes have revealed quite an astonishing aptitude among complete novices.



Mr. and Mrs. Sant in bed.
(Pink Elephant and the Giraffes in the backgroud)

Sergeants' Mess Notes.—The Mess here normally consists of about 20 members and is ensconced in one of the outbuildings. The absence of any external attraction induces plenty of opportunities for convivial gatherings in the evenings. Also, as at the present period the detached sections come in daily for training, a complete reunion of the original Mess frequently takes place. We are fortunate in having an excellent Mess cook, and the messing arrangements are in the capable hands of "Mother Nokes." For billeting, the W.O.s and N.C.O.s of R.H.Q. occupy the original grooms' "flat" above the stables, which is appointed with all mod. conv. and where the less hardy (or more fortunate) have secured the possession of spring beds.

Bill Galpin has been sorely afflicted of late by visitations from a pink elephant and two blue giraffes which follow him about in a most embarrassing fashion. He sometimes finds difficulty in negotiating the steep staircase in their company.

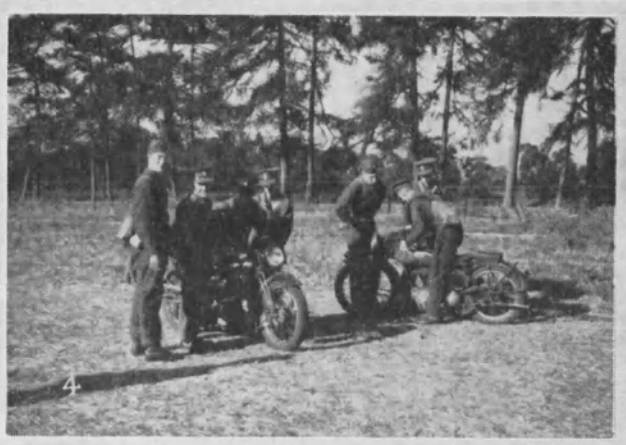
Photograph shows the human side of two popular W.O.s (off duty). In the background is the menagerie previously referred to. I would like to report the story of "Lanagan's Sink," but that is a very deep subject.

A "tash"-growing competition has been in vogue, but has suffered severe set-backs from week-end leave, as apparently a clean upper lip is more favoured by the better halves.

Congratulations to R.Q.M.S. Robson and Sergeant Smith on their respective promotions.

Despatch Riders' Notes.—Having had greatness thrust upon him in the shape of promotion to C.Q.M.S., "Getcher" might be expected in future to view the activities of D.R.s from a somewhat oblique angle. At the same time, the appalling

NORTH MIDLAND SIGNALS



1. A Section Billet.
2. M Section Workshop.
3. "Getcher" with strange ideas of enjoyment.
4. The Motor-Cycle School.
5. Looking back ! Display on Sheringham Sands.

stigma which appears to attach the association with " gents on wheels " is not easy to live down. The mantle has now descended upon Sergeant Smith and in future it will be up to him to see that his clan receives adequate publicity in these columns. At present " Don " Section D.R.s are holding their own in the football field by heading the league table. Another form of recreation is watching the less versatile members of the Unit in their efforts to master the mechanical steed. Their billet, styled the D.R.s' Mess, or more vulgarly known as " The Monkey House," is situated in a loft over the stable, which has been transformed by devious ways into quite a snug retreat; it having but one and difficult entrance, leaves them comparatively free from molestation on the part of their many human enemies.

The Display Team's final fixture of the season had to be cancelled at the outbreak of war. It has been decided, however, to hold the Annual Dinner, war or no war, and this will take place locally on 25th October.

In conclusion. Hello! D.R.s of London, Leeds, Manchester and Derby! Good riding to you wherever you are. Let us have a line sometimes through these columns or via the Army Post Office.

GETCHER.

Lowland Divisional Signals

The beginning of the seventh week of war finds us still in our little grey home in the West with our training proceeding apace. Every morning, budding Instrument Mechanics proceed to " The College " (very near at hand) and future wireless experts to another, some distance away, but well worth the long trek. The tuition received at both these institutions is proving admirably suited to our purposes. The rest of the Unit metaphorically hang on the lips of the P.S.I.s and drink in the maximum amount of information from Monday to Friday. Everybody is working hard and the spirit of the troops, as they say, is excellent.

Our life has been gladdened by the arrival of a contingent of A.T.S., under Miss Gemmell, as Commandant. Their efficient help is much appreciated. No. 1 Company are now comfortably settled in their new billets, and No. 3 Company, not to be outdone, are preparing to move into the H.L.I. Headquarters. Our motto for the month might be taken from the well-known theatrical advertisement: " You want the best billets, we have them."

The monotony of training has been very pleasantly relieved by most successful concerts. No. 1 Company's show provided a remarkable revelation of unsuspected talent, while a party of entertainers, kindly brought together by Miss Bateman, of Collins's Theatrical Agency, gave us an excellent show at Headquarters. Our sincere thanks to all who took part.

Congratulations.—The appearance in the Mess of two brand-new Majors made 16th September a very memorable day. Heartiest congratulations to both on their promotions. The double occasion was most fittingly celebrated, emphasis being laid on the " double."

And now from the majors to a minor. Warmest congratulations to our Messing Officer on the birth of a daughter. The cares of parenthood are already writ clearly upon his features, but, after all, why should the feeding of an extra mouth cause any worry to one toward whom hundreds of gaping mouths are turned thrice daily?

Greetings.—We offer a warm welcome to a 2nd Lieutenant, late Cambridge University O.T.C., who has recently joined us from the south and is now adorning No. 3 Company. He will, we feel, be a very notable addition to our strength.

Obituary.—We deeply regret to have to report the death of Signalman Cuthbertson R., as the result of an accident. During his period of service with us, Cuthbertson had proved himself a fine Despatch Rider and was held in high esteem by all with whom he came into contact. We offer our deepest sympathy to his family.

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(Corner of Wellington Street)
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LONDON, W.C.1 - 118-132 NEW OXFORD STREET

Welsh Divisional Signals

This is a lovely war! Moving-off from the Drill Hall saw a large convoy of assorted transport, which included " Hitler's Coffin," rumble away to an " unknown destination." Friends and relatives were there to wish us God-speed and Press photographers to give us a pictorial record. That night saw us safely encamped at a West Midland showground. We are still here, with the wind howling through the " Polish Corridor " and troops sleeping in cattle pens, but snug. A certain N.C.O. has already been awarded first prize in the fat stock competition!

Work is proceeding apace. Trench digging made us fit and good discipline, mixed with cheerful keenness, has given us the bearing and precision of Regulars. The training programme has been carefully devised to give us the requisite number of hourly periods to each subject from operating to driving with squads grouped according to proficiency. Everything works smoothly, with no wastage of time between periods. Weekly tests keep us on our toes and will help to keep Adolf on the run when we can get to grips.

Entertainment is not forgotten. " Taffy " Turner and " Sir " James Mahoney, with other willing helpers, gave a fine concert, which was attended by our Commanding Officer, other officers and about two hundred of the " Boys." A few pints of beer and a good sing-song were very welcome after a hard day, and we now look for " Taffy " and Co. to repeat their fine performance.

We had to lose our immatures and unfits, and we wish them good-bye and good luck. To those lost to the Cadre and other places, we hope it is merely *au revoir*.

On absorption of P.S.I.s into the Unit, No. 1 Company lose C.S.M. Varley to No. 3 Company. His quiet efficiency will be missed by No. 1, but they still hope to see that smile behind a " Blue Nile."

West Country Divisional Signals, Devonshire

The first matter of importance to chronicle since our last appearance in these pages is our change of name. In the first days of this change we had certain misgivings, but in the light of subsequent events we are quite happy with the new one.

The second matter is the rapidity with which events have crowded upon one another since we marched into camp at Corfe Castle last August. There has been very little breathing space during this time in which to try to take stock of any situation. Despite the haste and speed, everyone is happy, and sudden moves are now treated simply as matters of normal routine. Life is moving rather smoothly at present, and all branches of training are receiving attention. The various Company notes give fuller details of training and recreation.

MERCURY.

No. 1 Company

Since our embodiment we have seen ourselves growing more and more military every day. Already we have half forgotten we were ever civilians. Those days when we served behind the counter, when we conducted that bus, when at an early hour we trailed through the gates of the "Yard," or hastened over accumulated correspondence in a hope of leaving the office on time—those days seem already to belong to some distant and misty past. It now seems natural to rise at an early hour in uniform, to be marched about instead of walking places in one's own time, to have every detail of one's existence planned for one.

Our life during the last month seems to have divided itself into two phases; the time before and after coming to our concentration area. The first period, when we still lived in our homes, we still seemed half civilians. Now that we are together the army has completely claimed us for its own. The Company, in spite of sleeping on hard floors, eating off tin plates, and being divorced from the many comforts which come as a matter of course in civilian life, has settled down speedily and happily to its new life. People who have spent half their lives in stuffy offices are now marching about with a healthy blush on their cheeks, no doubt partly stimulated by early morning P.T.; while at the other end of the day the Entertainments Committee and the local Y.M.C.A. and other bodies are doing their best to see that the off-duty hours are not dull ones.

Promotions.—The following are to be congratulated on promotion or appointment to the undermentioned ranks: To be A/Lance Sergeants: Corporals Nightingale E. J. and Pawlby A. G. To be A/Corporals and appointed A/Lance Sergeants: Lance Corporals Travers S. C. and Lance Corporal Skinner P. C. To be A/Corporals: Lance Corporals Newcombe S. R., Hookway J. H., L/Lance Corporals Lester W. H. J. S., L/Lance Corporal Harris F. J. T., Signalmen Wherry G. A., Glass R., North K. J., Bowhay G. R., Harris G. A., Johnson J. H. To be A/Lance Corporals: L/Lance Corporals Johns F. H., Clift F. H. and Olver H. G., Signalmen Smith W. J., Dawe G. C., Colmer J. W., Laxton B. H. P., Bartlett W. R., Wilkin A. C., Robins G. S., Hewison C. S. and Miles W. H.

Change of Command.—The Company has been very sorry this month to lose its Commanding Officer, who has been commanding it for over five years, but he has now gone as second in command of the H.Q. unit. We are pleased to welcome his successor, who has given up the post of Assistant Adjutant to command No. 1 Company.

ONECOY.

No. 2 Company

These, our first notes, will, I am afraid, have to be confined to a short summary of the history of the Company itself.

With the introduction of the expansion scheme of the T.A., this Company was formed early in May as a Second Line Company of the main unit.

Approximately 100 recruits were enlisted and with a nucleus of a number of Senior N.C.O.s, the Company was organised into Section, and training commenced.

The Company was fortunate in their new Commanding Officer, a former Signal Officer of the same Unit, who had been on the Reserve List of Officers for some time. With the able instruction and co-operation of Sergeants Taylor, Field and Bastin, the Company was grouped and allocated their various trades and training commenced.

At the same time the Company was fortunate enough to have C.S.M. Smith as P.S.I., who came to us from a well-known Regular Unit on "The Plain."

Steady progress was made in technical training before Camp, and on arrival there it was observed how much the Company had benefited by the assistance of the experienced Operators, Corporals Jones, Litton and Bartholomew, who joined us shortly after the formation of the Company.

Not only in technical training but in drill generally, the Company did well, and Camp was enjoyed by all.

Now we find ourselves doing the real thing (as far as stores and transport will allow) somewhere in England, and I feel sure the experience is not only valuable but so far enjoyable also.

Recently we had "thrust upon us" Sergeants Dalton and Holladay, and whilst awaiting their commissions they have made themselves completely at home with the Company. With the next Notes we hope to forward a photograph of the Company taken since mobilisation.

[Many thanks in anticipation. We shall be glad to reproduce it and any other topical illustrations available.—EDITOR].

Things We Want to Know.—Why do the lads volunteer for guard?

Why did the wasps die off when we arrived here?
Why does the Company clamour for communal C.B.?

Things Heard on Parade.—Officer: "Why didn't you clean your buttons, my lad?"
Recruit: "It was my pal's turn this morning, sir, and he missed them!"

Things We DO Know.—1. Why a certain Sergeant is known as (1) Skittles; (2) Ladybird.
2. The type of early morning medicine administered by Dr. Smith to men unable to face Check Parade.

SQUIFFY.

No. 3 Company

No. 3 Company are thoroughly enjoying themselves "somewhere in England." Intensive training is proceeding apace under the qualified instruction of C.S.M. King, Sergeant Hall and Sergeant Todd, while the mysteries of map reading and the prismatic compass are being unfolded to us.

Present work is taking the form of a month's course, covering all branches of signalling, and it is hoped that there will be considerable success in the trade tests that will be taken in a few weeks' time.

Meanwhile there has been a good deal of "toughening up." Route marches, P.T. under Sergeant Johnson, and the hard boards of the local town hall have seen to this. Now, however, the majority of the Company has been moved into civilian billets, thus bringing to light the complex of a young Lance Corporal who alleged that he would have to work up gradually, *via* the bedroom floor, before he could feel at home again on a spring mattress.

Welcome.—The biggest change during the "concentration period"—which commenced after a few days' temporary occupation of the old headquarters—is the appointment of our C.O. to H.Q. under instruction. We extend a cordial welcome to his successor.

Entertainment.—The Company is doing its bit towards the Unit Concert which, by the time this appears in print, will be but a pleasant memory. An entertainments committee, which has been formed, have made excellent plans for the winter months, and a full programme of social events has been planned. A variety concert was given by members of a Gaumont-British unit, which is staying in the neighbourhood.

Courses.—Many members of the Company are departing at intervals to take part in special Courses in other parts of the country. They include Sergeant Johnson, Sergeant Glice, Signalmen Eastley, Pedrick, Rowe, and Roach.

THREECOY.

Northern Ireland

Every new fact from the war now in progress goes to indicate that success can only attend the operations of armies that maintain their communications intact. It is for this reason we feel sure our Corps will perform some epic work to embellish our regimental history and to prove for all time that the Royal Corps of Signals has not been organised and trained in vain.

As now situated we are, of course, not in the main theatre of war, but we are in an important strategic position and there has been much to do since war began. There has, in fact, been so much done, there has been so much traffic, there have been so many lines laid, so many additions to the personnel of this Station, that it would be futile to attempt to record all details.

Moreover, we have no wish to produce notes like Part II Orders, but we shall here confine ourselves to a brief review of recent events, deal with cause and effect, and write only of events in general, although we shall inevitably remark on one or two personalities in particular, without being too personal, we hope.

A Change is as Good as a Rest.—Napoleon once remarked that in war the situation changes every moment. And it is just so with us. We not only carry on the time-honoured practices of sheet changing and battery changing, but also have to remark in the wet canteen a good deal of price changing accompanied by face changing, head shaking, and, in some extreme cases, complete prostration.

It was tea we drank one evening recently when our neighbours of the Royal Army Service Corps were invited to join us in a few exciting but quite innocuous games of ping-pong, darts, rings, shove-ha'penny and cards. But in spite of the tea, and perhaps because of it, everyone had a good time. Signalman Carter is to be congratulated, for he did a good job as the organiser and host on this social occasion, and practically everyone turned up with a respirator. Also, we were glad to see " Lady Madgwick " sailing round, with a conspicuous pipe clenched between the molars. " Her Ladyship " spent the evening in customary capricious style, belching smoke in people's faces and throwing cakes about all over the place. We were glad to note also the " Duke of Bruges " moving quietly about the room cracking his inevitable slabs of toffee on the unsuspecting heads of card players. Mr. Bayliss also, who had been out all day inspecting lines, dropped in for a quiet hour and was let in for a sort of busman's holiday, playing snakes and ladders with Signalmen Steele and Cable.

Our Commanding Officer wound up the proceedings with a brisk speech, in which the main theme was DON'T BE GLOOMY. We were urged to do all the work we can, to have all the sport we can, to eat all the food we can, pending that auspicious moment when we join our comrades in France, clasp heroic hands in heroic hands, and then proceed to hang our washing on the Siegfried Line. DON'T BE GLOOMY is the slogan we have adopted, and the general opinion with regard to our early victory in this war is neatly expressed in the remark which often passes down the ranks : " IT'S A DODDLE."

We have, of course, enjoyed some good sport, both in and out of barracks, and that does not exclude a few nocturnal adventures down town. We have had several hockey and football matches with the R.A.S.C. and with our friends " The Sussex," and up to this date we are glad to announce the only casualty while on active service was that of Signalman Jeffery, who inadvertently came into sharp contact with a hockey stick and thereby had his face lifted on the hockey ground while on active service. Bad luck !

Air Raid Distortions.—War has introduced all kinds of precautions and not less instructive has been the series of lectures and anti-gas training carried out daily under C.S.M. Pummell, who one morning told us that mustard gas smells like garlic and then said such gas is so persistent it will hang on to Army socks after washing and cause blisters on the feet. Yet C.S.M Pummell, for all his long experience in answering awkward questions, had no answer for the Signalman who earnestly inquired what was the difference between the smell of garlic and the smell of the inanimate Army sock.

In Conclusion.—At the moment of writing there is a considerable depression over these parts, but our enthusiasm remains undamped. The spirit of the troops, like the messing, is excellent. Undoubtedly, as time goes on, we shall be required to do without all kinds of things, and perhaps we shall even have to face the day when beer is a shilling a pint and a fag works out at a penny a time ; but one thing is certain—the war must go on until Hitler is reduced to food for worms.

ROYAL SIGNALS CAR BADGE.

The above illustration describes a new Car Badge, which has been designed to meet the requirements of all Royal Signals car owners.

It is a highly finished production of excellent workmanship—Chromium plated with a central background of Royal Signals Corps colours in enamel—and can be obtained on application to The Secretary, Signals Association ; 15/6 each.

STATIONS ABROAD

Western (India) District Signals

General.—It is regretted that THE WIRE contributions from this Unit have missed several months' publications. A lot can happen in two or three months these days, so for old members of this Unit, there is quite a lot of news to bring forward.

Our summer months are the busiest and we have known all about it this season, owing to Indianisation of the Unit.

We were complimented for our efforts on the " King's Birthday Ceremonial Parade," on 8th June, also the Annual Inspection of the Unit by the Chief Signal Officer, Eastern Command, Western (India) District, on 16th June.

In the training line we have completed our Annual Firing Course and Annual Gas Course, with all the latest developments, told to us by our latest Unit Gas Officer.

We have had weekly Unit and Traffic Schemes and the standard of all connected in their trades has risen considerably.

We have now commenced Autumn Training, " J " Section having already moved out to camp.

At the moment of writing, though, we are concerned about the news from home, and for some of us, our training looks like turning into grim reality.

Arrivals.—We extend a cordial welcome to all our newly joined officers and 23 British other ranks, and hope their stay with us will be a pleasant one.

Departures.—Two Sections left for an unknown destination, but our curiosity was soon satisfied, because the B.B.C. told us. We hope that their holiday camp will be to their liking, and wonder if they really want to return to the hills of India.

We also said " Lucky You " to a draft which left us for home to take up duties in the Militia Training Centres.

We wish all concerned the best of luck in their new surroundings.

Congratulations.—To the following on promotion to their present rank: R.S.M. Cooper J., 1/5/39; W.O. III (S.S.M.) Toogood F., 13/4/39; C.Q.M.S. Benfield G., 1/7/39; Sergeant Fairclough R., 13/4/39; Sergeant Johnson J. H., 25/6/39; Temporary Sergeants Carruthers F., and Bray L., 1/7/39; Lance Sergeant Boniface P., 1/6/39; Lance Sergeant Phillpott C., 28/6/39; and numerous junior N.C.O.s.

To Sergeants Cooke, Waite and Johnson on receiving the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

To Lance Corporal Crockett L., on his marriage to Dorothy Samuel at Quetta on 9/8/39.

To Lieutenant A. J. E. Johnson and Mrs. Johnson on the birth of a daughter, Patricia Margaret, at Quetta, on 24/8/39.

Good luck, and does the beer taste good these days?

H. P.

Sergeants' Mess.

Owing to Indianisation of the Unit, N.C.O.s required for mystery forces, autumn training and Blighty leave, our membership is somewhat depleted.

We welcome Lance Sergeant Driver (Tiger) from Meerut, also C.Q.M.S. Conway (Gripper), who exchanged duties with Sergeant Lewis at Loralai.

Congratulations to our new President, R.S.M. Cooper J. He was top of the boat list having just about completed 21 years' service, now, of course, we have a slight suspicion that he will have to wait until the Army age limit.

On Saturday, 5th August, 1939, a very enjoyable dance was held on the tennis courts. De Sousa's Band was in attendance, and with the tennis courts having been well prepared and lit with fairy lights, supplied and erected by our Foreman of Signals (C.Q.M.S. Fuller) we certainly had a good time, and thank the committee for the hard work they put in.

Our Sunday evening entertainments are proving very popular, the ladies showing us how to play games, at which we thought we were good, and they certainly know how to shout " House."

C.S.M. Watford R. has left us for Rawalpindi, where he is to reign back once more in the office of the C.S.O., Northern Command. (How is it done, Bob?)

Congratulations to all our members who have received a social uplift through the " Blue Book." The pass word seems to be " What's yours? "

POSSY.

Waziristan District Signals

Headquarters.

1st September, 1939.

Arrivals.—We take this opportunity of welcoming our new Commanding Officer, who has just been posted from Southern Command, H.Q., India. All ranks sincerely hope that his stay will be a very pleasant one.

Lance Corporal McWilliams from Razmak Brigade Section, and " Roko " from Manzai.

Departures.—Lance Sergeant Ogden J. passed through recently en route to the U.K. on transfer to the Home Establishment on compassionate grounds. What are these " Cook's Tours " anyway? All our best wishes go with him.

General.—Congratulations to the following on reaching the ranks mentioned: Lance Sergeant Barton, Lance Corporal Richmond, and to the others from Brigade Sections who will, no doubt, be mentioned in their notes. It seems unnecessary these days for a " Blue Book."

All the " Q.s " of the Unit were in evidence for about three weeks during August to attend the quarterly conference. It was rumoured that Lance Sergeant Park merely wanted a change of air, prior to proceeding on his anticipated Blighty leave.

Lance Sergeant Barton proceeded on three weeks' leave to Murree during the month. What is the attraction in Murree this year we wonder?

The " local " lads are still in the habit of sending over one or two each night, and there have been several casualties during the month amongst other Units in Razmak. It was noticed that some members of the Unit continued to duck, even though they were in the canteen behind nice thick walls.

A number of rumours are flying about that personnel are being supplied with bullet-proof waistcoats from Ordnance.

We were beaten in the first round of the Brigade tug-o'-war, but are anticipating better results in the athletics which take place during the month. Since taking up training for this said tug-o'-war, Signalman (Paddy) Cullen has lost eight pounds. It will, however, save him the expense of buying " Silf," which he had in mind.

Walter's Corner.—Who put their clothing allowance in the A.S.A. this month?

Who was the individual who applied to proceed to the G.S.F.A. Bannu to study Urdu?

Tail-End.—Chin, chin till ock.

DLANOD.

I.T. continues, and there is no reason why all those on the upgrading course should not raise their A.S.A. deposits (if any), but, of course, there are " sprogs." Still whatever we are, Class I,

or Class III, those at home continue to write to us as " tea planters." It is Johnston's fault, anyway. He will write to those Miami girls and create the latest fashions in ladies' pyjamas.

Anyway, Razcol operations do not prevent training. No, we do them at night. During the past fortnight the Section has helped to carry out two successful stunts. The No. 7 Set gave a very good account of itself, especially on speech, " Can you hear what I am calling you," and all that. But it is not possible to keep continuous communication whilst the Battalion is moving over the roughest ground, up nullahs and heartbreaking hills. Yet the Column H.Q. set is always answered with " K," though the language of the operators is not always what it might be !

Lance Corporal Waite has taken over the pay and messing accounts. " No messin' "—you said it.

Oh, yes, the Four Year Plan fell through. It appeared on orders during the month. I am told there was a great demand for razor blades that night, but the urge was overcome by the words, " Well, it's only another twelve months," they hope.

T/Sergeant Watson lost the " T " in The Stakes, other placings were U/Lance Corporal Byron to be paid and Signalman Vincent to U/Lance Corporal, and what a sweat in general. Phew !

The Section, joined by Headquarters, will shortly compete in the Brigade athletics. Last year we won the cup with the help of the R.A. Medium Section, but we are alone this year, and can only do our best. According to the pace set up by certain members of the Section hockey team, running from the pitch after one of the " oil bottles, flying, with wings," sent over by one of the " locals," there should be some good times at the ends of the events.

Well, " there ain't no bones in beer," or is there, Brutal ? And " labuntur anni." Till next month.

GAV.

W.O.s' and N.C.O.s' Mess.

Welcome.—To our new Commanding Officer, who arrived at the beginning of the month. We hope your stay in Waziristan will be a pleasant one, sir.

Social.—The main event of the month took place on Saturday, 5th August, when the Summer Race Meeting was held. The winners of the races were as follows :

FIRST RACE.—Bucked by evicted out of Chair. Owned and ridden by F/Corporal Loakes.

SECOND RACE.—Was owned by Learning, ridden by Corporal Roberts.

THIRD RACE.—The Signals Hurdle Posting Plate was won by the outsider Huh ! by Expression out of Mouth. Owned and ridden by Sergeant Clackett

The officials were the same as for the last meeting with the exception of " Schooley " Walker, A.E.C., who deputised for S.S.M. Wales. It is doubtful whether " Schooley " could see the winning post as there were one or two doubtful decisions. How many posts did you see, " Schooley," one, two or three ?

After the meeting the Razmak Male Voice Choir entertained the crowd. The Choir was very ably led by Corporal " Turmit " Russell. Solos were rendered by C.S.M. Gudgeon, who sang " Daisy Bell " in Urdu, and C.Q.M.S. Riddely of The Green Howards, who sang the " Post Stores Lament." It brought tears to our eyes and touched the heartstrings of " Ben."

Saturday, 19th August, a darts competition was held at D.H.Q. and we are pleased to report that the Mess " B " Team won the trophy. The team consisted of F/Corporal Loakes (captain), Sergeants Collins, Howard and Watson.

Congratulations.—To Lance Sergeant Barton F. on attaining his present rank.

Leave.—At present Sergeant " Debris " Gordon is on leave. How we miss your thrilling tales of Wana and Spinwam, not to mention Mersa Matruh. Lance Sergeant Barton is enjoying life in Murree, where Dame Rumour has been very active, but the cat will not be let out of the bag for a while.

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Check.—The Section " Q " N.C.O.s are in from the Sections for the annual ledger check. Before work commences daily they sing their theme song, " I've got those Ordnance Ledger Blues."

Query.—Why did Lance Sergeant Park and Corporal Winter use cold cream when in Razmak ? Was it because of sun-burn or heart-burn ?

To " Paddy " Lister, A.F.V., Signals. What about another issue of four by two for " Tich " Freeman ? Memories of September, 1938.

KIKO.

Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop

Trimulgherry, India.
October, 1939.

General.—Captain J. N. Barker, Royal Signals, was married to Miss Evelyn May Bennett, at St. George's Church, Hyderabad (Deccan) on the 11th September, 1939. The ceremony was attended by Officers of the Station, friends of the bride, B.O.R.s, their families, and several I.O.R.s of the Troop. A brother Officer gave away the bride and an Officer of The King's Regiment was best man.

On leaving the church, the couple passed under the arch of the guard of honour, made up of Officers with their swords and other ranks with blue and white signal flags.

Much to their surprise on leaving the church, the happy couple and the two bridesmaids in attendance, found a six horse-drawn cable wagon awaiting to take them on through Hyderabad to Mahbubia Bungalow, the scene of the wedding reception.

The cable wagon party were as follows : Lieutenant, No. 1, Captain, Lead Driver, R.S.M. Day, Centre, Lieutenant, Wheeler, Sergeant Dilworth, Brakesman, Lance Sergeant Abraham, No. 7.

Prize Giving by Mrs. J. N. Barker, at the Tabloid Sports, Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop 1939

The bride and bridegroom occupied the box, whilst the two bridesmaids occupied the seats of Nos. 3 and 4.

At the subsequent reception, the newly married couple were toasted in the time-honoured fashion. Here we will leave them, with all ranks of Royal Signals, Trimulgherry, wishing them both prosperity and luck in the future.

Arrivals.—A Unit Officer and Lance Sergeant Robertson, from leave in the United Kingdom, per H.M.T.s " Britannic " and " Duchess of Bedford," respectively. All are glad to see them back and to hear tales of their very adventurous journey out.

Sports.—With the exception of Inter-Troop games, sport is practically at a standstill owing to having several personnel away on detachment.

The Troop held its Annual Tabloid Sports on Saturday, the 14th October, 1939. The results of these sports count towards the award of the Inter-Section Sports Shield, the results of which are as follows:

WINNERS OF THE SHIELD: Right Half Operating Section, with 52 points.

SECOND: Left Half Wireless Section, with 50 points.

THIRD: Left Half Headquarters, with 34 points.

Prizes as follows were presented on the conclusion of the sports by Mrs. J. N. Barker:

Naik Feroz Khan (team captain): Inter-Section Shield and Cup for his Section.

Naik Feroz Khan: A Cup for best individual performance.

Signalman Hakim Khan: A Cup for second best individual performance.

Naik Imam Bakhsh: A Cup for runner-up, best individual.

Winners of the Six-a-side Hockey League: Left Half Wireless Section, a Cup.

The sports ended in giving Mrs. Barker three rousing cheers for presenting the prizes, and three cheers for the winners of the Sports Shield. In all, a very fine performance.

Malaya Signal Company

August.

There has really been very little of interest this month. The following correspondence recently passed between various offices in the Command.

" From Signalman Gwillim to the O.C.—Sir, I No. 2323292 Signalman Gwillim respectfully request that I may be granted 365 days' leave under the authority of Deuteronomy 24, 5.

" Yours obediently,
" H. GWILLIM, Signalman."

" From O.C. to the C.S.O.—Reference the above. Ruling please."

" From C.S.O. to A.Q.—Huh."

" From A.Q. back down to Gwillim.—The Old Testament cannot be taken as an authority."

I notice that the New Testament is now well to the fore in the reading matter of the Unit.

The recent crisis found the Unit office very quiet until one morning strange sounds issued forth, there was a great rushing hither and yon, and undue excitement in the air. Said one of the chaps, " Ah, action." Work in other branches ceased in order that every one could enjoy to the full the sight of the Orderly Room in an uproar. Then one fellow, braver than the rest, grabbed paper and pencil, and bearded (?) our young Lance Corporal at his table.

" What's up," quoth he, " has it come at last ? "

" No," replied young Parent, " we've sacked the Tamby."

And now for the lucky dippers this month. Lance Corporal Thompson to be Lance Corporal on the Corps Roster. Well, well. Everything comes to him who waits. T/C.Q.M.S. Abraham to be C.Q.M.S. Darn it, Abie, missed it again. Maybe you can use the strap as a leash for the car. Corporal Thompson G. to be T/Lance Sergeant. Now you can make her stand to attention, Tommie. Signalmen Allison, Cannon, Dunne, Gardiner, Labrum, Laing, Matthews, May, Sigley, Sims, Sykes, Sword, Walker and Wilks to be Class Two operators. Nice work, fellows. It was a strain but you made it. Congratulations to all the above, may it just be a start; and also congratulations to Sergeants Jones and Cook and Corporal Murphy, see below.

Welcome Mrs. Jones and Cook, and David Christopher Murphy, son of " Spud." The welcome, in each case, has just that touch of envy, but it is a real Malayan one at that.

Our sympathies are extended to Corporal Sharpe and Lance Corporal Hudson. They know why. No quarter.

The Penang Signal Section is no longer a part of the Malaya Signal Company. They are still under our wing but never again will we see Blanco's smiling face at tiffin or Lofty Wild jitter-bugging down to breakfast.

Our roving reporter handed me the following. I decline all responsibility. However, I suppose I will be as far in the mire as any one after THE WIRE has been published.

1. Did the presence of two fully armed witnesses at the Changi pay table recently signify doubt on somebody's part as to the integrity of the Detachment personnel, or were they merely practising in order to feel accustomed to the idea should hostilities break out ?

2. Whether it is true that Sergeant bin Thomp, on not hearing from his wife, wrote to the O.C., W.A.T.S., stating the fact in a stiff letter (millboard) and asking that the O.C., W.A.T.S., interview the lady as to the reason why, and further to ask whether she intended making a compulsory allotment.

3. Whether Corporals Sharpe's " Penang " suit will be able to stand the strain of being kept in moth balls for the " duration of the emergency."

4. Why a mobile W/T set suddenly appeared in the " Married Quarters Sector," and commenced working. What was the frequency ? Was it 27W ?

Can any one help ? In the past four days every one has been working at full pressure and the international situation has not eased, but the main problem in the office is, should we say " Eng Pang " or merely " Koh."

To Haggis. There won't be many more agonies now.

To Dickie. Still promising.

TOMMIE.

SPORTS NOTES.

Football. S.A.F.A. League.—Unfortunately the teams in this league were too good for us. The Unit team finished bottom. We could not play our last match owing to heavy duties which prevented us turning out a team, and as the match was versus the

Post Office we were, maybe, lucky. They have eight State players in the team. Results during the month were as follows :

Versus Mental Hospital.	Lost.	0—6.
Versus Marine Dept.	Lost.	2—5.
Versus Pulau Brani.	Lost.	0—4.

The second played only one match versus the R.O.A.C. 2nd team and won 3—2.

Operators " C " team met the Unit Office in the final of the Six-a-Side Football and ran out winners 1—0. It was a famous victory. " Hughie " Sigley scored the goal, but how no one has yet discovered. It was really a most amazing shot from two yards and Sigley played the ball into the net like a master. Query. Did he play or was he pushed ? 'Fraid the Unit Office gland treatment and tactics were not successful. The only person rooting for the office was the referee. Of course, we Thompsons must stick together.

The hockey pitch is now marked out and so far there are fourteen fixtures arranged. Here's hoping.

Fort Canning Detachment

General.—Well, folks, Fort Canning is still here despite recent heavy rains and thunderstorms, and our select little band is still managing to maintain communications to the satisfaction of the powers that be.

That famous war cry " Roll on, the boat " is getting a bit ancient, as one or two of our party are wondering where that boat has got to.

Our notable D.R. Section, i.e., " Puncture Jake," " Broadside Johnny," and " Footrest Daniel," not forgetting their leader " Mag-Point Benny," can be seen gracefully gliding round the roads on their new stream-lined Tiger Speed-Twins (Triumphs). " Puncture Jake " complains that he can only get 85 out of his, just cruising round.

Owing to the recent weather conditions, Stuart (now the Champ) cannot boast about the record rainfall in " Manchisster."

Entertainments.—These are plentiful. The monthly dances, controlled successfully by Lance Corporal Jones, and the weekly whist drives, where Lance Corporal Soppet gets into practice with the whistle, some say he is training to be a football referee in Blighty. " Miss " Bellis and Blacky, our whist experts, have not yet risen to our expectations. We do pretty well at tombolas, for " Crafty Jake " and " Single Line Marsden " always increase their income.

Congratulations.—Heartiest congratulations to the Chief Signal Officer on his appointment as Lieutenant-Colonel.

Arrivals.—We welcome Q.M.S. (F. of S.) White and Mrs. White, who have just arrived from U.K., and we sincerely hope that their stay here will be a happy and prosperous one.

Before we finish we have one important notice :

LOST.—One green and red parrot, last seen flying towards England. Will finder please communicate with " Jake," and he, or she, will be well rewarded.

Personal.—Come on, Wiggy, I am still waiting. I don't think Sarafand stops you from writing.—2325-knife-fork-spoon, etc.

To Maycock, ex " F " Company and 4th Division. What abart a line ? Blackman 414.

GEE KAY ESS.

HAVE YOU JOINED THE SIGNALS ASSOCIATION ?

Malta Signal Section

Now that the war has continued for a month, we, in Malta, are settling down to a routine which nearly approaches conditions of a couple of months ago. Certain restrictions have been necessary and hours of work extended, but we are certainly much better off than all of you who are experiencing actual service conditions. Members of the Corps at home, too, will be putting in plenty of work and overtime, preparing for whatever may be demanded.

But even active service has its relaxations. One smiles to recall we youngsters of 25 years ago timidly requesting of Madam, " Dux uffs and pomme-de-terre frites," and her well-known reply ; or those happy hours, when friends had been made, in the cottage with coffee roasting and mademoiselle playing the piano for us to sing all the songs we knew.

Other memories come stealing back. The time we followed a tiny light for miles on the East Coast. Surely a spy would be our reward ; and the reality—a shepherd tending his flock at lambing time. Again, the trip across the water with 200 horses and half-broken mules and being on stable picquet. Then the first experience under fire—winter, snow thick upon the ground, Division going into action, " Joe Soap " sent forward to relieve out-going lineman in test dugout on ladder system of cables, walking two miles every two days for rations, my turn, caught in the blue with H.E. bursting overhead and a sorry return minus a goodly portion of rations, wet through with grovelling in the snow, requiring a change of breeches and sweating. And to be laughed at by the outgoing relief. Ah, well !

Then, meeting infantry marching out of the line. All sat on the roadside, shirts off and searching the seams with lighted matches. Sounds emanating like " Rice Krispies " when the milk is added. " What's up, chum ? " and the reply, " You'll soon know when you get there "—and we did ! Memories, memories. The retreat—four days and three nights at a forty line board without a break, falling off the seat fast asleep and expecting to be shot for neglect of duty on awakening. (Colonel Montgomery, then Major, will probably remember).

The advance on Cambrai, carrying accumulators up to the front on the night previous to the attack, the Corporal striking a match to see where we were and the " machine gunning " for which he had asked. And after the second day's advance, making our signal office in the vaults of a church where we slept in turns in an alcove next to the coffin marked " Marie Antoinette, aged 76 years." And lastly the march through when we were greeted with every kindness and consideration by the opposing peoples—and our surprise at their genuine hunger.

And so, as stomach reacts upon mind, let us hope that hunger may again be felt in Germany and so make the peoples of that great land enforce their thoughts and minds upon the " Alpha and Omega."

" The Great War." One wonders by what name this present devilry will become known to posterity. " The Greater War " ? We hope not, for that suggests a superlative in the distance. Surely experience will have taught enough to enable we humans to obviate a calamity every 25 years.

Reverting to mundane matters, our congratulations this month are extended to A/Q.M.S. (F.O.S.) Holt A. W., A/C.S.M. Purcell S. and A/S.S.M. Clark H., on their respective appointments to complete establishment.

Corporal Chantry and Signalman Pegler are enjoying a spell in hospital. We hope their return to health will be speedy and permanent.

A Company photograph was taken recently and copies will be forwarded for publication in a subsequent edition. All ranks being assembled for the photograph, it was a fitting occasion to present to Mr. P. C. Smith, our recently retired test clerk and father of the Company, a suitable memento in remembrance of his past association and 40 years' faithful service. All ranks, including civilian employees, subscribed to a beautiful clock with Westminster chimes.

Now, in the words of our one and only " Gracie "—" A happy ending."

NEMO.

(Many thanks in anticipation, Nemo. We shall be glad to reproduce the photograph referred to.—ED.)

Corps News—Officers.

Extracts from "The London Gazette."

CORRIGENDUM.

[War Office, 1/8/39]

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Officer Cadet Donald Andrew William Cuthbertson-Smith (late University of London Senior Division O.T.C.) to be 2nd Lieutenant, 2/8/39. This entry is substituted for that published on page 438 of THE WIRE for October, 1939.

[War Office, 1/9/39]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

GENERAL LIST.

Lieutenant-Colonel A. W. Roberts, M.C., half-pay list, retires on retired pay, 1/9/39.

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Captain A. E. Morrison to be Major, 31/8/39.

William Arthur West is granted a temporary Short Service Commission as Lieutenant (T.M.O.), 2/9/39.

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Major J. W. P. Chalmers having attained the age limit of liability to recall ceases to belong to the Reserve of Officers, 29/8/39.

TERRITORIAL ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Lieutenant-Colonel and Brevet-Colonel E. G. McHutchon, O.B.E., T.D. (Supern.) from D.C.S.O. for T.A. duties Scottish Command, to be Lieutenant-Colonel and Brevet-Colonel, 24/4/39 (substituted for the notification in the "Gazette" of 20/6/39).

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

SPECIAL LIST:

Lieutenant G. A. Fleming to be Captain, 10/7/39.
Lieutenant G. K. S. Edwards to be Captain, 15/7/39.
2nd Lieutenant R. D. Nash to be Lieutenant, 15/7/39.
The undermentioned 2nd Lieutenants to be Lieutenants
I. Y. Moyes, 1/7/39.
H. G. Smyth, 4/7/39.
A. G. Templeton, 11/7/39.
Lieutenant T. J. Craig to be Captain, 1/4/39.
Lieutenant Henry James Waters from H.A.C. Inf. to be Lieutenant, 12/7/39.
2nd Lieutenant Charles Frankland Moore (late R.E.) to be Captain, 24/7/39.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
(RESERVE OF OFFICERS).

2nd Lieutenant A. H. Tomlinson from Active List, to be 2nd Lieutenant, 1/7/39.

[War Office, 4/9/39]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

RESERVE OF OFFICERS:

Captain Claude Donald Wombwell, R. of O., to be Captain and Adjutant, 17/7/39.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Captain T. W. Wilks to be Major, 15/5/39.
2nd Lieutenant A. L. Farr to resign his commission.

TERRITORIAL ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Lieutenant C. E. S. Brewer from T.A. R. of O., 4th/5th Bn. The Buffs, to be Lieutenant.

[War Office, 5/9/39]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE:

Captain J. R. Sutcliffe from R.A.R.O., R.Signals, to be Captain, 2/9/39.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

SPECIAL LIST:

Cadet Corporal Neville Wellesley Wood to be 2nd Lieutenant, 2/9/39.
2nd Lieutenant J. M. D. Holmes to be Lieutenant, 2/9/39.
Cadet Edward Preece Garner to be 2nd Lieutenant, 2/9/39.

[War Office, 6/9/39]

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

SPECIAL LIST:

Cadet Sergeant George Noel Hampden Morris to be 2nd Lieutenant, 2/9/39.
Officer Cadet Ernest Keith Long to be 2nd Lieutenant, 2/9/39, with seniority, 2/9/38.
The date of appointment of 2nd Lieutenant V. H. Woodrow is 25/5/39, and not as notified in the "Gazette" of 6/6/39.
Colonel G. H. Walton, C.B.E. (D.C.S.O. for T.A. Duties, Northern Command), to be Honorary Colonel, 9/8/39.
Lieutenant W. A. Lee to be Captain, 24/7/39.
2nd Lieutenant D. O. Rennie resigns his Commission, 12/7/39.
2nd Lieutenant R. C. Angell to be Lieutenant, 3/8/39.

[War Office, 7/9/39]

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

SPECIAL LIST:

Lance Bombardier John David Fenwick Stow from H.A.C. (Arty.) to be 2nd Lieutenant, 2/9/39.
Captain J. Stirling from T.A. R. of O., Royal Signals, to be Captain with seniority, 1/7/36—2/9/39.
Lieutenant G. L. Ferguson to be Captain, 12/12/38.
2nd Lieutenant A. M. Reid to have seniority, 30/11/37.
Lieutenant (Adjutant) G. E. Stone to be Captain, 28/6/39.
The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants, 2/9/39:
Cadet Corporal Stanley Higson, Cadet John Edward Holding, Ieuan Davies Howard.

[War Office, 8/9/39]

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

SPECIAL LIST:

Cadet Sergeant Joseph Linney (97070) to be 2nd Lieutenant, 2/9/39.
Cadet James Patchell Chettle (97065) to be 2nd Lieutenant, 2/9/39.
Lieutenant G. St. L. King to be Captain, 31/5/39.
Cadet Ronald John Henderson (97046) to be 2nd Lieutenant, 2/9/39.
Captain Alan Binfield Wemyss (93865) (late Indian Army Reserve of Officers), to be Captain and Administrative Officer, 1/7/39.
The Christian names of Captain Barron Hockley French are as now described and not as notified in the "Gazette" of 29/8/39.

[War Office, 9/9/39]

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Officer Cadet Edward Nicholson, B.SC. (ENG.) (96255) from Manchester University Contingent Senior Division, O.T.C.), to be 2nd Lieutenant, 2/9/39 with seniority 2/9/38.

[War Office, 11/9/39]

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

SPECIAL LIST:

William Reginald Hipwell (38206) (late 2nd Lieutenant 3rd Bn. Mon. Regt.), to be 2nd Lieutenant, 2/9/39.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

RESERVE OF OFFICERS:

2nd Lieutenant K. R. Oliver from Gen. List (unposted), to be 2nd Lieutenant, 2/9/39.

[War Office, 12/9/39]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

COMMANDS AND STAFF:

Major R. T. Williams is seconded, 1/8/39.

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Captain H. E. K. Wakefield, M.C., ceases to belong to the R. of O. on account of ill-health, 13/9/39.

REGULAR ARMY SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Officer Cadet John Guy Morgan Forsyth to be 2nd Lieutenant, 2/9/39.

[War Office, 13/9/39]

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

SPECIAL LIST:

Captain J. L. Harrison (from R.Signals) to be Captain, 29/6/39.
Captain S. A. Woods (from R.Signals) to be Captain, 2/9/39.
Ernest Patrick Hardman Lord (97082) to be 2nd Lieutenant, 2/9/39.

[War Office 14/9/39.]

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
SPECIAL LIST:
Frederick Charles Pettifer (96904) to be Lieutenant, 28/8/39.
Captain J. Jardine, M.B.E., from T.A. R. of O., R.Signals, to be Captain and Administrative Officer, 17/7/39, with seniority, 18/3/39 next below Captain V. P. Care.

[War Office, 15/9/39]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
COMMANDS AND STAFF:
Major G. S. O'N. Power, B.A., is seconded, 1/8/39.
The undermentioned Captains are seconded:
J. S. Usher, 21/8/39. E. H. Clarke, 4/9/39.
Lieutenant G. C. Nelson to be Captain, 27/8/39.
R.S.M. Maxwell Bernard Donaghy to be Lieutenant (T.M.O.), 31/8/39.

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
ESTABLISHMENTS:
Lieutenant-Colonel J. L. Henderson, B.A., to be Deputy Chief Inspector, 1/8/39.

[War Office, 16/9/39]

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
SPECIAL LIST:
Major E. R. Moore to be Lieutenant-Colonel, 2/9/39.

TERRITORIAL ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS.
GENERAL LIST:
Walter Henry Forrest (98836) is granted emergency commission as Lieutenant (Qmr.), 3/9/39.

[War Office, 19/9/39]

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS.
Captain H. M. Jelly, from General List (Miscellaneous), to be Captain, 1/9/39.

[War Office, 20/9/39]

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
SPECIAL LIST:
Lieutenant Francis Vernon Price (63893), from General List University College Contingent, O.T.C., to be Lieutenant, 2/9/39.
Robert Brownlee Dick Steele (96914) (late Officer Cadet, St. Andrew's University Contingent Senior Division, O.T.C.), to be 2nd Lieutenant, 2/9/39, with seniority, 2/3/38.
Michael Geoffrey Stevens (97379), to be 2nd Lieutenant, 2/9/39.

[War Office, 22/9/39]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
COMMANDS AND STAFF:
Major A. J. Harris, O.B.E., to be Lieutenant-Colonel, 1/8/39.

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS.
The undermentioned cease to belong to the R.A.R.O. on account of ill-health, 23/9/39:
Captain D. S. Peploe, Captain J. Skelly.

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE—ROYAL SIGNALS.
2nd Lieutenant R. S. Trevelyan, from S.R.O., R. Tank Regt., to be 2nd Lieutenant, 1/9/39, retaining his present seniority.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
Ambrose Francis Dowling (97353) to be 2nd Lieutenant, 2/9/39.
Signalman James Rae Ross (97048) to be 2nd Lieutenant, 2/9/39.
Alexander Geoffrey Lyon (97427) to be 2nd Lieutenant, 2/9/39.

[War Office, 23/9/39]

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
SPECIAL LIST:
St. Clair Mackay (97225) to be 2nd Lieutenant, 2/9/39.

[War Office, 26/9/39]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
Colonel Fitz. A. Drayson, M.C., retires on retired pay, 19/8/39.

COMMANDS AND STAFF.
Colonel Fitz A. Drayson, M.C., relinquishes his appointment as Chief Signal Officer, 19/8/39.

OFFICERS

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RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS.
Captain D. Mackenzie, M.M., R.Signals, resigns his commission, 2/9/39.

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE—ROYAL SIGNALS.
Creighton Derek Lindsay (late Cadet Oundle School Contingent O.T.C.), to be 2nd Lieutenant, 2/9/39.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
Lance Bombardier Anthony Henry Cortez-Leigh (99373) from R.A. (late Officer Cadet University of London Contingent Senior Division, O.T.C.), to be 2nd Lieutenant, 2/9/39.

[War Office, 29/9/39]

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE—ROYAL SIGNALS.
Captain G. Muir, M.C., ceases to belong to Reserve of Officers on account of ill-health, 2/9/39.
Lieutenant W. S. Keown ceases to belong to Reserve of Officers on account of ill-health, 2/9/39.

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE—ROYAL SIGNALS.
Lieutenant-Colonel and Brevet-Colonel J. Campbell, M.B.E., T.D., R.A.R.O., R.Signals, to be Hon. Colonel Air Formation Signals, 1/7/39.
Lieutenant H. Pickard to be Captain, 24/5/39.
Lieutenant B. H. French resigns his commission on appointment to the T.A., 26/6/39.
2nd Lieutenant N. M. Wallace, A.M.I.E.E., to be Lieutenant, 26/9/39.

[War Office, 30/9/39]

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
SPECIAL LIST:
Lance Corporal Derek Archer Phillips (100040) to be 2nd Lieutenant, 2/9/39.
Gunner Robert Cecil Ryder Oliver (100041) to be 2nd Lieutenant, 2/9/39.
Albert Francis Kistner (97582) to be 2nd Lieutenant, 2/9/39.
Signalman John Sydney Knight (97713) to be 2nd Lieutenant, 2/9/39.

Corps Promotion Roster.

Subsequent Amendments.

[The figures in the last column indicate the pages in the Corps Promotion Roster (published in April, 1938), on which the respective names may be found. This information cannot, of course, be given in the case of Lance Corporals appointed since that date.]

Appointed Superintending Clerk.

1851356	R.S.M. Brandon J. G.	7/6/39	7

Promoted Warrant Officer, Class I (R.S.M.).

2309062	C.S.M. Carpenter A. J.	1/5/39	8
2306665	C.S.M. Leath G. V.	1/5/39	8
2311441	C.S.M. Finney W.	1/5/39	8
2309071	C.S.M. Willis S. E.	1/5/39	8
4680127	C.S.M. Beverley E.	1/5/39	8
*5095009	C.S.M. Cooper J.	1/5/39	84
*1417989	C.S.M. Gould G.	1/5/39	84
1857277	T/W.O. I Angell E. J.	7/6/39	8
2306766	T/W.O. I Minion R. F.	15/6/39	8
2306746	T/W.O. I Murray G. P.	15/6/39	18

Appointed Temporary Warrant Officer, Class I. (R.S.M.).

2309185	C.S.M. Dunn A. E.	15/6/39	18

FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROSTER

Promoted Warrant Officer, Class I (F. of S.) Sergeant-Major.

2314083	A/W.O. I (F. of S.) Walker A. R.	1/5/39	10

Promoted Acting Warrant Officer, Class I (F. of S.) Sergeant-Major.

2312362	Q.M.S. (F. of S.) Paterson T.	1/5/39	10

Promoted Warrant Officer, Class II (F. of S.) Q.M.S.

2744818	C.Q.M.S. (F. of S.) McIntosh A.	1/5/39	10

Appointed R.Q.M.S.

1856975	C.S.M. Saul J. W.	7/6/39	7
†2310350	C.S.M. Brett L. S.	13/6/39	8
2310295	C.S.M. Shergold G. L.	13/6/39	8
2311377	C.S.M. Hall J. G.	13/6/39	8
2306766	T/W.O. I Minion R. F.	13/6/39	8
2307303	T/R.Q.M.S. Nicolson N.	13/6/39	8
2308799	T/R.Q.M.S. Lombard W.	13/6/39	8

Promoted Warrant Officer, Class II (C.S.M.).

2309787	T/C.S.M. Lockyer F. E.	1/6/39	22
2309109	T/C.S.M. Pickering E. H.	1/6/39	22
2313643	W.O. III Bowler W. H.	1/6/39	22
2313059	T/C.S.M. Stainer J. W.	1/6/39	22
2312069	T/C.S.M. Swatton J. M.	1/6/39	22
2306723	W.O. III Aitken J. S.	1/6/39	22
2310884	T/C.S.M. Nicholson W.	7/6/39	22
2312338	W.O. III Green P. C.	13/6/39	22
2314487	T/C.S.M. Mills J.	15/6/39	22

Promoted Warrant Officer, Class III.

2315121	T/W.O. III Jones D.	1/6/39	26
2312805	T/W.O. III McBride J. L.	1/6/39	26
2309022	T/W.O. III Marcham E.	1/6/39	24
2306783	T/W.O. III Murphy C.	10/6/39	26
	(antedated without pay to 23/5/39)		
2313839	T/W.O. III Steele P. W.	10/6/39	26
2312810	T/W.O. III Hamilton C. L.	10/6/39	27
2309334	Sergeant Murphy S. J.	10/6/39	27
†2313875	T/W.O. II Tucker S. A.	13/6/39	22
2310962	Sergeant Field E. G.	13/6/39	27
2315149	T/W.O. III Tudor E. M. O.	13/6/39	28
2312809	Sergeant Bailey G.	13/6/39	28
2311325	Sergeant Southwell F. J.	13/6/39	28
2306830	C.Q.M.S. Hunt J. N.	15/6/39	27
2310602	Sergeant Gatford R. T.	15/6/39	28
2315924	Sergeant Stibbs T.	15/6/39	28
2314200	T/W.O. III Grocott J. H.	15/6/39	28
2311404	C.Q.M.S. Bland R. C.	15/6/39	19
	(antedated without pay to 1/10/38 for seniority purposes only)		
2315203	C.Q.M.S. Tanner J. L.	15/6/39	27
	(antedated without pay to 10/6/39 for seniority purposes only)		

Promoted C.Q.M.S.

2312810	T/W.O. III Hamilton C. L.	1/6/39	27
4525909	T/C.Q.M.S. Abraham S. T.	1/6/39	27
1850227	T/C.Q.M.S. Quinn W. J.	1/6/39	27
2314747	Sergeant Savage W. C.	1/6/39	27
2309579	Sergeant Jones F. A.	1/7/39	26
	(antedated without pay to 10/6/39)		
2200975	Sergeant Parker S. T.	1/7/39	27
	(antedated without pay to 13/6/39)		
4525419	Sergeant Sunderland H.	1/7/39	27
	(antedated without pay to 13/6/39		
†2311282	Sergeant Morley W. A.	15/6/39	27
*1417049	Sergeant Carfrae J.	16/6/39	93
391388	Sergeant Benfield G. E.	1/7/39	28
	(antedated without pay to 15/6/39)		
2300558	Sergeant Bridge W.	1/7/39	24

Promoted Sergeant.

2316297	T/Sergeant Mulholland F.	1/6/39	46
2313794	T/Sergeant Moody R.	1/6/39	46
2310679	T/Sergeant Choulerton J.	13/6/39	41
2314831	L/Sergeant Kirby E.	13/6/39	43
2317622	T/Sergeant Vollans L. A.	13/6/39	44
2309651	L/Sergeant Bevans S. J.	13/6/39	44
6189879	T/Sergeant Saunders H. E.	13/6/39	45
2314284	T/Sergeant Davies M. W.	13/6/39	46
6338999	T/Sergeant Turner E.	13/6/39	46
†2316198	L/Sergeant Garner P. W.	13/6/39	47
†2316825	T/Sergeant Watson D.	13/6/39	47
†2317408	T/Sergeant Booth W.	13/6/39	47
†2316456	T/Sergeant Manning G.	15/6/39	45
†2314792	T/Sergeant Marsh A. T.	15/6/39	45
2318390	L/Sergeant McLaren R. D.	15/6/39	46
2309424	T/Sergeant Brunton Douglas J.	15/6/39	46
748423	T/Sergeant Dodd C. L.	15/6/39	47
2318050	T/Sergeant Crawford F. H.	16/6/39	47
2316139	L/Sergeant Johnson J. H.	25/6/39	46
†2815537	L/Sergeant Ross W. S.	30/6/39	47
2316863	T/Sergeant Powell F.	30/6/39	47
2316851	T/Sergeant Warburton H. S.	1/7/39	47
†2312546	L/Sergeant Wink P. A.	1/7/39	47
2316283	L/Sergeant Matthews C.	1/7/39	47
2315978	L/Sergeant Wilbraham H.	1/7/39	47
2317770	T/Sergeant Stevens B. J.	1/7/39	47
2316566	T/Sergeant Holloway W. F.	1/7/39	47
2315565	T/Sergeant Chidgey E. G.	1/7/39	47

Appointed Lance Sergeant.

4526639	Corporal Webb C. G.	1/6/39	52
2321395	T/L/Sergeant Grey G. S.	1/6/39	58
783962	T/L/Sergeant Robertson J.	2/6/39	58
6189879	T/Sergeant Saunders H. E.	13/6/39	45
2316560	T/L/Sergeant Boniface P.	13/6/39	58
2322311	T/L/Sergeant Hutley D. S.	13/6/39	58
2319791	T/L/Sergeant Strong P.	13/6/39	58
2320521	T/L/Sergeant Pike G. E. M.	13/6/39	58
2321126	T/L/Sergeant Pitney P. B.	13/6/39	58
2209868	T/L/Sergeant Lee A.	13/6/39	58
5172906	Corporal Perfect G.	15/6/39	45
3592415	Corporal Breeze C. G.	25/6/39	41
2315501	Corporal Philpott C. R.	28/6/39	47
2313950	Corporal Powner P. F.	30/6/39	49
2315298	Corporal Wood R. E.	1/7/39	53
2314931	Corporal Barwick A. J.	1/7/39	58
2318780	Corporal Harvey S. B.	1/7/39	58
2320245	Corporal Dakin F.	1/7/39	58
2316483	T/L/Sergeant Burdes S. R.	1/7/39	58
5376660	T/L/Sergeant Long G. A.	13/6/39	47

* Special Roster.

† Held Supernumerary.

Engagement

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCESS ROYAL, C.I., G.C.V.O., G.B.E., COLONEL-IN-CHIEF OF ROYAL SIGNALS HAS BEEN GRACIOUSLY PLEASED TO CONVEY THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE OF GREETING TO ALL RANKS OF THE CORPS :—

I send to all ranks of my Corps, at home and abroad, my greetings for Christmas and my good wishes for 1940. We all trust that the message of Yuletide may be fulfilled, and that Peace and Goodwill will before long be established throughout the world. I know that each one of you, in serving his King and Country, is doing his best to reach the goal set before us.

May God bless you all.

Mary.

Colonel-in-Chief,
The Royal Corps of Signals.

December, 1939.

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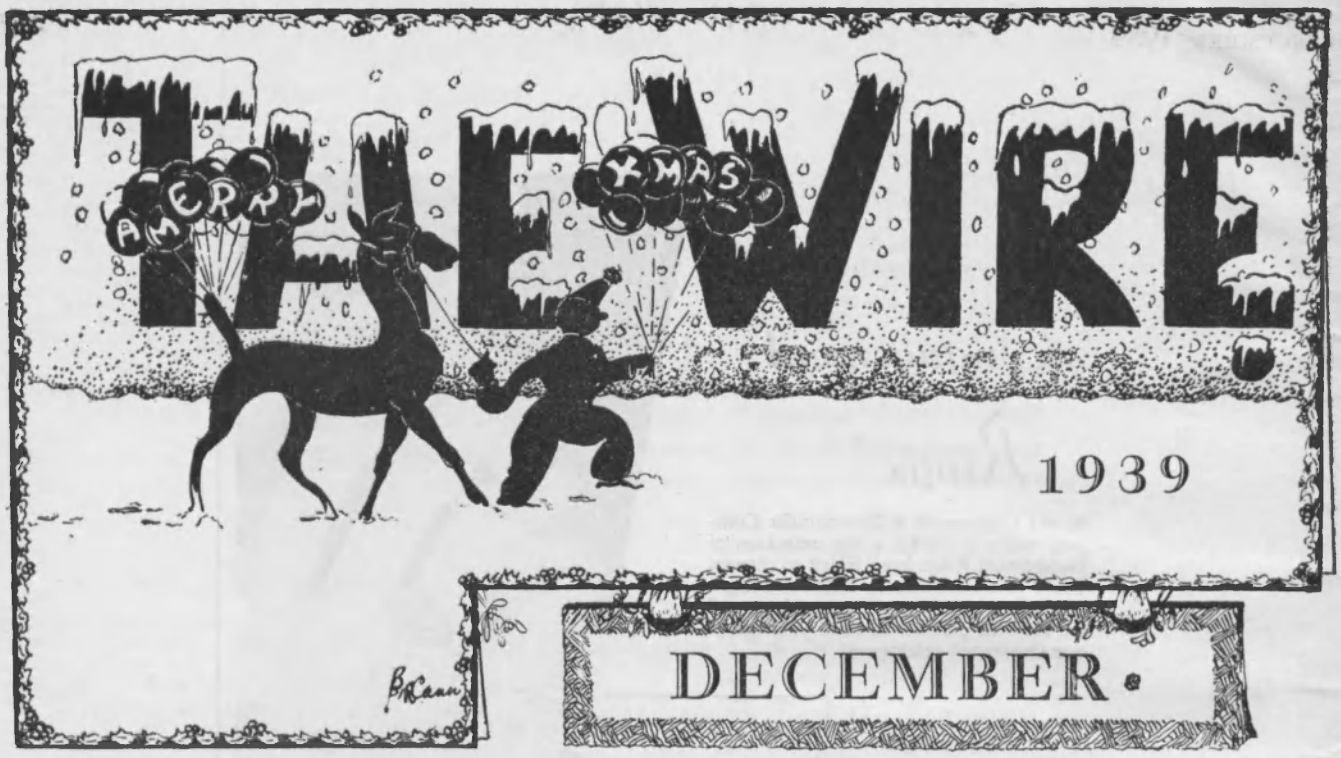

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LONDON, S.W.1
to whom all Correspondence and Notes for THE WIRE should be submitted.
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VOL. XX.—No. 238 DECEMBER, 1939 PRICE—SIXPENCE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS COMFORTS FUND

An organisation is being set up with a view to providing comforts for those on Active Service in the various Units of the Royal Corps of Signals both Overseas and at Home.

I appeal on behalf of my Corps for generous assistance either in kind, or with money or other help to further the success of this project to which I am pleased to give my patronage.

Mary

Colonel-in-Chief,
Royal Corps of Signals.

20th November, 1939.

To Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal.

Madam,

On behalf of the whole Corps I have to thank your Royal Highness for your most generous donation to the Comforts Fund which will be greatly appreciated.

I have also to thank you for signing and sending back to me the appeal which will now be circulated throughout the Corps.

I am, Madam,
Your Royal Highness's Obedient Servant,
Signed: **H. CLEMENTI SMITH.**

Editorial Notes

With the Best of all Good Wishes to our Readers at Home and Abroad

On behalf of All Ranks of Royal Signals we beg to convey our loyal duty and best wishes to our Colonel-in-Chief, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, C.I., G.C.V.O., G.B.E.

Extract from the "London Gazette," dated 24th November 1939.—"The King has been graciously pleased to approve of the undermentioned award for gallant and distinguished service :

MILITARY MEDAL.—No. 2323664 Signalman Thomas Barr, Royal Corps of Signals."

Obituary.—The Corps will learn with very great regret that Colonel A. H. French, D.S.O., died on 29th November, and was buried at Little Bullington, Hants, on Monday, 4th December. A fuller announcement will be published in our next issue.

The Royal Signals Comforts Fund.—As will be inferred by the announcement on the preceding page, it has been decided to inaugurate an organisation for the supply of comforts to all Other Ranks of Royal Signals.

This will be known as The Royal Signals Comforts Fund and, in graciously consenting to act as both Patron and President to the undertaking, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal has been pleased to head the subscription list with a very generous donation of fifty pounds.

At an informal meeting in London, called by the Representative Colonel Commandant on Thursday, 16th November, a Central Committee of ladies was formed with the object of co-ordinating local efforts, and it was unanimously resolved that from the very beginning the Corps should be regarded as the corporate body it is, without any distinction being made between "Regulars," "Supplementary Reservists," "Territorials" and "Militiamen."

Local Committees have already been formed in certain Units and have assured the Central Committee of their full support in this enterprise.

At the same time it is hoped that ALL Signal Commands and Units will give the matter their sympathetic consideration and help such a worthy object as far as they are able to do so.

It is also hoped that local Committees will be self-supporting and that any additional funds they may be able to collect will be forwarded to the Central Committee to help defray the cost of distribution, despatch, etc.

All cheques and donations should, therefore, be made payable to the Honorary Treasurer, Royal Signals Comforts Fund, c/o Signals Association, 95, Belgrave Road, London, S.W.1.

Those comforts most urgently needed at the moment are : KNITTED ARTICLES, such as HELMETS, SCARVES and MITTENS ; also RAZOR BLADES, MAGAZINES etc.

The Central Committee would be glad to know in what particular way collective bodies or individuals are prepared to help in the scheme. They are themselves prepared to assist with advice and, as soon as circumstances permit, to arrange for supplies of wool being sent to those who are unable to obtain them elsewhere.

Details of measurements, etc., for the woollen articles enumerated above, will be supplied on application to the Honorary Secretary, and it is hoped that every effort will be made to have as large a consignment as possible available for despatch before Christmas.

Particulars of parcels despatched and of subscriptions and donations to this fund will be published from time to time in the Corps Magazine.

P.O. Telephone Service Comforts Fund.—We have also been asked to announce that a similar fund has been organised by THE LONDON TELEPHONE SERVICE OF THE GENERAL POST OFFICE.

Supported by the whole Staff of the "Traffic," "Operating" and "Engineering" Branches of the Long Distance Division of the London Telecommunications Region, this fund has been inaugurated for the supply of comforts to their P.O. colleagues now serving with H.M. Forces.

Within the first four weeks of its existence 140 parcels containing cigarettes, socks and handkerchiefs were despatched, and it is anticipated that by the end of the current year each serving member of the Long Distance Division, the majority of whom are with Royal Signals, will have received his individual gift.

A large number of "C.O.s," "C.A.s," "Supervisors," "Telephonists" and their wide circle of friends are enthusiastically engaged in knitting socks, helmets, scarves, mittens, etc., and many appreciative acknowledgements from recipients have already been received.

The Committee would be glad to receive suggestions from the men serving as to particular needs which might fall within the capacity of the fund to supply. They should be addressed to MISS L. E. A. PRIGGEN, Secretary, Long Distance Comforts Fund, 39, Carter Lane, London, E.C.4.

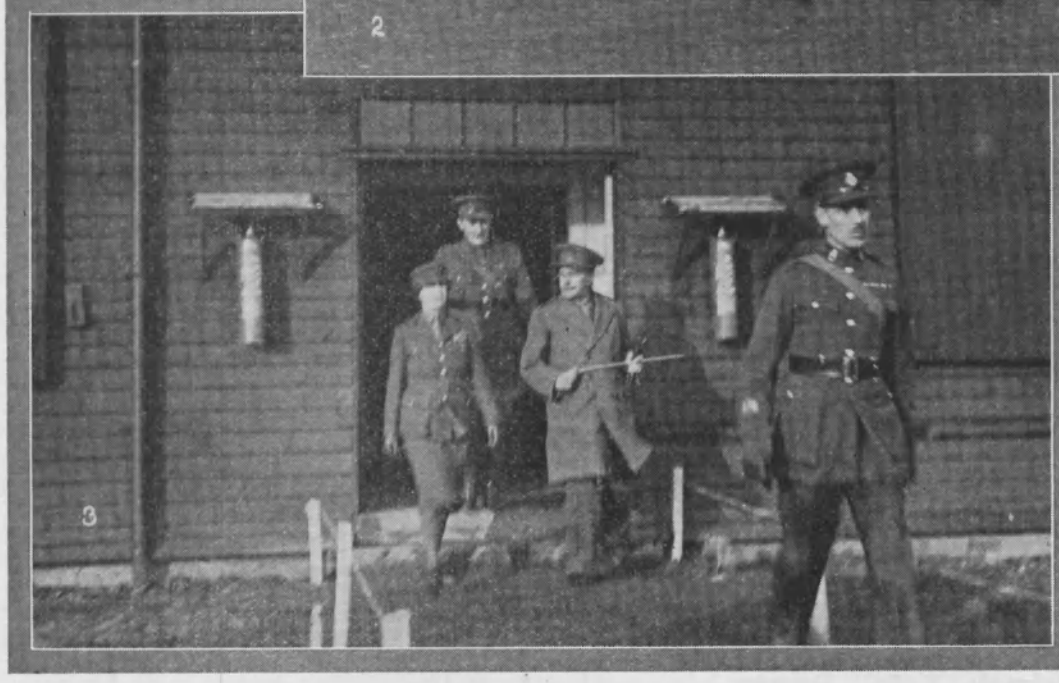
Despatch Riders.—On page 514 of this issue, and by kind permission of Mr. Graham Walker, Editor of *Motor Cycling*, we republish an illustrated article entitled "They have not Changed Much," which appeared in the latter publication dated 12th October.

An ex-Despatch Rider of the old school (R.E. Signal Service, 1914-1918) and a T.T. rider of international repute, Mr. Walker is at present rendering valuable assistance to the Corps by recruiting potential D.R.s from among his wide circle of professional friends and acquaintances.

That his efforts in that direction are meeting with the success they merit is obvious by a perusal of this month's Unit notes from "THE FIFTH," on page 523, whose correspondent pays tribute to the high standard of efficiency displayed by those who have already been accepted for enlistment as a result of Mr. Walker's activities.

We take this opportunity to thank the latter for his kind co-operation which is much appreciated.

[By Courtesy of "Motor Cycling"



INSPECTION OF A NORTH COUNTRY UNIT
by
H.R.H. THE PRINCESS ROYAL, C.I., G.C.V.O., G.B.E.,
Colonel-in-Chief, Royal Signals

Sports Clothing and other Articles in Corps Colours.—The following articles are held in stock at this office, and can be supplied by return of post at the prices quoted :

BLAZERS : BARATHEA—In Corps colours	from	47/6
SWEATERS : White woollen with Corps colours neck and cuff	from	12/6
JUMPERS : White woollen with Corps colours at neck (sleeveless)	each	12/6
SCARVES : Woollen, Corps colours	each	7/6
SILK SQUARES : Corps colours	each	10/6
TIES : Silk, double-ended, Corps colours ..	each	2/6 and 3/9
CORPS RIBBON : ½-inch for Christmas cards and decoration purposes	per yard	6d.
CAR BADGES : In chromium plate, with Corps colours, in enamel	each	15/6

Postage extra. Cash with order.

EDITOR.

Signals Association and Ex-Service Old Comrades Branch Notes

EMPLOYMENTS.

Situations found during the preceding month with the co-operation of the National Association for the Employment of Regular Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen :

1	Ex-N.C.O., Birmingham	Clerk
2	Ex-Signalman, London	Valet
3	Ex-N.C.O., Sussex	Clerk

THE GENERAL SECRETARY.

Benevolent Fund Notes

The Administrator gratefully acknowledges receipt of the following :

BANKERS' ORDER INSTRUCTIONS from :
Lieutenant J. C. Treasure.

CASH SUBSCRIPTIONS from :
Lieutenant D. Todd, M.B.E.
3rd Indian Divisional Signals.

APPEALS dealt with :

1	Ex-Signalman, Leeds	Grant	£2 0	0
2	Signalman, Belfast	Loan	£3 10	0
3	Signalman, Newcastle	Grant	£2 0	0
4	Ex-Signalman, Southend	Grant	12	6

(Signed) T. H. L. SPAIGHT, Lieutenant-Colonel,
Administrator, Signals Association Benevolent Fund.

First Army Signals

November.

Visit of H.R.H. The Princess Royal.—The principal event of the month has been the first visit of our Colonel-in-Chief, H.R.H. The Princess Royal, on 8th November.

Her Royal Highness, who was attended by the Representative Colonel-Commandant, was met at the town boundary by an escort of Despatch Riders, under a 2nd Lieutenant and Sergeant Costen, and on arrival in camp was greeted by the Chief Signal Officer, Northern Command, accompanied by the Commanding Officer. After inspecting the guard, the Royal party proceeded to the parade ground, where a number of squads were performing drill and physical training. Her Royal Highness inspected the squads, and asked a number of questions as to their progress and the time they had been under instruction, then passed to the lecture rooms, where squads of telegraphists, keyboard operators and S.B.O.s were at work.

The next place visited was the messroom, where Her Royal Highness was very interested in the culinary arrangements in our very modern cookhouse.

After inspecting a line construction section at work, and the Sergeants' Mess, Her Royal Highness was entertained at tea in the Officers' Mess, and left after spending nearly three hours in the camp. The Unit was very gratified to hear that Her Royal Highness had expressed satisfaction at all that she had seen.

W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess.—On the evening of 9th November a Dinner was held in the Mess with the joint object of a " Housewarming " and a farewell to the first two members to leave the Mess, R.S.M. Leath G. and R.Q.M.S. Bishop G. R. The former, we hope, is to stay with us as T.M.O., but the latter has already left for his new unit, with one of the Signal Training Centres, somewhere else in England. Advantage was also taken of the occasion to bid *au revoir* to Sergeant " Geordie " Pickett and Lance Sergeant " Nobby " Clarke (P), who expect shortly to leave us with their Section. After dinner, the C.O. and officers of the Unit visited the Mess, where an indoor games tournament was in progress. We haven't yet found out which side really won, which is just as it should be.

Entertainments (NOT by E.N.S.A.).—The Unit has been fortunate in finding people, too numerous to mention, to form a Concert Party for the purpose of entertaining the troops when funds are low and they are forced to stay in barracks on account of being unable to borrow enough money to take them to the " flicks."

Led by C.S.M. (now R.Q.M.S.) Holness and Sergeant Baker, these lads managed to put on their first show about a month ago. It was quite a success. Within a few days a stage appeared in the messroom, electricians got busy with their ideas for stage lighting, and the boards were dressed with curtains kindly lent by the managers of the Royal Hall and the St. James Theatre.

Corporal Holloway took charge of some instrumentalists and managed to persuade them to produce pleasant noises from saxophones, guitars, trumpet, violin, piano, and a super piano accordion.

The show was well attended. Officers and their wives, and most men in the Unit were present, and the applause at times was deafening—this despite the fact that it had taken only two days to produce. One turn, a lecture on Electricity and Magnetism, given by Signalman Towler, was particularly funny. If his theories were put into practice, we dread to think what the result might be. The singers in the programme were also at the top of their form, although we are given to understand that several boxes of tomatoes were purchased on the day previous. We had this from Sergeant Baker himself.

At the conclusion, the Commanding Officer thanked the members of the Concert Party, and said it was to be hoped they would be giving as good a show again at some early date.

Another of the month's high spots, and one very much appreciated, was the grant of seven days' leave to everyone in the Unit, the first since the arrival of the militiamen in July.

It is regretted that the accompanying photographs are not too clear, but they are the best that we could obtain.

SPASIGS (A.A.R.).

Plain Tales.

Annual Greeting, Mk. I.—A Merry Christmas to you, and I have no doubt that you will contrive to make it so, whether you are with the B.E.F. or roughing it in a millionaire's private house in England. In due course I shall wish you a Happy New Year, so do not miss next month's WIRE. Some of you may have rather a job to make a very real Merry Christmas because in many cases homes have been split up and wives are making shift in strange houses. If their husbands can't join them it will be just too bad. But why look so far ahead ? These things usually work out remarkably well when the time comes. Remember how Pop Humphreys used to have the stage lighting fixed a split second before the curtain went up at the Jubbulpore concerts ? Same thing.

I'm terribly sorry I can't do you a Christmas recitation this year, but if you knew how much work I have here you'd cry your eyes out.

Home Service.—" This is the B.B.C. Home Service. The principal item of news this morning concerns the attempt by yarp blurb grr. Fourteen of the ..... no less than six .....buzzz .....this remarkable achievement. Crash.....zzz..... should give the greatest.....ping clang his name is given as ....click fizzzz."

Pretty good, what ? Don't you try to tell me that my set is at fault because I have tried seventeen others in different parts of the country, and anyway, I can always get Radio Whatsit perfectly though their records make me blow bubbles of rage. We have been promised better transmission later on which is tantamount to an admission that I am in the right of it.

Causerie.—So hallo, blokes ! Who thought we should be soldiering again after all those happy years. I am wearing my respirator as I write. Not because there is gas about, but just because " orders is orders." How very different from the old days when we pulled a flannel bag over our heads and hoped for the best. We can talk, laugh and make peculiar noises in our respirators now, but even yet we are unable to smoke a cigarette with any degree of comfort. Neither can we drink a cup of tea. In a respirator, I mean. I only mention this in case it hasn't occurred to you.

Well, my good fatheads, how have you fared in this upheaval ? Scores of the old boys have returned to the family and I am sure there must have been lots of fun when they gathered round. I met ex-boy Rudolph Warr the other day. Don't search your memories, you youngsters. I last saw Billy Warr (he has lots of names) at Chatham in 1913. He is marked for Home Service only so he probably doesn't wear so well as yours truly. Sergeant Stanley Bainbridge has returned to the colours and continues to draw pictures, maps and diagrams with gay abandon. He will be remembered for his ghastly puns and his quite pleasant-smelling tobacco. Billy Barlow, who completed his pontoon in 1910, tried to enlist again last week. He has no idea of time and refuses to believe that it marches on.

A Little Knowledge.—I see my old friend Whatsname, christian name Bill, is on the other side. It was good of him to write a word or two for the October WIRE and we hope to see a further contribution with as much news as the censor will allow.

His suggestion about French conversation for the troops is worthy of consideration, though if I know anything about the troops there is no such thing as a language barrier. A working knowledge, of course, helps to keep one out of trouble, witness the embarrassing experience of Major Pottledot. Old Pot, as we never called him, maintained that a " sage femme " was a fortune teller. To prove his contention he made us wait on the pavement while he knocked on the door of a house bearing the plate " Mme Dubois, Sage-femme." He asked that he should be told his fortune. He was. As we led him away muttering, and nursing a scratched cheek, young Ritley-Wiggers, who went to an awfully good school, explained that the lady was a mid-wife.

Our Staggering Serial.—Colonel Ukann Larfe, N.B.G. (and bar), pivotted slowly on his right heel and surveyed himself in the long mirror with considerable satisfaction. " Fogworthy." he called quietly, " bring me those Command orders again."

Lance Corporal Fogworthy (whom you probably don't remember) stepped forward smartly and swept a valuable Chinese vase from the bedside table. Colonel Larfe kept an almost inexhaustible supply of these vases. He snatched the orders from Fogworthy's vice-like grip and secured the top half. He began to read slowly and happily.

" The following promotions are made :

" 2nd Lieutenant U. Larfe granted acting double paid rank of Colonel. 15th September, 1939.

" 2nd Lieutenant G. Faceache granted acting unpaid rank of Lieutenant. 1st December, 1939."

Colonel Larfe straightened his tie and puffed his chest. " Fogworthy, curse you, stand to attention when I look at you. Tell Lieutenant Faceache that he can't go on leave at Christmas." He kicked a hole in the priceless old 4th dynasty firescreen and smiled crookedly.

" Who's that knocking at my door ? " he whispered, the smile vanishing like a rum ration.

" It's only me," came the stentorian reply as Section Leader Hermione Larfe, A.T.S., stepped in.

" Don't throw it, darling," quavered the gallant Colonel, shielding his face with shaking hands.

" Don't be silly," said Hermione quietly (for a wonder). " I'm respectable now. Your car is ready,—sir," she added hastily.

" Good. Drive me to the War Office at once."

" Nuts, Colonel. I'm going to the pictures with Lieutenant Faceache."

Colonel Larfe's face turned a rich purple. " Fogworthy," he screamed, " from to-day you are a Driver I.C.L."

Lance Corporal Fogworthy burned his stripes off with a candle.

" What's the L for, sir ? " he asked.

" You should know. Drive me to the War Office ek dum."

" Can't be done, sir. I'm out with Colette to-night."

The Colonel's face turned a dirty white. " Why, you fool, she's secret service."

Fogworthy smiled his famous enigmatic smile. " You're telling me," he said.

As the door slammed, Colonel Ukann Larfe, N.B.G. (and bar), slumped heavily into his leather-covered armchair and fainted.

A few dead ashes crumpled quietly in the fireplace. A sheet of corrugated iron fell with a soft thud into the snow on a Yorkshire moor and night descended on silent wings, or something.

To be continued in spite of all opposition.

BARLEUX.

With the B.E.F.

(THIRD INSTALMENT BY W.J.A.N.)

Having a few moments to spare, I will add my contribution to the December issue of the Corps Magazine. It is amazing to think that we have been out here for approximately two months. During that time I have endeavoured to keep a small log to assist me in compiling these notes and although there is not a great deal of news to chronicle on this occasion the following may be of interest to WIRE readers :

Since our arrival the Unit has suffered three casualties in Signalmen Wadey and Beck and Driver Hancock, who were all admitted to hospital. We were very glad indeed to see the last two mentioned return to the fold looking fit and well again. Signalman Wadey, we believe, has been evacuated to Blighty and should he, in due course, read these notes, will he please accept the best wishes of the Section for a speedy recovery.

Soccer has been the only sport we have been able to indulge in. Four matches against the Sappers have taken place and on each occasion we succeeded in " getting away with it."

On Sunday, 22nd October, the Sapper Company turned out a rugger XV against the French Army Corps, and it was indeed a real day out. About 5,000 spectators witnessed the game, in which the Sappers were defeated by 31 points to 8, but considering the fact that they only had a Company to select from, they put up a jolly good show, particularly as their opponents' team included two international and three "Army " players.

We are, at the moment, billeted on a farm and several of the lads have been assisting our agricultural host to harvest his sugar-beet crop. Such voluntary help was greatly appreciated and the fellows were suitably rewarded by generous quantities of wine in return for their services.

We take this opportunity to congratulate Signalman Preston on becoming the proud father of a son, whose birthday, we understand, was on 15th October.

During the past month, our billet has been the recognised local Guest House and we have had the pleasure of accommodating and supplying breakfasts for those passing through.

For the benefit of others who may be contemplating a visit to this salubrious spot, may we here remark that blankets, at the moment, are not too plentiful, and it is recommended that " tourists " should bring their own bedding, and what not.

We were all greatly interested in the October issue of the WIRE. Referring to page 443 of that publication and the photograph of those old stalwarts who attended the Indian Signal

OFFICERS

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Units (1911-1919) Reunion Dinner. Surely the writer recognises H. L. Lewis! I wonder if he remembers the 22nd Fortress Company, R.E., at Yarmouth, Isle of Wight, in 1912-1914.

Who was it that said Group E. linemen were not allowed to take the plate for collecting at Church?

Sunday, 29th October, was another great day for us. With the aid of the Sappers we collected a fairly presentable soccer XI, and turned out against the local French regiment. Although not exactly dressed for the part, we had a most enjoyable game, which resulted in a win for our opponents by 4—1. Our team was afterwards entertained by the French with hot wine red, biscuits and cigarettes.

The team was as follows: Lance Corporal Wilde J.; Signalmen Eccleston and Carmichael; Signalman Quilter, Lance Corporal Grace, Signalman Brown; Sappers Holt, Eastall and Peake, R.E., Corporal Ouinn, R.E., and Private Burgess, R.A.O.C. Referee: Signalman Morrison.

A return match was played on 5th November, when we again lost 4—0, and on this occasion we entertained our French friends to an English tea.

These matches and excursions have certainly opened the doors of friendship between our French comrades and ourselves.

I have it on good authority that the next friendly challenge put out will be a darts tournament.

On 1st November the Headquarters joined with the French regiment on the Market Square to commemorate the anniversary of All Saints' Day. This parade in France is similar to our own Armistice Day ceremony on 11th November, and after placing a wreath on the War Memorial both forces marched to the Cemetery where a similar procedure was enacted. I should very much like to chronicle the local newspaper report, but the Censor says No! WIRE readers may rest assured however, that Royal Signals participating created a very favourable impression.

Once again that "leave" question. Rumour, as usual, is rife, but we should all like to know "When," "For how long," and "Does or will it date from the port of embarkation?" How much nicer it would be if it commenced from the time of arrival at Victoria.

By the time these notes appear in print the Section will have disintegrated again. The fellows are certainly having their full share of work and one hopes they will be rewarded with a spot of leave when the moment is opportune.

The following "billeting anecdote" is perhaps worth recording: Budding crooner rendering "I'm singing a song for the old folks." Voice from the black-out: "Yes! and putting years on me, too." (Big-hearted Taff.)

Well, Mr. Editor, please forgive the somewhat disjointed epistle, but you, I know, will appreciate the difficulties of collecting data. I shall always endeavour to make the news from this quarter as interesting as possible, so please ask your readers "Not to throw bricks at the pianist, who is doing his best under somewhat difficult circumstances."

Please convey our best wishes to all Units of the Corps at home and abroad for an enjoyable Christmas and a "peaceful" New Year. My next contribution will follow in due course.

W. J. A. N.

With G.H.Q. of the B.E.F.

Hello, "soaks"! This is "Ack Pip Beer" once again, broadcasting to you, but instead of being on a wavelength of 8 pints 1 gallon as at S.T.C., this is on a wavelength of 100 centimes 1 franc. Lumme, I don't 'arf come across some queer goings on, don't I, chums?

As this is the first report from our little family, perhaps I had better start at the beginning of this little argument with Adolf & Co., Organised Gangsters of Germany.

At the outbreak of war we assembled in a little place "Somewhere in England." Each day brought forth its usual flow of rumours with regard to our date and place of embarkation—even to the place to which we were going. One bright spark suggested that we were to make our post in the middle of Egypt (collapse of listeners). The big day eventually did arrive and everybody was marked present and correct at our port of embarkation. The journey that followed provided both comedy and a little drama. As our ship slowly left England thousands of eyes watched the vanishing coast, wondering when they would once again see that sight of all that represented home. We were issued with cork lifebelts and it was amusing to watch the men trying to find a comfortable position on which to sleep for the night with "dog collars" on. A (censored) night was had by all.

The following morning the coast of France was quite near to us and full throated cheers for the destroyer convoy which had guided us to safety were to be heard. The day was spent in the port and most of us had that experience of trying to speak French to Frenchmen for the first time. Cigarettes could not be bought anywhere, and I advise all other visitors to these shores to bring with them a supply for two or three days. This should then suffice until they get to some more or less settled position.

In the evening we left this town and made our way by rail to the assembly area. This was another all night journey with just a little more comfort than the previous night. On this occasion we slept in railway compartments and the cushions were reasonably soft. We were met in the area with glorious sunshine, which remained throughout our stay.

Our billet here was really grand and for the first few days we had our meals in a very high-class hotel. As all good things must come to an end, so did this, and we were soon back on Army rations.

During our stay in the assembly area we lived with several members of our "Parent Corps," the Royal Engineers. Our associations with them were happy ones and will live in our memory for many a day to come.

After about ten days we moved on to our concentration area. On the trip we were conveyed by rail in high-class cattle trucks. Although, as can be expected, a good night's sleep was not enjoyed, there was plenty of fun. About two in the morning I woke up to find four chaps seated round a wooden box on which was standing a bottle with a candle in it. They were passing the night away playing cards.

At the end of the train journey we all prepared to go to our allotted places of residence. In our own particular case we had to stay for a couple of nights in a local barn—or I should say barns. On the first night we slept in a small loft of one of the barns and the following morning we were told that we should have to sleep in the barn next door for our second night. Unfortunately we did not like the look of that habitation, so we found one much better. On the second morning we were told to be ready for our move. Before we left the farm the owner, who was an old lady of about 60, gave us each a cup of coffee and rum. This incident is typical of the French attitude towards *le soldats d'Angleterre* and, needless to say, we were very grateful to her.

This part of the story brings us to the village in which we are now happily settled. Thanks to the efforts of a Signals cook, our messing is of a very high standard. I have never in all my life seen so many ways of serving up canned meat. The man is a marvel. He apparently believes in the old adage, "An army marches on its stomach."

Our billets here are most comfortable and we are doing our best to make them as much like home as possible. We are definitely lucky and we hope our luck holds out for the duration.

I have probably written these notes the wrong way round, but I had better introduce you to some of the gang. Sergeant Brown E. J., late of Canterbury, together with Sergeant Urquhart D. N., also of Canterbury and late of the S.T.C. Needless to say, the hard-working member of the gang is the author of these notes—Signalman Bennett A. P., late of " Doncoy," S.T.C. Whilst in the assembly area we were joined by two chaps who had been enlisted for the duration as specialists at their particular job. They are brothers and their names are Signalmen Smith J. N. and Smith C. V. They are typical cockneys and remind one very vividly of Syd Walker of " Band Waggon " fame.

Talking about the Smith brothers brings me to rather an amusing incident which happened two or three weeks ago. In addition to their actual job they assist in the Officers' Mess. One day the Head Waiter had to leave the Mess on urgent business and asked Smith J. to serve up the second course of lunch. In walks Smith with the potatoes and spoke to the senior officer present.

" Excuse me, sir, but I've never done this 'ere job before and I don't know how to serve these things out to you."

" Serve them to us just like your wife would at home," the officer replied.

"All right, then," said Smith. " Here you are chaps. Help yourselves."

I am afraid that I cannot vouch for the truth of the story, but knowing the chap I could just imagine it.

It is also reported that at the same meal he was serving coffee and instead of pouring it out in the prescribed manner, he stood behind the officer concerned and with one arm over each shoulder of the diner proceeded to pour the coffee out of one jug and the milk out of the other.

In view of the fact that our number is small it is hoped that we will be able to send in some news of our Units in the field who are unable, through various reasons, to get news through otherwise. I hope to be able to maintain contact with my many friends who are now serving in France and by doing this I should be able to get quite a good report each month. As these notes will probably be too late for the December issue, we hope to get more to be added on to these at a later date.

We hope most sincerely that you will have had a really happy Christmas in spite of the present conditions. We also trust that the New Year will bring with it happiness, peace and prosperity for both the Allies and also the German people.

At the time of writing, the main topic of conversation is leave. We are all in the throes of " expecting-leave-fever." Roll on that boat.

Well, playmates, we are hoping to keep up a good standard of notes for the WIRE. We do not intend to let Adolf and his crowd stop our magazine. If you like we will run Goebbels' paper out of business.

This is all for the present. Cheerio !

ACK PIP BEER.

Corps Promotion Roster.

Subsequent Amendments.

[The figures in the last column indicate the pages in the Corps Promotion Roster (published in April, 1938), on which the respective names may be found. This information, of course, cannot be given in the case of Lance Corporals appointed since that date.]

	Promoted Warrant Officer, Class II (C.S.M.).		
2314360	T/W.O. II (C.S.M.) Wilmot H. D.	15/6/39	22
*5608817	T/C.S.M. Ivey J. E. T.	15/6/39	93
*2314005	C.Q.M.S. Brown G. F.	18/7/39	90
2310868	C.Q.M.S. Cole W.	31/7/39	21
	Promoted Warrant Officer, Class III.		
2314747	C.Q.M.S. Savage W. C.	31/7/39	27
	Promoted C.Q.M.S.		
2310514	Sergeant Wheeler E. C.	1/7/39	21
5611956	Sergeant Freeman K. T.	1/7/39	26
2311334	Sergeant Clarke C. A.	14/7/39	26
*1850321	Sergeant Campbell W.	18/7/39	93
*4793132	Sergeant Lynam C. G.	31/7/39	94
	Appointed Staff Sergeant Cook.		
1850248	Sergeant Palmer H. A.	13/4/39	21
	Promoted Sergeant.		
2317636	L/Sergeant Kerr G.	1/7/39	44
2318453	T/Sergeant Maguire W. V. D.	1/7/39	47
2316479	L/Sergeant Brennan W. L. P.	1/7/39	47
	Appointed Temporary Sergeant.		
2310447	L/Sergeant Golberg I.	1/7/39	48
	Appointed Lance Sergeant.		
2320439	Corporal Phillips L.	1/7/39	54
2317495	Corporal Fairweather E. C.	2/7/39	51
2316506	Corporal Fry H. J.	16/7/39	53
2319321	Corporal Metcalf L.	18/7/39	57
	Promoted Corporal.		
2320961	L/Corporal Robson J.	1/6/39	—
2323893	T/Corporal Challis A. C.	1/6/39	—
2323474	T/Corporal Brown P. H.	9/6/39	—
2324410	T/Corporal Farnsworth A. V.	10/6/39	—
† 746271	L/Corporal Lightbody J.	10/6/39	—
2319996	T/Corporal Peacock E.	10/6/39	—
2315493	T/Corporal Lewis T.	11/6/39	—
2321763	T/Corporal White V.	12/6/39	—
2566529	T/Corporal Clarke P. H.	13/6/39	—
549867	T/Corporal Cooper J. B.	13/6/39	—
2322177	L/Corporal Hodgson R.	13/6/39	—
2323378	T/Corporal Toole W.	13/6/39	—
2318395	T/Corporal Hutty W. V. A.	13/6/39	—
2323199	T/Corporal Stokes A. R.	13/6/39	—
2320698	L/Corporal Bond D. J.	13/6/39	—
2318792	T/Corporal Bailey G.	13/6/39	—
2320707	T/Corporal Carter F. A. H.	13/6/39	—
2320292	T/Corporal Austen A. F.	15/6/39	—
2323328	T/Corporal Robson J. W.	19/6/39	—
2322000	L/Corporal Allaway F. H.	25/6/39	—
2317472	L/Corporal Salter H. B.	28/6/39	—
2320186	T/Corporal Nation G. W.	28/6/39	—
2321015	L/Corporal Thirkell R. F.	30/6/39	—
2323042	L/Corporal Kerr A.	30/6/39	—
2322059	T/Corporal Evans A.	30/6/39	—
6396907	T/Corporal Standen S. F.	30/6/39	—
2927776	T/Corporal Macleod J. C A.	30/6/39	—
2319883	T/Corporal Wood A. E.	30/6/39	—
404942	T/Corporal King E. F.	1/7/39	—
2324101	T/Corporal Stanley R. E. A.	1/7/39	—
6456262	T/Corporal Light J.	1/7/39	—
2323711	T/Corporal Morris S. J.	1/7/39	—
2320045	T/Corporal Hills L. R.	1/7/39	—
2322050	T/Corporal Strype H. E.	1/7/39	—
3592751	L/Corporal Rawcliffe J. W.	1/7/39	—
3853189	T/Corporal Pickles L.	1/7/39	—
2323216	L/Corporal Murray D. A. L	1/7/39	—
2320523	L/Corporal Holmes H. R. C.	1/7/39	—
2323513	L/Corporal Shanley L.	2/7/39	—
2322435	L/Corporal Adams J. E. L.	16/7/39	—
2321568	L/Corporal Ferridge A.	18/7/39	—
2318957	L/Corporal Graham W. J.	31/7/39	—

* Special Roster. † Held Supernumerary.

Final Report by the
Right Honourable Sir Nevile Henderson, G.C.M.G.,
on the circumstances leading to the Termination of his Mission to Berlin, September 20th, 1939

London, 20th September, 1939.

MY LORD,

Events moved with such rapidity during the last fortnight of my mission to Berlin that it proved impossible at the time to give any consecutive account of them. If I have the honour to do so now, while the facts are still fresh in my memory, it is with the hope that such an account may be both of immediate interest to your Lordship and serve a purpose from the point of view of historical accuracy.

2. Nevertheless, it is not these last minute manœuvres which have the real importance, except in so far as they confirm the principles and demonstrate the methods and technique of Herr Hitler and of Nazism. A brief description of the background to August, 1939, is consequently indispensable, if the events of the last few weeks are to be visualised in their proper perspective.

3. Herr Hitler and National Socialism are the products of the defeat of a great nation in war and its reaction against the confusion and distress which followed that defeat. National Socialism itself is a revolution and a conception of national philosophy. Contrary to democracy which implies the subordination of the State to the service of its citizens, Nazism prescribes the subordination of its citizens to the service of the State, an all embracing Moloch, and to the individual who rules that State.

4. So long as National Socialism remained an article for internal consumption, the outside world, according to its individual predilection, might criticise or sympathise or merely watch with anxiety. The government of Germany was the affair of the German people. It was not until the theory of German nationalism was extended beyond Germany's own frontiers that the Nazi philosophy exceeded the limits compatible with peace.

5. It would be idle to deny the great achievements of the man who restored to the German nation its self-respect and its disciplined orderliness. The tyrannical methods which were employed within Germany itself to obtain this result were detestable, but were Germany's own concern. Many of Herr Hitler's social reforms, in spite of their complete disregard of personal liberty of thought, word or deed, were on highly advanced democratic lines. The "Strength through Joy" movement, the care for the physical fitness of the nation, and, above all, the organisation of the labour camps, an idea which Herr Hitler once told me that he had borrowed from Bulgaria, are typical examples of a benevolent distatorship. Nor can the appeal of Nazism with its slogans so attractive to a not over-discerning youth be ignored. Much of its legislation in this respect will survive in a newer and better world, in which Germany's amazing power of organisation and the great contributions which she has made in the past to the sciences, music, literature and the higher aims of civilisation and humanity will again play a leading part.

6. Nor was the unity of Great Germany in itself an ignoble ideal. It had long been the dream of some of the highest-minded of German thinkers, and it must be remembered that even in 1914 Germany was still immature as a political concept. In spite of the potential political danger for its weaker neighbours of a national philosophy which could so easily be distorted and extended beyond its due and legitimate frontiers, the unity of Great Germany was a reality which had to be faced, no less than that other reality, the paramount economic importance of Germany in Eastern, Central and South-Eastern Europe. It was not the incorporation of Austria and the Sudeten Germans in the Reich which so much shocked public opinion in the world as the unscrupulous and hateful methods which Herr Hitler employed to precipitate an incorporation which would probably have peacefully come in due course of its own volition and in accordance with the established principle of self-determination.

7. Yet even those methods might have been endured in a world which had experienced 1914–1918 and which sought peace as an end in itself, if Herr Hitler had been willing to accord to others the rights which he claimed for Germany. Revolutions are like avalanches, which once set in motion cannot stop till they crash to destruction at the appointed end of their career. History alone will determine whether Herr Hitler could have diverted Nazism into normal channels, whether he was the victim of the movement which he had initiated, or whether it was his own megalomania which drove it beyond the limits which civilisation was prepared to tolerate.

8. Be that as it may, the true background to the events of August, 1939, was the occupation of Prague on the 15th March of this year, the callous destruction thereby of the hard and newly-won liberty of a free and independent people and Herr Hitler's deliberate violation by this act of the Munich Agreement which he had signed not quite six months before. In 1939, as in 1914, the origin of war with Germany has been due to the deliberate tearing up by the latter of a scrap of paper. To the iniquities of a system which employed the barbarism of the middle ages in its persecution of the Jews, which subjected Roman Catholic priests and Protestant pastors alike to the inhumanities of the concentration camp for obedience to their religious faith, and which crushed out, in a fashion unparalleled in history, all individual liberty within the State itself, was added the violation not only of international agreements freely negotiated, but also of that principle of self-determination which Herr Hitler had invoked with such insistence so long as it suited his own purpose to do so. Up to last March the German ship of State had flown the German national flag, and in spite of the "sickening technique" of Nazism it was difficult not to concede to Germany the right both to control her own destiny and to benefit from those principles which were accorded to others. On the 15th March, by the ruthless suppression of the freedom of the Czechs, its captain hoisted the skull and crossbones of the pirate, cynically discarded his own theory of racial purity and appeared under his true colours as an unprincipled menace to European peace and liberty

9. Two of the less attractive characteristics of the German are his inability either to see any side of a question except his own, or to understand the meaning of moderation. It would have been understandable to argue that a hostile Bohemia in the centre of Germany was an untenable proposition. But Herr Hitler could see no mean between rendering the Czechs innocuous as a potential enemy and destroying their liberty as an independent people. There is some surprising reason to believe that Herr Hitler himself was disagreeably and literally astonished at the reaction in Britain and the world generally, which was provoked by the occupation of Prague and his breach of faith with Mr. Chamberlain. But while he may have realised his tactical mistake, it did not deter him from prosecuting his further designs.

10. As I had reported to your Lordship, at the beginning of the year Germany's immediate objectives, apart from the complete political and economic domination of Czecho-Slovakia and the eventual restoration of German colonies, were Danzig and Memel. Herr Hitler felt that it would not add much to the general execration of his aggression and ill-faith in March if he settled these two problems simultaneously with Prague. The Democracies were, he thought, so averse to war that they would accept any *fait accompli* They would be less disturbed if everything was done at once. Thereafter, the agitation would, he anticipated, gradually subside until, after consolidating his gains, he was once more in a position to strike again.

11. With this plan in view the Lithuanian Government was at once browbeaten into surrendering Memel. The same method was employed at Warsaw, but the Poles were made of sterner stuff. Negotiations had been proceeding ever since Munich for a settlement of the Danzig and the Corridor question. After Prague Herr Hitler decided that they must be abruptly concluded, and Herr von Ribbentrop peremptorily dictated to the Polish Ambassador the terms which Herr Hitler would be pleased to impose on the Polish Government. The reply of the latter was given on the 26th March and constituted a refusal to accept a Dictate, while expressing readiness to continue free and equal discussion. Alarmed at the threatening attitude adopted by the German Government in consequence of this refusal, the Polish Government mobilised part of its forces (the German army was already largely mobilised), and the British guarantee to Poland was given on the 31st March.

12. The Ides of March constituted in fact the parting of the ways and were directly responsible for everything which happened thereafter. Thenceforward no small nation in Europe could feel itself secure from some new adaptation of Nazi racial superiority and jungle law. The Polish guarantee was followed by unilateral guarantees on Britain's part to Greece and Roumania as well as by an attempt on the part of the British and French Governments to induce the U.S.S.R. to join in a peace front against aggression, ill-faith and oppression. The Nazi Government, for its part and with considerable success in Germany, represented this attempt as a renewal of the alleged pre-war British policy of encirclement. As a war-cry for the German people it was exceedingly effective up to the signature of the Russo-German non-aggression pact on the 23rd August. The rest of Nazi propaganda was on two entirely contradictory lines either of which was destined, according to the development of the situation, to serve Herr Hitler's purpose. The first spread the persistent report that Britain would never go to war for the sake of Danzig. It was calculated to undermine the confidence of the Poles and to shake the faith of the smaller Powers, as well as of the United States of America, in the determination of Britain to resist any further German aggression. The second represented Britain as resolved to make war at the first opportunity on Germany in any case and in order to crush her before she became a too formidable political and economic rival. Both were fallacies but the Germans are a credulous race and, since the first has failed, it is the latter argumentation which forms the basis of Germany's present war propaganda.

13. Up to the beginning of August, though the clouds were black and the peace front negotiations dragged on interminably, the situation remained serious but not immediately dangerous. Instead, however, of there being any sign of a relaxation of tension at Danzig the position there had gradually become more and more strained. From the end of March till the end of August all personal contact between Warsaw and Berlin was suspended. The remilitarisation of the Free City, alleged by the Germans to be purely defensive, but no less adaptable for offensive purposes, had proceeded apace, and other measures had been taken indicative of a German intention to effect a sudden coup there. The Poles for their part, in view of the great increase in arms smuggling, had been obliged to strengthen their customs inspectors by a number of frontier guards. They had also taken certain economic counter-measures of a nature to prejudice the trade of the Free City.

14. What was, however, even more ominous were the extensive preparations which were being made by the Germans for the twenty-fifth celebration of the battle of Tannenberg on the 27th August, and a German warship was scheduled to visit Danzig at the same time and ostensibly for the same purpose. Early in July I drew your Lordship's attention to the menace involved by these equivocal preparations, which corresponded so closely to Hitler's usual technique of preparing for all eventualities, under cover of a plausible excuse.

15. The first mutterings of the storm were heard on the 4th August. At four posts on the Danzig-East Prussian frontier, the Polish Customs Inspectors were informed that they would not be permitted henceforward to carry out their duties. Alarmed at the gradual sapping of Polish rights and interests in the Free City, the Polish Commissioner General there was at once instructed to deliver a note to the Danzig Senate, warning the latter that the Polish Government would react in the strongest manner if the work of the inspectors was interfered with. The Senate subsequently denied that it had issued any instructions to the effect alleged but the German Government replied to what it described as the Polish ultimatum by a verbal note, which was handed by the State Secretary to the Polish Chargé d'Affaires at Berlin on the 9th August. The Polish Government was therein warned that any further demand addressed to the Free City in the nature of an ultimatum or containing threats of reprisals, would at once lead to an aggravation of Polish-German relations, the responsibility for which would fall on the Polish Government. The latter retorted on the following day by a similar verbal note, denying the judicial right of Germany to intervene in the affairs between Poland and the Free City, and warning in its turn the German Government that " any future intervention by the latter to the detriment of Polish rights and interests at Danzig would be considered as an act of aggression."

16. I have little doubt but that the latter phrase served more than anything else to produce that final brainstorm in Herr Hitler's mind on which the peace of the world depended, and upon which it always must have depended so long as the fate not only of Germany but also of Europe, rested in the hands of a single irresponsible individual.

17. The tragedy of any dictator is that as he goes on, his entourage steadily and inexorably deteriorates. For lack of freedom of utterance he loses the services of the best men. All opposition becomes intolerable to him. All those, therefore, who are bold enough to express opinions contrary to his views are shed one by one, and he is in the end surrounded by mere yes-men, whose flattery and counsels are alone endurable to him. In my report on the events of 1938 I drew your Lordship's special attention to the far reaching and unfortunate results of the Blomberg marriage. I am more than ever convinced of the major disaster which that—in itself—minor incident involved, owing to the consequent elimination from Herr Hitler's entourage of the more moderate and independent of his advisers, such as Field Marshal von Blomberg himself, Baron von Neurath, Generals Fritsch, Beck, etc. After February of last year Herr Hitler became more and more shut off from external influences and a law unto himself.

18. People are apt, in my opinion, to exaggerate the malign influence of Herr von Ribbentrop, Dr. Goebbels, Herr Himmler and the rest. It was probably consistently sinister, not because of its suggestiveness (since Herr Hitler alone decided policy), not because it merely applauded and encouraged, but because, if Herr Hitler appeared to hesitate, the extremists of the party at once proceeded to fabricate situations calculated to drive Herr Hitler into courses which even he at times shrank from risking. The simplest method of doing this was through the medium of a controlled Press. Thus what happened in September last year, was repeated in March this year, and again in August. Dr. Goebbels' propaganda machine was the ready tool of these extremists, who were afraid lest Herr Hitler should move too slowly in the prosecution of his own ultimate designs.

19. The 1938 stories of Czech atrocities against its German minority, were rehashed up almost verbatim in regard to the Poles. Some foundation there must necessarily have been for a proportion of these allegations in view of the state of excitable tension which existed between the two peoples. Excess of zeal on the part of individuals and minor officials there undoubtedly was—but the tales of ill-treatment, expropriation and murder were multiplied a hundredfold. How far Herr Hitler himself believed in the truth of these tales must be a matter for conjecture. Germans are prone in any case to convince themselves very readily of anything which they wish to believe. Certainly he behaved as if he did believe, and, even if one may give him the benefit of the doubt, these reports served to inflame his resentment to the pitch which he or his extremists desired.

20. Until the 8th August the campaign against the Poles had been relegated to the more discreet pages of the German press. Up to that date, public enemy No. 1 had been Great Britain and the alleged policy of encirclement. From that date, however, the stories of Polish atrocities began to take the leading place, and by the 17th August the campaign was in full swing.

21. Herr Hitler is a master of turning events to suit his own purpose, and the so-called ultimatum to the Danzig Senate of the 4th August and the subsequent foreign press comments on a Danzig " climb down " gave him the opportunity which he was seeking. The Polish note of the 4th August provided an excuse

for the German *Note verbale* of the 9th August, which provoked in its turn the Polish reply of the 10th August. In the midst of these exchanges Dr. Burckhardt, High Commissioner of the League of Nations for Danzig flew to Berchtesgaden in a last effort to place the position at Danzig on a more satisfactory footing. He saw Her Hitler on the 11th August, while Count Ciano and Herr von Ribbentrop were meeting at Salzburg.

22. Intransigent as he appears to have been at his interview with Dr. Burckhardt, there is little doubt in my mind that Herr Hitler would have been far more so had he at the time been in possession of the text of the final paragraph of the Polish reply of 10th August, which had only been communicated to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs at Berlin on that day. He was aware of it, however, when Count Ciano visited him at Berchtesgaden immediately after Dr. Burckhardt's departure, and it undoubtedly rendered unavailing the Italian Foreign Minister's laudable intention of pouring oil on the troubled waters. Once again, as in 1938, the inexorable fatality of the Greek tragedy was in evidence, and the coincidence of the Polish note of the 10th August with the Ciano visit was a striking example of it. Count Ciano returned to Italy and a day or so later the Italian Ambassador at Berlin was hurriedly summoned to Rome.

23. Herr Hitler's carefully calculated patience was, in fact, exhausted, and on the 18th August I telegraphed to your Lordship that I had come to the definite conclusion that, if peace was to be preserved, the present situation could not be allowed to continue and that the only alternative to war must be some immediate and mediatory action. In this connection I repeated a suggestion which I had made some time previously, namely, that a personal letter should be addressed by the Prime Minister to Herr Hitler and be delivered by some emissary from London. Two days later I again telegraphed to the same effect, and stated my conviction that Herr Hitler had now finally decided upon some form of immediate action which would force the issue. I drew attention at the same time to the increased German military strength which had been assembled in East Prussia under cover of the Tannenberg anniversary and expressed my apprehension lest that celebration might prove the starting point for the action which Herr Hitler contemplated. I have little doubt but that such was Herr Hitler's original and premeditated intention.

24. On the 21st August information reached me that the long expected but carefully concealed German military concentrations were already in progress, and that instructions had been given to complete them by the 24th August. A report which reached me at that time actually mentioned the 25th August as the date fixed for the German advance into Poland.

25. I shall return to this point later, but I must here refer to the bombshell which was exploded late in the evening of the 21st August by the announcement that negotiations had been concluded for the signature of a Russo-German non-aggression pact and that Herr von Ribbentrop would fly to Moscow on the 23rd to sign it.

26. The secret, which on the German side had been known to not more than a few persons, had been well kept. It had been realised that German counter-negotiations had been proceeding throughout the summer, but it was hoped that they had been abandoned after the actual arrival at Moscow of the French and British military missions. Comment on the subject is, however, outside the scope of this report, except in so far as it concerns the effect of this announcement on the German public. The first impression in Berlin was one of immense relief, partly at the removal of the dreaded Russian air menace, but more particularly because, in the minds of a public which had been led to believe by Goebbels propaganda that the British negotiations with the U.S.S.R. were really encirclement with a view to a preventive war, the conclusion of a Russo-German non-aggression pact meant that peace was assured. since Britain would not, it was told, fight for Danzig or Poland without Russian aid. Once more the faith of the German people in the ability of Herr Hitler to obtain his objective without war was reaffirmed. Its satisfaction was, however, short-lived and the deception considerable when it was realised that Britain's word to Poland did not depend on Russian support. Those who had fought the war of Nazism against Communism were furthermore puzzled by this complete *volte-face*. The Nazi theory of racial purity had been discarded in March and in August a second of its basic principles was thus equally relegated to the scrap-heap. To most Germans the old hereditary enemy is Russia, nor was their confidence in the sincerity of her good intentions towards Germany greatly fortified by this exhibition of Russian ill-faith towards the Western Democracies. Nevertheless, as a diplomatic *coup*, the Russo-German pact was a strikingly successful and surprising one. It is devoutly to be hoped that it may prove as Pyrrhic as are most diplomatic victories.

27. At the moment when Herr von Ribbentrop was preparing to fly to Moscow, I received shortly before 9 p.m. on the 22nd August your Lordship's instructions to convey without delay a personal letter from the Prime Minister to Herr Hitler. I at once got into communication with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, and in the course of the night an interview was arranged for the following day. I left Berlin at 9.30 on the morning of the 23rd August accompanied by the State Secretary and Herr Hewel, in an aeroplane provided for me by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

28. I reached Salzburg about midday and I had my first audience with Herr Hitler at Berchtesgaden at 1 p.m. on the 23rd August in the presence of Baron von Weizsacker and Herr Hewel. The correspondence, including the text of the Prime Minister's letter, of Herr Hitler's reply and my own telegraphic record of my two conversations with the Chancellor, is to be found in the Blue Book presented to Parliament and publishing the documents concerning German-Polish relations and the outbreak of hostilities between Great Britain and Germany on the 3rd September, 1939.(1)

29. I need not say more here than that the three main points of the Prime Minister's letter were (1) insistence on the determination of His Majesty's Government to fulfil their obligations to Poland; (2) their readiness, if a peace atmosphere could be created, to discuss all the problems at issue between our two countries, and (3) their anxiety, during a period of truce, to see immediate direct discussion initiated between Germany and Poland in regard to the reciprocal treatment of minorities.

30. In Herr Hitler's reply of the 23rd August he declared that Great Britain's determination to support Poland could not modify his policy as expressed in the German verbal note to the Polish Government of the 9th August that he was prepared to accept even a long war rather than sacrifice German national interests and honour, and that, if Great Britain persisted in her own measures of mobilisation, he would at once order the mobilisation of the whole of the German forces.

31. At my first interview with him on that day, Herr Hitler was in a mood of extreme excitability. His language as regards the Poles and British responsibility for the Polish attitude was violent, recriminatory and exaggerated. He referred, for instance, to 100,000 German refugees from Poland, a figure which was at least five times greater than the reality. Again I cannot say whether he was persuaded or persuaded himself of the reality of these figures. At my second interview, when he handed me his reply, he had recovered his calm but was not less uncompromising. No longer, he told me, did he trust Mr. Chamberlain. He preferred war, he said, when he was 50 to when he was 55 or 60. He had himself always sought and believed in the possibility of friendship with England. He now realised, he said, that those who had argued the contrary had been right and nothing short of a complete change in British policy towards Germany could ever convince him of any sincere British desire for good relations. My last remark to him was that I could only deduce from his language that my mission to Germany had failed and that I bitterly regretted it.

32. I flew back from Berchtesgaden to Berlin the same evening. I had in fact little hope that either the Prime Minister's letter or my own language to Herr Hitler, however direct and straightforward, would give him pause. The Russian pact had, I felt, created in his opinion a situation which was favourable to his designs and I believed his mind to be definitely made up. Though he spoke of his artistic tastes and of his longing to satisfy them, I derived the impression that the corporal of the last war was even more anxious to prove what he could do as a conquering Generalissimo in the next.

33. Nevertheless the visit to Berchtesgaden may after all have postponed the disaster for a week. Herr von Ribbentrop flew

(1) See Cmd. 6106, Nos. 56, 57, 58, 60.

back to Germany with the signed Russo-German Agreement and Herr Hitler returned to Berlin the night of the 24th August. I have some reason to believe—though I cannot confirm it—that the order for the German Army to advance into Poland was actually issued for the night of the 25th-26th August. It is difficult otherwise to find justification for the various orders and arrangements which came into force on the 26th and 27th August. In the afternoon of the 25th August itself all telephone communication between Berlin and London and Paris was unexpectedly cut off for several hours. The celebrations at Tannenberg were cancelled on the 26th and the Party Rally at Nuremberg on the 27th August; all Naval, Military and Air Attachés at Berlin were refused permission to leave the city without prior authority being obtained from the Ministry of War. All German airports were closed from that date, and the whole of Germany became a prohibited zone for all aircraft except the regular civil lines. All internal German air services were also suspended. Moreover as from the 27th a system for the rationing of food-stuffs and other commodities throughout Germany came into force. That this latter and—for the public—depressing measure should have been adopted prior to the outbreak of war can scarcely be explained, except on the assumption that war should actually have broken out on the 26th August.

34. The fact may well be, as I imagine it was, that Herr Hitler had had in consequence of the Prime Minister's letter one last hesitation and countermanded the orders to his Army, whereas the other arrangements were allowed to proceed unchecked. But it was not the horrors of war which deterred him. He had unlimited confidence in the magnificent army and air force which he had re-created and he was certainly not averse to putting them to the test so far as Poland was concerned. In two months, he told me, the war in the East would be ended and he would then, he said, hurl 160 divisions against the Western Front if England was so unwise as to oppose his plans. His hesitation was due rather to one final effort to detach Britain from Poland. Be that as it may, at about 12.45 on the 25th August, I received a message to the effect that Herr Hitler wished to receive me at the Chancellery at 1.30 p.m. At that meeting he made to me the verbal communication which is recorded in the Blue Book.(2)

35. Briefly put, Herr Hitler's proposals therein dealt with two groups of questions: (*a*) the immediate necessity of a settlement of the dispute between Germany and Poland, and (*b*) an eventual offer of friendship or alliance between Germany and Great Britain. My interview with Herr Hitler, at which Herr von Ribbentrop and Dr. Schmidt were also present, lasted on this occasion over an hour. The Chancellor spoke with calm and apparent sincerity. He described his proposals as a last effort, for conscience sake, to secure good relations with Great Britain, and he suggested that I should fly to London myself with them. I told his Excellency that, while I was fully prepared to consider this course, I felt it my duty to tell him quite clearly that my country could not possibly go back on its word to Poland, and that, however anxious we were for a better understanding with Germany, we could never reach one except on the basis of a negotiated settlement with Poland.

36. Whatever may have been the underlying motive of this final gesture on the part of the Chancellor, it was one which could not be ignored, and, with your Lordship's consent, I flew to London early the following morning (26th August), on a German plane which was courteously put at my disposal. Two days were spent by His Majesty's Government in giving the fullest and most careful consideration to Herr Hitler's message and on the afternoon of the 28th August I flew back to Berlin with their reply.(3) Therein, while the obligations of His Majesty's Government to Poland were reaffirmed, it was stated that the Polish Government were ready to enter into negotiations with the German Government for a reasonable solution of the matter in dispute on the basis of the safeguarding of Poland's essential interests, and of an international guarantee for the settlement eventually arrived at. His Majesty's Government accordingly proposed that the next step should be the initiation of direct discussions between the Polish and German Governments on that basis and the adoption of immediate steps to relieve the tension in the matter of the treatment of minorities. Furthermore, His Majesty's Government undertook to use all their influence with a view to contributing towards a solution which might be satisfactory to both parties and which would, they hoped, prepare the way for the negotiation of that wider and more complete understanding between Great Britain and Germany which both countries desired. Finally, after a reference to a limitation of armaments, His Majesty's Government pointed out that, whereas a just settlement of the Polish question might open the way to world peace, failure to do so would finally ruin the hopes of a better understanding between our countries and might well plunge the whole world into war.

37. Before continuing the record of events after my return to Berlin on the evening of the 28th August, it is necessary to give a brief account of what had happened after my meeting with the Chancellor at 1.30 on the 25th August. At 5 p.m. on that day Herr Hitler had received the French Ambassador and given him a letter for communication to M. Daladier. Its general tenour was a suggestion to France, with whom Germany was stated to have no quarrel, to abstain from further support of Poland. It received a dignified answer from the French Government, which was published on the 27th August. Appeals for peace were made at this time to both the German and Polish Governments as well as to other Powers by the Pope and the President of the United States of America. Though they received a favourable response from the Polish Government, they received scant consideration from Germany.

38. On the evening of the 25th August the Anglo-Polish Pact had been signed in London. Though it had been under negotiation for several months, its signature gave great offence to Herr Hitler, who was at first inclined to regard it as the reply of His Majesty's Government to his message to them. His immediate retort was the announcement on the morning of the 26th August that Herr Forster had been appointed Reichsoberhaupt, or Head of the State of Danzig. At the same time the German concentrations against Poland began to reach their final stage.

39. Thereafter there was a lull for two days pending my return to Germany with the reply of His Majesty's Government. I had left London at 5 p.m. on the 28th August, and at 10.30 p.m. I was received by Herr Hitler at the Chancellery and handed to him that reply, together with a German translation. I sent to your Lordship a full record of my conversation with the Chancellor the same night.(4)

40. On this occasion Herr Hitler was again friendly and reasonable and appeared to be not dissatisfied with the answer which I had brought to him. He observed, however, that he must study it carefully and would give me a written reply the next day.

41. I would mention incidentally that both that evening and the next, when I visited Herr Hitler again and was handed his reply, nothing was left undone to enhance the solemnity of the occasion. A considerable but quite expressionless crowd was waiting outside the Chancellery and a guard of honour awaited me in the courtyard of the main entrance. In view of what has been reported to the contrary, I desire to bear witness here to the fact that throughout the whole of those anxious weeks neither I nor my staff received anything but the utmost courtesy and civility from all Germans, except on one occasion to which I shall refer later.

42. Such information as reached me during the course of the day of the 29th August tended to represent the atmosphere as not unfavourable and to foreshadow Herr Hitler's readiness to open direct negotiations with the Poles. I was therefore somewhat disappointed on being summoned to the Chancellery at 7.15 that evening to find the Chancellor in a far less reasonable mood than on the previous evening. The German midday Press had reported the alleged murder of six German nationals in Poland, and this story, which was probably fabricated by the extremists in fear lest he was weakening, together with the news of the Polish general mobilisation, had probably upset him. I sensed in any case a distinctly more uncompromising attitude on Herr Hitler's part when he handed me his answer. I read it through carefully, and, though it reiterated his demand for the whole Corridor as well as Danzig, I made no comment till I reached the phrase at the end of it, in which, after a grudging acquiescence in direct discussions with the Poles solely by way of proof of Germany's sincerity in her desire for lasting friendship

(2) *Idem* No. 68.
(3) *Idem* No. 74.
(4) *Idem* No. 75.

with Great Britain, it was stated that " the German Government counted upon the arrival in Berlin of a Polish Emissary with full powers on the following day, Wednesday, the 30th August." I pointed out to his Excellency that this phrase sounded very much like an ultimatum (" hatte den Klang eines Ultimatums "). This was strenuously and heatedly denied by Herr Hitler himself, supported by Herr von Ribbentrop. According to the former this sentence merely emphasised the urgency of the moment, not only on account of the risk of incidents when two mobilised armies were standing opposite one another, but also when Germans were being massacred in Poland. In this latter connection his Excellency asserted that " I did not care how many Germans were being slaughtered in Poland." This gratuitous impugnment of the humanity of His Majesty's Government and of myself provoked a heated retort on my part and the remainder of the interview was of a somewhat stormy character

43. It was closed, however, by a brief and in my opinion quite honest harangue on Herr Hitler's part in regard to the genuineness of his constant endeavour to win Britain's friendship, of his respect for the British Empire, and of his liking for Englishmen generally.

44. I should like to state here, parenthetically but emphatically, that Herr Hitler's constant repetition of his desire for good relations with Great Britain was undoubtedly a sincere conviction. He will prove in the future a fascinating study for the historian and the biographer with psychological leanings. Widely different explanations will be propounded, and it would be out of place and time to comment at any length in this despatch on this aspect of Herr Hitler's mentality and character. But he combined, as I fancy many Germans do, admiration for the British race with envy of their achievements and hatred of their opposition to Germany's excessive aspirations. It is no exaggeration to say that he assiduously courted Great Britain, both as representing the aristocracy and most successful of the Nordic races, and as constituting the only seriously dangerous obstacle to his own far-reaching plan of German domination in Europe. This is evident in *Mein Kampf*, and, in spite of what he regarded as the constant rebuffs which he received from the British side, he persisted in his endeavours up to the last moment. Geniuses are strange creatures, and Herr Hitler, among other paradoxes, is a mixture of long-headed calculation and violent and arrogant impulse provoked by resentment. The former drove him to seek Britain's friendship and the latter finally into war with her. Moreover, he believes his resentment to be entirely justified. He failed to realise why his military-cum-police tyranny should be repugnant to British ideals of individual and national freedom and liberty, or why he should not be allowed a free hand in Central and Eastern Europe to subjugate smaller and, as he regards them, inferior peoples to superior German rule and culture. He believed he could buy British acquiescence in his own far-reaching schemes by offers of alliance with and guarantees for the British Empire. Such acquiescence was indispensable to the success of his ambitions and he worked unceasingly to secure it. His great mistake was his complete failure to understand the inherent British sense of morality, humanity and freedom.

45. It must be mentioned here that the concluding passage of the Chancellor's reply to His Majesty's Government had contained a statement to the effect that the German Government would immediately draw up proposals for a solution of the Polish question which it would, if possible, place at the disposal of the British Government before the arrival of the Polish negotiator.

46. I had at once telegraphed to your Lordship the text of the German note(5), and in the early hours of the morning of the 30th August (4 a.m.) I had already conveyed to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs your interim reply, to the effect that it would be carefully considered, but observing that it would be unreasonable to expect that His Majesty's Government could produce a Polish representative at Berlin within twenty-four hours, and that the German Government must not count on this.

47. Later in the course of the day, I received three messages for communication to the German Government. The first was a personal one from the Prime Minister to the Chancellor notifying the latter of the representations made to Warsaw in regard to the avoidance of frontier incidents, and begging the German Government to take similar precautions. (I transmitted this in the afternoon to its destination in a personal letter to the Minister for Foreign Affairs.) The second similarly notified the German Government of our counsels of restraint to Poland and asked for reciprocation on Germany's part. The third pointed out that the demand that a Polish Representative with full powers must come to Berlin to receive the German proposals was unreasonable and suggested that the German Government should follow the normal procedure of inviting the Polish Ambassador to call and of handing him the German proposals for transmission to Warsaw with a view to arrangements being made for the conduct of negotiations. This last communication also reminded the German Government that it had promised to communicate its detailed proposals to His Majesty's Government, who undertook, if they offered a reasonable basis, to do their best in Warsaw to facilitate negotiations. The good intentions of His Majesty's Government were, in fact, patently clear and had Herr Hitler honestly desired or preferred a pacific settlement all the arrangements to that end seemed to be in full swing.

48. I had arranged to see the Minister for Foreign Affairs at 11.30 p.m. to make these communications to him. Shortly before the appointed time I received in code the considered reply of His Majesty's Government to the German Note of the 29th August.(6) I was accordingly obliged to ask that my meeting with Herr von Ribbentrop should be postponed for half an hour, in order to give me the time to have this last message decyphered.

49. In the final passages of that communication His Majesty's Government, while fully recognising the need for speed in the initiation of discussions, urged that during the negotiations no aggressive military operations should take place on either side. They further expressed their confidence that they could secure such an undertaking from the Polish Government, if the German Government would give similar assurances. They also suggested a temporary *modus vivendi* at Danzig, such as would obviate the risk of incidents which might render German-Polish relations still more difficult.

50. I saw Herr von Ribbentrop at exactly midnight, before which hour the German Government had ostensibly counted on the arrival of a Polish Emissary at Berlin. I say " ostensibly " since it seems hardly possible that it cannot have occurred to either Herr Hitler or his Minister for Foreign Affairs that it was utterly unreasonable to expect a Polish Plenipotentiary to present himself at Berlin without even knowing in advance the basis of the proposals about which he was expected to negotiate. It is conceivable that the Army Leaders had been representing to their Führer that even 24 hours' delay involved the risk of bad weather holding up the rapidity of the German advance into Poland, but, even so, it is difficult not to draw the conclusion that the proposals in themselves were but dust to be thrown in the eyes of the world with a view to its deception and were never intended to be taken seriously by the German Government itself.

51. Be that as it may, it is probable that Herr Hitler's mood in the hour when he had to decide between peace or war was not an amiable one. It was reflected in Herr von Ribbentrop, whose reception of me that evening was, from the outset, one of intense hostility, which increased in violence as I made each communication in turn. He kept leaping from his chair in a state of great excitement, and asking if I had anything more to say. I kept replying that I had, and, if my own attitude was no less unfriendly than his own, I cannot but say in all sincerity that I had every justification for it. When I told him that I would not fail to report his comments and remarks to my Government, he calmed down a little and said that they were his own, and that it was for Herr Hitler to decide. As for inviting the Polish Ambassador to come and see him, such a course would, he indignantly said, be utterly unthinkable and intolerable.

52. After I had finished making my various communications to him, he produced a lengthy document which he read out to me in German, or rather gabbled through to me as fast as he could, in a tone of the utmost annoyance. Of the sixteen articles in it I was able to gather the gist of six or seven, but it would have been quite impossible to guarantee even the exact accuracy of these without a careful study of the text itself. When he had finished, I accordingly asked him to let me see it. Herr von

(5) *Idem* No. 78.

(6) *Idem* No. 89.

Ribbentrop refused categorically, threw the document with a contemptuous gesture on the table and said that it was now out of date (" überholt "), since no Polish Emissary had arrived at Berlin by midnight.

53. I observed that in that case the sentence in the German note of the 29th August to which I had drawn his and his Führer's attention on the preceding evening had, in fact, constituted an ultimatum in spite of their categorical denials. Herr von Ribbentrop's answer to that was that the idea of an ultimatum was a figment of my own imagination and creation.

54. I do not desire to stress the unpleasant nature of this interview. The hour was a critical one and Herr von Ribbentrop's excitability at such a moment was understandable. It seemed to me, however, that he was wilfully throwing away the last chance of a peaceful solution, and it was difficult to remain indifferent when faced with such a calamity. I would merely add that, contrary to what was subsequently published in the German Press, I did not discuss a single detail of the German proposals with Herr von Ribbentrop, who flatly declined to do so. While it i true that they were read to me, it was in such a manner as to make them practically unintelligible.

55. I returned to His Majesty's Embassy that night with the feeling that the last hope for peace had vanished. I nevertheless saw the Polish Ambassador at 2 a.m., gave him a brief and studiously moderate account of my conversation with Herr von Ribbentrop, mentioned the cession of Danzig and the plebiscite in the Corridor as the two main points in the German proposals, stated that so far as I could gather they were not on the whole too unreasonable, and suggested to him that he might recommend to his Government thet they should propose at once a meeting between Field-Marshals Smigly-Rydz and Goring. I felt obliged to add that I could not conceive of the success of any negotiations if they were conducted with Herr von Ribbentrop.

56. Though M. Lipski undertook to make this suggestion to his Government, it would by then probably have been in any case too late. There was, in fact, for Herr Hitler only one conceivable alternative to brute force, and that was that a Polish Plenipotentiary should humbly come to him, after the manner of Dr. Schuschnigg or President Hacha, and sign on the dotted line to the greater glory of Adolf Hitler. And even that must happen at once. The Army was asking " Yes " or " No," since the success of its plans depended largely on the rapid occupation of Poland and the conclusion as soon as possible of the war on the Eastern front. Bad weather might otherwise intervene at any time and was likely to prove one of Poland's best defences against the highly mechanised German Army. Moreover, a week had already been lost by Herr Hitler's hesitation on the 25th August.

57. I have no doubt that such and other considerations were present in Herr Hitler's mind on the night of the 30th August. I was consequently not surprised when I received in the early hours of the morning of the 31st reliable information that the actual decision had been taken to order tne advance of the German Army by midday or 1 p.m. if no Polish Plenipotentiary had arrived before then. I believe this information to have been accurate, and I attribute the further brief respite which ensued to the twelfth-hour efforts of the Italian Government to restrain Herr Hitler from war.

58. I had in the meantime obtained from another source more definite, if unauthorised, details of the German proposals, and these I at once communicated through the Counsellor of His Majesty's Embassy to the Polish Ambassador, who spent that morning on the telephone to Warsaw. About the middle of the day I had transmitted to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs a further message from His Majesty's Government to the German Government notifying them that the Polish Government were taking steps to establish contact with them through the Polish Ambassador at Berlin, and asking them to agree to an immediate provisional *modus vivendi* at Danzig, for which purpose M. Burckhardt was suggested as intermediary. To this communication I never received any reply. There was, however, a further delay of some 12 hours. The Polish Government had authorised their Ambassador to establish contact with Herr von Ribbentrop and Herr Hitler waited to see what message M. Lipski would bring. The question, in fact, was whether his qualifications would be those of a Plenipotentiary empowered by the Polish Government to conduct and conclude negotiations or not. On no other terms was Hitler prepared to postpone action. His army was ready and Poland must be taught a lesson. She must crawl or get her whipping.

59. During the day there had been much activity on the part of Field-Marshal Goring. I think there can be no doubt that Field-Marshal Goring himself would have preferred a peaceful solution, but in matters such as these it was Herr Hitler's decision which alone counted ; and whatever Field-Marshal Goring himself might feel, he was merely the loyal and submissive servant of his master. Moreover, he had come down definitely on the side of peace a year before and it may have been difficult for him to adopt this course a second time. He invited me, however, to come and see him that afternoon, and I did so at 5 p.m. in company of Sir G. Ogilvie-Forbes. Inasmuch as I had heard that the text of the proposals which Herr von Ribbentrop had refused to give me was to be announced that evening, my first remark was to point out to the Field-Marshal that this procedure would probably and finally wreck the last prospect of peace and to beg him to do his utmost to prevent their publication. Field-Marshal Goring's reply was that he could not intervene, and that the German Government felt obliged to broadcast their proposals to the world in order to prove their " good faith."

60. Instead he talked for the best part of two hours of the iniquities of the Poles and about Herr Hitler's and his own desire for friendship with England, and of the benefit to the world in general and the advantage to England in particular of such a friendship. It was a conversation which led nowhere and I could not help feeling that his remarks, which from his point of view were perfectly genuine but which I had heard often before, were chiefly intended for the edification of his listeners. I augured the worst from the fact that he was in a position at such a moment to give me so much of his time. He had a few days before been made president of the new German Defence Council for the Reich (or War Cabinet) and he could scarcely have afforded at such a moment to spare time in conversation if it did not mean that everything down to the last detail was now ready for action.

61. Incidentally the composition of that council was evidence of Herr Hitler's acumen. He had selected for it all the most respectable of the Nazi leaders, such as Herr Frick, Dr. Lammers, Dr. Funk, who might be counted upon, with Field-Marshal Goring himself the most popular of them all with the general public, to inspire the confidence of the German people. The worst extremists and the most unpopular with the people were omitted from it. To them was to be confided the less enviable task of dealing with the neutrals, of organising the Interior and of ruthlessly repressing any internal discontent. My general impression of this last talk with Field-Marshal Goring was, in fact, that it constituted a final but forlorn effort on his part to detach Britain from the Poles. Nevertheless the Field-Marshal seemed sincere when, having been called to the telephone, he returned to tell us that M. Lipski was on his way to see Herr von Ribbentrop. He seemed to hope that, provided contact was only established, war might after all prove unnecessary. The meeting between the Polish Ambassador proved, however, quite futile. M. Lipski stated that he was acting solely in his capacity as an Ambassador without plenary powers to discuss or to negotiate, and handed to the Minister for Foreign Affairs a brief communication to the effect that the Polish Government were weighing favourably the proposal of His Majesty's Government for direct discussion and that a formal answer in this matter would be communicated to the German Government in the immediate future. He did not ask for the German proposals and Herr von Ribbentrop did not offer to give them to him. Their meeting lasted but a few minutes.

62. Early in the morning I had rung up the State Secretary and, after pointing out that the German Government had promised to communicate these proposals to His Majesty's Government, and how helpless I was without the authorised text of them, had asked him to suggest to Herr von Ribbentrop once more that they should be communicated to me. I heard no more from Bar n von Weizsacker until late in the evening, when I received a message asking me to call upon him at 9.15 p.m. Similar messages had been sent to the French Ambassador and to the United States Charge d'Affaires, giving them appointments for 9.30 and 9.45 respectively. I accordingly called on Baron von Weizsacker at the hour named and received from

him the text of the proposals, together with an explanatory statement.(7) As both these documents had already been broadcast at 9 p.m. I asked the Secretary of State what was the point now of making these communications to me. Baron von Weizsacker observed that he was merely carrying out his instructions and that he could make no further statement to me. I could only infer from this reply that Herr Hitler had taken his final decision. I accordingly drafted that night a telegram to your Lordship to the effect that it would be quite useless for me to make any further suggestions since they would now only be outstripped by events and that the only course remaining to us was to show our inflexible determination to resist force by force.

63. In point of fact the advance into Poland had been ordered that night, and in the early hours of the 1st September without any declaration of war the German Army crossed the frontier and the German Air Force proceeded to bomb the Polish aerodromes and lines of communications.

64. In accordance with Herr Hitler's usual technique everything was done by the German authorities to prove to the German public that it was the Poles who had been the aggressors instead of the aggressed. Cynical notices were communicated at 6 a.m. to His Majesty's Embassy notifying me that the Bay of Danzig was closed both to navigation and to flying in view of the possibility of military operations "against hostile attacks by Polish naval forces or by Polish aircraft." Field-Marshal Goring also sent me a message to say that the Poles had begun the war by blowing up the bridge across the Vistula at Dirchau, while Herr Hitler himself issued a proclamation to the German Army, declaring that the Polish State had refused the settlement which he offered and had appealed to arms, that the Germans in Poland were being persecuted by a bloody terror, and that the Poles were no longer willing to respect the frontier of the German Reich. Every German newspaper repeated the lie that it was the Poles who had begun the fighting. Finally at 10.30 a.m. Herr Hitler met the Reichstag which had been summoned for that hour, and similarly announced to the assembled Delegates that he had been "forced to take up arms in defence of the Reich." The die had in fact been cast and never can there have been or ever be a case of more deliberate and carefully planned aggression.

65. Late that evening I was instructed by your Lordship to notify the German Government that the latter by their action had created conditions which called for the implementation by the Governments of the United Kingdom and France of their undertaking to come to Poland's assistance, and that, unless His Majesty's Government received satisfactory assurances that the German Government had suspended all aggressive action and would be prepared to withdraw its forces from Polish territory, His Majesty's Government would, without hesitation, fulfil their obligations to Poland. I was instructed at the same time to request an immediate reply, and was authorised, if asked, to explain that this communication was in the nature of a warning and was not to be considered as an ultimatum.

66. I handed this communication in writing to the Minister for Foreign Affairs at 9.30 p.m. that evening. Herr von Ribbentrop received it without other comment than that the sole blame rested on the Poles, that it was they who had first mobilised and who had first invaded Germany with troops of the regular army. He made no enquiry as to the nature of the communication which he merely said that he must submit to the Führer. I said that I realised that this would be necessary, and that I would be available at whatever hour he might be in a position to give me the Reichschancellor's reply. The French Ambassador, who had been instructed to make a similar communication, did so immediately after me and received a reply on the same lines.

67. Earlier in the afternoon of that day, in accordance with your Lordship's instructions, I had officially requested the United States Chargé d'Affaires to be good enough to take charge of British interests in the event of war. All cyphers and confidential documents were burnt, and the whole of the Staff left their normal residences and were concentrated in the Adlon Hotel next door or in the Embassy itself. All the arrangements were carried out with a maximum of efficiency and a minimum of confusion, which did the utmost credit to the organisation and competency of the very excellent Staff of His Majesty's Embassy. The chief responsibility for this rested upon Mr. Holman, as Head of the Chancery.

68. The 2nd September was a day of suspense. The Poles were, it was reported, putting up a brave resistance in the face of surprise and overwhelming numbers, and in spite of the vast superiority of the German Air Force and mechanised forces. No reply was received from the German Government throughout the day to the British and French warnings.

69. On the other hand, the Italian Government was making one more effort to save the situation. The Italian Ambassador had come to see me at midday on his way to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. Signor Attolico told me that he must know one thing immediately. Was the communication which I had made the previous evening to Herr von Ribbentrop an ultimatum or not? I told his Excellency that I had been authorised to tell the Minister for Foreign Affairs if he had asked me—which he had not done—that it was not an ultimatum but a warning. I mentioned to Signor Attolico that I understood that the Italian Government had put forward a suggestion for the cessation of hostilities and the immediate summoning of a conference of the interested Powers. In this connection I said that I felt bound to express the opinion that such a proposal would never be entertained unless at the same time all the German troops were withdrawn from Polish territory.

70. The Ambassador retorted that I could not speak for my Government. I admitted that fact, but said that I could not imagine the possibility of ourselves, and much less of the Poles, agreeing to any lesser course. I do not know what reply, if any, was given by the German Government to this proposal. But I should like to put on record here that no one ever worked harder for peace than did Signor Attolico not only this year but last year also. He was entirely selfless in this his earnest endeavour.

71. There were, in fact, for Herr Hitler only two solutions: the use of force, or the achievement of his aims by the display of force. "If you wish to obtain your objective by force, you must be strong; if you wish to obtain them by negotiation, you must be stronger still." That was a remark which he made to a foreign Statesman who visited him this year, and it expresses in the concisest possible form the Hitler technique. It was exactly that which he displayed in September, 1938. He was no more bluffing then than he was bluffing in August, 1939. Up to the middle of August this year the fear of a war on two fronts, with Russia hostile or at least unfriendly, might possibly have deterred him and his military advisers from action against Poland. There was no Eastern front to give him cause for hesitation in 1938, and he could have counted then on Hungarian as well as Polish support in his nefarious plans for the dismemberment of Czecho-Slovakia. But for Munich he would without a shadow of doubt have invaded that country on the 29th September last year, just as surely as he invaded Poland on the 1st September this year, and the war would have come eleven months earlier. In both cases the methods employed were identical: the gradual mobilisation of the German army over a period of months and its secret concentration at the appointed positions, whence the advance could begin at almost any moment and within a very few hours.

72. So it was again in 1939. If he could have secured his objectives by this display of force he might have been content for the moment, with all the additional prestige which another bloodless success would have procured for him with his own people. But it would only have been to start again once the world had recovered from the shock, and even his own people were beginning to be tired of these repeated crises. Millions of Germans had begun to long for a more peaceful existence. Guns instead of butter were becoming more and more unpopular except with the younger generation, and Hitler may well have wondered what might happen to his Nazi revolution if its momentum were allowed to stop. Moreover the financial and economic position of Germany was such that things could scarcely continue as they were without some form of explosion, internal or external. Of the two alternatives, the most attractive from the point of view of his growing personal ambitions, and those of the clique which was nearest to him, was war.

73. It is scarcely credible that he would have acted as he did if bloody war, rather than a bloodless victory, had not seemed the fairer prospect for him. He had always meant to teach the

(7) *Idem* No. 98.

Poles a lesson for what he regarded as their base ingratitude in refusing the " generous " demands which he had made to them in March. His only manœuvres since that date were with the object of creating circumstances favourable to his plans or of inducing Britain and France to abandon their Polish ally and to leave him a free hand in Central and Eastern Europe.

74. To this end, encouraged by Herr von Ribbentrop, who apparently advised him up to the last moment that Britain would not fight, he worked unceasingly. In the course of one of the five interviews which I had with him during those last few days, I remarked to him that it was he who was ungenerous to the Poles, in view of the advantages which his treaty of 1934 with Pilsudski had brought him. Herr Hitler denied that that treaty had ever been of any benefit to Germany and asserted that it had merely been unpopular with the Germans. It was a remark which was typical of Herr Hitler's capacity to ignore everything which he might have said, promised or done in the past as soon as it had become contrary to views for the present or the future.

75. One of Herr Hitler's greatest drawbacks is that, except for two official visits to Italy, he has never travelled abroad. For his knowledge of British mentality he consequently relied on Herr von Ribbentrop as an ex-Ambassador to Britain, who spoke both French and English, and who had spent some years in Canada, and whom he regarded as a man of the world. If report be true Herr von Ribbentrop gave him consistently false counsels in regard to England, while his successes in other spheres induced Herr Hitler to regard him more and more as a second Bismarck, a conviction which Herr von Ribbentrop probably shared to the full.

76. Even the most absolute Dictator is susceptible to the influence of his surroundings. Nevertheless Herr Hitler's decisions, his calculations, and his opportunisms were his own. As Field-Marshal Goring once said to me, " when a decision has to be taken, none of us count more than the stones on which we are standing. It is the Führer alone who decides." If anything did count, it was the opinion of his Military Advisers. I have always believed that it was they who, in the interests of Germany's strategical security, recommended the establishment of the Protectorate over Bohemia. And again this August, it was they, I fancy, who told Herr Hitler that further delay would be fatal lest the seasonal bad weather in Poland might upset their calculations for her swift overthrow. The army grudged him even the week between the 25th August and the 1st September which his last attempt to secure British neutrality or at least goodwill had cost it.

77. Yet even so the advice of his soldiers was probably merely cover for the prosecution of Hitler's own plans. His impatience and precipitate action on that last day of August can scarcely have been other than premeditated. All through the summer he had been waiting on events to turn in his favour and had been making his preparations to seize the opportunity, when it was offered to him. The Russian pact appeared to give him the advantage which he was seeking and thereafter there was no time to lose, if mud was not to be added to Poland's allies.

78. When therefore the Polish Government delayed 48 hours in sending its Plenipotentiary to beg for terms at Berlin and even then sent only an Ambassador without plenary powers, Herr Hitler, in spite of the expressed readiness of Poland to enter into direct negotiations, finally made up his mind not to keep his army waiting any longer. The order for the advance into Poland was probably given immediately after M. Lipski's interview with Herr von Ribbentrop at 6.30 p.m. on the 31st August.

79. Late in the afternoon of the 2nd September I communicated to the Secretary of State for the information of the German Government the verbatim report of the Prime Minister's speech in the House of Commons on that date. Therein Mr. Chamberlain stated that while His Majesty's Government could not agree to the proposal of the Italian Government for a conference while Poland was being subjected to invasion, they would be willing, if the German forces were withdrawn from Polish territory, to regard the position as being the same as before the forces had crossed the frontier. It was the last chance of avoiding the great catastrophe of war at the last minute, but the German Government remained silent.

80. In the early hours (4 a.m.) of the 3rd September I was accordingly instructed by your Lordship to arrange for a meeting with the Minister for Foreign Affairs at 9 a.m. There was some difficulty in establishing contact with the Ministry at that hour, but I was finally informed that Dr. Schmidt was authorised by the Minister to accept on his Excellency's behalf any communication which I might make to him. I accordingly handed to Dr. Schmidt at 9 a.m. precisely the final ultimatum from His Majesty's Government, pointing out that over 24 hours had elapsed since I had requested an immediate answer to our warning communication of the 1st September, that since then the attacks on Poland had been intensified, and that, unless satisfactory assurances were received by His Majesty's Government before 11 a.m. British summer time of the suspension of all aggressive action against Poland and of the withdrawal of the German forces from that country, a state of war would exist between our two countries as from that hour.

81. Dr. Schmidt received this communication and undertook to deliver it immediately to his Chief. As no reply from the German Government was vouchsafed by 11 a.m., the German Representative in London was informed in due course at that hour that a state of war existed between Britain and Germany. By 10 minutes past 11 a.m. every British consular officer in Germany had been advised by the staff of His Majesty's Embassy at Berlin that this was the case.

82. Shortly after 11 a.m. I received a final message from Herr von Ribbentrop asking me to call upon him at once. I did so at 11.30 and he handed me this time a lengthy document to read, beginning with a refusal on the part of the German people to accept any demands in the nature of an ultimatum made by the British Government, and stating that any aggressive action by England would be answered with the same weapons and the same form. The rest of the document was pure propaganda with a view to attempting to prove to the German people and the world generally that it was Britain alone who was to blame for everything which had happened. My only comment on reading this completely false representation of events was: " It would be left to history to judge where the blame really lay." Herr von Ribbentrop's answer was to the effect that history had already proved the facts, and that nobody had striven harder for peace and good relations with England than Herr Hitler himself. His last remark to me was that he wished me personally good, to which I could only reply that I deeply regretted the failure of all my efforts for peace, but that I bore no grudge against the German people. Thereafter I saw no further German official except the member of the Protocol, who accompanied our special train as far as Rotterdam. My last official communication to the German Government was a note which I presented on the instructions of His Majesty's Government enquiring whether the German Government would observe the provisions of the Geneva Protocol of 1925 prohibiting the use in war of asphyxiating, poisonous or other gases and of bacteriological methods of warfare—I understand that the German Government have since replied through the Swiss Minister in London giving the required assurance on the understanding that His Majesty's Government would similarly observe the provisions of the Protocol.

83. The French Ambassador had presented at noon a similar ultimatum to the German Government to expire at 5 p.m. For a few hours after 11 a.m. the telephonic lines of His Majesty's Embassy at Berlin continued to function, but about 4 p.m. all telephonic lines were cut off and both the Staff at the Adlon Hotel and the Embassy itself was isolated from all external contact. Members of my staff, however, had visited the Protocol at 11 a.m., with a view to arranging for our departure. They were treated with every civility and consideration and were informed that a special train would be placed at our disposal the following morning.

84. Our only contact thereafter with the outside world was through the American Embassy. Its aid and help was invaluable. No trouble was too great for the Chargé d'Affairs, Mr. Alexander Kirk, and the members of his staff. They did everything that was possible to smooth over the difficulties of those last 24 hours, and our pleasantest recollection of them is our appreciation of the great sympathy and willing assistance which we received from the American Embassy.

85. The French Embassy left Berlin at 9 a.m. the following morning; Monday, the 4th September. The British Embassy followed in a special train; leaving the Charlottenberg station at 11.20 a m. The whole party consisted of 30 men; 7 women and

2 dogs. A small crowd collected round the Embassy before our departure, but unlike 1914 it evinced no single sign of hostility. Mr. Kirk rendered me one more last service by driving me to the station in his own car. The streets of Berlin were practically deserted and there was nothing to indicate the beginning of a war which is to decide whether force is to be the sole arbiter in international affairs; whether international instruments solemnly and freely entered into are to be modified, not by negotiation, but by mere unilateral repudiation; whether there is to be any faith in future in written contracts; whether the fate of a great nation and the peace of the world is to rest in the future in the hands of one man; whether small nations are to have any rights against the pretensions of States more powerful then themselves; in a word, whether government of the people by the people for the people is to continue in this world, or whether it is to be replaced by the arbitrary will and ambition of single individuals regardless of the peoples' will.

86. Our journey through Germany, if prolonged, was uneventful. At the various stations at which we stopped there was some curiosity but no evidence of hostility. We reached Rheine, a small station some 20 kilom. from the German frontier, at about 6 p.m. on the Monday evening. There our train was detained for nearly twenty hours pending the safe arrival in Dutch territorial waters of the German mission from London. We eventually left Rheine at 1.30 p.m. on Tuesday and were received with great hospitality at the Dutch frontier. We reached Rotterdam that evening, and after spending a night at The Hague and one on board the Dutch steamer "Batavier V," left Rotterdam in the early hours of Thursday morning, the 6th September. We arrived at Gravesend about 6 p.m. that evening.

I have, &c.

NEVILE HENDERSON.

1914—1918 in 1939

(By kind permission of "The London Scottish Regimental "Gazette")

I'm only a poor old "Has Been,"
Only a gorgeous wreck,
And I'm sitting beside of the fireplace
With a ruddy great pain in my neck.
I can hear the war pipes calling,
I can see the lads march by,
But I'm sitting beside of the fireplace,
A relic of days gone by.

I've worn the Hodden Grey, sir,
At Hulloch and Loos and Ypres,
And the sand of Arabia's deserts
Is not unknown to my feet;
I've foot-slogged all over the Balkans
From Dorian to Monastir,
But now I'm only a relic
Down in an old armchair.

But the spirit that burned within us,
That has not passed away;
'Tis there in the sons we've born, sir,
Who to-day wear the Hodden Grey.

The Hun, if he thinks for a minute,
Must know the adage is true;
The fire that burned in the fathers
Comes out in their sons anew;
And the men who would not yield, sir,
When they had their BACKS TO THE WALL,
Can see again in their sons, sir,
Their answer to Britain's call.

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[By Courtesy of "Motor Cycling"

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THEY HAVE NOT ALTERED MUCH!

Some Comparisons Between the Despatch Riders of 1914 and the D.R.s of To-day

By GRAHAM WALKER

Diddling about in the garage a few nights ago I tumbled, by accident, on the solution of a mystery which has worried me for a long while.

I was manicuring the lawn mower at the time (by the way, if anyone tells you that a two-stroke can't run without piston rings, don't you believe him, for my hay-motor has, apparently cut many a rod, pole and perch with no visible means of compression), listening subconsciously to the extension loud speaker, when I suddenly heard an appeal for Despatch Riders, wanted for duty at a certain Command Headquarters.

My journalistic instinct sprang smartly to attention. For weeks I had been giving my secretary writer's cramp telling enthusiastic volunteers that there were no vacancies, and here was a direct contradiction. It is one thing to be called a liar by someone sitting in the same room, but there is something about the impersonal autocracy of a loud speaker which raises my back hairs. A drink was indicated and a pause for thought. I meditated that inevitably I should be inundated with indignant letters from the disappointed would-be volunteers to whom I had written. Self-defence being my middle name, action was called for, and, with the aid of the invaluable (I have called it other names) telephone, I eventually tracked a Public Relations Officer to his lair, demanding an interview with the Command Signal Office in question.

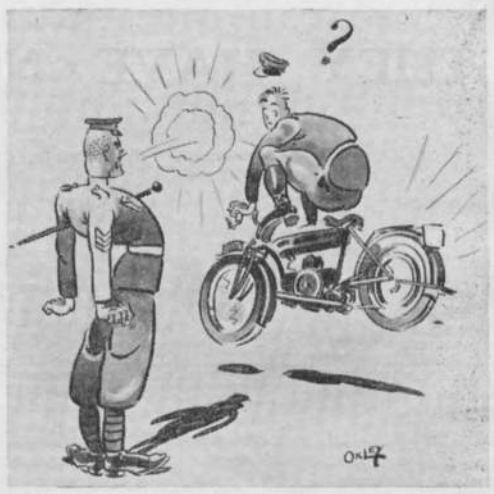
The P.R.O. lived up to the reputation of his clan. When irate I lapse into Scottish accent, but his linguistic abilities apparently included not only the Latin and Greek implied by his Bachelor of Arts degree, but also the baser dialects of the Superior Race, and I rang off with a promise of a pass for a photographer and myself to visit this scene of modern miracles where motor cyclists were actually wanted! There is no denying that I was intrigued by the prospect, for here was a chance to find an answer to that ever-green conundrum, " Is the 1939 D.R. as good as the D.R. of 1914 ? "

" . . . . the first night was a bit hectic."

[By Courtesy of " Motor Cycling "

[By Courtesy of "Motor Cycling"

" . . . . a private must never speak to an officer without first being introduced . . . . "



[By Courtesy of "Motor Cycling"

" . . . . we were sworn at."

Much depends upon what one means by the word "good." Does it mean as a good soldier or good as a motor cyclist? Such is human vanity that the older generation always likes to believe that it could do a better job of work than the younger one, whilst, as a parent, I can vouch for the fact that the son often thinks the father a fool—not infrequently with some justification. Take Despatch Riding, for example. Your 1914-1918 D.R. is firmly convinced that the D.R. of to-day is not a patch on the vintage scrounger of the Great War period. Mark you, he reckons the youngster is a decent-enough lad and all that sort of thing, but when it comes to real Despatch Riding —well, he asks you . . . !

IN 1914.

The fact is that there is no fair basis of comparison. Conditions to-day are vastly different from those of the previous war. In August, 1914, we were unprepared; the motor cycle (to say nothing of the motor cyclist) was looked upon with grave suspicion by the Authorities, and the number of trained soldiers who could ride was infinitesimal. To-day, the reverse is the case; the motor cycle is regarded as one of the most useful units in the British Army, whilst all the riders have had military training either in the Regular or the Territorial Forces.

Hence the disappointment of thousands of riders who want to join up, but who find that, temporarily, nobody loves them. And thus it is that we shall never see again such wonderful sights as a D.R. saluting a Sergeant-Major or coming on parade wearing spurs! There is something so cold-bloodedly business-like about our unity of purpose in the present conflict that I sometimes find it hard to believe that the wild scenes of hysterical patriotism of 1914 ever took place.

Picture one of these scenes a moment—War had been declared and the man in the street (you know, the chap who pays for these wars) fondly believed that the whole shooting match would be over in three months. In our innocence we imagined war was something like a T.T.—good fun, with a dash of risk thrown in—and we were used to risks, anyway, when you consider the machines we rode. We couldn't enlist quickly enough —Aldershot, Chatham and Westminster were besieged by swarms of would-be D.R.s mounted on anything from an 8 h.p. Zenith Gradua twin to a fixed-gear Norton. We were signed on and our machines purchased at prices which would have broken the heart of a Great Portland Street dealer (in those days the great motor cycle centre). always assuming he possessed such an organ, which is, of course, open to doubt.

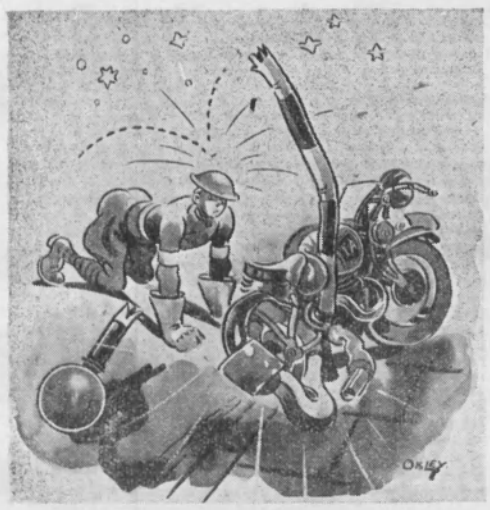
The biggest joke of all—we received 5s. per day and two Corporal's stripes because the Army had decided (a) that a private must never speak to an officer without first being introduced by an N.C.O., who invariably acted as interpreter, and (b) that as the motor-cyclist would be carrying despatches which must be handed to an officer, it would work out a bit expensive if he had to carry an N.C.O. about on the carrier to do the conversation piece. (I have it on good authority that the Army did not consider the N.C.O.'s feeling in this connection!)

FUN AND GAMES.

Those stripes led to considerable fun and games in the first few weeks of the war. It must be remembered that the good old Regular earned the magnificent sum of 1s. 2d. a day, and if he was a very good boy, and never got "crimed" for being blotto in charge of a mule or guilty of the sin of thinking out loud (or even thinking at all), he might—if he was lucky—get his Corporal's stripes in 12 years! You can imagine, therefore, what the said Old Sweats thought of us when we rolled up—and the first pay day was a riot.

For that matter, the first night was a bit hectic. We were ushered into a large hut, half of which was occupied by members of a cable and air-line section. Relations were distinctly frigid until the trumpeter sounded "Lights Out." That was the cue for some of the most pointed comments to which I have ever listened! Doubts as to our exact parentage seemed to be the favourite topic of conversation, whilst a little Cockney Driver assured me that the tailor had sewn my stripes on the wrong garment, even going so far as to suggest that not only should I wear the stripes on my breeches, but also what I really ought to do with them if I was to earn the esteem and affection of my informant. Shortly after there was an exchange of jam (in tins), bread, boots and other items of good will, accompanied by agonised howls of anguish from the unfortunate recipients.

But that phase soon passed: "Dirty Necks"—the nickname given to the D.R.s—quickly changed from a term of opprobrium to one of approval when the Regulars discovered that we were ready to be fleeced at Crown and Anchor, that we knew how to spell BEER, and that we could safely be relied upon to scrounge the best billets, extra rations, and other things which were shared with the old-timers. But although we became one of the family, as it were, we were never soldiers in the barrack square sense, simply because there wasn't time to train us and, in any case, we knew most of the answers when it came to dodging the column!



[By Courtesy of "Motor Cycling"

"Neither is it an easy time . . . for the guy who is on . . . in a black-out."

To-day, thought I—as I sipped my drink—there is nothing like that. Think of the Army Championship Trials, the Military Teams in the "International," the hundreds of motor cyclists attached to practically every type of unit in the British Army; here are men who are first and foremost trained soldiers rather than motor cyclists, so there is no basis for comparison between '14 and '39. But I was wrong, as I found out a few days later, when I travelled down to that Command.

Perhaps I should explain at this stage that a Command is an area wherein units destined for Service in the Field receive their training. The Command, therefore, is a Permanent Institution, as is a Workhouse, the Houses of Parliament, or a Home for Incurables. It is also an affair of considerable acreage, necessitating a constant service of D.R.s between Command Headquarters and those of the various Units within its far-flung frontiers.

In times of peace the Command Headquarters Signal Office has no Despatch Riders on the strength, relying upon men drawn from field units for this work. It therefore follows that when those field units move on to pastures new and the cry goes up at Command Signal Office for "Next D.R." no answering sound is heard. It was the discovery of this natural phenomenon which had led to the broadcast appeal and a small-scale reproduction of the 1914 stampede of volunteers.

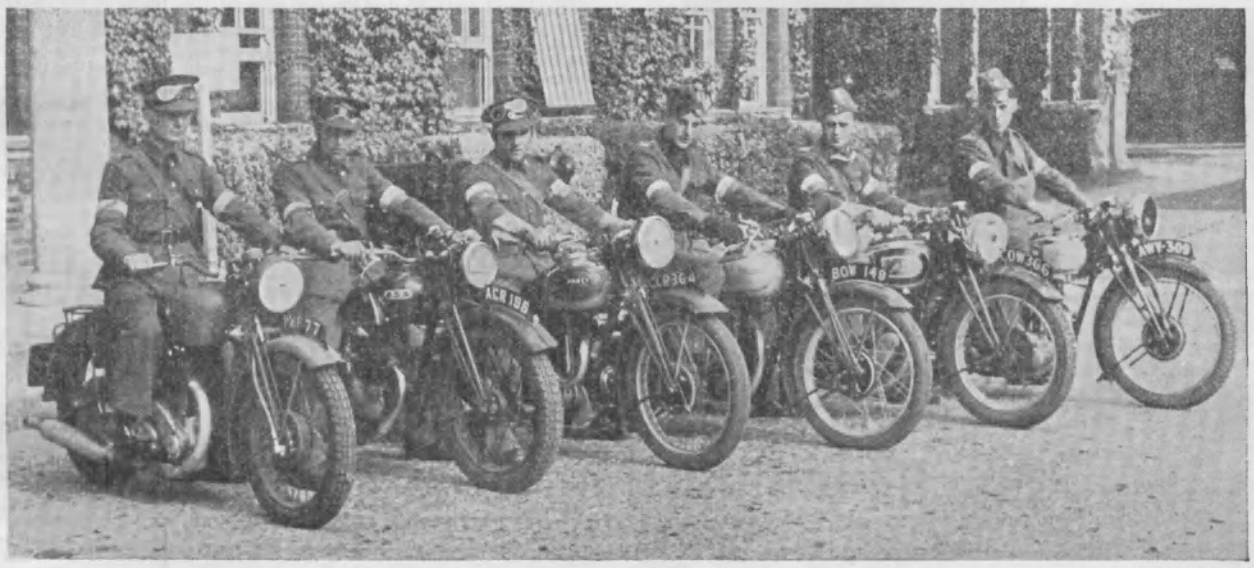
When I reached the Office the Major in charge was just recovering his natural joie de vivre, bonhomie and other signs of good will towards all men after coping with 85 written applications and personal visits—which, you will agree, was a more than sufficient number to fill the four vacancies which existed! Suffice it to say that four fortunate civilians were sworn in (a slight change from '14, when we were sworn at), clapped into uniform and within 24 hours were gaily dashing about hither and thither with an efficiency which met with the complete approval of the hard-bitten lieutenant to whose loving care they had now been entrusted.

The transition period between a Field Force moving out and a new one moving in is no easy time for the Signals Office, with its responsibility for thousands of telephones with a new name at the end of every line and a rooted objection on the part of one unit (or individual) to occupying the office previously used by its (or his) "opposite number" in the crowd which had just departed. Neither is it an easy time for the poor D.R. with 8 a.m. to midnight duty, and even less so for the guy who is on from midnight until 8 a.m. in a black-out.

The fact that these civilians have done so well at such short notice, small though their number may be, convinces me that there is no real difference between the D.R.s of yesterday and those of the present generation. "Why, one of the volunteers was 53 and weighed 17 stone," the Major told me, so apparently the old spirit lives on!

No, there is nothing wrong with the D.R. of to-day; he will probably prove a better "soldier" than the hoary-headed old sinner of 1914-1918, but I have a sneaking feeling that the old-timer was, perhaps, the better rider and certainly possessed of a sounder all-round knowledge of machine maintenance and tuning.

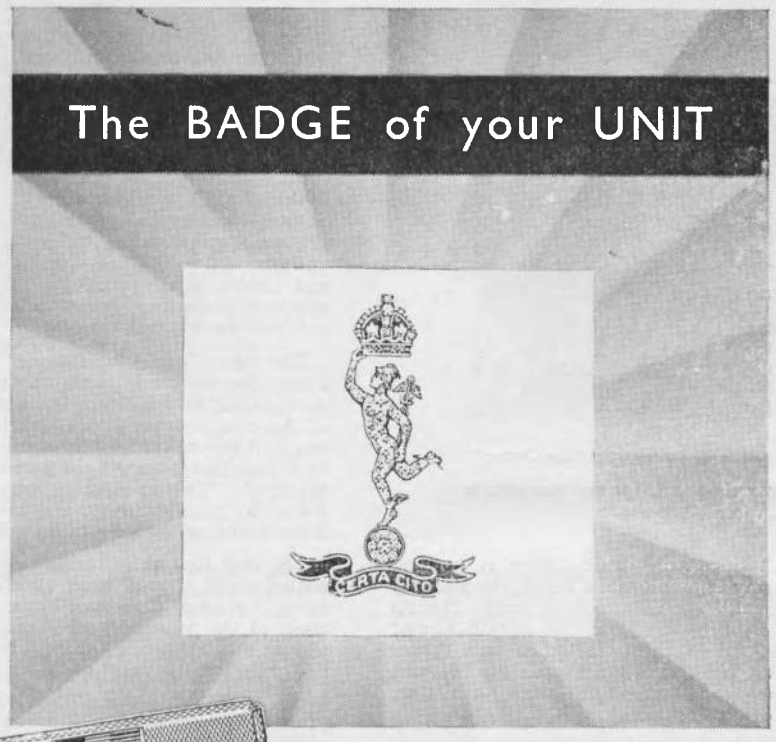
It all boils down to this: Is it better to make a soldier into a motor cyclist (1939 idea) or to turn a motor cyclist into a soldier (1914 pattern)? Opinions differ, but we shall know the answer before we are much older.



[By Courtesy of "Motor Cycling"

A line-up of D.Rs. at "a certain Command Headquarters" recently visited by Graham Walker.

The BADGE of your UNIT



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HOME STATIONS

Yorkshire

1st Operators' Training Battalion

Headquarters Section

General.—Since our last contribution the Unit has developed and become more efficient each week. The training of operators is proceeding in a very satisfactory manner, and already there have been numerous postings to various parts of the country. Our social efforts are being well rewarded, and it is most gratifying to the organisers to find that their time and energy is not being wasted.

On 7th November H.R.H. The Princess Royal paid an all too brief visit, accompanied by a Lady-in-Waiting and the Commandant. Wearing the uniform of Chief Controller of the A.T.S., she was met by the C.O. and other officers. Her Royal Highness inspected the Sergeants' Mess and Squads of Operators, Wireless and Line, and keyboard operators. She was greatly interested in all she saw and asked many questions. She signed the signal diary in a scheme divisional signal office, which will be framed and kept as a memento of her visit.

Promotions and Appointments.—During the past few weeks there have been several promotions, chief of which is the confirmation in his acting rank of the Officer Commanding No. 1 Company. Others include: A/C.S.M. Marcham to A/R.Q.M.S., Signalman Onyett to A/Sergeant, Corporal Pickles to A/Sergeant, Lance Corporals Healey, Rainbird, Hopwood and Smith F. to A/Corporal, and the following to Lance Corporal: U/Lance Corporal Warner G., Signalmen Burgess G., Davis W., Goddard R., Hinton C., Hufton J., Hurst, Jenner E., Johnston E., McCoughey, Pearson, Pyke, Price and Wyman.

Postings and Courses.—Apart from the large number of trainees who have been posted since last month, we have also had a number transferred to the Reserve Battalion, and others to the new Signal Training Centre. This includes four officers.

A/Sergeant Shepherd and A/Lance Sergeant Spence have been selected to attend a No. 2 Foreman-of-Signals Course at the School of Signals, and A/Lance Sergeant Cooper and A/Corporal Bennett T. have been sent to the Post Office Research Station.

Births and Marriages.—Congratulations are offered to the following, who have become proud fathers: A/W.O. III Hunt, Lance Corporal Smith J., Signalmen Bate, Birtles and Woodward.

To Corporal Pearson J. and Signalmen Baker and Smith F., who were recently married, we should like to offer our sincere condolences, or whatever it is one does offer on such occasions as these!

Sport.—Since October, the Battalion XI has had a very successful time at soccer, having won all the four games played:

v. The Reserve Battalion	.. ..	Won 4—1
v. R.A.O.C. (Garrison Knock-out)	.. ..	Won 8—4
v. General Trades Testing Battalion	.. ..	Won 6—4
v. 1/6th Duke of Wellington's	.. .. ..	Won 19—1

This is a most meritorious achievement, and we are looking to Gomm and Co. to lift the Garrison Cup this year. Our prospects are very bright as, owing to the departure of the Tank Regiment, we now enter the final round, when we meet the Reserve Battalion, Royal Signals. It will be seen that we have already met in a friendly, but despite our previous victory we shall not make the mistake of under-estimating our opponents on Saturday, 18th November. It is certain to be a keenly fought game, but I hope you will pardon us if we appear just a little confident of our ultimate triumph.

So far, rugger has not made the progress expected; this may be due to the fact of having to depend upon players who are in the Battalion soccer XI. Rugger seems to have been given a back seat and we hope that a concerted effort will be made to get a good solid XV together shortly.

The same remarks are true, but in a less degree, to hockey. Only Inter-Company and Inter-Squad games have been played to date, but there is still plenty of enthusiasm waiting to give itself expression, and we are quite hopeful of eventually being able to report something of interest in this connection.

Social.—Under the presidency of the P.R.I., an Entertainments Committee has been formed to arrange a programme of events throughout the year. This committee, which consists of Mrs. Moody, a charming and talented member of a neighbouring Choral Society, the P.R.I., two other officers and Sergeant Napier, are constantly on the search for talent. As a result, several shows have already been put on in the Regimental Institute.

The Unit Concert Party is now an acknowledged feature and we are fortunate in possessing such fine entertainers as Signalmen Robson, Dobson, Reynolds, Eglen and Stones, to name but a few at random. Two performances have been given to date by this Party, and on the last occasion we had the excellent services of Mr. Hibbert and the Royal Signals Band. Mr. Hibbert, the Bandmaster, has firmly established himself as one of our favourite performers. Besides these home-made efforts, so to speak, shows have been given by the E.N.S.A. Concert Party on several occasions.

On 21st October the "Piccadilly Revels" visited the Lines and gave us a pleasant evening's humour, and on 28th October the "Here We Are" Concert Party gave a performance which was unanimously voted the best yet. This production is the wartime edition of that scintillating summer show, "Out of the Blue," which has proved a great attraction at two seaside towns, and which has been heard over the air. We are looking forward to their next visit.

Fortunately, however, we are not entirely dependent upon outside entertainment, and among other things a Harmonica and Accordion Band has been formed; it is still in the rehearsal stage. As a change from mere variety, the Concert Committee are planning a series of sketches and dramatic plays. At present R. C. Sherriff's well-known play "Journey's End" is in course of production, and it is hoped to stage the show before Christmas. All this has entailed an enormous amount of extra work on the part of the Committee, and the obvious pleasure with which the shows have been received must be a source of great encouragement. In addition to concerts, tournaments have been held in the Regimental Institutes and valuable prizes offered. In the billiards final, Signalman Ayres defeated Lance Corporal Ball, and in the darts tournament Signalman Skinner C. V. defeated Lance Corporal Wyman. It is possible that there will be plenty of competitions before the advent of Christmas.

No. 2 Company

Hello, everybody! This is No. 2 Company, 1st Operators' Training Battalion, calling! If you have never heard of us before we venture to suggest that you are likely to hear quite a lot about us, and the Battalion as a whole, in the future. Anyway, here's all about us.

Our training programme is working smoothly, under our Company Commander and his officers, and we feel the results will lead to our turning out some of the smartest operators, W/L and Operators Keyboard, in the whole Corps. (Don't smile.)

We were recently honoured with a visit by H.R.H. The Princess Royal. Her Royal Highness spent quite a time with No. 2 Company, and took a great interest in everything she saw. No. 2 Company nobly did their stuff with an indoor scheme as though they had been used to honoured visits of this sort every week. Grand stuff, boys!

There was some slight bother later on with our Diary, which H.R.H. graciously signed. A certain autograph hunter (no name, rank or packdrill) thought he was entitled to it for framing,

and promptly tore the page from the diary. He was sadly disillusioned, poor fellow, but it was a noble effort. Our Commanding Officer now has the signature, which is to be framed for the battalion.

Sport.—We have a sports half-day allotted to us each week (apart from the usual Saturday afternoon). Our Sports Officer who is also Assistant Sports and Entertainments Officer to the Battalion and works for and with the P.R.I., takes great pains in arranging Company matches in soccer, rugger, hockey, basket ball, etc., and our Company have some outstanding players in each category.

The Battalion soccer team, towards which No. 2 Company provide Corporal Craig (centre) and Corporal Gillott (left-half), has reached the final of the Garrison Knock-out Competition, the match to be played on 18th November, and although we are up against a strong team in the 1st Reservist Battalion, Royal Signals, we are hoping to be able to report our success in our next notes.

We have some outstanding players in the Battalion team, amongst whom is Signalman Gomm, our centre forward. Although he is not in No. 2 Company, we must mention that we sympathise with all opposing goalkeepers, and can quite understand them prefering a week-end pass to playing against Mr. Gomm.

Corporal Craig of our Company (who thought he was an inside forward until we convinced him he was a centre-half) is backing up Gomm very well. We could talk about all our players in turn, and find plenty to say about each one, but time is pressing. Silver medals are being given to the winning team, and bronze medals to the runners-up. Had we been playing for a cup, our Sports Officer had promised to fill it with something much stronger than usual, and now we find there is no cup, he is not going to get away with it, and we will bring our mugs.

The next knock-out competition in the Garrison is likely to be hockey, and after that (we hope) rugger. We have some fine players in each category in No. 2 Company who will be found useful in the Battalion teams for hockey and rugger when the final choice is made. You know the type, ex-India wallahs, who show brilliant stick work. You can tell them when, after a few minutes' play, they discard their boots, preferring bare feet, strap their shinguards over their stockings and chew betel nut.

Congratulations.—To Signalman Woodard on being presented with a son. Also to all who have been married during the last month, and sympathise with all those to be married in the near future.

We congratulate all of No. 2 Company who have passed their Group " E " Test.

Well, till next time, cheerio!

TOOCOY.

No. 3 Company

Introduction.—The Company has speedily settled down to intensive training and, having safely negotiated the first few perilous weeks, we are now on an even keel.

Of course, our complement, like that of other formations, consists of Regulars, Reservists, T.A. and Militia, and knowing that it takes all sorts to make a world, perhaps this is most appropriate.

Sport.—Despite the usual local weather, the Company has been occupying all available football and hockey grounds, not to mention baseball and net ball pitchers.

Several members of our Company are included in the Battalion soccer team, which more than holds its own, as shown by their ability in reaching the final of the Garrison Units Knock-out Competition.

Marriages. –Corporal Pearson has joined the band of newly-weds, and we hear whispers of another individual contemplating the same idea.

Queries.—Who is the enthusiastic Monopoly player who expressed the desire to buy the Siegfried Line ?

Who started the "Anti-Pacitto " campaign, and why ?

Jews' Mail.—To 1st Indian Div. Sigs. " Pice le-how. Lill."
To S.T.C., Jubb. " Still on the tack. Busty Davies."
To No. 2 Company, Meerut. " Back soon. Topper, 075."
To Madder Khel. " Like to hear from you. Willie."

DUE TO ADOLF.

The German nation's in a fix,
She's trying out some warlike tricks,
And muddling up her politics,
Due to Adolf.

We're told they've got a Siegfried Line,
Where soldiers can both fight and dine,
Like being in a blinking mine,
Due to Adolf.

Their Secret Police are very hot,
And if they put you on the spot,
You know vou shortly will be shot,
Due to Adolf.

A proud young soldier is the Hun,
When he an Iron Cross has won
(Forerunner of a wooden one),
Due to Adolf.

It's sad to think of Ribbentrop,
He never really reached the top,
And now he's just an awful flop,
Due to Adolf.

In fact we think that Jerry's got
His country in the melting pot,
There really is an awful lot,
Due to Adolf.

No. 4 Company

General.—The weather here is far from pleasant ; still, considering the conditions our boys are undergoing in the B.E.F., our grumbles are not worth considering.

There have been many rumours concerning (" Sailor ") Corporal Rainbird K. V. K. Some said he was married, some said he was still a happy man ; however, we congratulate him on his marriage to Miss Edna Smith, and wish them all the best of luck.

The last few weeks have been very slow for many of the ex-Militiamen awaiting training either as Teleprinter Operators, or Operators Wireless and Line. However, all are happy now that it has commenced in earnest and there is much competition as to who will learn the most in the shortest time. All other branches of operating are well under way, and we hope to produce some of the finest Operators in the Corps.

We look forward to the chance of leave at Christmas ; what chance we may have is in the lap of the gods. Instead of the well-known adage, " R.O.T.B.," the boys of No. 4 Company shout " Roll on, Christmas."

One of our officers has been posted to the new S.T.C. ; he was with us a very short time, but we are sorry to lose him. Our good wishes, sir !

C.S.M. Bennett, of our Company, has been posted to Headquarters, to take over the position of R.Q.M.S. We wonder how long he will remain before he takes an even higher step ; anyway, we wish him the best of good luck.

Sport.—Sport in No. 4 Company is being handled jointly by Sergeant Gray and Lance Corporal Cropp. They send out a long call of " Our hockey and soccer teams challenge the world." The Company wonders who will accept the gauntlet. We are proud to say that already we have four members of the Company playing for the Battalion : Signalmen Girdwood, Bloomer, Thompson D. and Dunsire.

Postings.—The following have left us to join the new S.T.C. : Sergeant Houghton, Corporal Baines, Lance Corporals Taylor and Richards. We wish them "All the best."

Appointments.—Our congratulations to the following on being appointed Lance Corporals: Signalmen Crossley H., Frazer R. C., McCaughey J. and Spencer C. Keep it up, boys!

In Conclusion.—These being the first WIRE notes written by this poor scribe, and being a comparatively new member of the Army (Militia, 15/7/39), I must end them here.

A merry Christmas and a bright New Year to you all.

J. H-O.

"A" Company Depot Battalion

General.—WAR! That is the word that concerns everyone to-day. Where is it though? Confetti is poured over Germany, washing is to be hung on the Siegfried Line and "A" Company practices P.A.D. at various inconvenient hours, including dinner time. That is all one hears of it here. Reservists come and go; raw recruits are turned into trained soldiers in record time. One and all are haunted by the word, the full implications of which are as yet unrealised.

At the beginning of October the Company helped in making a short film for the Movietone News. The respite from routine was enjoyed by all, but so far no film contracts have been received by any of the potential stars, which shows the lack of discernment in the film industry. However, several recruits were able to see themselves on the screen for a fleeting second.

The E.N.S.A. have given three excellent concerts in our N.A.A.F.I., which were greatly appreciated by all. A veil of secrecy has been drawn over the activities following these concerts, but we believe this accounts for the celibacy of the Sergeants in general. May they have many happy returns.

The chief joy of the month has been the arrival of the A.T.S. They have given many a poor Signalman high blonde-pressure and a long face.

"WATTING" OR ODE TO AN A.T.

They have come from the office, the warehouse or mill,
These girls in their khaki, just give us a thrill;
In the cookhouse you find them, doing their stuff,
Helping the Sergeants cooking the "duff."
They badger the Corporals, the cooks they adore,
When helping the lads, there's a clamour for more;
In the office, too, they're looked on with pride,
And the clerk's one ambition's to sit by their side.
When the day's work is o'er, they let their hearts roam,
And forget that nine-thirty is time to be home.
So to the guard room they go to report,
And have their night's dreams cut ever so short;
Then in the morning their C.O. they see,
And receive as reward, the usual C.B.

Promotions.—Congratulations to all who have received war-time emergency promotions.

Postings.—The following have been posted to other spheres: C.S.M. Pack E., C.Q.M.S. Hopwood, Sergeants Bunce and Fox, Signalmen Shaw, Kemp and Hoare. They have the best wishes of the whole Company in their new posts.

Marriages.—Corporal Shuttleworth and Lance Corporal Wilson—ex-Quetta—have entered into the happy state of matrimony. Congratulations and very best wishes for the future.

Arrivals.—The usual welcome is extended to all arrivals to "A" Company. Also to C.Q.M.S. Tucker from "C" Company. The other arrivals are all recruits of varying shapes and sizes. May they all enjoy their short stay, and good luck to them when they leave. Their keenness and alertness in training, both drill and technical, and as participants in organised recreations, football, boxing, cross-country running, etc., is highly appreciated.

Visit of H.R.H. The Princess Royal.—On Tuesday, 7th November, there was an informal inspection of the Company by H.R.H. The Princess Royal, our Colonel-in-Chief. She inspected the various squads on the square and in the Gymnasium, and watched them doing their training.

Sport.—Organised recreational training and Inter-Company sports fixtures are the order of the day. The few rugby enthusiasts have unfortunately been unable to raise a team, even with the help of other Lines. We are rapidly getting into our stride.

After Order.—Who was the reservist Corporal who complained of overcharging of hairdressing, and was informed that the excess was due to the difficulty in finding anything to cut.

W.

"B" Company Depot Battalion

"B" Company calling! We re-appear in print after a lapse of about thirteen years. The nucleus of the present Company consists mainly of ex-India Wallahs, and, of course, Sergeant Carr and one or two others. Our object in life is to change civilians into soldiers. Judging by the standard of the first squads passed off the square, the standard of the old "B" Company is being upheld.

The event of the month was, of course, the visit of Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, our Colonel-in-Chief. The Company, consisting of recruits in their last week of training, down through the various stages in training to a squad of men still in "civvies," formed up on the square for the inspection. Many of the lads had the opportunity of seeing Her Royal Highness for the first time.

Promotions.—What a mess the Blue Book must be in. There have been so many steps climbed lately it would take too much space to mention them all. Congratulations to everybody.

Marriages.—As a number of the Indian personnel have already taken this fatal step, there are no announcements this month. However, Meerut-ites please note that Sergeant (Marmy) Turner is looking for "digs.," rather suspiciously; also Corporal (Pat) Paterson is getting warmed up. There may be definite announcements next month.

Births.—Congratulations to Lance Sergeant (Ginger) Hutton and Mrs. Hutton on the birth of a daughter.

Arrivals and Departures.—Obviously these cannot be given in detail for a Company such as this. A welcoming hand is extended to all on arrival; we hope and believe that most enjoy their short stay, a good job of work done during that time, and good luck when you leave.

After Thought.—The season's compliments to all Units of Royal Signals at home and abroad.

DOUBLEYOU.

"C" Company, Depot Battalion

To begin with, let us hasten to tender in advance our sincere apologies for the somewhat loose construction of these notes; but in the final judgment, let the blame be shared in just proportion by the more or less humble author, and that unruly belligerent—Hitler.

Seriously, however, it is no enviable task to try and grasp the loose ends of a skein and continue to weave the same pattern as before. This is the thing which we want to do, although our effort may leave much to be desired. But enough of explanations; let us begin, and may the end come quickly.

Arrivals and Departures.—We wish to welcome all those who have arrived in "C" Company, and bid adieu to all who have departed therefrom. So numerous and miscellaneous have they been that it would be impossible to give any details, but to all of them we would send, through the medium of the WIRE, our sincere good wishes, and may we meet again soon (but not too soon, eh, Bunny?).

Despite all these changes, however, we have a few "old faithfuls" who may be considered as temporary "fixtures," and on them, necessarily, a goodly portion of work falls.

Entertainments.—We have had plenty of variety in our entertainments, so far, and we must especially thank the E.N.S.A. for the very enjoyable concert which they gave us. We hope to see them again in the near future.

Nor must we forget the "home-made" concerts given by our own lads. Excellent entertainment was provided on several occasions, and we understand that a weekly series is under consideration.

Death.—It is with the deepest regret that we have to announce the death of No. 2584201 Driver (I.V.) Ostle W. Although he had not been long with "C" Company, he had already won the esteem of all who knew him. He died on Wednesday, 8th November, after a short illness. To his parents and relatives we would express our sincere sympathy in their sad bereavement.

Plain Tales.—Let us all be grateful for our recruits, for, without a doubt, they do lighten life's weary burden. A particularly good effort was when one of them turned out the Guard for our Sergeant-Major one morning.

The office is at present snowed under with applications for leave. The fertile minds of all are busy scheming out reasons which (a) have not been used before; (b) will stand up to official catechism; and (c) will be "good" for a week at least. And yet, during lectures, we hear of Instructors telling their recruits to use their imagination.

All of which reminds us of a very hard-hearted Sergeant-Major, who had a glass eye. Long experience with delinquents had made him something of a cynic, and it was said of him that a very sad "sob" story might extract a tear from his glass eye, but from his real one, never.

On this note, then, let us end. Once again we hasten to apologise for the many failings of our effort, and hope that next time the ugly duckling may become a beautiful "Swan," scattering inky effusions of beauty and wit (we hope). In any event, we take comfort in the thought that we can hardly do any worse next time, and may do a great deal better.

A. S. L.

Boys Training Company

Prologue.—After an assiduous perusal of the various daily papers available in the club, we selected one which presented a fairly reasonable version of the truth. Its screaming headlines, humorous articles and divers cartoons all pointed to the fact that our inherited dislike for garlic had passed *a verbis ad verbera*. This situation was discussed in the quiet room, games room, mess room, barrack room and on wireless schemes. We are concentrating on evolving a scheme which will end the war in three days. We will, of course, forward it to the Ministry of Infirmity.

Events.—Undoubtedly the most important event of the past month was the visit to the S.T.C. of H.R.H. The Princess Royal, who expressed her satisfaction at the way things were running, and commented favourably on the new barracks (now nearly completed).

At the club, such entertainments as whist drives and dances are as popular as ever. The introduction of a cinematograph to the Club has met with universal approval. In fact we have been obliged to extend the shows to two "houses."

Some ex-Rats have returned to us during the last few weeks. If Div. life is as hard as they insist—well, it has not done them much harm. It is very gratifying to see some of the "old familiar faces" beaming across from the N.A.A.F.I. counter of the Corporals' Mess.

Incident.—One of the Junior Operator squads is drinking at the fountain of wisdom. Said fountain of wisdom is issuing forth on the intricacies of the No. 9 Set.

"Corp.," asks a philomath, "is the slow motion control for slowing down the incoming signals so that they can be read easily?"

Collapse of fountain of wisdom.

Achievement.—The results of the First Class Certificates show as usual, a high percentage of passes. This reflects with credit upon the efficiency of the A.E.C. Staff and the interest taken by *les élèves*. The following have successfully completed their Firsts: Boys Bennett, Cooper, Galloway, Lees, Marlow, Newstead, O'Connor and Rowe.

Departures.—A number of Boys who joined the ranks recently have been posted to local Units as instructors. They include: Signalmen Warren, Carr K. and Camp to No. 3 Workshops Company; Signalmen Carr K. G., Murray R. and Marlow to Depot Battalion. Signalmen Camp, Carr K. G., Murray R. and Marlow have since been appointed Lance Corporals.

To all who have been posted and appointed we wish every success.

Projected Move.—We have mentioned the new barracks so often lately that we feel something akin to sheepish as we do so again. *Der Tag* for moving is near; *Der Tag* is a long-awaited one. Those who have inspected the building during its various stages of progress have been loud in its praise.

Epilogue.—We have carefully avoided mentioning the weather in case we should mislead the enemy. Anyone interested, however, may select the most suitable from these three—foul, bad, and worse. The correct solution will be given next month.

A. JAY.

SPORTS NOTES.

Football.—Since last month the final of the six-a-side tournament has been played off and Signalman Warren's team was successful in a thrilling final by 1 point. The score was: Signalman Warren's team, 1 goal (4 points), 1 corner (1 point); Boy Barton's team, 1 goal. Signalman Warren was supported by Boys Pellant, Green J., Carr K., Stevens and Leech.

Various committees have been selected to pick teams for sport and many trials have been played and the selectors have found their teams to represent the Company.

The football team that represented the Company against No. 4 M.T. Company in the first game of the Battalion League was: Signalman Render; Boy Rowe, Signalman Warren; Boy Martin, Lance Corporal Murray A., Lance Corporal Boy Forsyth; Lance Corporal Boy D'Hooghe, Lance Corporal Stewart, Boy Ward, Lance Corporal Boy Mullin and Signalman Marlow.

The match was played on No. 1 Ground and the pitch was a sea of mud half-way through the first half. The M.T. Company attacked strongly in the opening minutes, but were repelled with strong kicking by the backs. Owing to a greasy ball a goal kick taken by Render went to an opposing player who immediately shot. Although Render made a fine effort the shot beat him to put the M.T. Company one goal up. They were not to hold the lead for long, for the Boys' Company attacked down the right wing, and off a tackle Ward seized the ball and steered it round the goalkeeper to equalise. The second half was comprised mostly of long kicks by the backs of both sides. Towards the end, however, the play brightened up and an attack down the right wing of the M.T. Company ended in a fine save by Render. The M.T. Company then had three corners in succession and from the last of these the Boys' Company made a break-away on the left wing and from a centre from Marlow, D'Hooghe scored the winning goal.

Rugby.—Ampleforth surprised us by turning up for their annual fixture one week too early. The committee selected a team in five minutes (*Certo Cito*), which was captained by Corporal Atkin, one of our new arrivals. This sudden call upon the Boys brought out the best rugby we have seen for some time, and there was great jubilation when we proved victorious by the narrow margin of nine points to eight. The scrum packed magnificently and with some excellent hooking by Boy Harrison enabled our threes to break away to make some good runs. Two tries were scored by Lance Corporal Boy Marshall and one by Boy Knight R. Lance Corporal Boy Forsyth gave his usual excellent performance at scrum-half, in spite of a slippery ball. Although Ampleforth broke away several times, hard tackling by our threes soon stopped them.

Hockey.—A match was arranged with the Band and an exciting game was the result. The rain which fell during the match spoiled a lot of the play, but the Boys' Company managed to retain an early lead and the result was 3—0 for the Boys' Company.

Cross-country.—The Hut Cross-country was run again this year over the usual courses. The senior race was run over a course of 2¾ miles and was won by Boy Griffin, in 14 minutes. Boy Lister ran very well to win the intermediate race and Boy Warwick surprised us all by winning the Junior race.

M. & D.

"The Fifth"

The other day, the announcer on the German broadcast stated, in English, that our Camp had been burnt to the ground ! On hearing this statement, one worthy of our Army in the North, who was coated in mud, very cold and nearly wet through, had but one remark to make : " Impossible ; but I wish it was true." To those who know our local weather between October and March, the unconscious humour of our friend on the other side might appeal.

Leave now being open (to a certain extent), most of the Unit are taking the opportunity to have a few days at home whilst the going is good ; the more so, as this leave may be called Embarkation Leave, for which all ranks are entitled to a warrant.

We have managed to arrange a few games of hockey and football. Having a hard hockey ground at our disposal makes play possible in nearly all weathers, which is a great advantage.

The Unit has received a large number of brand new motor cycles, Nortons and B.S.A.s, which have had to be run in. These " running in " runs are carried out in all sorts of weather, and there must be several men in the Unit who have seen a lot of the English countryside under all conditions.

Our Camp is now the proud possessor of a theatre. The opening night, which produced George Formby and his banjolele on the stage, was a great success. Unfortunately, all could not go, but we did get a few tickets for men in the Unit.

It appears that the first batch of motor-cyclists recruited by ex-T.T. rider Graham Walker, editor of " Motor Cycling," have settled down nicely somewhere in the North of England. The Squad is rapidly being moulded into shape by that Scots bundle of concentrated dynamite, Corporal " Jock " Robertson. Corporal Ellis is also busy showing them what D.R.s should and should not do. Several of the fellows were pretty well known in civilian life before joining up. Maurice Lobb, for instance, used to shake them with incredible jumps on his New Imperial through sheets of glass, blazing haystacks, and so on. Incidentally, he was one of the British motor-cycle bunch who made that epic getaway from Salzburg before the balloon went up ! Then again we have a trials maestro in Allen R. J., who was happiest when he was motoring his 250 c.c. Ariel up precipices and things. Tresham Hardy, former Cambridge University speedman, acquired considerable fame by producing incredibly ancient pieces of wreckage at various scrap yards and converting them into reasonably swift steeds. Ron Fletcher is not unknown at Brooklands, whilst a colleague of Graham Walker's is also a member of the gang. Other fellows like Tom Banks, George Andrews, Alan Seed, and so on, were familiar figures in the motor-cycle competition world before the business started. More about the doings of the boys anon.

Wales

Depot Battalion

General.—After eight weeks of " foreign " service, all have settled down and are climatised to the sea breezes and wonderful October sunshine here. Such a change is welcome after the bleak nature of a northern camp.

The Unit is in full swing now and we are getting through our work splendidly. Many old and new faces have appeared in the last month, and on behalf of all ranks we welcome them to the Depot Battalion, with best wishes for a pleasant stay with us.

Entertainment.—We have had numerous shows during the last four weeks, including the E.N.S.A. party, who presented a very fine entertainment on 27th October ; on 29th October a visiting concert party gave us a very enjoyable evening ; and on 2nd November a branch of the Toc H Club entertained us with a one-act drama and a number of sketches.

We extend our thanks to those who entertain us during these dark nights, and say—" the more the merrier."

On Saturday, 21st October, we were visited by a number of well-known boxers, and enjoyed a good afternoon's exhibition of " the noble art." The programme included such famous boxers as Ernie Rodrick, Jimmy Walsh, Nel Tarlton, Kid Tanner and Dom Volante. We are looking forward to the next exhibition of this great sport.

Marriage.—Corporal Randle A. J. has taken the plunge and qualified for the ration bag and accumulator (he already has the bike). Best wishes, Corporal Randle.

"B" Company Depot Battalion

General.—Hello, readers ! This is is the " Beer " Company Minister of Information giving you an uncensored account of recent events. It must be brief, because everyone is so busy doing his (or her) bit that there is really no time left for anything to happen.

Marriage.—On Thursday, 26th October, Miss Hilda Holmes and Corporal Randle A. J. were married at St. Asaph. Readers will remember the bridegroom as an ex-"A" Corps N.C.O. and Corps rugger forward. We wish them every happiness.

Conclusion.—More work to do, people, so here's to the next time.

WASS.

Operators Training Battalion

We send our best wishes for a merry Christmas and a happy New Year to all comrades at home and overseas, hoping that they do not get too much holly in their beds.

The gathering of the clans has seemed more like an Old Comrades' reunion and the gradual sorting out of old bodies back into their jobs once again after, in some cases, long periods of absence, has caused many heartburnings.

Everyone agrees that there is a good deal to be said for the way all are co-operating to overcome what at first appeared a colossal task.

Training.—Training is now well under way and the type of man we are getting is well up to the Corps standard. We are sure that when their training is completed and they have gone to join their new Units they will live up to the Corps motto.

Entertainments.—Work is not all that we do here. Time has been found in the evenings to get a Centre Concert Party, under the able direction of Uncle Jack of former B.B.C. days for sounds arrangements, and a gentleman who is not unknown on the West End stage has stage direction in his hands. They have many willing co-operators and have also invited many local parties to give us real entertainment. The E.N.S.A. has visited us three times and we look forward to many more pleasant shows from them.

Sport.—Besides Inter-Company and Inter-Battalion matches the Sports Committee have been able to arrange games locally and we seem to be doing very well up to the present.

Boxing has once again raised its ugly paw. Johnny Williams, who is not unknown in India, has taken boxing in hand, and rumour has it that Jimmy Walsh, the ex-light-weight champion of Great Britain, has joined the Corps and is now at the Depot Battalion.

LANKA, M.K. IV.

2nd General Trades Training Battalion

No. 4 M.T. Company

General.—Since our last notes there have been many changes in the personnel of the Camp, the most important being the arrival of our new O.C., to whom we extend a hearty welcome.

The old members of "A" Corps Signals, Karachi, will be interested in the news that our present T.M.O. is an officer well known to them, and we congratulate him on attaining that rank. Under his care and supervision the M.T. wallahs are rolling about in all shapes and sizes of lorries and trucks.

Fiction.—I had just had my second drink when the dark stranger shuffled in, and, funnily enough, I thought how appro-

priate it was that he should stand under one of those posters that are so topical these days. You know the kind—all about walls having ears, etc. The ale was no stronger than usual, but by the time I'd drained my fourth glass I was convinced that the man was taking an unusual interest in me ; maybe it was the uniform. I thought, here was a man to be avoided.

Convinced that he was about to approach me for information, I retired to a corner seat to take up conversation with one of the " regulars "; but no, my worst fears were realised when he slid over to my table. I was resolved not to breathe a word of a military nature. Stooping low he whispered in my ear and, oh boy ! what a relief it was.

" Certainly, sir," I said. "Across the lounge and turn right. The appropriate notice is over the door."

Rumours.—The following is directed to those who delight in them :

I saw the Colonel in the canteen queue,
I saw him buy the O.C.'s rock cake, too,
I saw the " Griffin " passed along the line,
I saw the draft for Ashton-under-Lyne,
I saw the postings being typed as well,
I saw " Promotions," too, but shouldn't tell,
I saw the Brigadier wash our " C.B.",
I saw him bring the Signalmen their tea !
I saw the lists of all the secret moves,
I saw the man who saw all this, which proves
" You can't believe it."

Army Dictionary.—" Griffin," information ; " Gripper," binder or bore.

Appointments—To A/Lance Corporal : Signalmen Goodchild, Davies and Taylor.

Departures.—Lots of lads keep packing and unpacking their kit-bags until they are blue in the face, and they will go sometime, but as I am not allowed to tell you when, it does not really matter. It will change my theme song to " I can't talk about you when you've gone."

Cheerio !

DE-HYPHEN.

A.A. Signals, Berkshire

No. 1 Company

Greetings to all members of the Unit at their lonely outposts of the Empire !

The officers and men of the Unit wish to offer their hearty congratulations to one of our officers on the occasion of his wedding, and to wish him many years of happiness.

We welcome the 4th Berks. A.T.S. Company, who have come to assist us, and we wish the departed Flintshire Company the best of luck in their new surroundings.

To Sergeant Yeatman and his detachment we send greetings and wish them a real Christmas card Christmas.

The soccer team has been functioning successfully, and is now playing in a local league on Saturdays, and friendly matches on Wednesdays. A hockey team has also been formed, and thanks to some vocal supporters has been doing well.

No. 2 Company

This change from civilian life to full-time soldiering, for those of us with no experience of similar circumstances of twenty-five years ago, is found to be a very pleasant and interesting experience. The ordered living and regularity recall our school days. Now, as then, the days are divided into periods. We learn many things and are taught various subjects. Our fun is made together. We rise early in the mornings and are taken for short route marches and on one day of the week we play games. The life in many respects is more rough, perhaps, but how fit and healthy we are made to feel. We grouse at times and get those fed up feelings, but we are sure that this wartime military training is doing us the world of good and will be invaluable and stand us in good stead when we are returned to our peacetime livings and occupations.

Routine, very much the same as reported in last month's notes, continues. Periodical construction and maintenance of lines, unending fatigues and frequent guard duties. It is noticed that the offices personnel are also broadening across the shoulders. Often they are observed working late into the evenings while the remainder of the Company have been dismissed, or, in the afternoons when the others are at sports. For the operators, too, the various duties that must necessarily be continuously performed and, in addition, the attendance at local courses of Teleprinter instruction. We are all kept very busy. In between times our able P.S.I. is endeavouring to make soldiers of us all on the parade ground.

In spite of this varied routine it is pleasing to report that everyone is showing keenness and enthusiasm, and the soldierly bearing and proficiency in all respects is gradually being developed.

It is observed also that our P.S.I. is kept busy when off duty by a private Course of INFANTry training himself. She certainly can shout, Sarge !

Before proceeding, heartiest congratulations are extended from all ranks to our Officer Commanding and to the G.O.R. chief, on their recent appointments. We wonder now if another Unit is going to profit where we shall lose. Courage and patience, fellows in the ranks ; every soldier carries a field-marshal's baton in his haversack.

Friday, a 13th. To many, such a day and date are considered very unlucky. No so for ourselves and our Commanding Officer who visited us this day from Headquarters. Misfortune did appear his lot, however, at the commencement of his journey, when, for some reason or other, he found himself in the wrong train and journeying in the wrong direction. He eventually arrived, and, judging from his remarks during the evening, Black Friday was not so black after all.

Our many thanks to Sergeant West and his party for their untiring efforts in constructing a stage and fixing the lighting in the Drill Hall in preparation for an occasion that has proved unforgettable. The polished and talented artistry of a local concert party organised by the Editor of a local daily newspaper. Could we forget such sweet crooning and singing, the " snaking " deportment of acrobatic dancers, the enthusiastic local football spectator and the clever expressions of the man on a pleasure cruise. Sleightness of hand with cards, "Almost a Gentleman " impersonations, the cartoonist and " Ivor," and many other turns. Such entertainment ended all too quickly.

Are we lucky or is this the new Army. We have central heating, hot water taps and showers in our H.Q. premises. Our canteen lounge has been made as comfortable and cosy as its smallness will permit, and sitting around the fireside listening to the radio or playing darts or some other indoor game, perhaps a sing-song around the piano, is a very pleasant change from the duties and toils of our Army day.

The Sergeants have formed a small Mess in the basement rooms of a billeted house nearby, and from all accounts are very comfortable. The Caterer informed me that things were very quiet, nobody was drinking and that those who liked their pints were away on detachment. He then said something about 4½ gallons of beer, mentioning the word vinegar. He promised that, at a later date, the Mess would come into print.

Chippy Parslow's usefulness with tools has been invaluable and we wonder, considering the many jobs he is given, whether eventually he will have entirely reconstructed the premises.

After a couple of days in the open with trench fires, our cooks are installed in the redecorated kitchens of this private house-cum-drill hall. Our thanks are due to them for the splendid manner in which they are caring for the inner man.

Our budding C.Q.M.S., cartoonist, " inventor " and clever guy, one Lance Corporal Claude Taylor, has promised some personalities of the Company in caricature to accompany these notes. Leisure and free hours, however, are few. The hours we do get are devoted to relaxation or complete change. If such caricatures do appear you will know that, like the compiling of these notes, they are due to determined efforts made possible by the ability every now and again, to scrounge a few hours. In passing, we at H.Q. would appreciate notes from our detachments. Will they also please make an effort so that we all may be kept in touch.

Football against local teams has produced surprising, but very satisfactory results. Five matches, five wins; goals: for 33, against 11. What about that Army Cup!

On Friday, 3rd November, we were favoured with a return visit of the aforementioned concert party. New faces, new turns, but the same chirpy and jovial *compere* and an evening that ended all too soon. They are voluntarily doing their stuff, and we would like them to know that their efforts are very much appreciated we hope in the putting over they experience the same happiness and thrills that we in the audience are caused to enjoy. Our thanks to them all.

PEEZIE.

(We should be very grateful for those cartoons.—ED.)

A.A. Signals, Nottinghamshire

Promotions.—We have again to record a number of promotions, chiefly concerned with No. 2 Company. We congratulate these N.C.O.s.

Marriages.—Our lads are still joining the ranks of the "happy ones" in increasing numbers. We wish them all joy. Perhaps we may be excused for not naming them, but we are very pleased to hear of the attendances by all available personnel at the ceremonies, proved by the groups in the local papers.

Sergeants' Mess.—A very enjoyable evening was spent on 28th October, when N.C.O.s of No. 2 Company and members of the outstations joined No. 1 Company at Unit Headquarters. An extension of the bar closing hour until 12 midnight was kindly granted us by the C.O. Full advantage was taken of this. Darts and "Poky-dice" were in great demand, but the "tit-bit" was the initiation into the order of the Cardinal Puff. This created much fun and benefited the Mess funds to some degree, as each "victim" provided his own "liquor of initiation." The C.O. and another officer honoured us with their presence and joined heartily in the games. We are now nearly 100 per cent. "Cardinals."

On Sunday morning, the C.O. and the Adjutant joined the mess members present and photographs were taken. Advantage was taken of this occasion to toast our Adjutant, who has been posted to S.T.C. as from 1st November. We are losing a grand officer and it is known that he will be missed by all ranks, who hail him "a jolly good fellow." Good luck, sir. May we soon see you again

Gems from the Orderly Room Sergeant's Letter Bag.—Cure for bunions: read "Pilgrim's Progress."

It is rumoured that the R.S.M. prefers "Jelley" to Blanc Mange."

The Orderly Room Sergeant trod on a "thorn" on P.T. the other morning.

Despite the cream of the P.O. being in the Army, the Christmas cards will be delivered in good time. The mail van drivers may have to get a "hoot on," however.

Message from No. 1 Company, prior to Armistice Day: "40 for Flanders." Amended later to: "40 for Flander's Poppies." The first message caused quite a "flutter in the dovecote."

AUTHENTIC KITCHEN INFORMATION. What would have happened if the cement had been used for the jam rolls instead of flour. Sergeant Emerson had his hammer and chisel ready, however.

BOOKS RECEIVED FOR LIBRARY. "The 'Comb-Out,'" by Signalman C. R. Head. "The Peak of Derbyshire," by A. N. Y. Lorry. "The Thin Red Line," by J. A. M. Roll. "The Mystery at Dawn," by R. I. S. Sole. "The Midnight Express," by Cardinal Puff-Puff-Puff.

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A.A. Signals, Scotland

November.

General.—We feel it would sound rather monotonous to apologise *again* for the absence of our notes last month; we cannot think of a new excuse, so the much overworked "exigencies of the Service" must once again be pleaded.

Subdued whispering and not a little extra "spit and polish" were observed upon the advent of two welcome additions to the Orderly Room staff—Volunteers Sellars and Murray, A.T.S. Can it really be true that the green-eyed monster has already visited No. 1 Company Office? At any rate, a certain Sergeant of that Company was heard to ask how one went about indenting for such accessories!

The big event of the month is the raising of our new Company. A/R.S.M. Evans has just returned from a fortnight's sojourn with this Unit, and if the social aspect can be taken as any indication, it would appear that our new baby is going to do very well indeed!

No less than ten lusty lads have taken wives unto themselves since we last appeared in these columns. We hope the happy heroes will forgive us if we do not detail the matches; our good wishes are none the less sincere.

ACK-ACK.

No. 1 Company

November.

We are feeling rather uppish these days, for are we not the chosen people, singled out by Old Nasty for the special attention of his raiders? We have had more acceptable compliments in our short life, but "we can take it." Like the good folks of the city, we just carried on.

D.R.s and L/M people who happened to be on the spot when the overhead visitors called, set up as heroes on their return, and

did not come off their pedestals until they had exhausted all the many possibilities of their " eye-witness accounts."

The mysterious appearance of odds and ends of stationery in the Company Office might be traced to the local knowledge of Divisional H.Q. acquired by our returned " Staff Assistant "—naturally we do not inquire too closely into these affairs !

The completion of the pact with Turkey has given great satisfaction to our new Adjutant. Ever since mobilisation, he has been working hard for Turko-British understanding by smoking only Turkish cigarettes. Modestly, as ever, he has refrained from telling us that, but judging by the smell of the things, he could not possibly have been smoking them for pleasure.

Our Company Commander has found the ideal answer to any who should have the temerity to ask what a Company Commander does. Here it is :

"An O.C. Company has practically nothing to do except to decide what is to be done, to tell somebody to do it, to listen to reasons why it should not be done, why it should be done by someone else, or why it should be done in a different way ; to follow up and see if the thing has been done, to discover that it has not, to inquire why, to listen to excuses from the person who should have done it ; to follow up again to see if the thing has been done, only to discover that it has been done incorrectly ; to point out how it should have been done, to conclude that as long as it has been done it may as well be left where it is ; to wonder if it is not time to get rid of a person who cannot do a thing right ; to reflect that he has probably a wife and a large family, and that any successor would certainly be just as bad and maybe worse ; to consider how much simplier it would have been and how much better the thing would have been done if one had done it oneself in the first place ; to reflect sadly that one could have done it right in twenty minutes, and that as things turned out one had had to spend two days finding out why it had taken three weeks for somebody else to do it wrong."

Sport.—Our soccer team has now got into some sort of shape and has played four matches, won one, lost two and drawn one. The team that has done duty so far, with right wing changes, is as follows : Girrity ; Cavers and Baird ; M'Lagan, Lance Corporal McCosh and Cameron ; Reid, Cunningham, Orr (right wingers), Mitchell, Wright (inside rights), Wilson R. P., Fairley and Matthews. Once the right-wing problem has been solved and a spot of training put in, we'll expect a steady supply of silver for our sideboards. At the moment the talent and spirit are there, but the wind and flesh tend to weaken in the last fifteen minutes.

We have had two rugby games and, though we lost both, the exercise did our XV a lot of good.

Weekly table tennis tourneys are a popular feature, so far averaging entries of 25, and there has been keen competition for the prizes put up by the officers. The winners have been Signalmen Penny and Westbury F. and an officer.

The catholicity of our recreational activities was reflected in the large entry of 32 for our dominoes tourney, in which Signalman Mitchell D. M. beat Lance Corporal Duke in the final, to carry off the prize given by Lance Corporal McCosh.

Occasional raids are made on swimming pond here, and we hear that one officer is very fast in the water. It is probably the gas from all his lemonades that makes him so buoyant.

REEKIE.

The First (London) Ack Ack's

The past thirty days or so have been full of wide interest for all members of this Signals Unit, with marked intensity of activity both on the " business " and social sides. As to the former, it is, of course, hardly possible to say very much, but it can be recorded that the soldierly behaviour and military briskness of all ranks, from the newest recruit to the seasoned campaigner, is indeed impressive.

An outstanding event of the month was the Unit's first church parade on Armistice Sunday, when large numbers of men, accompanied by a detachment of A.T.S., took part in a commemoration service conducted by the officiating chaplain at Holy Trinity Church. The Companies marched in formation of threes and presented a smart, dignified and well-turned-out appearance.

Addressing the parade before the service, the C.O. said, " We are gathered to commemorate the sacrifice of your comrades of twenty-one years ago. I hope that we may bear, with the same courage and fortitude, the demands that may in due course be made upon us."

On the return march, the salute was taken by the Divisional Commander. Roman Catholic members of the Unit were dismissed to enable them to attend a commemoration service in the Oratory.

Undoubtedly the most exciting recent event was the opening of the Local Dugout, a canteen club of such a novel character that it made front page news in the Press—with pictures and all ! This Unit and its attached A.T.S. Company are exceptionally fortunate in having such a splendid centre for rest and recreation. The happy, " homey " spirit that prevails is truly wonderful.

[Owing to pressure on space several interesting photographs have unavoidably been held over to a later issue—ED.]

The idea originated with the officiating chaplain to the Unit. The Rev. Archibald Fleming, of St. Columba's, co-operated, and permission was secured from the churchwardens for the crypt of Holy Trinity to be used for the scheme.

" I felt that a club where members could bring their wives or their men or women friends would be appreciated," the chaplain said in an interview. " In many canteens women visitors are not allowed. Our idea was to make this a cheerful social centre, near enough to headquarters for the men to be able to use it at any time, as they are liable to be called to duty at short notice."

Some £400 was collected by voluntary subscription from local people, one anonymous donor alone giving £200, and many well-known firms co-operated on an extremely generous scale. Seventy local ladies, many well known in society, volunteered to run the canteen on long shifts from early morning to late at night every day of the week.

Within a comparatively short time, the dust of many years vanished from the crypt as if by magic. A bright decoration scheme of cream and green, with red chequered curtains and tablecloths, and colourful pictures and vases of flowers now gives the place a gay atmosphere.

Each section is comfortably furnished and excellently equipped ; the considerable numbers who attended the opening ceremony found at their disposal a large concert room, with piano and radio ; a jolly cafe and a canteen, catering for the troops at specially reduced prices ; a quiet room with writing tables, cosy armchairs for reading, and a library, with books, magazines, and newspapers ; a big lounge for general use ; and two large games rooms with a full-size billiards table, two table tennis tables, darts boards, and equipment for many other games, such as chess, draughts, dominoes, and cards.

As a standard of what a canteen club should be, the " Dugout " has undoubtedly set the highest example and the Unit members who enjoy the exclusive privilege of access to its happy facilities are whole-hearted in their appreciation of this fine civilian effort for their welfare.

Not the least important event of the month was the publication of the first issue of " The Ack Ack Mercury," the Unit magazine. The first edition went on sale at pay parade on a Friday, was sold out by the following morning, and a large reprint was also soon distributed. The magazine was produced under conditions of some difficulty on a hand-operated duplicator after " business " hours, and the issue consisted of twenty pages and cover. Features included a goodwill message from the C.O., who gave a brief history of the Unit ; an entertaining gossip-causerie, entitled " Keep It Under Your (Tin) Hat ! " ; a dramatic interview with Corporal Sparks, recounting his extraordinary experiences as a prisoner in the first Great War ; a Roll of Merit ; a section entitled " Chats with the A.T.S.," with some witty verses by the ladies ; a clever poem by Sir Neville Pearson ; an absurd serial story ; and much news of social and sports activities.

The magazine was welcomed with warmth and received praise from high quarters as well as from the ranks. Not the least appreciative comment was a message from a detachment of

men at a distant aerodrome who described themselves as " The Six Lads of the Lost Patrol."

The next issue, a Christmas number, is now in course of preparation, and the editor, Lance Corporal Lomas E. G., has received such a deluge of good material that he is being hard put to it to find a place for everything, even with extra pages at his disposal.

The Sergeants' new Mess was officially opened during the month, the occasion being marked by the extension of an invitation to the officers of the Unit and also to the officers and sergeants of another A.A. Divisional Signals. An informal programme of entertainment was thoroughly enjoyed in the course of this reunion of old comrades, who took the opportunity of exchanging their views on their personal reactions to the present war.

Prior to the arrival of the C.O., the Mess President, R.S.M. Moore, called upon C.S.M. Whittingham to make a presentation on behalf of the Sergeants' Mess to Sergeant Tommy Ward, formerly of this Unit. The gift, a handsome grandmother chiming clock, will serve as a permanent reminder of many days spent by Tommy in good fellowship with his brother sergeants.

C.S.M. Blood worked hard in securing volunteers for the entertainment. The C.O., whose bass-baritone voice is much admired, sang " The King's Highway," and other songs, and the second-in-command rose to the occasion by playing the violin—for the first time in ten years ! C.S.M. Blood and C.S.M. " Freddie " Creighton contributed in good style to a grand show, and the Adjutant and the Transport Officer revealed unexpected talent, the latter giving an amusing impersonation of Hitler addressing the Reichstag. The sergeants temporarily attached to the Unit, acquitted themselves with credit. Lance Corporal Potter, and the ever-reliable Signalman French S. A. officiated with great success at the piano

An interesting event, in the deepest sense of that phrase, is to be recorded in the birth to Sergeant Caseley and his wife of a son. Mother and child are reported to be doing well. A congratulatory telegram was despatched to the happy father by his fellow sergeants, and the girl at the post office who took the message for transmission was astounded to find no less than twenty-eight signatures on it !

An officer in the Unit is also a happy new father, his wife having presented him with a bonny girl.

The usual popular Saturday night dances have been held in the men's mess, with Sergeant Baker E. F. and his dance orchestra, and on two recent occasions interludes of entertainment have been included in the programme. At one of them, Dorothy McBain, the radio star, well known as "the girl who whistles in her throat," and Muriel Allott, a member of the Unit's A.T.S. detachment, gave a really delightful act. The following week, some remarkable acrobatic dancing by Jeanette and Susette was the high-spot.

Plans for Christmas entertainment include not only a series of dances, but also a play, entitled " Third Time Lucky." Moreover, it is whispered that a pantomime is being prepared by certain energetic souls, and the boys and girls are curious to know how it will turn out.

The weather has not favoured much in the way of outdoor sport, although in one notable game of football a team from H.Q. defeated an outstation section by the convincing margin of 11—3. A return match with a section of the R.A. was most keenly contested. The R.A. won by 5—3, so avenging an earlier 9—2 defeat. Progress is being made with boxing and it is hoped to stage a tournament in the near future, when the lads have had some practice with the gloves.

The list of recent promotions is a lengthy one, the following having attained the rank shown :—

Sergeants : Lines J. R., Edsor H. C., Ottewell H., Hunnibal A. H., Baker E. F. and Kitcat C. V.

Lance Sergeants : Langridge F. H., Perry L. J., Cowlard H. J., Cooper W. C. S., Hughes A. J., Marshall C. S., Warren E. W. and Dukelow C. J.

Corporals : Livermore A., Eayrs P. G. W., Williams A. H., Turner B. A., Larkins R. T., Jacobs G. C., Bruce D. W. T., Angus J. and Tuckett L. F.

Lance Corporals : Trill S. W., Spelling J. V., Chent F. W., Gibbon R. D., Potter C. J. D., Maude P. C., Coan V. R., Benson A. G., Abbott A. G., Ward T., Smith R. J., Gibbons C. W., French L. T., Richardson R. L., Jacobs H. S., Crice J. R., Spilka A. G., Lacey A. R. and Lomas E. G.

It was mentioned last month that the new drill hall was taking shape. Much progress has since been made and the construction of the floors and walls is now well under way. Of course, this means that the Unit is still, to some extent, at the mercy of the builders, and all ranks are finding that the dust from plaster and cement by no means helps to improve the shine on one's boots !

E. G. L.

Army Signals, Kent

No. 2 Company

Since our last appearance in these pages the Unit has been completely re-organised, and postings and promotions have been the order of the day ; but at last things are beginning to settle down a little, although practically everyone is still " up to the eyes " in work.

Training is in full swing, and, we hope, being enjoyed by all concerned, despite the inclement weather we have been having of late.

Arrivals are too numerous to mention, but to you all we extend the hand of welcome with the fervent hope that your stay will be as long as possible, yet, nevertheless, pleasant.

For the notification of interested persons we must record the departure of C.S.M. Collins H. to " Somewhere in England." Colin, please note.

Marriages are getting somewhat frequent, and to date we must tell of the downfall of one of our officers and Signalman Reid. The Company join in wishing the four of you the best of everything.

It is, I understand, not permissible to publish details of Unit officers, but with the kind permission of the Censor and the Official Secrets Squad, I will now give a list of the Company as recently re-organised : C.S.M. Wheeler, C.Q.M.S. Pratchett, Sergeants Honor, Preston, Thorpe and Froud, Lance Sergeants Kelly, Leach, Peck, Satchwell, Salisbury and Smythe, Corporals Brown, Duly, Foster, James, Prescott and Armstrong, Lance Corporals Ward, Roberts and Pearse, together with some 153 other ranks under training.

Entertainments for the Unit have reached a high standard, and now it is possible to attend a dance and whist drive every week, with a concert in addition at about two weeks interval. The Unit possesses its own dance band and concert party, the latter being augmented by the local Company of the A.T.S.

The football team has also been strengthened by the addition of Armstrong, Strauss and Cowie, from Aberdeen F.C. Armstrong is a Scottish international player, whilst Strauss is a South African player. In a recent match against the Training Battalion, R.E., Strauss made a marvellous score of five goals when the Unit were losing 6—2. Cowie is a good strengthener in the defence. There are also some good " finds " in Wheelton and Lee.

No. 3 Company

General.—The Company continues to collect many new faces. We welcome them, and as they are mostly " for the duration " hope their stay will be a short one.

Promotions.—Congratulations to the following : R.Q.M.S. McIntosh W., C.S.M. Phillips A., C.Q.M.S. Orton P., Lance Corporals Shaw R. and Schofield A.

Sport.—The Company rugby, hockey and football sides have been greatly improved by having so many more men to pick from. Our Inter-Company games are now really " local Derbys."

We feel grateful that such footballers as Cowie, Armstrong and Strauss decided to join our Corps.

Entertainments.—Dances and concerts are now a weekly affair in the Unit. The Company gives a helping hand both in

the Unit Band and on the stage, Haggerty's Irish songs being very well received.

The A.T.S. are becoming more and more indispensable, and we are convinced that the concerts would be dull without their able assistance.

Departures.—We regret that C.S.M. Collins A. has left us. We wish him luck in his new surroundings and hope to meet again.

Sergeant Blake G. completed the No. 13 Foreman-of-Signals Course, and has left us for "Somewhere in France."

We hope that our first contribution is a lucky one.

South Midland Signals

Christmas, 1939.—"Where shall we be on Christmas Day" is a subject which gives rise to more speculation than any other at this time, and the destination of many a halfcrown rests upon the ultimate answer. Whatever it turns out to be, the Unit will not forget to extend the hand of greeting to all their comrades in the Royal Corps, whether at home, on the Western Front or the far outposts. A merry Christmas and the best of luck in the New Year. 1940, by the way, is leap year, so watch your step, lads; not that it is likely to make much difference as plunges have been so numerous lately as almost to cease to become news. However, we wish all the newly-weds the best of luck, and may happier times be in store for them.

Despatch Riders' Dinner.—In these times when social functions are the exception rather than the rule, the announcement by the Display Team of their intention to hold their Second Annual Dinner came rather as a startling surprise, particularly to those who found themselves in receipt of invitations.

The feast was duly laid in the massively timbered room at "The Bear Hotel," display posters adorned the walls, and the menu cards appropriately bore the allied flags. The most striking difference from the corresponding scene of last year was that khaki service dress had now replaced the natty "blues," but the same characteristic cheerfulness prevailed. The invitation originating from the Display Team, included nearly all the older-serving D.R.s of the Unit who could be spared from duty. It was a particular pleasure to welcome once more Signalman Darrall, who, though still on crutches, following his accident last August, insisted on making the long journey in order to be with us. Signalman Allen was, unfortunately, missing, having been returned to civilian employment, much against his personal wishes. We are glad to say that he has since rejoined us.

The D.C.S.O., who has been so intimately bound up with the rise of the D.R. movement in the Unit, presided over the gathering of 60, among whom were most of the senior officers of the Unit. The Officer i/c Display Team was in the chair, and the R.S.M. and other senior N.C.O.s were among the guests. The civilian element was represented by Mr. Howard Drake, Mr. Henry Laird, Mr. A. J. Welton, and Mr. Horace Brown (Chairman of the Display). Another branch of motor cycling interests in the Division was represented by several members of the Corps of Military Police.

After the excellent, indeed in these times luxurious, repast, consisting of mock turtle soup, fish, poultry, and sherry trifle, the toast of "The King" was proposed by Mr. Timings, and "The Princess Royal" by Mr. R. W. N. Danielsen.

The speeches were opened by a senior officer, who dealt with the past and present, handing over "the future" to the D.C.S.O. After conveying the regret of the Commanding Officer for his inability to be present, he stressed strongly the example of the fine tradition established by the Despatch Riders in the last Great War, adding his conviction that our D.R.s would acquit themselves at least equally as well.

Undismayed by the rather delicate theme which had fallen to his lot, the D.C.S.O. was quite equal to the occasion, and, in his inimitable leg-pulling style, kept his audience in roars of mirth. In delightful mock seriousness he announced to his expectant audience that, from the numerous secret documents which passed through his hands, he was able to reveal that sometime in the future, not yet decided upon, some of us would perhaps be going "somewhere" and there some of us (dramatic pause) might meet romance, but "beware of a dark man with a little moustache." Even the unfortunate veteran D III on the table, the function of which was to signal the expiration of the time limit to speakers, did not escape the speaker's caustic wit, and its still small voice was silenced.

In proposing "The Guests," the Officer i/c Display Team referred to the encouragement the Display Team had in the past received from the goodwill of people like Mr. Drake, Mr. Welton and Mr. Henry Laird, and the substantial practical help which they had rendered at various times. With D.R.s, he said, it was the same the world over. Whilst they did not appear to enjoy universal popularity among some officers and N.C.O.s, this did not worry them unduly, since of all ranks they seemed to possess the strongest sense of comradeship and team spirit, and he felt confident that whatever "scares" they managed to get into, when it came to doing a real job of work they would never let the Unit down, come what may. Adding a word of welcome to the members of the C.M.P. present, he expressed the hope that none of us would have occasion to fall foul of them in the execution of their duty, but if we did, we could always be assured of a square deal.

Responding, Mr. Henry Laird was quite unfortunately apologetic, for being in civilian clothes. He conveyed the regret of his Chief, Mr. Graham Walker, for the latter's inability to be present, and congratulated the Display Team on their enterprise in preserving and holding this function in spite of the difficult circumstances.

Mr. Laird was supported by C.S.M. Galpin, on behalf of the military guests. He explained that to speak about D.R.s was not a serious problem to him, for he had been doing it for years. His other remarks included a pointed reference to umbrellas and prepaid telegram forms.

"The Display Team" was proposed by Mr. A. J. Welton, who emphasised the pleasure he had experienced in the receipt of the invitation, appreciating that the Team had, in spite of the distracting times, not failed to remember their peace-time associations. In his own sphere it was fully realised that Despatch Riders, however good, could not perform their task

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without efficient mounts, and it was the intention of the Trade to play their part by delivering " the goods."

The response was given jointly by C.Q.M.S. Goffe and Sergeant Smith. The former raised a laugh at his own expense by tracing his own career from a lineman who lost his crookstick, to a D.R. who lost his self respect and was consequently made into a quarterbloke. He made a particular reference to the sportsmanship of the Officer i/c D.R.s, whose first anxiety on being appointed a year ago was to learn to ride a bike himself, and consumated his motor cycling career by purchasing a brand new model and taking it over a trials course with somewhat unexpected results.

Another staunch friend of the Display Team was Mr. Horace Brown, who had, since he had helped to inaugurate it, become a firm personal friend of every member, and of all the good wishes that would go with us, those of Horace Brown would be the most valued. In conclusion, C.Q.M.S. Goffe expressed the hope that when the time came for the Display Team to function again, they would at last realise their cherished ambition to appear at one of the Tattoos ; in the meantime the team spirit and ability to play for the side which the Display Team had engendered would be one of the most valuable results which it had produced.

In supporting, Sergeant Smith remarked that since being promoted he had been forced to the conclusion that in some people's estimation there was only one creature lower than a D.R., and that was their Sergeant. At the same time he and the D.R.s had derived no little amusement from the efforts of certain W.O.s and N.C.O.s to master the mechanical steed, with disastrous results to both. One W.O. is reported to have circled the Lodge umpteen times until he had at last ran out of " juice " because someone had forgotten to tell him how to stop the " bally " thing.

The speeches were interspersed with items of entertainment provided by local talent in the persons of Mr. Alf. Middleton, with his amusing dialect sketches, and Mr. Moon, who gave some excellent baritone songs. Lance Corporal Bruff also rendered a delightful song solo, whilst Lance Corporal Davis was at the piano. Mr. Tony Cadd provided an excellent film show, featuring among productions of his own several films taken at various Displays. The proceedings terminated with a short but rousing sing-song, of familiar ditties, led by Signalmen Fairclough and Wilkinson C., when to everyone's regret the licensing regulations made it necessary to call it a day.

As an outcome of " conversations " which took place at this dinner, a challenge was thrown out for a sporting trial with the C.M.P., and later an R.A. battery also joined in. A very sporting trial took place, sporting in every sense of the word, in which the Signals managed to carry off the first-round honours by a narrow margin. We look forward to a return competition in the near future.

Arrivals and Departures.—We very much regretted having to say good-bye to our Adjutant, to whom, however, the move has meant promotion in another Unit of the Command.

Another loss has been due to the return to civilian duty of the O.C., No. 2 Company. During his brief command of that Company he gained a well-deserved popularity and the respect of his Company. We wish him the best of luck in the industrial sphere, where his services were deemed to be of even greater importance than in the Army. We welcome his successor and wish him a long and happy stay in the Unit.

Among senior N.C.O.s there could be no more welcome arrival than that of Sergeant Bright, who, pining for his old Unit, ceded W.O. rank with another Unit in order to rejoin us. C.Q.M.S Birkett F. J. has arrived from Reservist Battalion and placed in charge of " M " Section.

GETCHER.

Lowland Divisional Signals

November.

The first period of our training is now rapidly drawing to a close. At the moment, Trade Boards are being held and the N.C.O.s and men of the Unit are waiting to know whether their work in the classes will bring at last some tangible reward. We hope to proceed to ——— with a good crop of new trade ratings. In other ways, too, the normal routine has been interrupted, notably for the subalterns and the senior N.C.O.s who, for the past week, have been subjected to a sustained and intensive course of physical training, under the able and cheerful guidance of Sergeant McNeil, who daily performed the remarkable feat of turning 4½ hours of P.T. into a thoroughly pleasurable experience. Individual miracles performed by Sergeant McNeil included his production of Lieutenant ——— in fairy-like cartwheels and handsprings, but the high spots of the week were, perhaps, the performances of Corporals Scott and Watson, whose seal-like antics almost invariably (and often all but literally) " brought the house down ! "

In fact, the P.T. class has been, perhaps, the best " show " put on in the Dance Hall since war began, and now that it is over the subalterns and N.C.O. who took part will, no doubt,be looking forward to putting the rest of the Unit through it. Our life this month has again been gladdened by various concerts, notably that of the " Heather Breezes," the first E.N.S.A. concert which we have been lucky enough to see. Here's hoping it will be the forerunner of many more ! They will be even more appreciated when we depart.

Congratulations.—Our good wishes go with Lance Corporals Keir and Fairman and Signalman Hendry, who have departed to the Officers' Cadet Training Unit. We are certain that their records in the future will bring nothing but credit to the Unit. The very best of luck to them all ! Congratulations for rather different reasons are due to certain doughty members of " B " Cable Section, who received the official thanks of the Chief Constable for the prompt manner in which they assisted in putting out a recent fire. The A.F.S. had better look to their laurels !

Departures and Arrivals.—One of our officers has departed for S.T.C. duties. We offer a welcome to the officer posted to this Unit in his place, after a course of training. His P.O. experience should prove of value to us. An officer of the Officers' Emergency Reserve stayed with us for an all-too-brief period of training before he, too, departed for S.T.C. work.

With all due deference to these officers, however, the most notable arrivals of the last month have been our " Belisha " men, who are now billeted (very happily, we believe) with No. 3 Company. Last Sunday's church parade, however, showed that the Drill Instructors have not been idle. The smart appearance of our Militiamen was, as they say, " freely commented on." May the good work be kept up !

VICTOC.

West Country Divisional Signals, Devonshire

November.

Editorial.—The past month has witnessed the coming and going of various personalities. Good luck to those who have left us, and a warm welcome to the new arrivals.

Training steadily progresses in all branches, and the uninitiated have settled in remarkably well. So rapidly have they got down to their job, that at times it is difficult to define the " new guard " from the " old."

MERCURY.

No. 1 Company

Another month of training has passed on the way to making us complete soldiers. It would seem as unnatural now to get into civilian clothes as it formerly did to wear uniform all day.

The brilliant weather of the early weeks of the war has now, unfortunately, deserted us, and consequently more of our training has taken place indoors. The Company have been able to get down to the finer points of their technical training, and some men are even talking procedure in their sleep !

On the social side the Company has been able to contribute several turns at various concerts given to the Unit. Signalmen Couch and Nichols have produced some excellent impersonations ; Signalman Williams K. V. M., the Company Larry Adler,

performs wonders on a most expensive mouth organ (sorry—chromonica); Signalman Hanham plays popular choruses on his piano-accordion; while Signalman Pollard identifies himself with "Sam Small" and "Albert" with great success. In addition to this, a quartet, under Lance Corporal Voss, produces sweet music during the intervals.

On 8th November the Company ran a very successful dance, which was attended by some 400 people, including several members of the A.T.S. By all accounts, everyone enjoyed themselves greatly. No. 2 Company kindly provided the band, which played valiantly throughout the evening.

ONECOY.

No. 2 Company

A great deal could be said of the many incidents which have taken place since last month's notes. We have had a busy time both from a training point of view and socially. As far as our training goes, we, of course, expect to find our time fully occupied, and while this has been so, we have also had our work handed out to us in such a way that it has been entertaining also.

Socially, too, we have been fortunate. We have formed, from our own personnel, a small Dance Orchestra, and with the assistance of artists, also from the Company, we have been able to hold a Dance Cabaret, a Concert Party, and a series of Dances, to which our friends from home have been able to attend. This has proved a means of keeping the boys well amused and with an occasional impromptu "sing-song" the dark evenings promise to be bright.

We have improved our billeting comfort by the evacuation of one-third of the Company to private billets, and our barrack room is now taking on a much better appearance.

Now, as I write, we have commenced the long-awaited individual training, and although it is early to write very fully on the subject, it is apparent that it will be a source of benefit to all taking part. This training, which is arranged on a Unit basis, is really welcomed by all, as it is hoped that before long Trade Boards may be held, and some increases in the pay roll to follow.

The word "welcome" is always prominently displayed on our doorstep, and this is now warmly extended to the officers who have recently been posted to the Company, to complete our establishment. We hope they will find their stay with us both long and happy.

While on this topic of postings, we must offer our sincere congratulations to Sergeant Dalton on his being gazetted as 2nd Lieutenant. We had hoped to retain his services with the Company, but it was not to be.

We must also offer our congratulations to Sergeant Bartholomew on his recent promotion, and to Lance Corporal Jewell, who brought off a double event: getting wed and winning the Darts Cup.

Sport is occupying much of our time. At soccer we have had some good games, and the Company team has held its own. At rugger we have our fair share of representatives in the Unit team, and here again some good games have taken place.

Recently we heard of a popular young Sergeant who played squash. Apparently he had a good time, and he gave us a "Gay" description of how he met his defeat. I do not suppose for one minute it will be the last time he will be "squashed."

We are now doing our best to produce a potential world champion fit to place in the ring with Joe Louis. We have the gloves, we have the lads, we have the coaching of C.S.M. Smith. From such ingredients, who knows what we may produce?

By the time these notes appear we shall have met the Army Intake Class at soccer in the Divisional Commander's Trophy. We hope it will be a success for the better team. Without doubt it will be played in the true Signal spirit.

Things We Want to Know.—Why are some folk apparently immune from inoculation?

Is this peculiar to Warrant Officers?

Why are civilian billets so popular?

TWOCOY.

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No. 3 Company

We are very glad to be able to welcome another officer to No. 3 Company. He is by no means a stranger to most of us and we hope that he has come to stay.

Sergeant Todd, who was married recently, has left us to attend a six-months' Foreman-of-Signals' Course. We are very sorry to lose him, as he has done so much in the training of our young operators.

We should like to congratulate Sergeant Lee upon his recent marriage, and wish him and his wife every happiness.

There are two recent notable appointments, and we offer our congratulations to Lance Sergeants Truscott and Conabeer on their elevation to that rank. Lance Sergeant Conabeer was a Sergeant in this Company some years ago, and only recently rejoined.

Two of our number, Lance Corporal Field and Signalman Guimera, left us recently for training as exchange operators. By this time they should be with the B.E.F.

We have sent a number of men to the newly-formed Signal School, and they have profited considerably. They are of the opinion that they have learnt more there than during the whole of the rest of their training.

One Section, which had joined its Brigade, has returned with full equipment, much to the joy of the Q.M. His joy, however, was short-lived, as nearly all of it had to be sent to our parent Unit, "The Wessex."

Inter-Company soccer is starting, and we hope to repeat our recent success at camp. Our team appears to be stronger than at camp, so we have high hopes.

THREECOY.

ON THE JOB.
With Welsh Divisional Signals

Welsh Divisional Signals

General.—Since the last issue of the WIRE, the Unit has left "The Showground," and now, after a very successful move, No. 1 Company is comfortably established in billets in Pembrokeshire and Nos. 2 and 3 Companies are about four miles away. The change is very welcome and the advantages of four walls and a roof in place of canvas are fully appreciated by all.

Both stations are on the coast and parades and drills on the sandy beach with a stiff breeze blowing in from the sea should soon add to the general bearing and smartness of the Unit.

Nos. 2 and 3 Companies are quartered royally in a palatial habitation which, before the war, was used as a Guest House. The building has a varied history, with the usual grim spot where defaulters of the past were hung for the most trivial offence, but we doubt whether those old walls and that proud entrance have ever before looked down upon a corrugated iron Army cookhouse. The windows seem to frown and the whole place seems to have a shocked expression of outraged decency, but this in no way damps the spirit of our modern "Crusaders."

Training.—Organised training is proceeding smoothly and we have a constant exodus of men on special Courses. Divisional Instructors' classes are in operation and consequently a further speeding up of training may be expected next month.

Entertainment.—The N.A.A.F.I. is established and we have had a very welcome visit from one of the touring concert parties, which performed at the local Drill Hall. A whist drive and concert was also thoroughly enjoyed, and it is hoped that it will be the first of many such evenings.

Sport.—Rugby football is in full swing and a good fixture list has been arranged with local units and clubs.

An effort is being made to form a boxing club.

Congratulations.—Hearty congratulations to our new officer and N.C.O. benedicts on their marriages, and to those officers recently promoted.

We record with regret the loss of our Quartermaster to the 3rd S.T.C. Our "Bill" has been with the Unit since 1908 and was a valuable and popular Quartermaster. However, we look forward to the day when we return to our home station certain in the knowledge that "Bill" will be there as anxious to return to the fold as we shall be to receive him.

T. D.

Northern Ireland

Now that the war has begun in earnest we have had plenty of time and persuasion to visit the regimental barber. We clean our buttons, we black our boots; it's just like peace time. In fact, it's a good time. As we compile these notes the sun shines, and there is not a trace of rain upon the ground sheets that cover up the troops.

Organised Games.—Besides a little hockey and football we have had time to look about us and inquire into the prospects of having seven days' leave before this exceptional year draws to a close, and the result of this inquiry has been remarkable. Many Signalmen have found ingenious excuses (domestic and otherwise) to return to England immediately, but there are still many of us who thus far in the war's proceedings have moved no closer to the home meridian nor lately seen the rising sun from the deck of the Heysham boat.

Frost Precautions.—The R.A.S.C. dance, held a few weeks ago at the local British Legion Dance Hall, takes precedence in the golden halls of memory as the most stimulating event we have known since frost precautions were first introduced in Northern Ireland. Many members of the Women's Auxiliary Territorial Service were present, and the Signals turned up with great expectations. It was, of course, a success.

Chemical Warfare.—Every day, on Works Parade, we get a dose of gas, and we must agree that there are no flies on Sergeant-Major Pummell, for that worthy Warrant Officer has not only proved that there are two sides to every question, but also he has simplified all chemical warfare by announcing that the best side of a respirator is the inside.

Stock Exchange.—The price of beer remains unchanged. Fags are still going up, in smoke. Works tickets are scarce. Operators are rising from B3 to B2. Telephone numbers are still changing. Mess tins are being messed about. Lance Corporals are being marked down. Markers remain steady.

Conclusion.—What we have written may seem a little vague and not very serious, but we must remind readers that the WIRE, having a great circulation, might easily fall into the unscrupulous hands of some broadcasting wit like Horace the Humbug of Hamburg. Our regular readers may rest assured, however, that here, as elsewhere in Great Britain, mighty preparations are daily going forward, and it is increasingly obvious that our lines of communication must soon hang over the Rhine with the vanguards of the advancing French and British armies, the standard bearers of our twentieth-century civilization and progress.

THE GLOOMY DEAN.

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WILL OUR READERS PLEASE SUPPORT THEM IN RETURN?

★

STATIONS ABROAD

Signal Training Centre (India)

Jubbulpore,
October.

During the past month, four officers have left the S.T.C. (I.) for duty with other Units and reinforcements have joined us per M.V. "Britannic." We trust the former will appreciate their new surroundings and we extend a cordial welcome to the latter.

Arrivals.—A few new faces appeared amongst us from different Units in India. A cordial welcome is extended to Sergeant Connaghton J. from "B" Corps Signals, Sergeant Kerr G. from "A" Corps Signals, and Lance Sergeant Tant A. from 1st Indian Divisional Signals, who arrived, plus families, and decided to stay. Also to Sergeant Mullins A. from Peshawar District Signals, Lance Sergeant Driver from Waziristan District Signals (the man who came back), and Signalman Deverill from "A" Corps Signals. We reserve the opportunity of welcoming the thirty-three others who joined us "on paper" until such time as their services can be dispensed with "Somewhere in the East," when we feel sure they will appreciate joining.

Departures.—Signalman Locke C. left us for 4th Indian Divisional Signals, C.Q.M.S. (F-of-S) Butler W. leaves us to join Western (I.) District Signals on 11th November, Signalmen Keymer C. and Flint D. leave for Peshawar District Signals on 6th November. We trust they will find their new stations to their liking.

Appointments.—Congratulations are extended to Lance Corporals Harding, Bateman G. and Walke C. on their appointment to Paid Lance Corporal, and to U/Lance Corporal Maguire J. on his appointment to that rank.

Signals Ladies' Club—Arts and Crafts Exhibition.—On Wednesday, 25th October, the Signals Ladies' Club held their Arts and Crafts Exhibition in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, S.T.C. (I.). This was well attended and provided an excellent afternoon of interest to all who attended and an exceedingly good measure of entertainment to the children. After the exhibition, tea was served on the Mess lawn and congratulations and thanks are due to all the Club members for providing and serving such a grand tea.

Prizes were kindly presented, after tea, by the wife of the Commanding Officer of the Jubbulpore Independent Area, to whom, and also to the ladies who so ably carried out the judging, thanks were given in the usual manner. The prize-winners of the different classes were as follows:

Class I—Knitting.—Group "A," Cardigans and Jumpers: 1, Mrs. Hart; 2, Mrs. H. Wilson; highly commended, Mrs. Newbury. Group "B," Socks, Stockings: 1, Mrs. Spearpoint; highly commended, Mrs. Howard. Group "C," Children's Wear: 1, Mrs. Spearpoint; 2, Mrs. Hart; highly commended, Mrs. Farlow.

Class II—Embroidery.—1, Mrs. Farlow.

Class IIa—Needlework.—1, Mrs. Ellerton-Long.

Class III—Something New from Something Old.—1, Mrs. Taylor; highly commended, Mrs. Newbury.

Class IV—Cake Making.—Group "A," Plain or Fruit Cake not to cost more than one rupee, eight annas: 1, Mrs. Newbury. Group "B," Iced Cake not to cost more than two rupees: 1, Mrs. Taylor.

Class V—Embroidery, Knitting, Painting and Fancy Work (open to children of members).—1, Miss June Ellerton-Long; 2, Miss Jen Butler; highly commended, Miss Doris Agar and Master Ronald Wilson.

Class VI—Any Hobby or Fancy Work (open to B.O.R.s of the Unit).—1, Sergeant-Instructor Dawson (A.E.C.); highly commended, Sergeant Connolly.

Class VII—Knitting (Cardigans, Jumpers, Children's Wear) (open to members and non-members).—1, Mrs. Spearpoint; 2, Mrs. Grimmer (I.A.O.C.); highly commended, Mrs. Tant.

In a short speech after the prize-giving, Mrs. Gravely said that the judges had found it very difficult to pick out the winners, as all the exhibits were of such a high standard, and that they would have liked to have awarded prizes to all entries.

Cave Canem.

Golf.—The S.T.C. (I.) Golf Club is now in a very flourishing condition We now possess a large outside membership, besides having a large number of players within the Unit. Thanks to many kind gifts from officer donors, we now have a full 18-hole course. Competitions are in full swing at the time of writing these notes and a list of the major competitions held during the past three months include: President's Open Stroke, R.Q.M.S. Taylor; Hawke Bowl, C.S.M. Ellerton-Long and C.Q.M.S. Howard; Ladies' Annual Stroke, Mrs. Mitchell; McQuire Open Singles Challenge Cup (over 36 holes), Q.M.S. Simms beat C.Q.M.S. Howard, 4 and 3.

The Eduljee Cup has attracted large entries this year, namely, fourteen. It is hoped to be able to give the names of the winners and runners-up in our next letter.

The monthly Spoon Competition 'which we have just started' is proving very popular. Our series of matches with the Gun Carriage Factory start on 11th November, and with a very formidable team we hope to retain the "Victory Column." Extra extensions to the Golf Club House have been made to provide dressing rooms. It is hoped that we shall be able to add the much-needed verandah next year. We wish to tender our thanks to all who subscribed so generously to enable us to do this.

A.H.

Corporals' Room.—Probably the biggest surprise of this war so far is the fact that the Corporals' Room has at last got back into print.

The Senior N.C.O.s have been getting a little uppish lately and have been flinging out challenges. They got a severe jolt at football, and last Sunday the "Ashes" of Sergeants' cricket were quietly laid to rest after long suffering. But working in conjunction with the Officer i/c Records they did manage to beat us at swimming.

We were pleased to welcome Lance Corporals Williams and Hayes into the Mess and also on to the duty roster. They are both well settled, so well in fact that we only see them on pay parade.

There are no promotions to record, but we must not forget to congratulate Lance Corporals Harding, Bateman and Walke on being made "Paid," and U/Lance Corporal Maguire on his appointment. We welcome them to the Corporals' Room.

"A" Corps Signals (India) Rawalpindi

October.

General.—Apologies are due from this Unit for the absence of notes during the past two months, but as the regular scribe was away from the Unit for that period, he cannot be held responsible. The deputy writer swears that the notes he submitted for approval were lost in the Unit office, so we must take this excuse in lieu of a better one. We are told that the detachments in Waziristan forwarded notes for inclusion, but, unfortunately, these were also lost, but we have got their latest efforts to hand, and will see that they are submitted this month quite safely.

We will endeavour to trace the events of August and September as far as possible, and hope to be able to recall the main items of those months.

Promotions.—Sergeant Savage W., was promoted Company Quartermaster Sergeant and Warrant Officer III in successive

months. T/Corporal Hills to be Corporal, Lance Corporal Allaway F. to be Corporal, and Lance Corporal Barnett A. to be T/Corporal. U/Lance Corporals McCormack and Jardine to be Paid Lance Corporals, T/Lance Corporals Wookey H., Pratt I., Ketteridge N., Langley A., and Porter V., to be Paid Lance Corporals, Signalmen Francis, Robson, Watt, and Smith P., to be Unpaid Lance Corporals, and Signalman Hall C. P., late of "B" Corps Signals, to be Unpaid Lance Corporal.

Arrivals.—R.S.M. Beverley E. and a draft of 21 B.O.R.s as replacements for the Militia Instructors supplied by this Unit. Lance Corporal Popple and Signalman Farthing from 3rd Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Meerut.

Trade Boards.—The following were successful in passing Trade Tests as shown at Upper Topa during the first half of the season: Operator W. & L. Class I: Corporal Clarke G., U/Lance Corporal Francis R. Operator W. & L. Class II: Corporal Green H., Signalmen Bowkett, Miller J. A., Moth, and Roberts R. Lineman Class II: Signalmen O'Brien V., Jones E., West C. and West H. It is hoped to be able to include further successes in our next notes, as the result of two further Trade Boards held in Upper Topa and Rawalpindi will probably be published by then.

Departures.—C.Q.M.S. Parker W., Lance Sergeant Parsons, Corporal Clarke G., Signalmen Childs, Oates, Ralph, Brooks G., and Burchett to Singapore. Sergeant Kerr G. and Signalman Deverill A., to Jubbulpore. Corporal Terrey F., to the R.M.C., Sandhurst, and Lance Corporal Parsonage B. to Burma Signal Company, Rangoon.

Marriage.—Congratulations to Signalman Barnes J., on his marriage in Murree last month.

November.

General.—Seasonal greetings to all members of the Corps at home and abroad from all ranks of "A" Corps Signals. Those of us who were hoping to spend Christmas at home are resigned to yet another Christmas abroad, but we will certainly try to have as good a time as possible.

It is uncertain whether these notes will arrive in time for publication in the December issue of the WIRE, as one cannot rely on the mail being delivered regularly under the abnormal conditions now prevailing, but it is hoped that we will be fortunate enough to have them published before Christmas arrives.

Trade Boards.—The following are the results of Trade Boards held in Rawalpindi and Upper Topa last September, which have recently been confirmed: I.M., Class I—Signalman Long A. I.M., Class II—Signalmen Marshall A. and O'Brien P. O.W. & L. —Class I—C.S.M. Jackson J., Lance Sergeant Brown G., Corporal Cox J., Lance Corporal Cracknell A., U/Lance Corporal Robson P., Signalmen Davis S., Barnes J., Palmer A. J., Young D. and Pickersgill R. O.W. & L., Class II—Signalmen Butterfield A., Cox C., Crennel F. and Yardley S. O.W. & L., Class III —Signalmen Punter R., Rea G., Johnson F. and Peacock M. D.R., Class III—Signalman Ross J. Draughtsman III—Signalman Brooks S.

Arrivals.—We welcomed Captain S. G. Humphrys from Kohat District Signals and C.S.M. Moult from "B" Corps Signals during the month, and hope they will have a happy time with us. Major J. A. I. Watts returned after his attachment to "B" Corps Signals, and N.C.O.s from various Units in the Command arrived for an N.C.O.s' Course which is being held in Rawalpindi.

Entertainments.—With the advent of the cold weather, Unit dances have again started and the first one held recently proved to be a great success, a larger crowd than was anticipated turning up to dance to Batson's Band.

The B.O.R.s' Tennis Club has been reorganised, and the first "At Home" of the season was held last week. It is hoped to hold many more of these events and various competitions during the winter.

PEDLAR.

Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess.

Christmas Greetings. — Once again the Yuletide season approaches and once more a resolution that our doings should be known abroad: the good resolution of Mess members to again contribute journal notes is set in motion.

A very happy festive season and a prosperous New Year in 1940 to all ranks of the Corps throughout the Empire, and particularly to the members of the W.O.s and Sergeants' Messes wherever they may be. It was recently decided by the members of our Mess that in view of wartime conditions and the liability of Messes being scattered, that our greetings would be sent through the Corps Journal and that the money normally allocated to greetings cards be sent to some fund whereby troops in fighting zones, whether in action or in hospital, would benefit.

Social.—As members have been in Hill stations, in Waziristan and even on leave in "Blighty," during the summer months, and several changes of face have taken place, little social activity has been carried on although the people in Upper Topa did apparently have some really jolly evenings. Now, however, with the return of many to the fold, Sunday evening socials and other amusements are being started, on which we will dwell in subsequent notes.

Arrivals.—We welcome to our midst Lance Sergeant Cole O. K., of "B" Corps fame, who has now been posted to "A" Corps Signals; may his stay be a long and happy one in this station. Other arrivals who are also very warmly welcomed are: R.S.M. Beverley E., C.S.M. Wyeth J., Sergeant Cox S. and their families. May they all have a happy tour of duty here.

Departures.—Sergeant Kerr G. and family have gone to Jubbulpore for duty; he left on 20th September. Sergeant Andrews E. and Lance Sergeant Brown J. went with the M.A.R. Section to Nowshera, whilst C.Q.M.S. Parker W. and Lance Sergeant Parsons K. left us to join "B" Corps Signals. The best of luck to all in their new stations.

The Blue Book.— Congratulations to W.O.s III Wedgebury A. and Savage W., C.Q.M.S.s Sunderland H. and MacFarlane G., and Lance Sergeants Harvey, Dakin, Jackson and Chaffey E. on their respective promotions and appointments. Also to C.Q.M.S. (Chippy) Cadell T., who left us for U.K. earlier in the year. How did you do it, Chippy?

Razani Detachment

After scanning the August WIRE for our introductory notes last month and failing to find them, we shall, I hope, see them in the September issue.

To open this month's effort on a cheerful note, we welcome Corporal "Al" Richardson back to the fold; he has recovered from his attack of mumps and his return from Razmak Hospital is doubly welcome as it breaks the spell of segregation and we are now free to go and see the pictures which we saw "way back" in Rawalpindi.

The past couple of weeks have been pretty busy ones, with Corporal Richardson checking stores prior to handing over, and much whitewash and paint of various hues was expended preparing for the visit of our O.C.

On the 23rd Signalmen "Yorky" Roberts and "Mighty Atom" Robson were called upon to make up a team of Signals to play football against a Royal Tanks team at Dosalli; the Tanks turned out to be a very strong team and after a strenuous game we were well beaten. "M.A." Robson suggests some "Reilly Ffoull" tactics for the next match. "Stap me!"

Dramatic Tailpiece.—

The cinema crowded, the picture good fun
'Till somebody "injured," went out with a run.
"Maledictions on snipers" he yelled with a groan,
Leaving every one guessing "Who threw that stone?"

That is all this time, folks. Do not miss next month's thrilling instalment. Cheerio from the bhoys and from

W. E. B.

Mirali Detachment

Introduction.—Well, here we are again. Much water has flowed under the bridge in the short space of a month, but life here moves along quite placidly. Perhaps the heat accounts for that.

General.—The Brighter Mirali Movement which came into being some weeks ago has almost reached completion. Our Signal Office looks very well with its mantles of blue and white

and the efforts of the decorators in the Military Exchange have also been amply rewarded.

Presently, a newly overhauled bungalow, complete with roof garden, is being placed at our disposal, so we should be very comfortable during the winter months. If space permits, it is proposed to convert a portion of it into an indoor badminton court.

We are watching the progress of the Corpsigs, Bannu, Amateur Dramatic and Variety Society with lively interest, since with a vehicle at our disposal it may be possible to sneak along to an occasional performance.

Arrivals and Departures.—Signalman Pugh has returned to the fold after a brief sojourn in the wilds of Damdil, and Signalman Thompson is taking the air in Murree. Talking of departures, we hope C.Q.M.S. MacFarlane enjoyed his flying visit to Waziristan. He came, he saw and he went. *Ich Dien*. Now, in 1924—hm !

En Passant.—To " Paddy," late of " B " Corps and now somewhere in Orissa. " You owe me one.—Pip Two." We also hope it is keeping fine for Arthur in far away Belfast. Is the price of food still sixpence per bottle ?

Conclusion.—The Unit scribe will probably be snowed under with contributions from our various Wireless Detachments up here, so to avoid incurring the censor's displeasure, we will say *au revoir* now. Obviously we used to listen to Reginald Foort. Well, cheerio everybody.

MIRSIGS.

Damdil Camp Detachment

General.—*Salaams*, brethren, Damdil screeching. I suppose you are wondering where this place is. Unfortunately, having no pub nearby to help you to locate this beauty spot, I can only say we are situated " somewhere in India." We have had quite an outbreak of sand-fly fever here lately, consequently several new *sahibs* have had the pleasure of making the acquaintance of this delightful place. Things are looking more settled now, and we are looking forward to a nice quiet winter.

Personality Parade.—The detachment at present consists of Corporal Legge, who is the detachment commander, Lance Corporal Langley, our one and only fitter, who can be seen coaxing and petting a chunk of rattling sleep-disturber any time, any day. Next on the roll of honour comes the one and only Taffy Davis, late of Burma. This bloke would roll up if he had to dry up. Following Taffy comes " Cabby " Hughes, a lovesick swain, who at the moment is wandering round with a fag in his mouth and love in his heart, poor chap. Yep, I guess Cupid has claimed another victim. Jock Gray creeps along now, with a pack of cards and Part II Orders clutched tightly in one hand, and a scoring pad in the other, raking out cringing (scrounging, never) Signalmen to make a four for bridge.

" Busty " Adams, ex-Mir Ali, who runs a very close second to Taffy for the gripping cup, keeps us enthralled with descriptions of his hectic civvy life. An admirer of Captain Reilly Ffoull also resides with the common herd, i.e., " Stap me down " " Bing" Crosby. He is a quiet, harmless individual, so nothing can be said about him. (One of these dark horses.)

Another bridge fiend in the shape of " Tashy " Warren has just returned from the hospital at Razmak. Last, but not least, comes " Scoop " Eames who wanders round the camp looking for a picture of an honest Babu. He shook the critics the other day, for when asked " What's yours," replied in a ringing voice and determined tone, " A pint, please."

Our means of communication at the moment are a 120-watt set, an exchange, and a telegraph line, which is not always through, as the local lads sometimes let those kiddies who are teething, take a grip on the line, or borrow a mile or two of cable to make *charpoys*. Our mess tent looks quite homely, with the *mutti* walls whitewashed, curtains at the window and door, and a few pictures hung on the walls. We also have a dart board to while away the hours, in fact, the only thing missing is the patter of tiny feet. Ah me ! We also play football with the Johnnies, who nearly always beat us, however it passes the time away.

Movements.—It may be of interest to ex-Damdilites to know that we are now situated at the old A.T. Company sites. The move took place about a fortnight ago, taking about six hours for the whole camp to move.

Speaking of movements, we have welcomed some reinforcements. They arrived on 18th August, to take over the dubious honour of road protection pack W/T duties from this Detachment. They are kindly adding a few notes to our own effort.

Mascot.—We can now boast of a mascot in the form of a wild cat, namely, Billy, who has, however, succumbed to the magnetic personality of Corporal Legge, and will now do anything except refuse food.

Agony Column.—To Chas. Hood (974). " Frankie and Johnny still a solo effort. Wot abaht it. Taff."

Conclusion.—Cheerio, chaps, till next month.

HECTOR.

Waziristan District Signals

October.

Promotion.—Congratulations to our Captain and Quartermaster on promotion to that rank on 1st August.

Arrival.—Lance Corporal Towson from Wana Section, complete with " Penguin " library. Happy stay, Tow !

Departures.—Lance Sergeant Bell to Poona to attend an A.I.'s Course, and Signalman Brookes to W.E.S., Cherat. Our very best wishes go with them.

General.—By the time these notes appear in print, we shall have settled down once more in D.I.K., and everyone is looking forward to the move for different reasons.

On 2nd September a smoking concert took place in the British Ranks Institute, and the evening was enjoyed by all concerned. Sergeant Foster supplied the " syncopation " with his gramophone and pick-up, together with Sergeant Mulcahy, who cheered up the party with his renderings on the banjo. Our hearty thanks go to them for their assistance in helping to make this night such a success. Signalmen Gray and Brookes won prizes for the best solo. It was noticed, however, that Signalman Paddy did not get up sufficient courage to play his new musical instrument, the " Tonette."

Congratulations to Sergeant and Mrs. Daw on the birth of a daughter at Murree on 29th July, 1939.

On Sunday, 17th September, the Razmak Brigade Horse Show was held. Corporal Roake J. entered for the Best Trained Troop Horse and procured third prize.

Razmak Signal Section also came to the fore as having the second best Single Lead Mule.

DLANOD.

Bannu

General.—Promotion news continue to keep us all guessing and hoping (especially Tommy). Our worthy Section Sergeant (Sergeant Freeman K.) has now become a full-fledged Quartermaster. Congratulations.

Sport.—The Section football and hockey teams continue to hold their own against other teams of the Brigade ; however, signing on lists are still open.

Sergeants' Mess.—Some ten or so N.C.O.s of the Section and Brigade Staff make up a jolly crowd, not forgetting Bill Ainsworth's hound " Bakha." This faithful hound has quarter-blokes tendencies, i.e., stamping one's newest Bond Street cut jacket with the best that local monsson can produce. The return of the families in a week or so will be the signal for great social activities.

Razmak

September.

Before we start any local news, all ranks of this Section wish those of the Corps the very best of luck during their efforts made over the duration of the war. This wish especially applies to those who were once in the District, and in this Section, and

we can only say that we should like to see you all again. Some of you were reservists and we know that the fine fellowship which we knew will remain with you.

After all is said and done, there is nothing like " gripping " when you were the main target of these locals. And so, to enable our dear friends the " G " mules to do the same, Happy (the Waite Sahib Ji), is commencing a movement so that these " dear " animals will have a reservation, somewhere down south, so that they can peacefully end their days with a grip, and have bags of bedding. Nice chap, eh ? There's rain in my eyes.

Actually life goes on the same up here. Road protection duties are as far as we go in the column line. To hear some of the chaps, the young and innocent, of course, this is quite enough.

In the Brigade Athletics we did not have a very good return, finishing fourth, but considering our strength we really did well. Signalman Scriven of this Section was in four events, including the high jump, which he won. We would have liked to have won the cup, as this would have been the excuse for a " smoker" and " band roza." What a life !

A couple of chaps have slipped down to Lahore for ten days to see a man about something. Well, we had our turn and are looking foward to the next. "All time enjoying, you know."

We have fired our annual course and no one was killed. Some shots, eh ? " Slasher " (Signalman Slaymaker) returned the highest B.O.R.s' score and got away with 25 per cent. of the sweep money. Over the three days of the course, the O.C. (slyly known as station P6J) and " Busty " (Sergeant Watson) well earned their " tracker's badge," in bringing the Section in from the ranges.

This is all, except that next month's notes will be written by Bertie, and if he tries to tell you he can sing, don't believe him.

I said I had told you all the news, but the Razmak Brigade Horse Show completely slipped my memory. It was held on Sunday, 17th September, the first time for a number of years. An entry from 2nd Brigade Signals won the Open Jumping event and our O.C. was third. A further rosette was won by this Section, having the second best Single Lead Mule. Not to be outdone, 2nd Brigade Signals came to the fore with the second best pair of mules.

GAV.

JANAM ASHTAMI FESTIVAL.

On 7th September I.O.R.s of H.Q., Waziristan District Signals and Razmak Signal Section celebrated a Hindu Festival signifying the birth of Lord Krishna, called Janam Ashtami.

This festival is one of the principal and foremost amongst Hindus, and is generally celebrated by them throughout India. Officers from District Headquarters and spectators from other Units came to the festival.

I.O.R.s of the Razmak Signal Section started the function by a performance of stick play. This consists of a party of ten men grouped in five pairs, playing on sticks around a central figure representing Lord Krishna.

Immediately after this performance, one of the I.O.R.s, dressed as a coorg, gave a very good dancing performance ; later on, appearing as a clown, he caused much amusement to the whole audience throughout the afternoon.

A very good display of sword fighting between two I.O.R.s was then seen, which on two occasions rose to such dramatical intensity that the films had to take second place to it.

A very interesting function then came to a close with a " Grease Pole " demonstration, and a fire stick display, both of which were well carried out.

W.O.s' and N.C.O.s' Mess.

Razmak.
September.

Saturday, 9th September, was gala night. A war dinner was held in the Mess. The total number of guests and Mess members seated for dinner was fifty, of whom twenty-nine were guests. During dinner C.S.M. Gudgeon proposed the toast of " The King " ; S.S.M. Wales gave " Our Guests," R.S.M. Harvey, 1st Leicestershire Regiment, replying on behalf of the guests.

After dinner nearly everyone gave a turn, the most spectacular being the " 4.5 Howitzer Battery," by C.S.M. Gudgeon, S.S.M. Wales and Sergeant Hodgson. It was quite a surprise and was enjoyed by all.

During the evening the total service of the diners was reckoned and came to eight hundred and thirty-two years, with an average of sixteen and a half years. Then the different Units represented was taken and this turned out to be twenty-one Units. The merriment continued until a late hour, everyone voting the dinner a great success.

The Autumn Race Meeting was held on Saturday, 23rd September, and another very pleasant evening was enjoyed by all who were present.

Arrivals.—Lance Sergeant Bow and Corporal Lawrence have arrived from Kohat on attachment. We hope their stay will be a pleasant one.

Departures.—Sergeant Clackett has left us after being attached for over a year. Corporal Williams has also returned to his Unit. Both belonged to Kohdist Signals. Sergeant Best has left us to join Bannu Section.

Congratulations.—To Sergeant and Mrs. Daw on the birth of a daughter at Murree. The latest bulletin received announces mother and daughter " both very well." To C.Q.M.S. Freeman (Tich) who now wears the crown above his three stripes.

Conclusion.—Next month will probably see us in D.I.K. for the winter season. We are looking forward to the move, although it entails a lot of extra work.

KIKO.

4th Indian Divisional Signals

September.

Obituary—9616 Naik A. P. Balakrishna Nair.—It is with profound regret that we announce the untimely death of Naik Balakrishna, at the age of 26, on 8th September, 1939.

Riding his motor-cycle whilst on duty on 3rd September, at approximately 11 a.m., he attempted to cross over the junction of the Mudfort, Maidan and Gymkhana roads, but was struck by an oncoming motor-car. He was immediately removed to the Indian Military Hospital, Trimulgherry, having sustained injuries to the head. He died five days later and was cremated according to the religious rites and customs of Hindus.

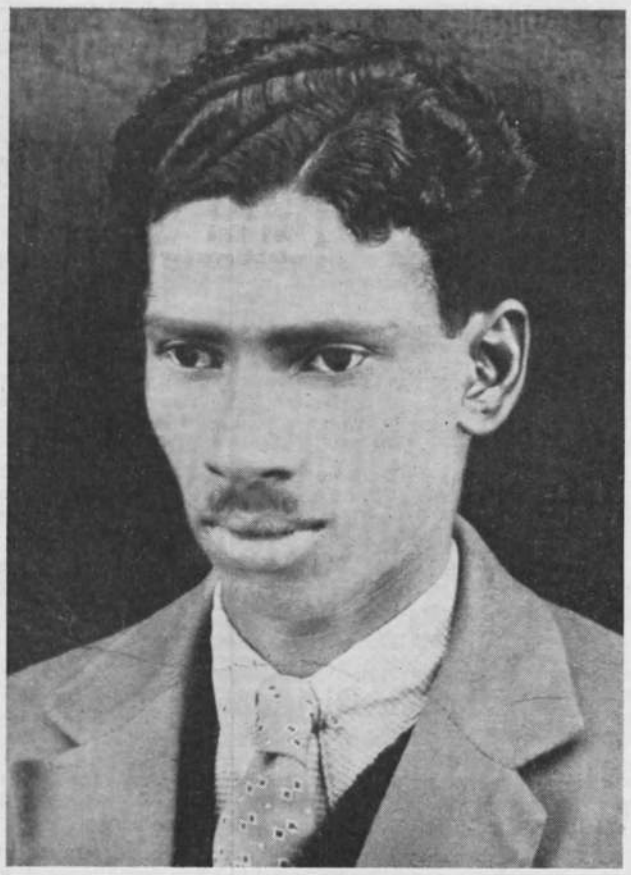
Born in 1913, he enlisted at Bangalore on 24th April, 1933, and was posted to the Signal Training Battalion, Jubbulpore, on 30th April, where he served for the next eighteen months, then proceeding to Waziristan District Signals. There he gained the 1936 I.G.S. medal and was appointed Lance Naik on 21st January, 1938. On 18th July, 1939, he reported for duty in Trimulgherry and was promoted Naik on 17th August.

Despite the very brief period he was with the Unit he had impressed all with his obvious qualities as a soldier and a tradesman ; ever cheerful, eager, a thorough and apt workman, a first-rate N.C.O. and a Class I D.R. of exemplary character. Popular alike with his seniors and juniors, the loss is felt, not only by the M.T. Department, which valued him highly, but by the whole Unit.

We sympathise with his family in their bereavement.

The Month in Trimulgherry.—In the quietness of Trimulgherry it is hard to realise that hell is loose in Europe. Here we follow the very noiseless tenor of our way, cheerfully preparing for all and more that fate might have in store for us, essentially calm and unharassed.

Even India, 7,000 miles distant from the scene of hostilities, had been hag-ridden by crises. Corporal Lawson, deciding upon sleep one sunny afternoon (with such deliberation as if it were almost a rare happening for him), stuck a notice on his box—" Wake me at the Next Crisis," and reflected therein the spirit of the Unit. All were sick and weary of European politics yet, mouths agape, failed rarely to gather around any available set in order to hear the 9.30 p.m. radio news bulletin. Thus 3rd September brought with it a vast feeling of relief. The tension had snapped. There was a job of work to be done and somebody was doing it.



Naik A. P. Balakrishna Nair

Evoe's verses, although written in a more serious vein, are not inappropriate :

Yes, you have argued, I have argued,
And listened to a host of lies,
Only to learn that fools in all their folly,
Know better than the wise.

This is the ultimate thing, to fight for freedom,
Because so many would destroy the free,
There is no faith at all in any tyrant,
Whether by land or sea.

And this at least is good, to stand for something,
After the driven clouds of smoke and dust,
After long days of doubting. Let the sky fall,
If fall it must.

(With apologies to " Punch.")

This is neither the time nor the place to talk of the War. Although to so many it came as a profound shock, we all now know its fullest implications and must leave the rest on the knees of the gods.

There is a huge wailing and gnashing of teeth. The cry is, " What about my mail ? " The love-stricken wander around bitterly resenting this unwonted interference with their epistolary amours. Others, glad of a respite from writing (ever a penance), are pursuing more serious pleasures—bottled, chiefly.

Other temporary set-backs are the overdue English papers and a slight increase in the cost of living. All sops, for example, cost much more ! Otherwise war, literally and figuratively, is distant, and 3rd September, in retrospect, seems one of the month's minor days.

Annual musketry has evoked tickings not unlike those of a cheap alarm-clock. The slothful were severely shaken in chilly dawns ; some hearing " Reveille " for perhaps the first time during their service. The hungry blighters, too, were sorely tried by belated breakfasts. Plaintive moans were heard from all about the new targets—tanks with the oh-so-elusive-white-slit and the half-figures of a hypothetical enemy. It has been suggested that realism was enhanced by the butts being made to resemble the Siegfried Line, but this, we fancy, is rather stretching a point. Nevertheless, the pencilled scores looked extremely well and Signalman Bilby is to be congratulated on his 73 points—the highest score.

Sport has been uneventful with friendly matches predominating the fixture list. Against a certain other Unit there was a match however, that masqueraded as friendly until half-time, when of a sudden the mask was whipped away. Glee overspread our fighting members' features and they mixed it. " Chop him off at the ankles " alternated with " Kick him, he's still breathing" as cri-de-guerre. It was sticks, teeth, fists, feet or what you will. Nature or Heatherington in the raw are seldom mild. The final whistle by no means abated their fierce ardour. Perforce the protagonists withdrew, but one raw-boned and gaunt individual would fain have led back the team armed not with hockey sticks but short-traces. Fortunately he proved to be a recruiter.

Our sporting events will be found under the heading of " Sport." It's all there.

Sighs of relief, intermingled with cries of chagrin, when it was announced that the examination for the First Class and Special Certificates of Education are to be held in abeyance. The scholars, indeed, were peeved and showed it, but their annoyance in no way matched the exuberance exhibited by the not-so-scholarly.

Thus the world wags.

Command.—Our Commanding Officer, after two recent spells in hospital, is now on leave. He has the Unit's best wishes for a speedy recovery.

Shortly after leaving Trimulgherry, the Commanding Officer sent the following inspiring and enheartening message to all ranks :

"As you know, the medical authorities have ordered me away on leave. No one is more sorry than I to have to go away at a time like this and I shall return as soon as I possibly can. I have been impressed by the excellent spirit shown by all ranks, and I thank you all for your loyalty. That we shall win the War is certain, but we can only do so by enlisting the help of God.

" His Majesty the King is presenting all British ranks with a copy of the New Testament. I commend this book for study, because in it you will find not only the answer to world problems but the answer to your own problems, too."

This great tribute to the Unit was deeply appreciated—it is impossible to say how much—but at the same time we all feel that it is an even greater tribute to the writer.

Captain G. I. B.-W. has now fortunately recovered from his brief illness and resumes his duties as officiating Adjutant.

We extend a cordial welcome to our new officer arrivals from S.T.C. (I.), and sincerely hope their stay with us will be a happy one.

Another officer is shortly to leave us, taking his Section with him. This spells a doubly severe loss for the Unit hockey team, as Lance Sergeant Abraham also accompanies this Section.

Congratulatory.—We particularly wish to congratulate the Adjutant and his wife on the birth of their daughter, Isabel Maud, on 9th September. Also one of our Captains on attaining that rank. He is now in England, but we hope that he will read these notes.

The Quiet Corner.—That their happenings might be recorded in our monthly tale, our correspondent made diligent enquiries into that Mecca of the Unit—the Sergeants' Mess—only to be frozen with a glance and the laconic comment that everything was normal.

A Plea.—If the heading of the item above be apt, then " Graveyard " for this one would be more so. There is an odd quietitude overhanging the mausoleum called the Corporals' Room. It

resembles a deserted A.R.P. shelter. Folk creep stealthily along the verandah towards it, peer furtively around the door before sneaking in; all in a spirit of profoundest gloom. No longer do hearty cries threaten to rend the rafters, or is a Stanley publicly debagged. Nor does the Adam-Lea boat race have its old elan. Now it is a lack-lustre exhibition of dolour.

It is an Allsop's fable without even a moral.

Should one have the temerity to point out this exceedingly grim state of affairs one would be shown a swelling " Suggestion Book " simply crammed with bright thoughts awaiting to burst forth.

Of course, if only a new room is needed we would respectfully propose the hockey-pitch steps or its farthermost wall as a suitable site. Corporal Heatherington would draft the plans.

Do These Names Make News?—It is rumoured in reliable circles that Leslie Lea has obtained a ball and chain to affix to his ankle whilst he sleeps. Guesses may be hazarded at the underlying motive in this strange act, but the most tenable theory proferred is that it is an aid to will-power lest he be tempted to follow the Lawsonian nocturnal example which the latter's new-found photographic keenness does not wholly cover. Bill naturally snaps up most good things.

The Unit, by the by, has become intensely camera-conscious and the room is consequently littered with no end of paraphernalia—tripods, spare lens and bellows, plates and cases—a positive death trap, whilst the night is made hideous with blinding magnesium flashes. These glares caused Corporal Adam some qualms and not a little expenditure, since one such a glare lit the night, shone through his diaphonous slacks, illuminating his smooth and lovely limbs for all the world to see, and shaming him into buying new trousers.

Here we have an absolute scoop (if journalese be permitted).

For the first time in history, Lance Sergeant Cavill (called Charlie by his friends) was seen on the hockey pitch whilst a game was in progress, to the utter astonishment of all the spectators and most of the team. He was there, it was subsequently discovered, to announce the tidings that Germany had invaded Poland!

Linguistic.—After a recent heated debate it was discovered that the highest standard of spoken English in the Unit was maintained by the I.O.R.s of the M.T. Section. It has been noticed that Corporal Mozley frequently puts up a creditable effort.

Tailpiece (after Sergeant Maguire) —Life is just a bowl of cherries.

THE THIN MAN.

SPORTS NOTES.

Hockey.—The following matches were " friendlies ":

v. H.Q., West Yorks. Regiment	Won	4—2
v. " D " Company, West Yorks. Regiment ..	Won	3—2
v. 18th Battery, R.A.	Won	4—0
v. 65th Battery, R.A.	Drawn	1—1
v. Hyderabad Rifles, A.F.I.	Lost	0—6

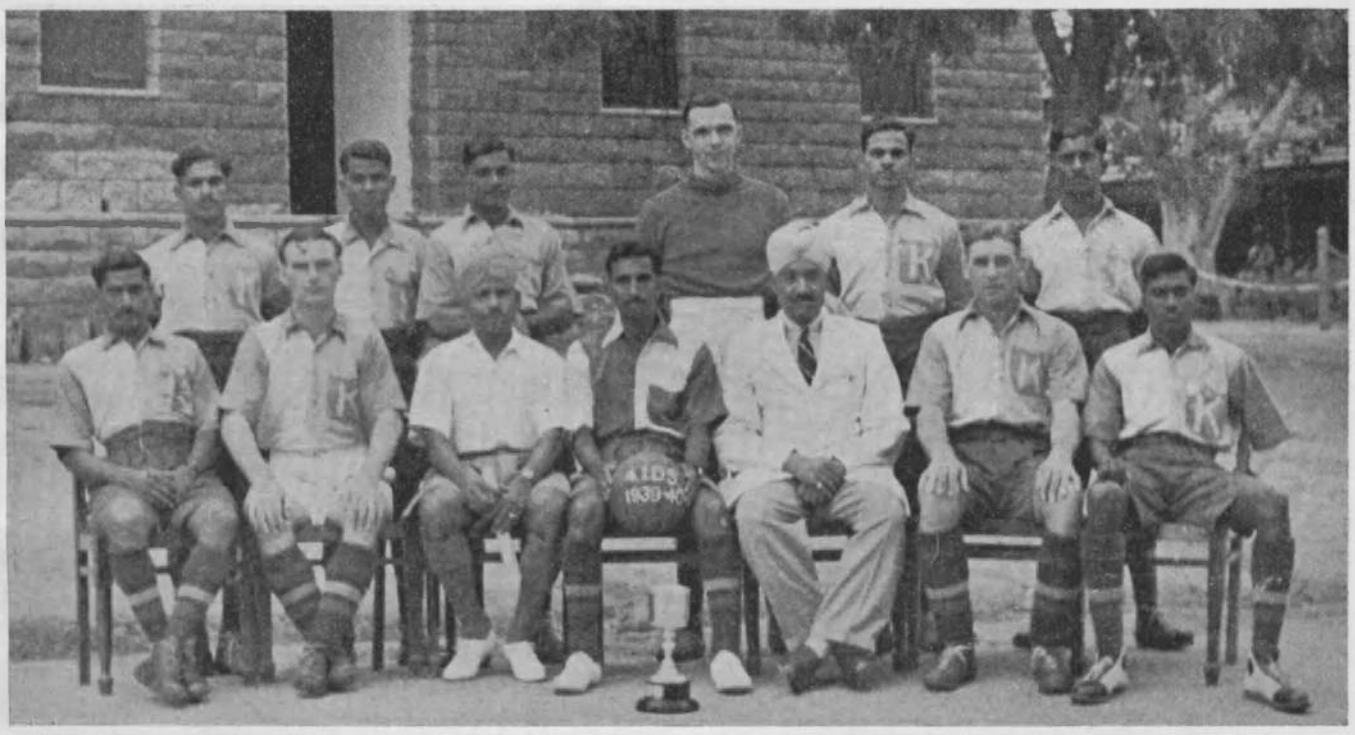
A very high standard of hockey was maintained in the above games by a representative Unit team, and despite the overwhelming defeat in the final match it was a fine game to watch and keenly contested right up to the final whistle.

The team has undergone a series a rapid changes in a short time. Lance Sergeant Grafton and Corporal Brennan (both of 4 C.B.S.T.) have been replaced by Lance Naik George K. E. and Sergeant Abraham.

Having been awarded a bye against the Hyderabad Rifles in the Small Units (British) Tournament, preparations are now in hand for our forthcoming tussle with H.Q., West Yorks. Regiment, in this contest. Without being unduly optimistic we feel confident.

Football.—The only match during September was against the Hyderabad Rifles, in the final of the Small Units Football Tournament, which we won with a score of 4—0. This is the fourth successive season that we have carried off this Cup and feel not unjustified in crowing.

A photograph of the victorious team is published herewith.



WINNING TEAM OF SMALL UNITS FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

Malta Signal Section

October.

We have heard that our last notes were received too late for inclusion in the edition for which they were intended. They were posted at least ten days before the usual time and as these notes are being written only three days earlier in the month than the aforementioned ones it looks as though—besides getting in a paragraph when news is at a discount—we ought to be wishing you all the best of all that's going at Christmas and a victorious New Year.

Talking of Christmas we should like to tender advice, advice which will be deemed presumptuous, advice which will not be taken, but advice which may be recalled—afterwards. At the Christmas jollifications of those of you enjoying French hospitality, the advertiser's slogan " Beer is Best " were well to be remembered. White wine will be offered and taken, but without intending to hurt the susceptibilities of our many French friends it were well for the lesser experienced to be told that recovery from the results of the red and/or white wine punch bowl is slow and painful. We remembered—afterwards.

Our wireless tells of the rains you are having at home and in France, but this little island could not be missed out of everything. During one night recently we had the biggest downpour Malta has experienced in twenty-two years. There was over ten feet of water flowing down the Boschetto Marsa Wied, and we, as a Section, knew all about it. Bridges and parapets of bridges were washed away and in one spot five-ton drums of cable were carried hundreds of yards from their positions preparatory to laying. Newly-filled-in cable trenches and whole roads were washed out, and the result—from our point of view—a horrible mess. For your point of view we will try and obtain snaps. Talking of snaps, herewith a photograph of the Company, as promised in our notes of last month. If you can recognise anyone you're a better man than I am, Gunga Din. But I'll take the matter further and give half-a-crown to the sender of the first letter opened if he has been successful in recognising the writer of these notes. You may think there is a catch in it, but the offer is genuine, so don't make the fan mail too bulky. Would you like a few clues ? The Operator who :

Never " slept " in the exchange when on night duty at Coln rails.
Remembers Paddy Ryan's extra special, 17th March, 1924.
Used the left-handed hacksaw.
Heard an American Nava Commander swear a false alibi.
Paid his bills at K.F.C.
Was the Charlie Peace who tipped up the rickshaw and Naval officer passenger, and was fired on for his trouble.
Wore a bowler at soccer matches.
Put the motor-bike fire out with his hat.
Initiated the sum " What about the boots " in " D " Company, 1923.
That's enough—being a Scotsman.

We had intended telling you just where we considered the powers that be were going wrong in the conduct of the war, and of our solution to the little problem, but we will reserve all that for next month.

We welcome our recent new arrival from the Reserve of Officers and trust his sojourn with us will be to our mutual benefit.

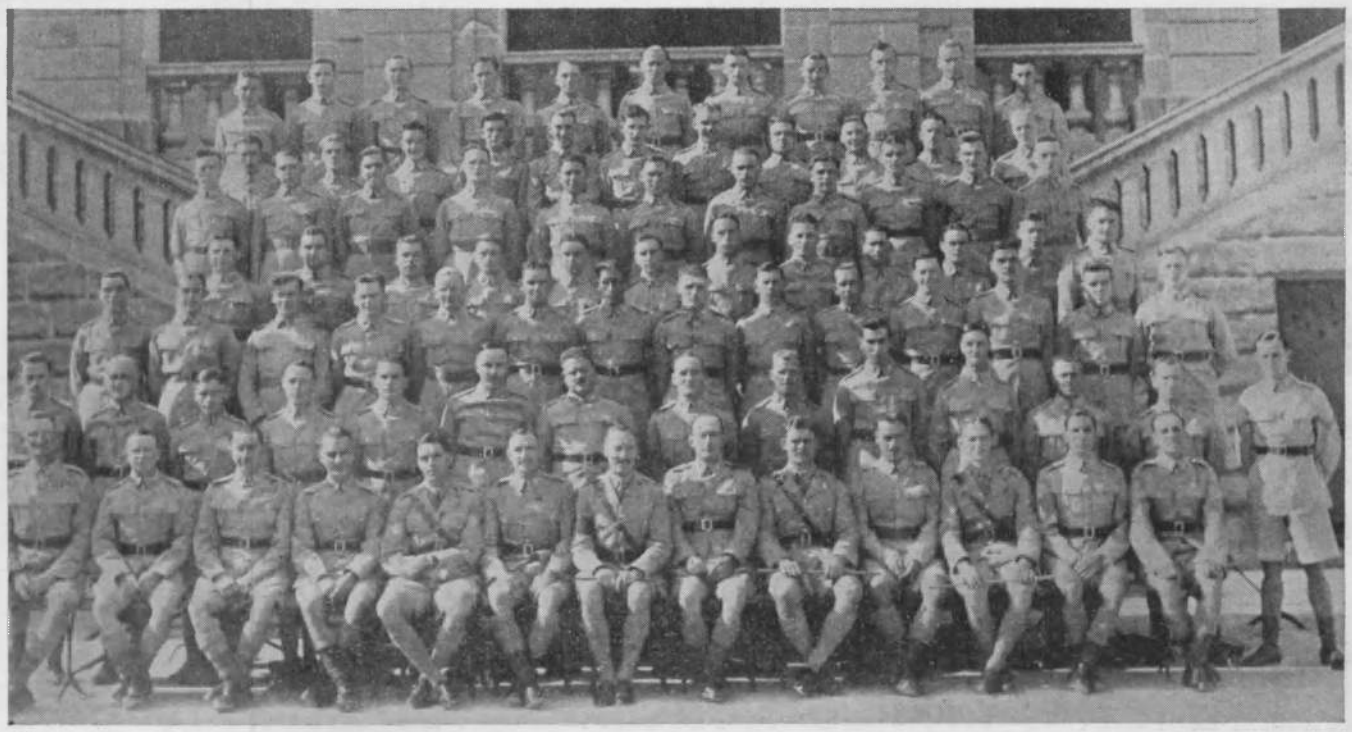
Congratulations to A/Sergeants Cottingham and Middleton, A/Lance Sergeant MacTavish and A/Corporals Nicholson and Johnson on attaining their respective ranks. Also felicitations to Driver Bedding, who is enjoying a sojourn in hospital.

Afterthought.—None of you blighters in Malta can compete for the half-crown !

Hockey Results.—

v. H.Q., R.A.F.	Drawn	0—0
v. 48th Anti-Tank Regiment	Drawn	4—4
v. H.M.S. " Sikh "	Won	3—2
v. R.A.F., Calafrana	Lost	0—1
v. R.A.M.C.	Won	2—1
v. H.Q., R.A.F.	Drawn	1—1

NEMO.



MALTA SIGNAL COMPANY

Palestine Force Signals

No. 7 Section

November.

General.—We must apologise for the absence of notes from this Section last month, due, of course, to the present situation and pressure of work entailed.

The Section takes this opportunity of wishing its comrades who are employed on more arduous work the very best of luck and success on their undertakings. We realise the sterner stuff they are now doing and trust we will be able to acquit ourselves as well when the time comes.

Keeping to the slogan " Business as usual," the following are to be congratulated on upgrading to classes shown: Sergeants Cottingham and Middleton, Lance Sergeant Mactavish, Lance Corporals Ryan and McKay, Signalmen Rodmell and Leach to BI. Signalmen Berry, Taylor, Henry, Allison, Allen and Rye to BII. Corporal Nicholson and Signalman Millar to CII. Signalman Wilson to CIII. Driver (I.C.) Sharratt to Signalman Group " E " Lineman. Signalman King to DII. Lance Corporal Orchard and Signalman Laing to Fitters BII.

The Weather.—No letter home is complete without something under this heading, and we write this to prove that water does not always find its own level—at least, not when the intervening drains are stopped up. So it was with some surprise that we beheld our one and only barrack room after a night of rain, draped with some four inches of water, especially as the harbour appears from our windows to be some hundred feet below.

Promotions and Appointments.—The welcoming hand is extended to the under-mentioned on attaining the acting ranks shown: A/Sergeants Cottingham and Middleton, A/Lance Sergeant Mactavish, A/Corporals Nicholson and Johnson.

Also to U/Lance Corporal Orchard on reaching the first rung of the ladder of fame.

See Section Photograph.—Yes, we have a Section Sergeant, but he is behind the arm of Happy. Look hard and you will find him.

Sport.—Sporting activities were somewhat curtailed after the outbreak of war and, owing to the curtailment of transport, most of our football games have been local.

The Company soccer team has three wins to its credit, versus Royal Engineers (9—2 and 2—1) and the Corps Military Police (7—1). Three other games were losing ones, and a further was drawn.

Only one game of hockey has been played this month, which resulted in a lose for the Section by 3—1.

In Conclusion.—By the time these notes are in print, Father Christmas will be well on his annual journey, so we must wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year, wherever you may be.

Jews' Mail.—To Hawley, Palestine. " What about a line? Boss."

To Pearson, Egypt. " How about that answer. Buster."

SAHA.

No. 7 SECTION PALESTINE FORCE SIGNALS

1st Row (left to right).—Lance Corporal McKay, Corporal Nicholson, Lance Sergeant Mactavish, Sergeant Cottingham, Lieutenant J. H. St. G. Hamersley, Royal Signals, Sergeant Middleton, Corporal Johnson, Lance Corporal Ryan, Lance Corporal Orchard.

2nd Row.—Signalmen Berry, Roach, Rodmell, Sharratt, Driver (I.C.) McKenzie, Signalmen Larkin, Taylor, Rye and Allen.

3rd Row.—Signalmen Millar, Saunders, Acock, Leach, Allison, Temme, Dobby, West and Walton.

Top Row.—Signalmen Bossons, Wilson, Driver (I.C.) Knott, Signalmen Wood, King, Laing, Pegler, Ford and Henry.

Gibraltar Signal Section

November.

General.—It is such a long time since notes appeared from the Rock that many readers will think that this place has ceased to exist, but, with my humble apology, I hope all will believe me when I say that everybody is very much alive here.

It is rather difficult to write in the free and easy style so widely adopted by WIRE correspondents, as the prevailing state of affairs tends to make one " draw in " from the usual. However, with the Censor's approval I will let you know " Who's who " out this way:

It is, I understand, not permissible to quote the names of Senior officers in their respective Commands, but our other rank personnel is as follows: C.S.M. Bowler W. H., C.Q.M.S. Boughten E. (Foreman of Signals), Sergeant Parry C. A. (Unit C.Q.M.S.), Lance Sergeant Sumner H. (Line Sergeant), Lance Corporal Burrow E. (Unit Clerk), Corporal Bull J., Lance Corporals Cassidy J., Hunt F., Barrett R., Hesketh H. and Foster J., Signalmen Brookman W., Barton A., Beeden W., Buck J., Colton D., Dickens D., Fulford H., Fleming P., Golding T., Gummer L., Hawthorn W., Hartley J., D'Hooghe H., Joyce H. Kirkup W., Lowings C., Murray A., Norcup W., Pope J. and Stubbs W.

In addition we have a number of local lads who have gallantly come forward to do their bit, having joined the Signal Section of the Gibraltar Defence Force. We extend a very hearty welcome to them.

The Unit managed an outing to Tangier during the month of August and a very nice time was spent by all the lucky ones.

Many returned with the joy of Spring in their hearts, and others with fantastic stories of the " Black Cat," etc. Oh, yeah, big boy!

The Foreman-of-Signals has a few words to say now (why we cannot tell!), with reference to our last notes, which were sent about October, 1937(!) Do you remember that they stated this place was likely to prove a health resort? I can only say that if people ate as much as they prophesied, they would die of starvation. The Unit has survived, however, during the strain of the past few weeks, thus displaying the inherent toughness of the linemen. They seem, in fact, to be as tough as the skin on a pay bloke's neck, and anyone who has ventured a gentle hint on one of these creatures knows how tough that is!

We carry on like machines, with the exception that machines have to be lubricated; we, on the other hand, have had to work for considerable periods without lubrication, or take a leaf from the enemy's book and use substitutes! One notable result of the war is that some people have discovered that lemonade, and even water, can be drunk without causing bodily harm.

Personal.—Congratulations to the following: Lance Sergeant Sumner H. on taking the plunge into the cold world of matrimony, with Miss E. Smart as his guiding star. Happy days.

Lance Corporal and Mrs. Burrow on the arrival of a new Clerk for Signals (?). Lance Corporal and Mrs. Cassidy on the arrival of a wee girlie somewhere in Scotland (increase in the issue of burgoo indicated!). Signalman and Mrs. Lowings C. on the birth of a daughter. Last, but not least, to Signalman and Mrs. Golding on the arrival of a son complete with climbers, jack knife, etc. Good going, Signals!

A hearty welcome is extended to the married ladies who have arrived to keep hubby in place. Happy days, girls!

The wife and family of our Commanding Officer are at present in the United Kingdom, and their return, in view of the present state of affairs, is somewhat belated. However, we wish them all the best, and we will be glad to see their return.

Sport.—Our sporting activities are not enough to warrant a separate detail, as work has superseded sport, for the time being at any rate. We do, however, find time for an occasional game of hockey, and we are again awaiting the arrival of the hot season for swimming.

Unit Competitions.—A part of the Unit competitions were concluded, and the following were successful in " lifting " the usual cups: Billiards, Lance Sergeant Sumner H.; snooker, Lance Corporal Burrow E.; .22 shooting, Signalman Dickens D.; darts, Lance Corporals Barrett R. and Hesketh H.

Rowing.—The rowing season was cut short, owing to Mr. Hitler, and one is wondering what one shall do about it. For the benefit of ex-Rockites we send a list of the winners of the various competitions to date: Garvey Cup, Fortress Royal Engineers. Infantry Cup, Comorant " A." Harington Trophy, R.A.S.C. July Oar, Fortress Royal Engineers. August Oar, Royal Engineers. Challenge Cup, Royal Engineers. Well done, our Mother Corps, and well done R.A.S.C.

Conclusion.—In conclusion, may I say that all ranks of the Gibraltar Signal Section wish their comrades everywhere " all the best," and repeat the sporting slogan, " Come on, the Corps! "

GIBSIGSEC.

Ceylon Signal Section

November.

Jubilation.—Season's greetings to all. Even Ceylon comes to life at this time of the year.

Revelation.—Such would surely be if we march past the Editor's dais, so here we are: Lieutenant E. W. Townsend, Royal Signals, A/Q.M.S. (F-of-S) Phlipott H. W., C.S.M. Wilmot H., Sergeant Powell F., Lance Sergeant Whitwell R., Signalmen Guidera J., Allen J., Cashmore D., Dewell T., " Goon " Meldrum, Couzens S., Brown H. and Hendry T.

Following in the rear, attached to the Ceylon Defence Force, you would also see C.S.M.I. " Chippy " Woods (ex-Rawalpindi).

Accumulation.—From out of the blue, Messrs. Cashmore, Dewell, Allen, Brown and Hendry who decided to rejuvenate in this tropical clime. Nowadays we hear: " When I was time-ex the first time ——! "

Anticipation.—C.S.M. Wilmot, who in ten months (pre-war, too) has been Sergeant, C.Q.M.S., W.O. III and now W.O. II, might wonder how many more rounds he'll be liable for! However, keep it up!

Renovation.—Much prickly heat has pricked during modernization operations, and, although we could have given quite an interesting account of these exploits in normal times, be assured that one would need quite a lot of washing to hang upon all our (Siegfried) lines.

Oscillation.—It is anticipated that our Les Allen will be " on the air " soon. He has been noted already by the local Broadcasting Officials. One point we must mention is that he is assured of being outstanding—at least six feet, anyhow!

Hesitation.—" Tich " Bratt's complaint. How about the promised letter? Best of luck, however.

Palpitation.—Merely the Editor's complaint. Notes from Ceylon! No wonder there's a war on.

SANDY.

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