THE WIRE

THE CORPS MAGAZINE OF THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

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Editorial Notes

We publish hereunder an extract from a letter dated 29th December, 1939, from the Lady-in-Waiting on Her Royal Highness, the Princess Royal, to the Representative Colonel-Commandant:

> "The Princess Royal desires me to write to you to say that Her Royal Highness has received a most delightful Christmas gift from all ranks of the Royal Corps of Signals. The water-colour sketches are excellent, and the Princess very much appreciates the thought of her and sends her sincere thanks."

Colonel-Commandant Royal Signals.—We are authorised to state that Brigadier R. H. Willan, D.S.O., M.C., has agreed to act in the capacity of Representative Colonel-Commandant of the Corps for the ensuing year.

Obituary.—Colonel A. H. French, D.S.O. His many friends in the Corps were shocked and grieved to learn on 30th November last that Colonel French had passed away in his sleep during the previous night.

He was buried in the churchyard at Little Bullington, Hampshire, on Tuesday, 4th December, and the Corps was represented by Brigadier H. Clementi Smith, D.S.O., the Representative Colonel-Commandant, and Colonel O. P. Edgcumbe, M.C., A.A.G. Royal Signals. Wreaths were sent from "All ranks of Royal Signals" and "All members of The Royal Signals Association."

Colonel French, who was the son of Colonel Arthur French, a distinguished Officer of the Royal Marines, was born in 1876. He received his first commission as an Officer of the Royal Marines in 1894, was promoted Captain in 1901, and Major in 1913. For services in the South African War he was mentioned in despatches and received the Queen's Medal with six clasps.

His first real connection with Army Signals was from 1912 to 1914, when he was an Instructor at the Army Signal School at Aldershot.

At the beginning of the European War of 1914-1918, he was posted to the Royal Naval Division, took part in the defence of Antwerp and later in the Gallipoli Campaign, being three times mentioned in despatches and awarded the D.S.O. for gallantry in 1915.

On the formation of the Royal Corps of Signals in 1920 he was transferred to the Corps with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, and retired in 1926 with the rank of Colonel.

After retirement he settled down at Sutton Scotney, Hampshire, and devoted his energies to county work, being elected to the county council in 1933 and appointed a Justice of the Peace in 1935.

This is not the place to enlarge on his county work, but we well know that their loss is commensurate with ours.

Those of us who were in close contact with him know of the amount of time and service he gave during the 14 years he officiated, first as President and later as Administrator of Signals Association Benevolent Fund. During that period he dealt with many hundreds of appeals and only those who had the privilege of being associated with him in that work can appreciate the amount of careful thought and personal attention which he devoted to each case. It is no small task to administer funds, subscribed by all ranks of the Corps, for the benefit of comrades who have fallen on bad times, and it demands an exceptional combination of business ability and sympathetic insight.

In 1934 he found that owing to the growing responsibilities of his county work he was unable to give sufficient time to Association affairs, and reluctantly handed them on to others. Even then he retained his appointment as one of the trustees of the Benevolent Fund, and maintained an interest in all Corps matters.

Thus passes a figure who will be affectionately remembered in the Royal Corps of Signals as one who deserved well from all ranks. (Photograph of Colonel A. H. French, D.S.O. appears on page 5).

Bound Volumes, "The Wire."—We have been asked to announce that bound volumes of the Corps magazine for the years 1929, 1930, and 1931, are urgently required for the completion of a mess library. Any reader having such volumes for disposal is requested to communicate with The Editor, 95 Belgrave Road, London, S.W.1, stating price required.

R.Signals with the B.E.F.—Books and magazines are urgently required for despatch to units serving with the B.E.F. Will those interested kindly forward any suitable literature to the Editor for onward transmission.

Award for Gallantry.—Apropos our editorial announcement in the December issue, we quote an extract from the *Yorkshire Observer* dated 29th December, 1939:

"Stories of the gallantry behind the awards announced in November, to an Officer and three men serving in Palestine last September, were told for the first time last night.

"The Military Medal was awarded to Signalman Thomas Barr, Royal Corps of Signals who, in a heavy rebel attack on 18th September, remained in his truck in an exposed position and sent through two messages of vital importance. He only stopped operating his radio set when, twenty minutes later, he had been wounded, and the set had been put out of action."

Royal Signals Comforts Fund

The Committee gratefully acknowledge receipt of the following:

CASH SUBSCRIPTIONS from:	£	s.	d.
H.R.H. The Princess Royal, C.I., G.C.B., G.B.E.	50	0	0
Brigadier H. Clementi Smith	10	0	0
Miss Elstob	1	5	0
Mrs. Waley Cohen	3	3	0
Mrs. Stockley	1	1	0
Mrs. Vigers	1	0	0
Colonel G. D. Ozanne	2	0	0
T. W. Vigers, Esq.	5	0	0
Colonel T. W. Vigers	5	0	0
Mrs. C. Humphreys	1	1	0
Mrs. C. T. Culverwell		10	6
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Mrs. G. Pegg	2	2	0
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Brigadier R. H. Willan	10	0	0
A. J. Tressider, Esq.		6	6
Major-General F. V. B. Witts	1	0	0
Major-General H. C. B. Wemyss	3	3	0
Major-General R. F. B. Naylor	5	0	0
Mrs. Whateley	1	0	0
Harry Holt, Ltd.		10	0
Mrs. O. P. Edgcumbe	5	0	0
Lieut.-Colonel R. S. L. Wight	2	2	0
Captain H. B. Sayers		10	6
Lieut.-Colonel A. J. Harris	1	1	0
Mrs. Kennedy, for Electrical Association for Women	1	4	8
Colonel H. A. J. Parsons	2	0	0
Mrs. Smijth Windham		10	0
Mrs. Adams	1	0	0
Brigadier W. R. C. Penney	2	0	0
Dr. C. H. Brann	3	0	0
15th Divisional Signals	10	0	0
Lieut.-Colonel V. Warren	5	0	0
Staff of R.Signals Records Office	3	0	0
R. Wattkins Pitenford, Esq.	1	1	0
Mrs. G. C. Wickins	1	1	0
Major J. R. Pinsent	5	0	0
Depot Battalion, 1st S.T.C.	5	0	0
Brigadier F. A. Heymann	2	0	0
The Mercers Company	5	0	0
Mrs. Tillard	1	0	0
C.S.O. and Staff, Eastern Command	20	0	0
Mrs. Phillips	1	1	0
A. McDonald, Esq.		10	0
Mrs. Ozanne (Jumble Sale)	4	5	0
The Lady Pender	2	2	0
Mrs. C. H. Prickett	1	0	0
Brigadier C. H. Prickett	3	0	0
Messrs. Gouldens of Canterbury		10	0
Depot Battalion, 3rd S.T.C.	7	3	9
Captain H. R. V. Cooke	2	10	0
Captain Hepper	1	0	0
Electrical Associat on for Women	1	16	0
Miss and Master Fladgate		12	0
Mrs. Ross	4	0	0
5th (London) Corps Signals (Dance)	31	7	6
Mrs. Brunskill	1	0	0
also			
Mrs. White ..... Knitted goods to the value of and many gifts in kind from other donors.	8	0	0

Many parcels of woollen comforts have already been despatched and the following extracts from letters of appreciation received speak for themselves:

"B.E.F.
"29th December, 1939.

"I thank you very much for sending the parcel of clothing for the men of my Unit.

"The contents will be distributed to those who need them most and I am sure they would wish me to thank you very much on their behalf for your kindness.

"(Signed) ——— Lieut.-Colonel,
"Officer Commanding."

"B.E.F.,
"December, 1939.

"The parcel was received today in good condition. Will you please convey to your associates the grateful thanks of my Unit, and I, for their kindness and attention to our welfare, and especially the thanks of the recipients for whom these splendid gifts will do much to mitigate the rigours of the wintry weather we are now experiencing.

"(Signed) ——— Lieut.-Colonel,
"Divisional Signals."

"B.E.F.,
31st December, 1939.

"I wish to thank you very much for the mittens I have received from the Royal Signals Comforts Fund. I can assure you that your effort to improve our comfort is greatly appreciated by all out here. Please accept my best wishes for the coming year.

"(Signed) ——— Signalman, R.Signals,
"Infantry Brigade."

"B.E.F.,
"16th December, 1939.

"Thank you very much indeed for the parcel of footballs received today. It is impossible to buy such things here and your gift was greatly appreciated by the men, the comments passed when the footballs were handed over leave no shadow of doubt about that.

"(Signed) ——— Lieut.-Colonel,
"Officer Commanding."

"B.E.F.,
"29th December, 1939.

"I would like to add that members of this Supplementary Reserve Unit appreciate more than words can tell the combined effort that is being made for their welfare, signalizing as it does in so practical a fashion the strong bond which exists now, more than ever, between the various branches of the Corps.

"(Signed) ——— Lieut.-Colonel,
"Officer Commanding."

I haven't much faith in the man who complains
Of the work he has chosen to do ;
He's lazy, or else he's deficient of brains,
And may be a hypocrite, too.
For whether he's wielding a sceptre or swob,
I've faith in the man who's in love with his job.
(By courtesy of " The Globe and Laurel.")

Benevolent Fund Notes

The Administrator gratefully acknowledges receipt of the following :

CASH SUBSCRIPTIONS from :
Aldershot Command Trust.
United Services Trustee (grant from Royal Tournament Profits Fund).
Miss Dorothy C. Riggs.

APPEALS dealt with :

1	Ex-Signalman, Belfast	Grant £5	0	0
2	Signalman, Essex	Grant £1	10	0
3	Ex-Signalman, Herts	Grant £3	0	0
4	Ex-Signalman, Essex	Grant £2	0	0
5	Ex-Driver, Middlesex	Grant £3	0	0
6	Ex-Driver, Nottingham	Grant £2	0	0
7	Ex-Signalman, Liverpool	Grant £3	0	0
8	Ex-Signalman, Herts	Grant £2	0	0

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

Plain Tales.

Greetings—Free Issue.—A very prosperous New Year to you, and as happy a year as you can possibly make it. I wish you peace of mind and continual good news. Good health and the strength to wait until that for which you wait arrives.

To Hitler, Stalin & Co. I can only say that I hope all their indents are cancelled or sent back for amendment. I can think of nothing worse. For myself I am not expecting Christmas, happy or otherwise, but I am assured that it will arrive soon after this is posted, with my love to you all.

Chaps—believe it or not—I am having a real fight to get something on this page. I had a heartbreaking l tter all ready to send to the Editor explaining how it was that I couldn't possibly write the sort of stuff the readers of Plain Tales look for. Then I thought that I might as well write to you instead. Not that I've got the time. Far from it. If ever I become unemployed after the War I shall remember these days. I never thought there was so much work in the country. I even begrudge the time I spend asleep. Maybe I take the War too seriously. Perhaps I shouldn't regard the provision of boots and Fullerphones for the troops as anything desperately urgent. I met a Q.M. the other day and he had a carefree look about him that deceived me completely. I thought he was an Adjutant or something.

Don't look now, but I think I have left out the headings to the paragraphs. It just shows how pressed for time I am. We should do better with the assistance of Recruit " Bill " Langham who joined us the other day. These old soldiers refuse to be left out of this show. Sergeant Langham—I say, how promotion goes these days—is more than welcome. He is a gift from heaven or James Watt Street. The arrival of a couple of pretty useful shorthand typists (men) strengthens my conviction that the Orderly Room will soon become disconcertingly efficient.

I haven't thought of any suitable phrases for the troops in France, but I was thinking of the peculiar relation between the English and French words. Connections, as it were, that wouldn't occur to normal people like yourself. Chat, for instance, is a French cat—which is beside the point. The equivalent of the English chat is causerie, which makes people like me look for cause and effect. Chat in English also means a most irritating parasite that lived on most human bodies in the last War. It may explain why Napoleon is shown with one hand inside his jacket. You'll soon find out if this becomes a real war.

There was no particular reason why Colonel Ukann Larfe should go to the Green Sock Club on a Tuesday night. He hated the place and on one occasion had been grossly insulted by the Head Waiter. Earlier in the evening he declared that nothing on earth would make him go there again. The place was terribly draughty and the food pretty grim. The most tolerant diner-out would confess that there was very little about the place to attract anyone.

Colonel Ukann Larfe didn't go there anyway, which leaves me wondering why I mentioned it.

My old friend " Joe " Carnall tells me that the Birmingham Branch, O.C.A., is not lying down just because there is a War. On the contrary, the good work continues. Good luck to them. We hope to find them going strong when we come back. My apologies, Joe, in case I still haven't written, and a Happy New Year to you all.

BARLEUX.

Divisional Signals, B.E.F.

Nearly three months have passed since this Unit darkened the portals of Stores Alley in a town Somewhere in England. To endeavour to write about the happenings since then would need a better man than the present scribe, so I am not going to attempt it. This effort is made to prove that the Unit still exists and very much so, as one should know if they have read some of the glowing accounts " written up " by the Press.

We are the proud possessors of the cheery Captain with the twinkling brown eyes—those readers of the Continental " Daily Mail " will no doubt remember the article introducing him to its readers. He and his merry men have toiled from the rising of the sun until its final waning glow, introducing a network of lines ; in doing so overcoming hazards with efforts of supermen, at least so I'm told. Mud and water—cold, dirty water—had no qualms for them, they thrived in it—or is it, on it ?—and now we not only have one cheery brown-eyed Captain but a complete little Section—one has only to see their return after a day out to believe this. To help them on with the good work they have co-opted the aid of other Sections—buried cables is the theme song now. Waders, picks and shovels, make up their equipment, a sturdy frame with ever expanding biceps their own contribution plus the dig. Trenches six feet deep have to be dug, rivers have to be crossed, railways have to be tunnelled and roads have to be dug up to do this job. No matter the weather, the work goes on, so Signals get down to real hard work.

What is not understood by these parties is how the Post Office at home comes to know of their digging activities. Can I suggest that the franking mark on the letters from home, " Dig for Victory," is not for their benefit but for suburban cabbage growers. Perhaps some of the Post Office subscribers will inform our human excavators the true facts. So much for " B " Cable.

Other Sections have got down to it well and proper. O.C. " D " Section has his merry men in good fettle. Signal Offices have functioned up and down the country, and have done good work trying to add early laurels to the Corps. Four subsections now take reliefs at the main Signal Centre and during this static condition of active service, good training is the result, though we must not forget that schemes and active service are vastly different—ask Sergeant Muir.

The remaining Sections—I am only associating these notes with the activities of No. 1 Company—have also had their jobs of work to do. " M " Section tells me that the War Establishment does not cater sufficiently for wood spoilers. It appears that our Unit carpenters have had quite a lot to do since taking up their tools out here ; but why worry, " M," everyone gets plenty to do on active service. To confirm this, ask the Infantry in the trenches and they haven't fired a shot yet. The Unit



COLONEL A. H. FRENCH, D.S.O.

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as a whole has got down to work quite efficiently ; those years of training have had their results. Thus, we who make a part of the B.E.F., get a mention vide TRAINING INSTRUCTIONS. It was a pleasure to be a member of the Div. Signal convoy on our " March " through France. The whole march was completed in several stages—ancient history now—nothing untoward happened during these stages, a credit to all concerned. Before each move, the C.O., having the whole movement and its requirements under his thumb, issued his orders ; these orders covered everything. Petrol, oil, rations, protection from the air, mode of country, halts—all were catered for. Hot meals came along regularly at the end of each move, each department was dovetailed into the other ; food could not be obtained if petrol for the vehicles to get it was not available. All orders were concise and strictly to the point, and everyone receiving them did their utmost to comply ; the direct result of this was a scarcity of rockets. (Rockets—George Graves will enlighten you—is first cousin to the bowler hat of peace-time soldiering.)

A contemporary has published that most casualties in the B.E.F. have been amongst the D.R.s. Can I suggest that Corporal McCartney has imparted a homing spirit into his men as they all seem to return safe and sound. The only casualty being one who made his bed on a ledge and then fell off it during the night, breaking his collar bone.

Leave is now one of the main topics of one's leisure (?) hours. The first batch sail for Blighty some time during the middle of December. One bright spark wants to know that, as he had to take everything with him when he went, did that mean the straw he was sleeping on as well—now you know why W.O.s go bald.

The Unit possesses a canteen of sorts (the writer has yet to see an E.F.I. (N.A.A.F.I.). This is a great asset ; it helps to pour " washers " into the coffers of the P.R.I. and helps to provide the wants of the needy. Tea-making seems to be the stabilised industry, gallons of this is quaffed every day if numbers seen sitting in there behind French mugs count for anything. Mine host is Lance Corporal Anderson, once the proud possessor of a flaxen moustache, lost early I am afraid in this campaign through saying " Oui " to everything the little French barberess who was shaving him said. Lost moustache, but not all hope to grow another.

Christmas is nearly on us now, and the C.O. and officers are busy trying to produce a scheme of events to brighten up the existing state of affairs. This is not an easy task ; we are still at war, we still have to be ready to act quickly. All these considerations have to be brought to the fore.

Before concluding this budget, at least a few more words should be said about the Q.M. and his staff. Clothing, a bane on all Q.M.s in those happy days of peace, is now given away. Can I voice all ex-R.Q.M.S.s and say " We didn't do that in our day." Even " giving it away " seems to take up a lot of one's time, but there—perhaps it's owing to a complaint that is so prevalent in Q.M.s' departments these days—nicotine poisoning—or is it that one hates to part with it for nothing ? " Sign here " is still in vogue ; can a reason be given for this ?

Well, here's to the next time. Good hunting. We hope that all Units, no matter where they may be, have enjoyed a happy Christmas, and we wish them the best of New Years. Keep smiling, Signals, and always remember the Corps picture known to so many—" THROUGH "—and let it be our motto again, though it's twenty years later.

UNCLE MAC.

A.A. Signals, B.E.F.

(FOURTH INSTALMENT BY W.J.A.N.)

Tempus certainly Fugits and once again I must hustle around to collect sufficient data for our January contribution. Yet another move has taken place and we have now linked up again with our H.Q. It was with very great regret that we bade *au revoir* to our numerous " village " friends and also those of Unit to which we were temporarily attached. Before departing, the Commanding Officer of the latter paid a glowing tribute to the work done and the splendid behaviour of all during their period of attachment. Well done, fellows !

The weather has not been of the best, consequently sport has had to be considerably curtailed. The amount of work, however, has been doubled and maintenance parties particularly have been experiencing a very stiff time. Fortunately mechanization has eased the lot of drivers and linemen generally, but although there is a complete absence of such onerous duties as " grooming," " watering and feeding," etc., it must not be forgotten that M.T. vehicles present problems and complications of their own and although quickly " groomed " and easily " fed " they are just as prone to occasional attacks of " colic " and " staggers " as their equine counterparts.

On Monday, 27th November, a very interesting two and a half hours were spent on a friendly debate. The subject chosen was " Tne Freedom of the Press," which was proposed by Signalman Carney and Corporal Bailey, and opposed by Corporal Quinn and Sapper Skerving, R.E. The Padre officiated as chairman. " Signals " succeeded in punching their argument home to such good effect that they received an overwhelming majority in favour of the motion. May we take this opportunity of thanking the Padre for his eloquent summing-up.

The all-prevailing topic of the day is " leave," and the fortunate few are now counting the days. Remember the poster, chaps :

THE MAIDEN LOVED THE " SPOKEN " WORD,
A COMRADE LOST, AND HITLER SERVED.

In passing, may I appeal to our WIRE readers for books ? Parcels of light literature consigned to the Editor will be redespatched to me in due course and I will guarantee a fair and even distribution. A Committee has just been selected to cater for our Christmas dinner arrangements and there is every indication that we shall do ourselves really well. What a sight for the gods to see. " Q." marshalling his flock of live turkeys and ducks for inspection, to say nothing of Russell's pig.

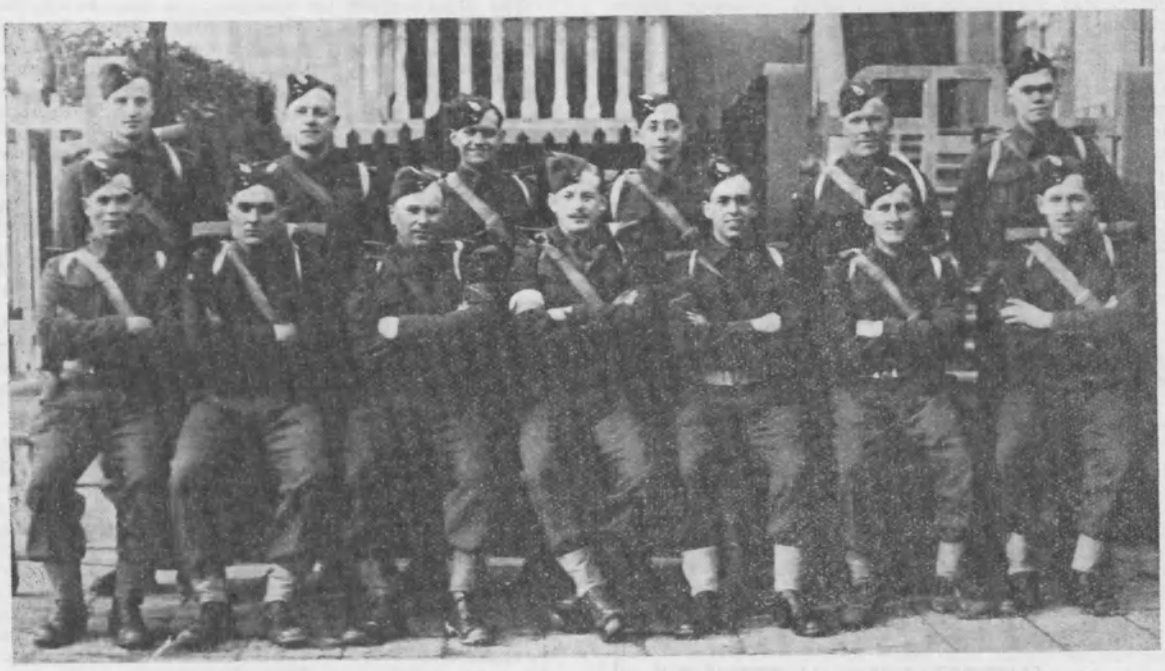
To those who contemplate a tour of this sector of France during the Spring I can strongly recommend a flying visit to " Donald's Steam Engine." Stephenson's " Rocket " is not in the same class and it is rumoured that the Imperial War Museum have already earmarked the former as a unique exhibit.

An interesting lecture on Japan was given to the Unit by the " C.O.O." on 11th December, and a programme of debates,

WITH THE B.E.F.



Officers of Corps Signals Headquarters, B.E.F.



Officer, N.C.O.s and Men of the same Unit, recently inspected by H.M. The King

arranged by the men, is in course of preparation. Suggestions for " subjects " will be welcomed.

In conclusion, the following is thought to be worth repetition :

Officer in Mess, after listening to a German broadcast : " What is this 31 metre band ? Sounds very suggestive of Georing's waist-line."

" How did Harvey get his bunch of flowers ? "

" Does the Corporal really like being kissed in public ? "

We send our cordial greetings and best wishes to all members of the Corps at home and abroad, and may the New Year see us well on the way towards a speedy return to our peace-time stations.

The War To Date

(Continued)

By E. W. S.

The last few weeks of the war, up to the end of the third week of November, the date of writing these lines, have seen no startling developments. Such were indeed hardly to be expected, at any rate in the purely military field, for the season when active campaigning on land is possible is by now well over. On sea and in the air, however, there has been steady, if hardly spectacular, fighting, while in the political field the Germans have made vigorous but unsuccessful efforts to secure some compensation for their inability to make any impression on the armed forces of the Allies.

The story of the campaign in the West is soon told. All along the front from the Swiss to the Belgian border, where the thickly-manned Siegfried and Maginot Lines face each other, there has been nothing but minor activity on either side. The French have brought back their main forces into the comparative comfort of the commodious underground shelters of the Maginot Line, leaving only small forward detachments in No Man's Land. The Germans are less well situated to withstand the rigours of the coming winter, for the pill-boxes and forts of the Siegfried Line were erected in haste and the first attention of their builders was devoted to making them defensible rather than habitable. Their front line soldiery will, therefore, have to face greater discomforts and hardships in the months to come, with deleterious effects on their morale and health. But as large scale operations are unlikely, any such effects can safely be minimised by shortening the periods of front line duty and by frequent reliefs for rest in the back areas. The return of campaigning weather in the Spring is, therefore, likely to find the troops on both sides in good fighting fettle, physically as well as morally.

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WILL OUR READERS PLEASE SUPPORT THEM IN RETURN ?

At sea the Allied navies have continued their stern battle against the war being waged by the German craft, both surface and submarine, against their trade and overseas communications. This battle, moreover, is slowly but steadily being won. The sinkings of German submarines are not published in detail, for the good reason that such secrecy keeps the enemy in the dark as to the progress of his campaign and of the gaps and defects in the machinery with which he is waging it—information which would naturally be of the utmost value to him. But it has been officially stated that a full third of the pre-war total of German submarines have been disposed of, and that the rate at which they are being sunk is still well in excess of that at which new craft are being constructed. Submarines without trained officers and crews, moreover, are a peril rather to those within them than to those against whom their efforts are being directed, and the training of personnel is a longer process than that of building boats. Meanwhile, the Allied anti-submarine flotillas are being increased at a rapid rate. The quota of vessels available for escort duty is already sufficient to allow of the main bulk of our maritime trade going through under convoy. The time-lag in the arrival of supplies, due to the change over from the free and unfettered peace-time flow of our world-wide commerce to the slower tempo of war-time, with its more restricted field of supply and more sluggish movement, has now been almost completely carried through. The losses inflicted on our merchant shipping, at no time ever approaching the figure attained by the enemy submarines at the peak of their effort in the last Great War, have been more than counter-balanced by our own captures from the Germans and by new construction in our own shipyards.

Equally disappointing in its results for the Germans has been the attempt to supplement their submarines' depredations by those of surface raiders. Two such, believed, though not yet conclusively proved, to have been the two pocket battleships " Deutschland " and "Admiral Scheer," have been wandering the high seas for some weeks, with singularly little to show for their efforts beyond a captured vessel or two. Here again their exploits so far compare most unfavourably with those achieved by the German cruisers in the early weeks of the war of 1914-1918. Though it would be premature to aver that the German effort at sea is broken as yet, it is true to say that we have it well in hand, and that the conditions under which it will have to be carried on in the coming months will become progressively more difficult and unfavourable as time goes on.

The great contest for supremacy in the air, on the issue of which, in the view of many, the ultimate result of the whole War will largely turn, is still awaited. Such aerial activity as has taken place has been sporadic and on a small scale only. Its course so far seems to indicate, somewhat unexpectedly, that air defence, when fully developed on modern lines, is reasonably equal to dealing with air attack, which can only be pushed home in the face of it at the risk of having to pay with heavy casualties for disproportionately small results. Another deduction, which again can be made only with reserve, is that the constructors of the German air fleet have concentrated on quantity rather than on quality, and that, machine for machine, the Allied aircraft are the swifter, the hardier, and the more formidable. But it is doubtful whether either side has yet been put fully to the test in these respects, for neither has used the latest and best types it is known to possess. The true balance of superiority between them must, therefore, still remain a matter of conjecture, though all that has occurred so far entitles the Allies to await the issue of the coming struggle for air mastery without misgiving.

Meanwhile the geographical position of France and Great Britain, which many prophets of evil expected to be gravely disadvantageous from the point of view of air warfare, has now been shown in fact to be exactly the reverse. Broadly speaking, the hearts of both countries are out of the reach of enemy air fleets, combined as such must be if they are to meet the defence of equal terms, of combined fighter and bomber squadrons. The restricted radius of action of the German fighters debars them from escorting as far as their objectives the bigger but heavier and clumsier bombers, so that these latter, if they raid at all, have to raid alone. This state of affairs places them in much the same position as a flight of bluebottles ordered to attack a wasp's nest, and the results of their operations so far have been just what might have been expected under the circumstances. Their raids have been few and far between, and those that have

taken place have been either costly or ineffective—sometimes both. Meanwhile the numerical superiority, with which Germany started the war, is slowly but surely being eaten away as Allied construction gets well into its swing. At the moment, it appears, she is unable to make effective use of her powerful air arm, and as the air arm of her foes is growing more powerful every week, her chances of being able to do so in future will certainly diminish rather than increase. Here, as in the naval and military fields, she is fighting against time, and time is winning the battle. Hence the hesitation of her rulers to take desperate risks for some remotely possible decisive gain, which has been to many of us so surprising, and yet is surely, in the full realisation of the circumstances, so easily comprehensible a feature of these last few weeks of war.

Unable to fulfil in the fighting field the expectations they themselves had stirred up in their patient but bewildered people of annihilating and decisive blows at the Allies, the Nazi leaders have had recourse to the diplomatic sphere for their purposes. But here, too, their efforts to register some spectacular success have so far been without fruit. The raising of the embargo on the export of arms from the United States, though expected generally, was not only a diplomatic but a military setback, the full gravity of which the German propagandists have striven hard, but with little conviction, to conceal from their listeners.

A desperate effort to form up against Britain a *bloc* of neutrals sworn together to protest against and resist the exercise of our contraband control of German imports has so far come to nothing, for the simple reason that the neutrals had more to lose than to gain from such a policy, which they were without the means, even if they had had the will, to carry into effect. Our new ban on German exports, however, is likely to hit them severely and has already aroused official protest from them. So far as possible we shall, no doubt, try to minimise the adverse effects on their commerce. In other fields, however, these same neutrals asserted their independence in various ways as surprising to Germany as they were disconcerting. Norway took upon herself to release the captured American ship "City of Flint" and intern the German prize crew, which, in defiance of international law, insisted on seeking the shelter of one of her harbours without a recognised reason. Belgium and Holland, threatened with attack if they continued tamely to acquiesce in Britain's exercise of her lawful attributes of sea power, responded, not by craven yielding, but by facing manfully up to the danger that threatened them. In order to avoid too provocative an attitude towards Germany, however, the sovereigns of the two countries agreed to sponsor a new appeal for peace—an appeal which, as was expected, fell on deaf ears, since Germany neither could nor would relinquish any of her ill-gotten gains, and the Allies were bound by honour as well as by self-interest, to force her to disgorge them.

Meanwhile Belgium and Holland gained a respite to complete their defences, and the Nazi leaders, foiled of another cheap and showy success over the weak of the kind on which their reputations have hitherto been built up, held their hands from an enterprise which they proceeded at once, as usual, to avow they had never had in mind in any case.

And so the war stands at present in the same sort of poised stalemate as a month ago. On balance of all forces, Germany may still enjoy a slight material superiority—too slight for her to dare to venture on any perilous and costly enterprises, even were the season of the year appropriate for any such, but large enough for her leaders to face the future with some hope, if little assurance, that something will turn up to swing the course of events once more in their favour, and a reasonable confidence that in any case they can take heavy toll of the Allies as the price of their victory.

But material forces are not everything, or indeed the main thing, in war, and the moral element may yet prove the deciding factor. Morale is difficult to weigh accurately and much of the news of dissensions, discontent, and lack of fighting spirit in Germany must be heavily discounted to be on the safe side. But the Munich bomb explosions, whether it was a genuine attempt on Hitler's life, or an effort by his followers to boost up his prestige by crowning him with the halo of a might-have-been martyr, is clear evidence of a sub-current of unrest and disaffection in Germany which is either ready to express itself or else can only be suppressed by desperate measures. Open unrest in Bohemia-Moravia is steadily swelling, and elsewhere anti-Government feeling, though less pronounced and widespread, is subterraneously smouldering. All these moral factors will not alone win victory for the Allies, but they will certainly hamper and discommode Germany more and more as time goes on. Those Germans, probably the majority, who hope for and believe in a German victory are bewildered and disappointed at the failure of the much-trumpeted Nazi war machine to clinch it. Those who care nothing for victory and have no desire for war grow continually more weary and restive at the prospect of a long-drawn-out struggle against ever-increasing odds, which can have but one end.

So the matter at present stands. The Allies' attitude of mind, though not one of complacency or over confidence, may well be one of reasonable thankfulness and satisfaction. It may be said

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with some certainty, though prophecy is always perilous, that the possibility of the Allies losing the war grows every day more remote, and is already to-day negligible, and that though the goal of their victory still lies far ahead, every week brings them, slowly perhaps but quite surely, nearer to it.

The Growth of the British Army

By E. W. S.

Amid the world-shaking events of the past few months, one matter that has met with too little notice and commendation has been the steady and measured growth of the British Army. If the last Great War be any guide to the present one, the burden of the campaign in the West will certainly fall more and more upon our shoulders as time goes on and the size and efficiency of our military machine approximates more closely to that finest of all European armies to-day, the French Army. The sooner our Army can be brought up to that high standard, the nearer will be the day of Allied victory. It is of interest, therefore, to recount the steps by which it has attained its present standard—a standard, it may be at once said, which compares very favourably with that of 1914—and to forecast the effects of the measures passed since the outbreak of war. These measures, of course, will not make themselves fully felt for some time to come.

The strength of the British Army, including Regular Army, Army Reserve, Special Reserve, and Territorial Force, in July, 1914, totalled some 700,000 all ranks. In 1938 the corresponding figure was considerably smaller, little over 500,000, and this military weakness made itself disastrously felt during the September crisis of that year, just as it had done during our earlier Sanctions dispute with Italy in 1936. It had now become evident that only a widespread and spectacular strengthening of our Army could restore to the British Empire its lost weight in the International Field. It was the joint in our armour, and the effects of its inadequacy was all the more unfortunate because military thought on the Continent has often tended to underestimate the value of sea power in war and to measure armed strength merely by counting soldiers' heads.

The German seizure of Czecho-Slovakia in March, 1939, made it plain to the world that the uneasy truce of Munich was not to see an end of the aggressive policy of Hitler, but was apparently merely regarded by him as an encouragement to further steps for aggrandisement. The British Government, therefore, announced that the Territorial Army, then on a peace establishment of 160,000 men, was to be recruited up to its original war establishment of 200,000 and then doubled in strength, thus bringing it up to a total establishment of 340,000 men for the Field Army only. At the same time the anti-aircraft coast defence formations, also comprised in the Territorial Army, were increased to 110,000 more, making a total of 450,000 men for the whole force.

This new Field Army was to be organised in eighteen divisions of normal type, six motorised divisions, and two armoured divisions, while the total of anti-aircraft divisions was raised to seven. At the same time it was decided to allot four of the six Regular Infantry divisions serving outside India to the Field Army, together with two Regular Infantry divisions and one armoured division. Such was the "blue print" of the new model British Army at the beginning of the fateful summer of this year.

It was soon clear that more than this was required if the desired impression was to be made on our prospective Allies and our possible enemies. Both doubted whether our proposed military reforms went far enough, and doubted still more whether under the voluntary system of recruitment the necessary men to fill the new establishments could be secured. Germany, so far from halting in her chosen path of aggression, entered upon a policy of menaces and provocation towards Poland, and was obviously meditating a new attack on a weaker neighbour. At the same time she was spreading abroad the view that Britain was, as usual, "ready to fight to the last Frenchman," but unprepared to impose on her own manhood the obligation of military service, which every other Continental Power, great and small, accepts as normal and just. It was, therefore, decided that the introduction of conscription in Britain could no longer be delayed, and at the end of May the Military Training Bill enacting it became law.

Under this Act all men between the ages of 20 and 21 became liable for military service. It was laid down that these new recruits should be trained for six months with the Regular Army, and for the remaining three and a half years of their four-year period should serve in the Territorial Army; but the outbreak of war before even the first batch of the new Militiamen had finished their period of initial Regular training, of course, annulled this last provision. This first batch of 50,000 men were called up forthwith, and all but 3,500 of them were found medically fit for some form of service. The number of unfit was, in fact, fewer than the number of conscientious objectors to such service, for whom most careful and generous provision had been made, and whose cases aroused a somewhat exaggerated proportion of Parliamentary and public attention. The spirit of these first compulsory soldiers was little less admirable than their physique, though neither quite came up to the extraordinarily high standard set by the last batch of voluntary recruits to the Territorial Army, which formed perhaps the best human military material that has ever offered itself to the British Army in peace or war, with qualities that came as a revelation to all who came into contact with them. The path of the new Militiamen was not made easier by the somewhat fatuous manner in which the Press chose to deal with their advent, or by certain deficiences in the inevitably hurried arrangements made to house, feed, and train them. Most of these difficulties had been, or were rapidly being, overcome when the German attack on Poland at the end of August brought Britain and France from a state of uneasy peace to one of open war.

Immediately on the outbreak of war there was passed the Armed Forces (Conditions of Service) Act, which had the effect of unifying the Army and doing away with the distinctions between Regulars, Territorials, Supplementary Reservists and Militiamen. All alike now became full-time soldiers, liable for service overseas wherever required; all were placed on the same rates of pay and allowances; and all alike became eligible for

consideration in due course for promotion to non-commissioned, warrant, and even commissioned rank. The Army, in a word, became one Army, save for one remaining distinction between its various former classes of personnel. The undertaking given by the Secretary of State for War, shortly after the outbreak of hostilities, that boys under the age of 20, though liable for service under the law, should not be called up unless urgently required, or sent overseas without the prior consent of Parliament, was not held applicable to those who had enlisted voluntarily in the Regular or Territorial Armies before the passing of the Military Training Act.

The question of commissions was also placed at once on a new footing. The grant of permanent commissions in the Army was suspended, and it was laid down that only temporary commissions for the duration of the war would in future be given. All applicants for these would first have to serve in the ranks and be recommended from there—a reform which had long been discussed and foreshadowed as likely to be applied even to candidates for permanent commissions. But as the need for a greatly enlarged supply of officers was immediate, a call was made for all ex-officers with previous service or men with special qualifications, as well as for those who had gained certificates in Officers' Training Corps in officer producing units of the Territorial Army, to fill up the gap for the time being, until the full flow of candidates for commissions from the ranks could be set going. That stage has now already been reached; the recruitment of prospective officers of these categories has now been shut down, and many of those already accepted, particularly of the older ex-officer or specialist classes, are still awaiting a call on their services.

At the same time, though compulsory service for all between the ages of 18 and 41 had now become the law of the land, the door was not closed to voluntary enlistment; and all arms and branches, first of the Guards, then in all other combatant branches of the Army, were quickly opened for this purpose. The age limits for Great Britain were from 22 to 35, in Northern Ireland from 20 to 35, and it was laid down that all men so enlisted should report for commencement of training in mid-November.

Simultaneously with this came an appeal for instructors and administrative personnel. All ex-soldiers with technical trade qualifications, whose civil employment had accustomed them to the handling of men, and all ex-warrant and non-commissioned officers were asked to enrol, even those whose service was no more recent or longer than in the Great War of 1914-1918. Arrangements were made for promoting these men to their appropriate rank after three weeks' trial service as private soldiers; but men in reserved occupations were specifically barred from the scheme.

In a few days another avenue of service was opened for the old soldiery of the Great War in the form of a new Auxiliary Military Pioneer Corps. Enlistment for this was limited to men from 35 to 50, and its duties were to ensure the maintenance of all supplies to the Army in the Field by handling at docks, bases, and depots, by maintenance work on roads and railways behind the fighting zone, and by new light railway and road constructions as required. Pay and conditions were the same as those for infantry of the line, but once more the man in a reserved occupation was debarred from offering his services.

An extension of this scheme was later made by the raising of special stevedore battalions of the R.E. for work connected with unloading and discharge of ships at the Field Army's base ports overseas. The Employers' Associations, in co-operation with their Union's representations at the various ports throughout the country, gave an undertaking that all dock workers enlisting in these units should be restored on demobilisation to the register of the port from which they had come to join up.

Meanwhile, what may be regarded as the last line of Home Defence, the National Defence Companies, were also in process of reorganisation and reinforcement. The various small and scattered units without ties or central control were collected and function to larger bodies affiliated to Regular or Territorial Regiments of the Army, and an appeal for men from 35 to 50 years of age to enrol for service in these met with a generally good though somewhat uneven response throughout the country.



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It has now been decided to group these scattered companies into new Home Defence Battalions affiliated to Regiments of the line; 57 of these are to be formed, and a first call for 20,000 men has already been put out.

Thus gradually and by slow but steady degrees the British Army is re-shaping itself for war. Those who remember the same process in 1914 and 1915 may wonder, and perhaps be slightly disappointed, at the present absence of the fervour and bustle of those days. But much of this was due to hasty improvisation and misdirection of effort, inevitable when an unready and unmilitary nation has to transform itself quickly from a footing of peace to one of war. Britain is not so placed to-day; there is less enthusiasm for, though a far fuller knowledge of, war than there was a quarter of a century ago, but there is no less determination to fight through to a victorious end because there is less of the "valour of ignorance" to be seen on the surface of our national life. If less is apparently being done to-day to raise new armies for war, it is because their foundations, which were all to make then, have now been well and truly laid beforehand. What was then being attempted, if one may so put it, by a horde of keen and energetic handicraftsmen is now being accomplished by a machinery specially designed for the purpose on the solid basis of our experience in those distant days, and already fully at work at its task. Modifications here and there will, of course, be called for from time to time, and the respective claims of speeding up and thoroughness may have to be adjusted as the need arises. But noise and bustle and clamour must not be mistaken for the signs of efficiency; it is usually the quietest running engine that does its work most economically and most successfully.

The British Army of the War of 1939, which is being forged to-day, will be a fully worthy successor of that of 1914—more finely tempered, better designed, and more mature; and it will face whatever hard tasks may lie before it with the same spirit and valour as inspired its illustrious forerunners.

HOME STATIONS

Yorkshire I.

1st Operators' Training Battalion

Headquarters Section

General.—Hello everybody! We are now enjoying local weather at its wettest and worst, rain, rain, and still more rain, coupled with extremely strong winds have combined to make things very unpleasant for us. As a result, our activities have increased rather than diminished. It has been decided that the Operators' Training Battalion shall stay here for Christmas, having been allotted the New Year for annual leave. Plans are accordingly being made with a view to making Christmas a really pleasant holiday. To alleviate the despondency of whoever may feel their absence from home, the Entertainments Committee are making arrangements to hold a concert on Christmas Eve, and after the dinner on Christmas Day an all ranks " smoker " and an all ranks' dance to be given on Boxing Night. For this latter event it is hoped to have our own Unit dance band. For some time past auditions have been held and so encouraging have been the results that it is likely that the new band will be formed well in advance of Christmas. We are extremely grateful to Mr. Hibbert and the Corps Band, and thank him and the boys for the very pleasant evenings they have devoted to us, but we realise that we cannot hope to have him always and so the Unit band will prove, we hope, a fair substitute.

Social.—During the past month we have had several visits from E.N.S.A. concert parties. On Saturday, 25th November, one of these—The Royal Variety Company—a production organised by Will Hay, gave a performance in the Regimental Institute. It was a great success and was much enjoyed. The star features included the Four Stuarts in fun and song at the piano ; Danvers, Lucas and Rowlands, three personality dancing girls ; Lipski, the well-known Jewish comedian of radio fame, well supported by the songs and dances of Jack and Betty May, Zola and Mattie, and Len Kilsum and his accordion. The week previously an impromptu concert and dance was held in the W.O.'s and Sergeants' Mess and several officers and their friends attended. On Monday and Tuesday of the same week, the " Tommy-Rotters " Concert Party, an amateur society from Richmond, gave a performance of real merit, and on Wednesday, 29th November, a Unit concert was given in the Regimental Institute. This was noteworthy for the fact that for the first time we were assisted by A.T.S. personnel. The efforts of the latter were much appreciated by the audience, and the Royal Signals' Band under the able direction of Mr. Hibbert was in particularly good form.

Unfortunately, several unforeseen occurences have held up production of the Dramatic Society's play " Journey's End." It was intended to present the show in time for Christmas, but owing to the very unfortunate posting of two of the principal " leads," it was necessary to re-cast the players and so much valuable time has been lost. However, the new cast are now busily preparing their parts and we hope that the postponement will not be of long duration. Meanwhile small sketches and humorous dialogues are pouring in from embryo authors and there is much to be going on with. On Sunday, 10th December, a piano recital was given by our very talented Signalman Reynolds in the Gaiety Theatre. This concert was more in the nature of an experiment, as it was thought that some attempt ought to be made to cater for those who like good music. It proved to be an outstanding success and we hope that these concerts will become a regular feature on Sunday afternoons. The programme included the well-known Moonlight Sonata of Beethoven, Chopin's Nocturne in E Flat, and Fantasie Impromptu, Weber's Invitation to the Waltz, Tchaikovsky's Valse des Fleurs, Mozart's Minuet and Trio from Symphony No. 39 in E Flat, and Liszt's Sonata and Hungarian Rhapsody. After the recital the applause was tremendous and Signalman Reynolds then played the beautiful Liebestraum.

Sport.—The Battalion Soccer XI suffered a disappointing defeat in the final round of the Garrison Knock-out Competition. As stated in our previous notes, we reached the fina with the Reservist Battalion, owing to the unfortunate withdrawal of the other two semi-finalists. The match took place on the Garrison Ground on Saturday, 18th November. It was a very keenly fought game and the Operators were unlucky that the Reservists should force a replay by equalising in the last four minutes of extra time. The replay took place on the following Wednesday afternoon and the Reservists, playing vigorous, uncompromising football, were worthy winners by four goals to two. The Operators scored first in the first five minutes and helped by a strong wind had much the better of the early play although they could not prevent the Reservists from levelling the score just before half-time. In the second half, the game definitely swung round in favour of the Reservists and except for a belated rally in the last quarter of an hour by the Operators, they always looked like winning. That the game was lost, is, I think, due to the greater experience of the Reservists and the lack of plan on the part of the 1st Operators' Training Battalion. After the lesson of the drawn game in which Gomm was very effectively held in check, it was thought that an occasional switch between Gomm and Gallagher, playing at inside left, would prove an effective counter. Actually, however, instead of confusing the opposition, this inter-change of positions was completely abortive since it resulted merely in both players being too close together in the middle.

Since then the Battalion side has played in only one game, as the fixture with The Green Howards had to be cancelled on account of very bad weather. This match was against the 152nd O.C.T.U., and was played on the Riding School Ground. Result, 2—1 in our favour.

Hockey has made considerable progress since last month, and after a number of inter-Company games two sides were chosen to meet respectively the O.C.T.U. and " C " Battery, R.A. This was a sort of trial, and on the individual merit of the two teams, the following side was selected to represent the Unit against The Green Howards : Lance Corporal Evans ; Corporal Forslind, Lance Corporal Davies ; Lance Sergeant Scott, Sergeant Burrell (captain), Corporal Davies ; Lance Corporal Davison, Lance Corporal Walker, Signalman Healy, Corporal Evans, Lance Corporal Brown.

As yet there have been no Battalion games at Rugby but many games have been played and on Saturday, 10th December, No. 3 Company defeated a combined XV from Nos. 1 and 4 Companies by nine points to nil.

Regular classes for instruction in the principles of boxing have been started, and we have actually had a tournament with the General Trades Testing Battalion, who defeated us by the narrow margin of two points.

Promotions and Appointments.—This month there have been several promotions to record. By far the most interesting is the appointment of A/C.S.M. Morris W. J. to the Emergency Commissioned rank of Lieutenant, with effect from 29th November. Happily he is still with us and we assure him of our sincere congratulations. A/R.Q.M.S. Marcham and Signalman Bould have been selected to join the O.C.T.U. as Officer Cadets. As a result of these appointments the following promotions have also been made : A/C.S.M. Bennett to be A/R.Q.M.S., W.O. III Jones D. to be A/C.S.M., W.O. III Murphy to be A/C.S.M., A/C.Q.M.S. Tennent S. to be A/W.O. III, Sergeant Lee to be A/C.Q.M.S., Lance Sergeant Gray to be A/Sergeant, A/Lance Sergeant Hardy to be A/Sergeant, Corporal Farley to be A/Lance Sergeant, Lance Corporal Derrick to be A/Corporal, Lance Corporal Elston to be A/Corporal, Signalman Davies to be A/Lance Corporal.

The following have also been confirmed in the acting ranks shown : A/Lance Sergeant Pickles, A/Corporals Hopwood, Pyke L., Spencer J., Smith F., Rainbird K., A/Lance Corporals Crossley, Fraser, Hurst, Davies, McCaughey, and Constantine.

Postings and Courses.—One of our most popular officers has left the Battalion to take up an appointment in the south. Prior to his departure he told me that he had been very happy

with us here and was sorry he had to leave. He takes with him the very best wishes of us all.

Corporal Bastin has gone on leave pending his discharge on the grounds of ill-health. No more shall we hear his stentorian voice at housey-housey. We hope that he will soon be on the road to good health again. He will be missed. Lance Corporal Hufton has been selected to attend an Assistant Instructor's Course in Physical Training.

Births and Marriages.—We have to offer our best wishes to A/Lance Corporal Crossley, who was recently married to Volunteer Rose Maud Iredale of the A.T.S., at the Garrison Church. Another marriage was that of A/Lance Sergeant Cooper, who married Laura Ann Jackson. We congratulate them both and wish them every happiness.

Lance Corporal Harris is now a proud father, his wife having recently presented him with a daughter.

Agony Column.—Ginger Winter—somewhere. " What about it ? Ginger Melmore."

Queries.—What ex-champion darts player of Bulford was recently " tanned " in the Sergeants' Mess ?

In conclusion, we would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the whole personnel of the 1st Operators' Training Battalion, to wish all WIRE readers a bright New Year.

No. 2 Company

Since the publication of our last notes we have been rejuvenated by a week of pretty riotous festivity, followed by seven days' leave for the New Year. Thus fortified we await with complacence any horrors which the trade board may devise. Training is, of course, in full swing, and a number of squads have passed out during the last month ; we expect to hear more of them. A corresponding number of recruits have arrived from the Depot.

The Company takes great pride in the number of Officer Cadets drawn from its ranks. Signalmen Bugg, Bould, Collins, Lincoln, Lockett and Taylor J. have departed for Officer Cadet Training Units, and several more await posting.

While in this felicitous mood, we bestow a few congratulations. The recipients are :

S.S.M. Murphy, who now wears a wreath round his crown.

Signalmen Brook and Challens, who have entered the matrimonial state ; Signalman Brook has been posted, and our good wishes follow him.

The crafty N.C.O.s and W.O.s who have attached themselves to those beautiful new greatcoats.

Sport.—We were sorry to lose the Company Sports Officer, who has been posted away. We wish him the best of luck in his new Unit. The inclement weather has rather curtailed sporting activities, though boxing is becoming popular ; Signalman Edmunds represented the Battalion against the General Trades Training Battalion, and some of the new arrivals are shaping well. Corporals Gillott and Craig, and Signalman Smith S., have played in the Battalion soccer team.

Society Snippets.—The O.C. has acquired a singularly luxurious moustache, which is said to be worth two pages of evidence in bringing criminals to a proper realisation of their iniquity.

A certain very junior N.C.O. has recently completed a short course in administration and drill. This will doubtless enable him to deal with Sergeant-Majors even more effectively than he does at present.

GAUDEAMUS.

No. 3 Company

Introduction.—Who would be a scribe ? This budding writer fears that the cold snap has frozen his once versatile (?) brain. However, having had a " grouse " at the weather, here goes.

Congratulations.—To Lieutenant W. Morris on attaining that rank. We are sorry to see you go, sir.

To Lance Corporal Burgess, who has taken the plunge. May he and Mrs. Burgess have a long and happy future.

To all who have passed their Group " E " during the past month and have determinedly fixed their ideas on B.III.

Humour.—Do potential German Group " E "s do the circuit of the magnetic mine, and if so, what are the tests ?

Arrival.—We wish to extend a hearty welcome to C.S.M. Jones, who, we hope, will have a long stay with this Company.

THE BOY.

EXTRACT FROM A GERMAN LEAFLET DROPPED OVER WESTON-SUPER-MARE

THE FALL OF TANGI KHEL.

The scene is the Officers' Mess, sir, the hour is very late,
And the officers, having wined and dined, are in a jovial state ;
Many are the stories, and strange the yarns that are spun,
But the Colonel took the biscuit, sir, when he told how a fort was won.

It was up to the north of the Khyber, and the Khan of Tangi Khel,
With a thousand wicked tribesmen, had not been behaving well ;
Many were the troubles that caused by this wicked band,
So the General sent us out, sir, to get order in the land.

With Havildar Ali Akhbar, who knew the trail full well,
We took a whole brigade, sir, and marched on Tangi Khel ;
Many were the knullahs, we traversed by the way,
And when we got to Tangi, sir, why there was hell to pay.

The year was ninety-nine, sir, just forty years ago,
When we deployed our forces, to rout a wily foe ;
Many were the messages, the Corps of Signals sent,
They said the rebel tribesmen were on big mischief bent.

We thought we'd smash them easy, till the column struck a mine,
And the two companies left, sir, said they'd found an " Eggfried Line " ;
Many were the dug-outs the wicked Khan had made,
And the man is doing " Jankers " yet, who lent that tribe a spade.

Then a brave 1 set commander, when he saw it was no go,
Faced alone the furious charges of the buffalo-mounted foe ;
Oh ! many were the wounded, and many brave men fell,
So we fired the Huns' " Big Bertha," and we blew their fort to hell.
But the native buffalo cavalry charged again and yet again,
And the heliograph went dis, sir, as it flashed across the plain ;
And many were the kite-hawks that were wheeling overhead,
As they counted all the bodies in the dried-up river-bed.

Then a submarine came floating through the shimmering desert air,
And it dropped a ton of Cooper bombs upon the rebel lair ;
Oh ! many were the curses on that lovely summer's dawning,
So they held a drum-head service, and they all went home next morning.

Then the brave 1 set commander, whom I've mentioned once before,
Took a twiddle at his tuner and was answered by Peshawar ;
Oh ! many were the signals that the gallant Sergeant sent,
But the damn things came out " Buckree," 'cos his aerial mast was bent.

From Peshawar to Landi-Kotal, right down the Khyber chain,
By flag and lamp, the message was sent across the plain ;
Oh ! many were the errors, and the message went all queer,
And a Lance Naik lost his rating, 'cos he sent " George " for a beer.

Now we all got decorated, sir, just gaze upon my breast,
You'll see the old Palm Olive shining there among the rest ;
Oh ! many were the medals General Goering got that day,
So we signed a truce with Stalin, then went home and hit the hay.

Now that's the real true story of the fall of Tangi Khel,
I'm sure I fear I'm far too drunk to tell it really well ;
I know the general rated us, until the air was blue,
And now that bottle's empty, sir, I'll bid you all adieu.

ANON.

"A" Company Depot Battalion

Postings.—This month we have bidden good-bye to the following stalwarts of the Company, in addition to the normal Squad postings: C.S.M. Pack, C.Q.M.S. Tucker, Sergeants Grose, Fox, Drake, Barks, Lance Sergeant Chapman and Corporal Bott.

To them all we wish a pleasant stay in their new Units.

Births.—Lance Corporal Wright B., during the month has become the proud father of a baby boy. Congratulations, Barney.

Arrivals.—We extend a hearty welcome to all new arrivals in the Company, including C.S.M. Molyneux, C.Q.M.S. Fry, Corporal Porter and Lance Corporal Stevens. We hope their sojourn in the Company will be a pleasant one.

Promotions and Appointments.—To the following we convey our congratulations: C.Q.M.S. Tucker to be W.O.III; Sergeant Fry to be C.Q.M.S.; Corporal Chapman to be Lance Sergeant, Lance Corporals Butler and Howie to be Corporals, U/Lance Corporal Stevens to be Lance Corporal. Also to the following on their ranks becoming substantive: Sergeants Gedney, Dunbar, Beenham and Toole, Corporals Shuttlewoth, French and Cooper.

Entertainments.—E.N.S.A. entertainments for the month of December have been supplemented by home-produced fare in the shape of "Go as you Please" entertainment contests and two subsequent variety shows provided by talent spotted at it. Our colleagues from "C" Company presented us with the winner of the contest, Signalman Stansfield, comedian *cum* crooner *cum* impressionist. He succeeded in wresting the laurels from "A" Company by only a very short head, since our representatives included Signalman Evans, an entertainment in himself at the piano, Signalman Weir, ex-commercial traveller with the usual stock of jokes, songs and impressions, Signalman Leaver, with a solemn countenance and loads of stories in the Billy Bennett style, Signalman Leckenby, practically a Stanley Holloway, Signalman Hamilton, banjoist *par excellence*, and Signalman Smith who produced classical fragments from a tubular contrivance which he called a Recorda. In addition "A" Company produced a conjurer (Signalman Pumfrey) in one of the bills and he succeeded in mystifying the whole audience. Each show was voted entirely satisfactory and if development of the artistes could be undertaken we feel sure that stars of the future could be produced *a la* Carrol Levis. The general lament was, of course, the lack of feminine charm which even a home-produced beauty chorus from No. 213 Squad could not reproduce. It must be admitted that drawers, cotton long, and boots, ammunition, iron-clad are not conducive to sex appeal—even if aided by lipstick and N.A.A.F.I. rouge.

Football Notes.—Having discovered some ex-professional footballers among our Squads we lost no time in getting them on the field, and issued a challenge to the rest of the Depot. The only people to answer this challenge were the "grease-balls" from "C" Company whom we beat twice in as many weeks. On the first occasion by 10 goals to nil and the second time by one goal to nil. After the first match they let it be known that their team was greatly depleted because a number of their side had been detailed that afternoon to collect some cars whose owners now preferred cycling. After their second defeat, however, no alibis were offered.

Shiny "B" saw the red light and refrained from taking up the challenge, while the Admin. Wing were much too busy to play football, working out such details as the price of, per man, per haircut, per week (perhaps).

1st Reservists Battalion

It is with some diffidence that these are our first and somewhat sketchy notes from the 1st Reservists Battalion. Rumour had it (now proved groundless) that the old WIRE had been "demobbed" for the duration, hence our belated contribution.

The Battalion after a somewhat hectic period at G—le moved into new lines. The change from existence under canvas to well-appointed centrally-heated barrack rooms, complete with beds and wooden wardrobes, was appreciated. Here may we pay tribute to "stout effort" put up by the cook-house personnel under the primitive condition of the first cook-house and canvas marquees. Even the officers were privileged to approve. Now we are in the new dining halls and they are considered by the "knowing ones" to be the last word in efficiency.

Social.—Under the excellent guidance and assistance of P.R.I. and Entertainments Officer many social activities have been held in the spacious dining hall. Several splendid E.N.S.A. shows have been staged. Whist drives, "Housey-Housey," and "S.O.B." concerts have proved an excellent tonic to the lads.

By far the most popular event in our little social world has been the weekly Wednesday night dances, music being provided by a very able dance band recruited from the Unit. We have had wonderful support by our C.O., who was most ably assisted by Company Commanders and Staff. Ladies from various N.A.A.F.I. staffs in the camp area, and A.T.S., are very welcome and enthusiastic visitors.

Postings.—As one may expect in a Unit of our description, postings are numerous and of daily occurrence. The wily old bird, "The Griffin," is still proving as elusive as ever, says Sergeant ——. It has been of great interest and experience to your humble scribe to witness the many meetings of old Corps chums. If one may say so, the finest men of Signals with many years service, canteen and otherwise, have passed through here; may we say "personnel who made the Corps what it is to-day"? Early in November the Unit paraded in Review Order for inspection by our Colonel-in-Chief, who took the salute at the march past. Probably the Depot Parade Ground brought back memories of many previous parades.

Sport.—Here the Reservists Battalion covered itself with honours, our football team winning the First Garrison Knock-out Competition and medals. Several stirring games were played, particularly the "marathon games"—three replays versus the Royal Artillery. The final result against the 1st Operator's Battalion was, I am afraid, somewhat a shock and a disappointment to them. Well, "the best laid plans of mice and men, etc.," and this copy is compiled after the match instead of before it. Result, won 4—2. Team: "Jock" Cord (ex East Fife); Nelson, "Topper" Brown; Lance Corporal Spencer (ex Tranmere Rovers), Stranks, Moore; Ballard (Kent League), Snowball (Carlisle), Pearce (Bishop Auckland), Haughton (ex Oldham Athletic), Terry (ex Brighton and Egypt Signals).

Tribute must be paid to the encouragement and able management of the team by A/R.S.M. Lane who, despite one or two slight heart attacks during the R.A. games, must be gratified by the final result. Rumour has it that the endurance shown by the team was due not to "glands," but to the excellence of "Jiggers" rissoles.

In conclusion may I tender the best of wishes to all members, past and present, of the Unit for the New Year. Best of luck, lads.

THE OLD UN.

Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess

No doubt readers will wonder what Section "E" is, but a good number who bit the Olive for 9d. a day will be able to tell you at some future re-union, maybe at Aldershot, or some estaminet at present unallotted.

After being acclimatised in camp with a little poaching and moving tamboos daily, and being extremely well fed by "Bunny" Shaw and his assistants, we are now hoping to open up an entirely new Mess at no distant date, and shall probably lead the line of all Home Messes with a famous name," Punches," in scroll over the door. Through other exigencies we are also in possession of comfortable and good furniture, a pleasant caterer, good beer, wines, and cigars. What more could anyone ask for?

Some members are wondering whether there will be another Rhine Army of Occupation, with memoirs of the Deuthes Theatre, Opera House, Erst Rang, not forgetting Merheim Racecourse.

Approaching the end of September we moved our heads under a roof, and although in a temporary room there is much chaff and banter.

On a recent occasion I noticed a contingent of "old sweats" whose service totalled some 832 years, but they paled into insignificance when I later encountered some of an even older brigade who carried their Boer War ribbons with all the jauntiness imaginable. Truly a pattern for the new militia.

By the time this appears in print we will be established, and to any member, past or present, who may be passing through, who cares to drop in for a chat or stay a while as our guest, all I can say is " Welcome." The well-known " Evans " who is always " broke " will do boot boy or chaperone to any place of relaxation.

We are sorry to relate that " Nobby " Halls, ex king of D.R.s, after having served for 21 years (or more ?), and got away with it, was caught in the matrimonial net after only one month as a Section " E ". soldier, to Miss Doris Clarke of Hesleden Hall, West Hartlepool, on September 30th. Mr. Napper ably carried out the duties of best man. Sincerely hoping the clock still ticks, " nothing like an old dog for the hard road." Brother Morley was in attendance.

Afterthought for " Mr. Records," has he pigeon-holed the long-promised promotions ! If he fails us we shall have to find another way out to get a saloon to Aintree in March next for the National, and we shall not divulge the winner—we have it.

Just come to hand that the Mess team are the champions of the Battalion at darts. Any further challenges ?

Congratulations to a sportsman on being gazetted 2nd Lieutenant on 29th November, 1939. I did notice the lady in the check coat with a gracious smile, Sir. Whose move next ?

In conclusion, wishing one and all a happy New Year on behalf of every member of the Mess. To members who have passed through we still have as heirloom the Gandale Orderly Sergeant's stick.

FIRESPARK.

S.T.C. Wales

2nd Depot Battalion

The " intensive training " system for recruits has worked out well at the 2nd S.T.C., and the Commanding Officer of the Depot Battalion frequently expresses his pleasure at the standard of drill attained in the comparatively short time taken to turn a man from a civilian into a soldier. Probably the ideal amenities of the 2nd S.T.C. camp have a lot to do with this. It is practically impossible for bad weather to interfere with training. A spacious ballroom and lecture hall combined is ideal for the first steps in this demonstration-explanation-practice scheme.

With large numbers of recruits arriving weekly, accommodation outside the camp proper has had to be found for Depot Battalion's " C " Company (D.R.s and Drivers i/c). Here again, though, the 2nd S.T.C. have been lucky in finding just the right quarters without having to resort to private billeting.

On the Social and recreational side the programme is always fairly full. A " Goon " Club, not nearly so whimsy as its name might suggest, gives the Signalman a chance to debate on terms of perfect equality with his officers and N.C.O.s. Interesting debates have been held and lectures by experts are also scheduled. Rugby, soccer and hockey matches between teams from the Corps and also against " outside opposition " have proved popular. A novice boxing tournament revealed remarkable talent, and a few apparently not so novice-like. Former light-weight champion Jimmy Walsh who has joined the Centre on the P.T. side gave an exhibition bout which raised the boys to frenzy. His opponent was also a former pro. As we write a team boxing tournament is being arranged.

Concerts by E.N.S.A., local concert parties and our own Signamen held on average twice a week, always pack the house. Community singing, naturally, is always a popular item on the programme.

Some remarkable times have been set up when, by way of experiment at the C.O.'s order, both concert hall and parade ground have been emptied " at the double." An audience of hundreds has been cleared in something round the half-minute.

The whistle system for Reveille and other calls has worked fairly well, but buglers are now being trained to take over. Just to make sure those recruits do hear it !

A.R.P. exercises have been held, without any previous warning, so that the Signalman does not know whether it is a raid or a practice, and work well.

D.3.

" C " Company, Depot Battalion

Introduction.—It is not often the M.T. Company is slow, but we admit that "A" and " B " beat us to it by introducing themselves last month ; anyway, better late than never (we hope).

" Personnel " Introduction.—With the many sudden and " hush-hush " moves that took place on the outbreak of hostilities, there must be thousands wondering, and asking, over the " glasses," the old, eternal questions—" I wonder where old So-and-so is now," or, " I wonder if Bill was called up." Well, in an effort to clear the situation we propose to introduce to readers, month by month, a few of the " old hands " (Territorials, Reservists and Regulars) who form our Cadre.

This month we introduce the seniors ; you may not recognise some of the ranks, but we hope the names will be familiar to some interested members. Here's the first instalment : S.S.M.s (Jimmy) Rawson, Fowkes and Kent ; C.Q.M.S. (Dicky) Burdes ; Sergeants Thomas, Parrott, Murphy (Spud, of course) and Thurston ; Lance Sergeants Plummer, Parry and Clarke. A special mention must be made of " Spud " ; he joined us as a civilian M.T. Instructor, but " fell " for the new uniform. He looks O.K. as a " Goon," until he starts telling us about "A" Corps, Karachi, in '26. (Does that remind anyone ?) Jack Thurston is another who changed " civvies " for " goon-skins." But what are those strange medals, old 'un ? Before our time, we guess.

Accommodation.—This heading should be familiar to the R.Q. Perhaps the local authorities stepped in, perhaps the rest of the Camp thought we were too stylish ; anyway, we left the rest of the Unit last month and " booked " a couple of hotels for duration, and though we left quite pleasant quarters, we have no grouses. The lads say that as they work like horses they might as well feed like them, so an ever-obliging authority gave us a stable for a messroom. Lest our statements give rise to speculation we had better add that the mangers HAVE been removed, and we have not yet had a hot bran mash on Saturday, neither has anyone thought of calling the cook " feed major " ; the usual epithets still suffice, don't they, Harry ?

Training.—We can safely say that training is just about running smoothly and results so far are proving very satisfactory. The recruits nearly all seem to have had civilian experience of their new jobs, so we expect that Field Units will soon be receiving some quite useful additions.

Agonies.—This column would be very full but for the fact that the Censor (bless him) would never consent to some of the requests we have been asked to publish ; but here are a couple :

[He does not even consent to these.—Censor.]

Conclusion.—This job was thrust on me at extremely short notice, so please readers, editor, and anyone else who might have to wade through this, accept my apologies. I'll spend more time on it next month.

DICKIE.

2nd General Trades Training Battalion

No. 4 M.T. Company

General.—The M/C Section have now commenced to " grip " the Militia in the art of riding, cleaning and care of machines. Many and varied are the yarns that reach us of the evolutions performed, both on the road and on the local dirt track, which used to be called the football pitch. Which reminds me :

When Al Capone sat on his throne,
He missed a pretty packet,
For this Company is filled with glee,
We've cornered the dirt track racket.
The football field's not big enough—
We skid and tumble in the rough !
But up we get and say " We're tough ! "
And tinker with a tappet.

Of course, quite a few of these lads consider that they are the " Stanley Woods " of to-morrow and ride accordingly, but we would like to remind them that a D.R.'s job is a skilful one and no picnic.

So please, for the peace of mind of those who instruct you, don't do rodeo tricks round the Brigadier's car ! If you must execute figures-of-eight, work them out on paper, and not on the coast road.

The Lighter Side.—Yes, there is one, even here ! Only the other day I was listening to a little D.R.'s ditty that goes like this :

Although your eyes are not like limpid pools of azure blue,
Although I should be always near—I'm parted oft from you.
I try to stick to you through thick and thin, of course,
When all is said and done—you are only 2½ horse !

Phun.—What about the Corporal who was about to dismiss the Sick Parade ? One bright youth asked him where he had to draw the lamps from as he had been put on Light Duty !

Elevations.—The following have reached the rank shown : Sergeant Tuft, Lance Sergeants Lumber and Boynton, Corporal Moss, Lance Corporals Hawkes, Holmes F., Lathbury, Taylor, Delaney, Hyde and Waugh.

Cheerio !

DE-HYPHEN.

Yorkshire 3

No. 3 Operators' Training Battalion

(SOMEWHERE IN YORKSHIRE)

The new S.T.C. was inaugurated early in November in one of the most picturesque regions of Britain, and its personnel is rapidly learning to communicate with the natives in spite of difficulties of dialect. Readers who have had some experience of the landing of an Expeditionary Force by parachute will best appreciate the state of things which prevailed six weeks ago, but some kind of order has now been established. The essentials of military life—hot and cold water in dormitories (for we look at nothing inferior to a first-class hotel for our barracks), guards and picquets, chefs for Sergeant Cooks, kit inspections, free cinema shows, and all the other little luxuries that a soldier loves have been instituted, and the optimists among us are even looking forward to a 6 a.m. voluntary P.T. class.

It would be ungracious not to mention the help we have received from No. 1 S.T.C. We seem to have borrowed most of their technical equipment, and anyhow we should still be making bricks not only without straw but also without clay, but for their friendly facilities for looting on loam. Our transport, on the other hand, is a source of admiration to the primitive inhabitants of the district. The Minister of War stated that 25,000 I.C. vehicles had gone with the Expeditionary Force to France. The ones that wouldn't go came to us !

As for personnel, perhaps the most striking feature is the recognition by A.G.II of the driving force of youth. There is hardly a subaltern whose war service goes further back than Balaclava. Indeed, one 2nd Lieutenant, who was attached for a short time before being sent to a Cadet Battalion, could not even show a Boer War ribbon, but it was felt that this was going too far. His virgin soul might be corrupted by association with youths of riper years whose minds have already begun to be contaminated by experience of war. Still, even the youngest of us is rapidly maturing, and taking all ranks together we can boast of no inconsiderable body of technical and military knowledge ; we hope to give a good account of ourselves as Instructors when our victims arrive for training.

One little experience of our Depot Battalion may serve as a warning to other new units in course of formation. Let me say to their Commanding Officer : " Do not attempt to take over your command till you have provided your Orderly Room with a rubber stamp." It happened like this. A whole herd of polony sausages was condemned by the M.O. The requisite certificate was sent to the N.A.A.F.I., but it then turned out that nothing could be done without a rubber stamp. Now the Orderly Room hadn't *got* a rubber stamp, so there you are. Would anybody like some condemned (I refrain from using the native equivalent) polony sausages in exchange for vanity bags or other comforts for the troops ? The mistake was, of course, in the first place in issuing rations or anything to a Unit that hasn't got a rubber stamp. See King's Regulations, para. 2028, ii, 2032.



Age Sir ? Er !—42 next birthday

We are having to adjust our minds to innovations. After all, the English longbow was an innovation once ; in the past, when the archers won Crecy for the English, its use was considered to have been an outrageous breach of military etiquette. In this war, too, we are becoming accustomed to sensational changes. Rumours of one that was impending began to circulate when the early pioneers of the 3rd S.T.C. were first disentangling themselves from their parachutes and looking round to see where their comrades and equipment had landed. It was discussed by beribboned veterans in tones of awe, horror, and bated breath for it seemed to strike at the roots of good order and military discipline. " Well, I won't have them in *my* Orderly Room." " This is a barracks, not a *Palais de Danse*." " Not in my cookhouse, anyhow." There was just one sceptic who plucked up courage to say, " In a month, sir, you will all be scrambling for them " ; and as a matter of fact he was wrong in putting it as a month instead of a week.

Well, the wilderness has blossomed as a rose. They came,

they were seen, they conquered and the whole camp smells of lavender.

Heard in the Orderly Room.—A.T.S. officer: "Nine A.T.S. volunteers just arrived from Hull unclothed."

C.O.: "Good gracious! Where are they?"

Extract from A.T.S. Daily Orders.—"The Orderly Sergeant will see that the cat is not left in the house at night. It must not be allowed to sleep inside."

MEURCHINOIS.

At earth's first early dawning,
Yawning,
Came:
Down thro' the ages
Gory;
In pursuit of
Glory —
Game . . .
Now nations' strident
screaming
echoes metal —
Girds his loins
Again
In fighting
Fettle.
He's Special—Extra—super—ultra spesh—Enlistment!

Home Counties Signals (2nd Edition)

Only formed as an independent Unit on embodiment, we have been so completely pre-occupied during the past four months, following the break-away from our parent, that we forgot to let you know of our existence. We wish everybody a happy New Year.

We have had many surprises, both pleasant and bitter, but fortune favoured us when the well-known Commandant of the London Cadet Brigade was appointed as our Honorary Colonel. His interest in us was shown by a personal visit to all ranks on Christmas Day. While on the subject of "good spirits," another whose efforts are much appreciated is the Rev. F. J. Simmons, the Unit's officiating Chaplain, who served for many years with H.M. Forces in India.

Recent Promotions.—Now Captains are Clifford Cadogan, O.C. No. 2 Company, "Tiny" Angell, of ring fame, and "Friar" Monk, the Unit's new Adjutant. The latter insists on riding a 500 c.c. Norton and thinks it a greater thrill than when, years ago, as an R.A.F. flying officer, he smashed himself up on an aircraft carrier.

Old Regulars.—Celebrities among us who have very pleasant memories of India are ex-Sergeant, now R.S.M., Bill Church; ex-Sergeant, now C.S.M., "Don" Donaghy; and ex-Corporal, now S.S.M., "Vic" Robinson.

Disguise.—A notice to the effect that a certain Signalman Jordan was promoted to C.S.M. w.e.f. date recently appeared in the Unit's orders. This apparently comet-like ascent passed unseen by most people—or was not considered unusual in these times—but it brought forth the disapproval of at least one veteran N.C.O. "That's going a bit too far," he complained. "Why, it takes years to become a Sergeant." Then it suddenly dawned on him. "Well, I'm darned," he declared. "Jose Jordan *has* been a Sergeant-Major for years."

Incerta Cito.—Our C.O. recently called up H.Q. and gave two messages to the operator. To sum up, he asked "Have you got those down?" "I'm afraid not, sir," came the answer. "Well, why not?" the C.O. replied. "'Cause I can't write with my left hand, sir."

A.A. Signals, Berkshire

No. 1 Company

December, 1939.

It has been noted by all that that part of the calendar that indicates the New Year is rapidly approaching; the opportunity is therefore taken of expressing the wish that the New Year will bring the peace and security so much desired by all.

It is with profound regret that we have to record the death of Lance Sergeant Giles. He was one of the earliest members of the Unit and by his unfailing cheerfulness in the performance of his duty won the respect and admiration of all. We extend to those bereaved our very deepest sympathy in their loss.

To men who have recently been promoted we extend hearty congratulations; among the names we find those of Sergeant Jackson, who has been promoted C.S.M., No. 1 Company, and Sergeant Katon, promoted C.Q.M.S., No. 2 Company. We cannot leave this note on promotions without also extending our best wishes to 2nd Lieutenants Waight and McCormick (late R.S.M. and C.S.M. respectively), who have been granted commissions. Good luck!

Several Trade Boards have sat recently and having suffered the dentist's waiting room feeling (without the chair) the majority of men of this Company have now passed a Trade Test and have been mustered ("Temporary," *vide* Part II Orders!) in their respective Trades. Congratulations to the successful ones and success next time to those who fell short.

It was rumoured some weeks ago that there would be seven days' leave at Christmas time, and like most rumours it has grown into fact. Some of our men have had their leave, others were enjoying theirs at the time these notes were written, and others have still the pleasure to come. It is hoped that a good time has been, is being, and will be enjoyed by all.

It has been stated by one authority that "an army marches on its stomach." Recent weeks have seen the installation of a super oven, and the cooking at this H.Q. seems to be reaching a level attained only by the best hotels! To support this, on Corporal Bristow's recent disappearance, it was rumoured that he had been elevated to a higher sphere; for once, however, rumour was wrong, he had, in fact, been on a butchery course, and now all kinds of marvellous joints appear in the Mess Tent.

It has been decided that Unit and Company H.Q. are getting too much sedentary work, so a course of P.T. has been started. Every morning, therefore, sees a group of lightly-clad young men (and some old 'uns) tripping up to the nearest park. There were some complaints at first, but now that everyone is feeling fitter and a form of netball has been introduced that enables old accounts to be squared, contentment reigns. Talking of P.T., Lance Corporals Silver G. and Burnett have just returned from a Course, so that we shall be abounding in Instructors.

P.T. has made us fitter, but has not improved the performance of the soccer team, however. To be two or three goals up and then to lose (as has happened several times), shows a weakness somewhere. It has to be admitted that the ball has not always run too kindly for the team, and injuries have upset its balance. Losing, however, has not prevented enjoyable games from being played. The hockey team has also had some enjoyable games and has several victories to its credit. After two attempts, however, it still cannot overcome the local University side and maybe it's a case of third time lucky.

Home Queries Corner, conducted by Corporal Gleed.—(1) How many yards of khaki were needed by the tailor when making up suits for R.T. and H.?

(2) Is it true that at the time of going to press the R.Q.M.S. leads by a good twenty men from the C.S.M. in the Strength Return Stakes.

ACAC/CHARLIE.

A.A. Signals, Nottinghamshire

General.—This month our notes are more of the social life of the Unit than heretofore. Unfortunately, I have no matter from Outstations to include so the news is only of happenings at Headquarters Station.

Perhaps the reason for this is that our Outstation members are so very busy that there is no time to write up notes of their activities. At the same time, however, the Unit notes would be more interesting if they included news of all Outstations.

Officers' Mess.—A special dinner and party was "thrown" on the night of Thursday, 7th December, as a farewell to Captain L. Hayes before proceeding overseas. A special "birds nest" soup was provided by the Mess cook as an appropriate dish for the occasion.

We lose a very popular and efficient officer who has been with us since the Unit was formed. In happier days we all hope to see him again as a member of this Unit.

It was very pleasing to see Captain D. White as a guest for a few days for the above-mentioned occasions.

Sergeants' Mess.—On Saturday, 2nd December, a very enjoyable party was held in the Sergeants' Mess when we had the pleasure of entertaining the officers present at Headquarters.

A race meeting, with tote, was the means of bringing some extra cash to a very few present, and the loss of cash to a greater number. C.Q.M.S. Pilgrim and S/Sergeant Reed made very good totalisator clerks and also tossed the dice to start the horses on their way up the course, the course being two tables placed together and divided into 50 partitions with tapes. An interesting race card of four races was the programme for the early part of the evening.

The fun afterwards continued with an old game, " Are you there, Marriatti ? " Some good hefty wallops were managed by all competitors. First competitors down were the Adjutant *versus* the R.S.M., and they were followed in succession by other competitors.

A darts match, Officers *v.* Sergeants, followed, and again the latter had the privilege of paying for the drinks. The fun continued until a little after midnight, community songs helping to make the party go with a swing.

We had the pleasure of thanking our Second-in-Command for an enlarged photograph suitably inscribed of the Mess. This picture now hangs in a central position in the Mess and it will always be a constant reminder of the occasion when we said farewell to our popular Adjutant as well as being a record of the formation of the Mess.

This week we are glad to welcome Sergeant Clee from No. 2 Company who is here to do an inspection of respirators. He takes us in the Gas Chamber Test. I wonder if I will feel like writing these words about him after he has finished with us. Already we have had a taste of his special feature contained in capsules. He has also shown us how to play darts by blowing the darts from his mouth at even greater than the regulation distance. Many of us could not even get our darts on to the board, let alone make a score as he does.

Junior Ranks Club (Headquarters).—The men are now settling down in a Mess which increases in comfort daily. To mark the opening of the bar, the officers of Unit Headquarters and No. 1 Company were entertained on Wednesday, 15th November. The event of the evening was a five-a-side darts match which, owing no doubt to the greater amount of practice they obtain, the men won by two matches to one.

Billiards Tournament.—At the time of writing a tournament is taking place on the miniature table. Some uncanny shots are to be seen which often causes surprise to the players themselves as well as to spectators. As the tournament is open to all ranks at Headquarters perhaps the officers will have their revenge for the darts match defeat.

Entertainments.—One of the concert parties arranged by E.N.S.A. will be coming to give us a show on the evening of the 20th December at No. 1 Company Drill Hall. No doubt there will be a full parade that evening, probably an enjoyable one.

Through the kindness of the Headmistress of one of the local schools, a well-equipped Gymnasium has been placed at the disposal of No. 1 Company for P.T. Parades before breakfast. No need now to rely on the B.B.C. " Up in the Morning " programmes.

Marriages.—This heading in our notes still continues regularly. We have good wishes to offer the following this month : Driver and Mrs. W. A. Coker, who were married at Chester on 18th November ; Lance Sergeant and Mrs. J. D. Moore, who were married at Lenton on 4th November ; Corporal and Mrs. A. J. Watkins, who were married at Carlton on 9th December.

Leave.—Christmas leave programmes are prepared for all Sections and all ranks are being given the maximum amount of leave. For those at Headquarters on Christmas day the usual enjoyable festivities are being arranged. The Junior Ranks Club room is already looking very cheerful with its Christmas decorations.

Seasonable Greetings.—To all Signal Units at home and abroad, the best of good wishes for a happy time in the New Year. Our particular greetings go out to Captains D. White, L. Hayes, Lieutenant H. Benson, and C.Q.M.S. W. H. Hinds (all late of this Unit). It is our hope that in the future we shall all be together again. No doubt they too, now all in different Units, will have a thought for us during the season of goodwill.

G.G.

A.A. Signals, Gloucestershire

No. 2 Company

December, 1939.

Greetings.—The wish is expressed that Christmas 1939 for all proved a happy and enjoyable occasion. Coupling this with the hope that 1940 will bring us victory and peace, we extend to all readers throughout the Corps our greetings and best wishes for the New Year.

General.—You would never think that a few months ago we were all unmilitaristic folk who joined the Territorials as a pastime and hobby. The military outlook and bearing has so developed that, less a few " flies in the ointment," we act and behave as though we had been soldiering for years. It is agreed, however, that our dream castles have tumbled to the ground. We are disappointed. We expected something different. It causes us to wonder sometimes what, in the years of new peace to come, we shall remember most vividly of this present life. An observation overheard the other day prompts the remark, " the pattern of this Guard Room wallpaper will haunt me for ever." Come on chaps, we are in this together because of a sense of duty now, let us be determined to see the thing cheerfully through to the end ; cheer up, after all the life could be much worse. Let us shout it together, are you ready, "Are we downhearted" ?—NO ! !

Arrivals and Departures.—We welcome our new officer and trust his stay will be a pleasant and happy one. No departures to report but we all continue to sweat, some to hope.

Armistice Day.—Gathered together in the drill hall, those of us available took part in the broadcast service from Westminster Abbey, the words of the hymns being chalked upon blackboards placed on either side of the radio set.

Amusements.—" Score 300 and win a prize." Such is a gamble too, and is the added attraction made by the Automatic Machine Company to our canteen. Come along chaps. Only 152 pennies taken from the machines in two days. The more you put in the more you get back (in more ways than one too).

Miniature Range.—Use of a local range has caused great excitement and everybody shows keenness to take advantage. " Q " has shown us how and we have endeavoured to emulate. Results have been good. Even Alfie proudly walks around showing off his target with five hits registered. Well done Alfie.

Promotions and Appointments.—We are pleased to include this paragraph and offer congratulations to the lucky ones, pride of place going to those members at " H.Q." commissioned from the ranks. Well done, Sirs.

Accommodation.—Billet " C " now houses the Quarter bloke, his followers, and the clothing and technical stores. A proper " hide-out," and offering a good cup of coffee to selected visitors. At " H.Q." Sergeant Lane and his staff have moved to obtain more elbow room in a ground floor room, but he is still worried and not satisfied. Says " boxes, file, millboard, improvised " are of little use. Thank goodness for the G.M. cupboards.

Concerts.—The wartime entertainers visited us again at the beginning of the month. New faces and some old favourites. Very enjoyable. Such travelling around and providing of new gags and turns, all voluntary services, must be a difficult, trying and worrying time for the organisers and we are very grateful and appreciative for the splendid shows put on from time to time. My only grouse as one of the audience, was that somebody failed to do their job. A bitter cold night to sit in a draught, and the radiators were like ice. Our thanks again to Sergeant West for the preparation of the stage and lighting. Pity about the spot lighting Jimmy, and the boiler fire was not your responsibility. Alfie, where were't thou !

Matrimony.—Congratulations to Signalman Stiles on the occasion of his marriage on the 20th November, 1939, to Miss A. Cornelius. Is it right that the wrong man nearly got " spliced " owing to a mix up at the Registry Office ? It is reported that the culprits who, so he says, hurried him into this business, were royally entertained. What a " hang-over," borne out by the remark of the Messing Office the following morning, that, little sense can be got out of you fellows.

Courses.—Lance Sergeant Ricketts and an officer of the Company both " Queud one " at a recent Course in another part of the country, and from remarks on their return, everything here is wrong. We wonder when the sparks will start to fly. Anyway, congratulations to you both on the results. As to the physical fitness of the Company, Lance Corporal Cox " returned from " and Lance Sergeant Roost " proceeded to," it makes us wonder when sparks (and limbs) will fly in this connection.

Things We Want to Know.—What is the attraction at the tea shop over the road ? Does feminine charm cause thirst ?

Who is Alfie's " red head " girl friend ?

What causes the Sergeant-Major most worry, holes in sandbags or shortage of men ?

Whether a certain N.C.O. would care to be permanently employed looking after a certain well-known crooner's little dog ? As was heard remarked afterwards, " She is like a beautiful chandelier, how I would like to be about when she is lit up."

That is all for now. Cheerio.

PEEZIE (Somewhere in Gloucestershire).

A.A. Signals, Scotland

Headquarters.

This is a most auspicious occasion, being the first on which we are able to publish notes from all three Companies simultaneously. No. 3 Company, our most recent acquisition, is to be commended on its promptness in entering these columns.

It is a subject worthy of some surprise that we should be able to compile notes for Unit Headquarters at this time, as we are temporarily without an R.S.M. Lieutenant Evans, who lately held that appointment, has our heartiest congratulations on his rise to two pips, and our best wishes for the married state which he has just entered. Ex.-C.S.M. W. T. Stevenson of No. 2 Company is now wearing the " Royal Arms below the elbow," and it is hoped that he will soon be available to take up his new duties here.

We have said farewell to two of our officers this month, Lieutenant J. H. Russel and 2nd Lieutenant W. J. G. Barnett, who have been posted to another formation in the vicinity.

Still two more of our personnel are now but memories, this time officers in the embryo, Corporal W. P. Chalmers, No. 2 Company and Lance Corporal A. W. McCosh, No. 1 Company, have departed for their respective O.C.T. Units. Good luck !

Many other joyous departures and fond farewells, etc., have followed in the wake of our Leave Rosters. The " holiday-makers " depart with careworn countenance and sagging shoulders, to return with the step of a troubadour, buttons which obviously have not been on parade for a week, and " A Present from —— " for the girl friend, wife or mother.

Reward.—A reward is offered to any person giving information which will lead to the capture of the rumour mongers who informed our Signal Office Sections that there is an unlimited supply of stationery at Unit Headquarters.

ACK-ACK.

November, 1939.

No. 1 Company

Let us now praise famous men ! Our R.S.M., the smiling Jim Evans, has become a full Lieutenant and, furthermore, a married man. Congratulations from us all, and may the gods forgive us if we say, " May all his troubles be little ones." The only snag is that we'll probably lose him now, and what will the young officers do then, for Mr. Evans has been drilling them in squad and arms drill.

These stalwarts, by the way, have now adopted as their battle song, " Boots, Boots, Boots, Boots." Every morning (furtively watched by O.R.s from many windows) they parade, rain, hail and/or snow. One of them, with the low cunning of the P.B.I. from which he sprang, has disguised himself as a soldier by donning battle dress, and another tried to kid us into thinking he was in the Brigade of Guards by dropping his rifle. We hear the class are looking forward to the C.O.'s visit of inspection with complete confidence. On the great day, 2nd Lieutenant Dunbar is bringing his bagpipes and 2nd Lieutenant Darby his toy drum to add tone to the parade. They reckon that once the C.O. hears them he'll remember an urgent appointment (well out of earshot), and hand out a " pass " to all. As a second line of defence, the band of our Despatch Riders is to stand by.

We are now in the throes of " flittin'." For the benefit of the odd Englishmen among us, that means removing to new quarters. Like Julius Cæsar, we are going into winter quarters, but not yet in Gaul. What a time we'll have, and won't some people get a surprise when they have to parade for everything, not only for pay ! But we are prepared to bet they'll soon learn it all, and like it too, and that despite Reveille at 06.00 hours.

What's in a name ? Note our Messing wallahs to be, 2nd Lieutenant Gardiner, Corporals Fowler and Miller (A.Y.S.). All we need now is Signalman Fisher to complete the menu !

The following " poem," acquired, ironically enough, from the R.A.S.C., seems worthy of wider publicity :

SOLDIERS' NURSERY RHYME

Water, fuel, food and light,
Waste them not by day or night ;
Remember that your are the nation
Who foot the bill by steep taxation ;
Waste makes prices rise like rockets,
Which in the end must touch your pockets ;
So ever let your hands be tight
On water, fuel, food and light.

We have to record, with regret, the death of Signalman D. H. G. M'Ginness, a popular member of the Unit, who received fatal injuries while proceeding to take up duty as a D.R. with an Artillery Brigade. At his funeral, at which military honours were accorded, almost all of the Company available were present.

REEKIE.

No. 2 Company

November, 1939.

In March, 1939, No. 2 Company came into being. Ever since its inception the Unit has been actively engaged in A.A. defence work. Though there has been tons of work to do, time has been found for social activities; such as darts, swimming and football, or should it be mudlarking ? A series of football matches was played between the Sections during November. It seemed as though the " Clerk of the Weather " kept a special watering can in readiness for the start of each match, and did he empty it ! I'll say he did ! The waterlogged ground afforded ample opportunity for mudlarking and there was many a squelchy fall. On one particular afternoon when it was raining cats, dogs and elephants, a well-known C.S.M. (since promoted to R.S.M.) breezed into the men's Mess and told the few men there to turn out and watch the match. They retorted that they preferred to take their baths in the swimming pool without clothes. The C.S.M. sat up on his hind legs and barked, " Ye'll go. Aye, ye'll go. Ye'll go." So with a bad grace they went to find that the C.S.M. was one of the players. The water polo was soon in progress and every time the ball went near the C.S.M., which was not very often, the " gallery " chanted with vigour, " Aye, ye'll go. Aye, ye'll go." It was noticed when the game was over that the only passably clean pair of shorts in both teams belonged to the C.S.M.

" Aye ye'll go " was often heard again at the first dance organised by the Company. This social event was a great success and the proceeds will benefit a Children's Christmas Party which is being arranged. Officers and men alike worked hard to make the dance such a success that a second one was arranged for on the spot to satisfy those present.

As in all Service Units, nicknames have been given to many members of the Company. " Caur Stope " is quite original and was conferred on one of our latest arrivals, Worsnop being too much of a mouthful for us to articulate. Another christened himself by being too nosey. In confidence he asked the C.S.M. what the men thought of him. " Well," said the C.S.M., " you've asked for it. They call you ' Herr Funk '." And " Herr Funk " he remains. Again, every Company has its " Don Juan," and we are no exception.

To turn to other matters.

We tender the heartiest congratulations of the whole Company to Sergeant G. Pirrett on his being gazetted 2nd Lieutenant.

Now for several pertinent (or impertinent) questions. " Syd Walker—McBride—wants to know " . . . but don't send any postcards to the Editor.

Who is the officer who sent to the Art School for a model and then " drew a Signalman's dame " ?

Who is the Signalman who lost his girl friend to a member of the Senior Service ?

Was the officer peeved at finding a Signalman among the ladies when a flashlight photograph was being taken ?

RAB HA'.

No. 3 Company

November, 1939.

General.—This Company is, after the first few hectic weeks, beginning to get into its stride, and at last have breathing space for many things, amongst them being notes for THE WIRE. Our Company Commander is not sure at the moment whether his large and very nice house is a barracks or a dwelling place. The Company have descended on it like a swarm of locusts. The billiard room is the Orderly Room, and on the billiard table the clerks have ample room to sort and lose the multifarious forms which those Plympians, the Powers that Be, require to be filled at least in duplicate. The drawing room is disfigured with jackets, S.D., blankets, soldiers for the use of, and on the polished sideboard repose tooth-brushes, shaving brushes, razors, etc. His wife, who is a Captain in the A.T.S., far from being horror-stricken at the proceedings, aids and abets us in our nefarious plans, and if things go on our C.O. may well find himself on a camp bed in the hall !

Our C.S.M. is another of our prized assets, and when anyone comments on our smartness at drill, etc., and asks how it is that Signals, of all people, look like soldiers, we simply introduce them to C.S.M. Drake, late of the King's Company, Grenadier Guards. Not to be forgotten is our very able C.Q.M.S., F. J. Wheeler, who, as an ex-C.Q.M.S. of the Royal Signals, knows his job and does it well.

The Company is very nearly at full strength and two Sections at least are earning their keep, the G.O.R. Section who, manning their posts continuously, are at the moment whilst on duty, mainly able to sit and think and sometimes just sit ; also the Line Maintenance Section are reeling about all over the district, to date they have got in about 150 miles of D8, and like a character in more peaceful times, " The muscles of their brawny arms stand out like iron bars."

Nearly last, but by no means least, we should like to thank 2nd Lieutenant Darby, R.S.M. Evans, Sergeant Pirrett, Corporal Pyper and other members of the training cadre who placed our feet in the way they should go. The O.C., No. 2 Company, who has come to assist us on several occasions we hope to see again and show our appreciation personally.

Why Won't a Little Bird Tell Us.—Who was the Signalman who, in a football match, hooked the legs from beneath the C.S.M. and made him, to his disgust, report sick with a broken rib ? Is this a case of sabotage ?

Who spread the rumour that the inoffensive Signal Office Subaltern was a confirmed toper ? No. 1 Company please refute.

NORTHERNER.

The First (London) Ack Ack's

Quite naturally, our news this month is largely concerned with entertainment. We hope that all our friends in other Units will have had as pleasant a Christmas jollification as we anticipate at the time of writing these notes.

A very generous rota of Christmas leave has been arranged and most of us expect to spend some time with our families and friends. For those who remain, a delightful programme is in store. The Christmas day party is open to friends and relatives and should therefore promote a happy spirit in spite of the circumstances. Tales of fat turkeys, whole roasting pigs and tempting Christmas fare with plenty of crackers, holly and mistletoe, are already making the occasion eagerly expected. An afternoon concert with plenty of talent has been arranged and the Unit Orchestra will play for dancing at night. Corporal Manley, as organiser of the festivities, is working like a Trojan and deserves every success in his efforts.

Early in the New Year it is hoped to produce a pantomime (an original version of "Aladdin ") and, shortly after, a light comedy, entitled " Third Time Lucky." In both these productions, 2nd Lieutenant J. Hinde has had splendid co-operation from the men and the Unit's A.T.S. detachment, members of which are taking parts. Section Leader Muriel Allott is guiding the progress of these enterprises with a professional hand.

By the time these notes appear, the second issue of " The Ack Ack Mercury," the Unit magazine, will have been circulated. Lance Corporal Lomas E. G., as the Editor, and his colleagues, have had some difficulty in completing the issue, not through lack of material, but through lack of time ; but their motto is : " Better late than never " ; and they are determined to publish or bust ! This new number contains a host of interesting features, too numerous to detail, and the general standard is appreciably better than that of the first issue. Copies of " The Ack Ack Mercury " are being sent for record purposes to the Imperial War Museum.

On the sports side, several keen games of football have been played by the Unit team against sides consisting of R.A. and R.E. players. Our men are scoring well and have developed a very strong combination.

The Dugout, our local canteen club, associated with Holy Trinity Church, continues to flourish and is proving enormously popular. In its cosy rooms various tournaments (table-tennis, darts, snooker, etc.) are being played off ; and in every way the club is helping us to make the utmost of our leisure hours. Thanks to the untiring work of its originator, the Rev. Bryan S. W. Green (the Unit Officiating Chaplain), the place has proved a real blessing.

The new drill hall grows apace, and it will not be many weeks before parts of the building will be brought into use. This will give us ample accommodation of the most up-to-date kind, and we can foresee already that we shall have every reason to be proud of this extension of our headquarters.

Another promotion is to be recorded in that of 2nd Lieutenant D. W. T. Bruce, who started in this war as a Corporal of the Unit. He is to be warmly congratulated on his rise from the ranks.

We take this opportunity of extending to all our friends and former comrades in other Units our sincerest wishes for good fortune in the New Year. May there be peace !

E. G. L.

Eastern Command Signal Company

Apologies for our absence from these columns last month, but perhaps just as well as many are under the impression that the scribe of the November notes was working under Lord Haw-Haw and his propaganda machine !

One-third of the Company proceeded on leave just before Christmas and two more " shifts " have yet to go.

Those remaining behind over Christmas were given a splendid Christmas dinner in " The Keep " ; the officers of the Company acted as stewards and saw that all glasses were properly charged.

A Regimental fund has been started and a grant received from the Paymaster. Sports gear has been purchased for the Headquarters Section and grants will be issued to our Coastal Sections.

An Institute has been opened at Headquarters for the exclusive use of " Signals " and this is much appreciated.

Work on barrack blocks is proceeding and it has been possible to equip every man with either a bed or bed boards.

Our Coastal Sections, although many miles apart, are carrying on nobly with their work and they have been visited by our Commanding Officer or second-in-command.

To all our friends, wherever situated, we wish a happy New Year.

Army Signals, Kent

No. 1 Company

General.—Announcements of the birth of this Company have not appeared in any Society columns. Nevertheless, it is in being. Its rapid transformation from War Office heiroglyphics into a thriving Company was made possible by Magicians-in-Chief Lieutenant J. F. MacSwiney and A/C.S.M. Ball. Their assistants were a cadre of N.C.O.s whose good work will endure.

Training.—Instructors and their Squads are evident everywhere, and Cable Sections are already familiar with all the tree, pole, roof, and buried crossing places for miles around. From their progress and skill it seems that *Certa Cito* (" Surely and swiftly," if my Latin still serves) is their inspiration. Some of them gaze longingly at the local church spire, but cable-laying by helicopter remains merely a lineman's dream.

But going still higher, the stars receive daily thanks that we are not as other Companies, whose work condemns them to Signal Offices tucked away in basements and other such-like hideouts ; for we are of the open spaces and grateful.

Promotions and Appointments.—A/C.S.M. Ball T. and Sergeant Orton P. carried our congratulations and good wishes when they left the Company on promotion to A/R.Q.M.S. and A/C.Q.M.S. respectively. The former's award of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal filled us with admiration. If only the war lasts long enough ——— !

The following Reservists arrived in early October. Their good work, combined with existing opportunities, earned them appointment to A/Lance Corporal : Signalmen Duke E., Cunningham M., Mizen A., Standley A., Vince R., Pointon J., Holden T., Jones A., Morris S., Carter G., Hare I., Short J. and Jones W.

Arrivals.—A number of officers have joined the Company. From their first days with us they seemed to be conscious of their good fortune.

Sport.—The soccer, rugby and hockey fields are in great demand. With such distinguished goal-getters as Signalmen Armstrong, Strauss and Cowie (of Aberdeen fame) to provide the entertainment, the Unit soccer matches draw large crowds. Of course, the Unit is now at the top of the Kent Amateur League.

Accommodation.—The additional living quarters (nearly completed), with central heating, and indeed the general conditions under which we live and work to-day, take some minds back to 1914. In those days, leaking tents housed as many as fourteen men, who slept on comfortless ground-sheets ; parades and duties occupied twelve hours daily ; food was often inadequate and eaten in tents ; and there were no recreational and mid-week half-days. At a later stage it will be interesting to see whether comfort in barrack rooms and good food served in dining rooms turn out healthier and better Signalmen. They will have to be very good if they wish to excel the all-round efficiency of the horse and mule days.

N.B.—We have just received an offer from C.W. to act as correspondent for THE WIRE, so future contributions should be good reading. We extend our greetings and best wishes for the coming year to all members of the Corps at home and overseas.

No. 2 Company

With the advent of the season of seasons, all eyes are working overtime on railway timetables, etc. Several heavy raids have been, and still are being, made on our hard-working pay bloke as to the whereabouts of the huge credits that have been expected by some. I am pleased to state that they have all been successfully repulsed.

During the past fortnight the Company has had an extensive Drill and Musketry Course, the results of which we are due to see soon. Several instructors are hoping that the Lancers are not forming the butt markers.

This month we bid farewell to Sergeant Satchwell and his brood, who are leaving us for another station " somewhere in England." Our heartiest wishes go with you all, not forgetting the O.C. Section, who must remain unnamed. May you have good hunting.

The social side of the Unit is maintaining its high standard, and continues to cater for all tastes. There is always the wet canteen for the " old sweats."

Football is the star sport this season, the Unit team have been entered in the local league and so far have enjoyed a run of successes.

The Company extends a hearty welcome to Sergeant Shirley, who has been posted to us from No. 3 Company, also to Robert Irwin Smyth, a recruit of the youngest order. May we present the proud parents, Sergeant and Mrs. Smyth. Well done, Dad.

In closing we extend our best wishes for the coming year to all members of the Corps at home and overseas.

Cheerio ! SLIM.

Army Signals, West Riding of Yorkshire

December, 1939.

We have really nothing of a startling nature to report. Recruits continue to arrive in large numbers, principally under the various specialist schemes conducted under the auspices of different trade journals. As a large batch arrives the men are clothed and started immediately on elementary recruit training prior to being employed upon their trades. Technical training continues at an intensive rate, many detachments being given courses in civil institutions.

The camp is gradually assuming its final condition as originally planned, and the latest additions are the gymnasium and N.A.A.F.I., the completion of which has given our harassed entertainments committee greater scope for their efforts. Two very successful Unit dances have been held in the gymnasium, and it is gratifying to find that the local " fairies " can manage to find their way up here.

I do not know whether the Editor sent a copy round to Drury Lane, but evidently someone there has read THE WIRE recently, for our new N.A.A.F.I. was " christened " by our first visit from an E.N.S.A. Party, whose show was very much appreciated by a packed house.

Naturally at the present moment, by far the greatest amount of attention is being paid to the Christmas arrangements, and the first leave party is already away, but they will have to return in time to spend the festive week in barracks. However, the P.R.I.'s Committee have got well ahead with the preparations for giving those in barracks for Christmas a very good time.

Congratulations to Lieutenants G. V. Leath and G. R. Bishop on receiving their commissions, the first from the ranks of the Unit. The former is still with us as T.M.O., while the latter is now at the new S.T.C. Since the " Blue Book " has been cast overboard, innumerable others have been confirmed as " war-substantive " in the acting ranks that they were granted at the outbreak of war. I think there were five pages of Part II Orders, so I shall not attempt to quote any of them.

Here's another "black-out" problem. Two members of the Sergeants' Mess were walking in the town one afternoon, and as a girl approached, one remarked, " I think that's my girl-friend." " Hang it ! man, don't you know ? " asked his pal. " How can I, when I've only seen her after dark in the 'blackout' ? "

We were very sorry to read in the press of the Corps' first casualties with the B.E.F., and tender our sympathy to their relatives and their comrades of our local S.R. Unit.

All good wishes for the New Year.

SPASIGS.

West Country Divisional Signals, Devonshire

We extend a hearty welcome to the newcomers of all ranks during the past weeks. Training continues with unabated progress, and the speed with which some of the newer members grasp their new jobs is remarkable. It certainly proves that " where there's a will there's a way," and the " complaint " is spreading. Trade tests are now under way, and pay lists will be augmented very shortly.

As each month passes we miss certain faces and characters, our loss being someone else's gain. To those who have left us we would say, " Good luck in your new sphere. Remember us sometimes."

Although belated, we wish all members, past and present, good luck for 1940.

MERCURY.

No. 1 Company

General.—Since our last notes appeared we have entered upon individual training, and the Company has had an opportunity of showing what it can do in combination with the rest of the Unit. The classes are now awaiting the trade tests, when they will be able to show the results of their strivings.

A Sergeant from the School of Army Physical Training has descended upon us during the last month and has been busy teaching us all sorts of twists, bends, and stretches hitherto unknown to us. He has left us again for a time with promises to return at an early moment.

We have said good-bye to several of our " under 19's " during the last few weeks. They have left us for various training centres in England, where we hope they will have the best of luck without altogether forgetting the Company they came from. On the other hand the Company is able to welcome a number of the A.I.C., who have been posted to us to fill up the vacancies. We hope they will soon settle down in their new surroundings happily, and will probably be as much part of the Company by the time our next notes appear as are the influx of men who joined us around April last.

Social.—Once again the Company has run a most successful dance, which was held in the Town Hall on Friday, 24th November, and was attended by about 300 people. We hope that our next dance, which is being held on the 20th December, will be equally successful.

Promotions and Appointments.—Congratulations to the undermentioned on their attaining the ranks indicated :To be A/Lance Sergeant, A/Corporal Newcombe S. R. ; to be A/Corporal, Lance Corporal Clift F. H., Lance Corporal Wilkin A. C. ; to be A/Lance Corporal, U/Lance Corporal Addyman D. G., U/Lance Corporal Treliving K. R., U/Lance Corporal Triscott W. C.

ONECOY.

No. 2 Company

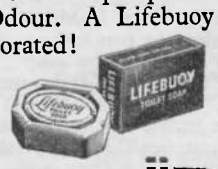
Well, here we are once more, still " somewhere in Devon," and I suppose I can safely say things are going along quite nicely in every direction. I believe when I last wrote the Company Notes, we were about to commence individual training. So I think I had better say just a little about the impressions gained so far. Now it may be the weather, it may be the many comforts of our Mess Room, it may be for other reasons, but it is a certain fact that as soon as tea is over we see a mass production of notebooks and various textbooks spread over the tables, and the struggles with baffling problems commence. And there they wrestle with these

What's all this about a pint and a half of perspiration?



We all perspire about a pint and a half every day even if we sit still the whole time. And not all this perspiration evaporates on reaching the surface of the skin. That's the trouble! Some always remains in the pores, where it quickly becomes stale and causes 'B.O.'

So play safe. Avoid 'B.O.' by taking a regular bath with Lifebuoy Toilet Soap. Its rich, full lather, with the antiseptic health element, goes deep into the pores and removes every trace of stale perspiration. It deals with the *cause* of Body-Odour. A Lifebuoy bath leaves you really fresh and invigorated!



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LIFEBUOY TOILET SOAP *prevents* "B.O." (body-odour)

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great problems night after night, scorning the temptations to spend an hour on the bil iards table, at table tennis, or even a trip to the nearby Railway Hotel. Such is the effect of individual training on most of our lads. Mind you, there's something to be said for this thirst for knowledge, but does my imagination mislead me when I see ahead an epidemic of " brain fag " ? Maybe they will decide to issue each billet with a radio set and insist on the lads taking advantage of the B.B.C. physical jerks. That ought to make men of them ! However, joking aside, there is a certain keenness alive in our midst that leads us to believe that the daily march to the various classrooms will not have been in vain. I hope that by the time these notes appear the first results of trade tests will have disclosed proofs to justify my optimism.

Now I think I must leave the serious side of life and pass on the month's scandal. There is one big event to announce. To our amazement, we were told of Sergeant Holladay's decision to throw off the mantle of freedom and take unto himself a wife ! And sure enough he did the trick and is now happily settling down to married life. There was the usual sympathy extended to him at a stag party on his last night as a bachelor (what a night !), but seriously we do wish you good luck, Alec, and may all your troubles be "gay" ones.

We had **a** nasty shock after the last dance, when a certain strict teeto**ta**ler appeared at midnight and loudly insisted that the dance should continue, although the guests had all departed, and the ballroom deserted. This may have been overlooked, but when the same individual assured the Sergeant-Major that the Orderly Officer was Lance Corporal Rutley and the Orderly Corporal was Sergeant Holladay, some action had to be taken. It is expected that cocktail parties will be banned from now on.

We must close with a few congratulations this month, and first these are extended to Corporal Collard on his splendid achievement on a recent Course ; and also to Lance Sergeant Smale, and Corporals Barker and Jewell on their promotion.

Although the festive season will have passed before this message reaches my readers, all ranks of No. 2 Company extend hearty wishes for the New Year to all colleagues in all parts, at home and overseas.

SQUIFFY.

No. 3 Company

Since our last notes there have been many changes in the personnel of the Company. Ten men all under 19 years of age, or unfit for foreign service, have been posted to other Units. In addition two N.C.O.s have been posted elsewhere as Wireless Instructor and Physical Training Instructor. We are also particularly sorry to lose Sergeant —— who has gone elsewhere. He was one of our finest and most popular instructors, and his going will leave a big gap—in fact, a very big gap. We are pleased, however, to welcome back Sergeant-Major King, our C.S.M., who has just completed his duties with the Army Class Intake ; 17 members of which have been drafted to us and have helped to swell our number.

We shou**d** like to congratulate Lance Corporal Walker on his promotion to Corporal and Signalmen Crook, Helier, Carleton-Stiff and Halse on their appointment to Lance Corporal.

The Company soccer team has won through the local rounds of the Divisional Cup and they have also beaten a Regimental side in an Area Cup match. We hope to see them in the final of the competition by the next issue of THE WIRE.

THREECOY.

Scottish Divisional Signals

The writer has often been in many queer positions and has frequently felt out of his depth, but having to officiate as a " budding journalist " for a comparatively new Unit causes him more than a little thought. However, " Never venture, never win," and I'll endeavour to portray the most topical events concerning this " lay out." In our winter retreat, " Somewhere in Scotland," Unit training is proceeding smoothly and efficiently under the C.O., officers and N.C.O.s. Despite the arduous nature of that training, complaints are seldom, if ever, forthcoming, and with the provision of concert parties, cinema shows, etc., the task has been considerably lightened. In addition, the countryside in which we are stationed has lent itself well to recreational training and the local inhabitants have shown great interest in our boys whom they have treated extremely well.

Sports.—One of our junior officers has had the honour of playing for a Scottish Trial Team in which he distinguished himself in no small manner. Further, a very able and efficient football team has put our Unit in the spotlight.

Congratulations.—We have noticed with pleasure the promotion of many of our old friends amongst Signal officers, some to very high ranks, and we offer our heartiest congratulations to them though we are not allowed to mention actual names. We have also to congratulate one of our own Captains on his recent promotion to the rank of A/Major, and also to welcome him back to the " fold " after his recent illness. Congratulations are also due to the following N.C.O.s on having attained the rank of A/W.O. III, Sergeants Sanderson W., Loudon D., Johnstone J. and Jackson W. Also to Sergeant McPeak H. on his promotion to rank of A/C.Q.M.S.

Greetings.—We offer our cordial greetings to all newcomers. Some of them hail from the " Sunny South " and many have accents which have no connection with the title of this Unit. We are glad to say, however, that they are all excellent fellows who are doing really well both in learning our language and our customs. They have been a valuable addition.

All ranks would particularly like to send greetings to those who served with them in the early days of the war and are now training in the East and West of England. Particularly to our old friend Mr. H. who went Eastwards, and who is fondly remembered by all.

Visits.—We are expecting a visit from some urban friends shortly who are going to each us the mysteries of a " Hush Hush " form of signalling. In return we hope to teach them how to play football if time permits.

We hear good news of our old sister Unit the Lowland Signals and, like all nice families, a certain amount of rivalry has grown up between us, which is all to the good so far as training and sports are concerned. We are looking forward, at a not too distant date, to some sporting contests with them.

Obituary.—It is with the deepest regret that we have to announce the death of Lance Corporal William Hornell who was killed recently in a road accident whilst carrying out his duties. A highly efficient D.R. who was held in high esteem by the Divisional Staff, he is deeply mourned by his many friends and comrades in the Unit. We offer our deepest sympathies to his wife, family and relations in their time of sorrow.

O.H.

Lowland Divisional Signals

After what you did to my last notes with your slashing blue pencil, Mr. Editor, I really feel inclined to throw up the sponge ! I feel like the whole Ministry of Non-Information by myself ! After all my elaborate compliments to Lieutenant ——, how disappointing to find that he had disappeared in the anonymity of Messing Officer ! What's in a name ? A —— by any other name would smell as sweet. No, it doesn't sound quite right ! [Please see Editorial Notes in our November issue.—ED.]

Everybody here is in fine spirits preparing for training in our new area. Our Army Intake men gave an excellent display the other day as a wind up to their first period of training. They have certainly earned their Christmas pudding ! The rest of the Unit are also very fit and the Medical Officer finds time hanging heavily on his hands. The fresh air of our new home will no doubt reduce the " Doc." to a state of complete unemployment ! After we move we hope to have a programme of out-of-door games and recreation in full swing. We have already made a start with the Unit hockey team, which has played two matches. Both were lost, but the team as a whole showed great promise for the future. Several very stiff P.S.I.s were to be seen on the parade ground after the first match !

A notable feature of the month has been the departure from our midst of the 12th Company, A.T.S. The occasion was marked by a farewell " high tea " and dance, which a " selected " list of N.C.O.s and men attended. An altogether unintended number of valedictory speeches was delivered at the high tea ! Best wishes to the A.T.S. in their new home. The help they gave us here, especially in the early weeks of the war, was much appreciated.

A number of changes have taken place this month. We have a new second-in-command, a new Company Commander, and a new Adjutant, and there has been quite a considerable re-arrange-

ment of Section Officers. We all regret very much the departure of Captain ———, O.C., No. 2 Company. During his short stay with us, " Uncle " had earned for himself an especially warm place in the hearts of officers and men alike. This sounds like an obituary notice, but actually Captain ——— is still serving his country in a job of real national importance. Our best wishes go with him ! We hope he won't lose touch with his old Unit.

A final word of congratulation to our late R.S.M., who has received his commission as a full Lieutenant. An extremely well-deserved promotion, following very fine service in the Unit. Congratulations also to his successor as R.S.M. He will, we feel sure, worthily uphold his family tradition ! VICTOC.

Welsh Divisional Signals

General.—Before we came to our present station we thought of Pembrokeshire as a county verdant and beautiful with rugged coastline and golden sands. In the mind's eye pleasant beaches were gay with sylph-like form disporting in multi-coloured bathing costumes, and everything was sunny, warm and thoroughly acceptable, a sort of railway poster picture. We have discovered winter in Pembrokeshire somewhat different, for the rain it raineth every day or has done until just recently. Now the weather has become cold and dry, and is as welcome as the flowers in May, and we far prefer being frozen whilst on outdoor training to be soaked and drowned. There is little news of general interest to report for the past month.

Training.—We are settling down to some hard work on a fresh training programme under the able direction of our energetic Major. Training is organised on the basis of a segregation of linemen and operators, specialised and separate instruction being given to each trade.

Entertainments.—In the entertainments field our organised sport is proceeding apace, and we are building up a very useful rugby fifteen. We still have our periodical Unit concerts and an occasional visit from a N.A.A.F.I. Concert Party, which is enjoyed to the full. An innovation this month has been cinema shows of both instructional and entertainment character.

We have to say good-bye to some old friends and welcome to new ones. To all we say " Good Luck."

T.D.

Northern Ireland District Signal Company

Of all the Signals now in Northern Ireland there is one who has thus far escaped mention in this journal, but he deserves to be placed on record if only for the never failing skill with which each day he manipulates the Commanding Officer's date stamp and changes the blotting paper. We refer to Sergeant Cox. We refrain from quoting his regimental number, which is the only regimental thing about him, but we submit below for our readers' consideration an alleged authentic story which Sergeant Cox has produced for the benefit of posterity. If this story does not convince the cynical and the war-weary, it may at least prove that what is one man's idea of a joke may easily be to another the waters of the Lethe.

No Blind.—The scene is the outside of an ablution room in a very well-known barracks. The time is approximately a quarter of an hour after the commencement of the " black-out " period. From inside the ablution room comes the strains of " You will always be my sweetheart," sung with that verve peculiar to friend " Atkins " in the course of his toilet preparations prior to keeping a " date." The words of the song are punctuated with gurgling noises which indicate the liberal application of dirt remover to a " fizzog."

Outside the ablution room—there are two sides to every story—we find the Major, the Subaltern, the Orderly Sergeant and the Orderly Corporal (the latter with the appropriate S.O. Book 136 in conspicuous position). This splendid company are gazing in horror at the one and only window in the ablution room from which is coming the forbidden luxury—illumination !

The Orderly Sergeant is the first to recover from the awful shock and, in those carefully selected words which are typical of Orderly Sergeants at their best, he gently (?) requests the unseen vocalist to draw the blind. The singing within ceases abruptly and the singer (unaware of the exact composition of his audience) asks whether he is being taken for a conjuror in view of the fact that there " ain't no blind," etc.

The absence of such a vital necessity seems incredible. The Major addresses the Subaltern : " What ! No blind ! " The Subaltern to the Orderly Sergeant : " What ! No blind ! " The Orderly Sergeant scowls at the Orderly Corporal and grunts : " What ! No blind ! " . . . The Orderly Corporal flourishes the aforementioned S.O. Book 136 and therein makes the simple but most surely historic entry : " Ablution Room No. ——, NO BLIND." . . . What events subsequently took place must be a matter of conjecture.

And Now All This.—The approaching end of the year makes us a little retrospective. We too, like Sergeant Cox, recall the happier days when illumination was not a luxury and time had not much to be reckoned with ; but when, as now, dawn does not break on our horizon until breakfast is up, and Retreat is sounded at 16.30 hours, time is annihilated and light eliminated. Apart from these minor discomforts, however, we consider ourselves fortunate in having a roof over our heads, enough coal to burn, and no chance of our Christmas festivities being interfered with. The granting of Christmas leave has, of course, resulted in a corresponding reduction in the number of those available for duties and at the moment in the Signal Office the Superintendent sits in the seat of the Counter Clerk and as it happens to be Corporal Jones we may as well mention that he is also the potential Santa Claus for the children's Christmas party.

War Diary.—With all due respect to the compiler of the Unit War Diary, we wish to point out a regrettable omission on the 8th December, 1939, for on that date, Corporal Samuel Gill, being the Orderly N.C.O., was required to leave barracks on official duty, and that was the first time he had done so since 1935, when he lost himself in Clifton Street.

Another Dead Loss.—Signalman Taylor has recently brought his wife over from England and is much missed in the barrack room he once frequented. Signalman Clark G. has recently married, and also brought his wife over, and he also is missed in the barrack room but not in the mess room, where his excursions and excavations around and in the syrup tins made us seriously consider the idea of writing to his parents to see if they objected to us substituting the name of Gobbler in place of the more auspicious one of Geoffrey. Considering that these two strapping Signalmen with their wives have decided to live together in one house some miles from barracks, and having regard to their collective capacity for shifting food, it is rather surprising to see two miserable bachelors, namely, Signalmen Rowley and Denehy, lurching into barracks at night, their bellies with good capon lines and grievously overloaded with Bamber's apple pie.

Other Departures.—In the month that has passed a number of Signalmen have been claimed from us for work in a more advanced theatre of war. It is not our practice to be sentimental over the departure of individual men, but we shall not easily forget Signalmen Garbutt, Edgar, McFee, Roden, Hyder, Coombes, and Wildman, all of whom in their various ways contributed to the sporting and social amenities of the Signals now in Northern Ireland.

Time Marches On.—Perhaps in years to come we will have forgotten the details of our lives here and will only remember the main events, the weather, the beer, the bright-eyed girls, the step of the Sergeant-Major on the stairs, the organised games, the moonlight saunter, the red flash of the arm band in the Signal Office. These are the things that to-day are sensation and when they take their place in memory they will be a wreath of flowers on the oldest brow. The only thing that makes us miserable now is that we have not yet avenged our pay-bloke, Lance Corporal Gray, who when returning from leave was incontinently chased across the Irish Sea by a not too sentimental submarine. However, Sergeant Adams is never tired of telling us that we should blockade Russia as well as Germany, while Corporal Jones, in the seat of the prophet, fundamentally believes the war will be over by Christmas. Whatever may happen before the New Year, we may congratulate ourselves that our time this year has been well spent. Time is said to be on our side. Yet as far as Hitler is concerned we can only say that time can only prove and the result of this war emphasise his infinite stupidity.

Well, we have sent our Christmas cards and best wishes to home and friends and to other Signal Units in other lands across the seas. Let us resolve in the New Year, and revive if necessary in the next, a better appreciation of the Royal Corps of Signals, which, by all existing news, is proving one of the strongest links in the British Commonwealth of Nations.

THE GLOOMY DEAN.

STATIONS ABROAD

Signal Training Centre (India)

November, 1939.

Having carefully read and digested the editor's " Business as Usual " column in the October issue of the WIRE and noted particularly the remarks about censorship and contentious articles we will endeavour to record the items of interest within the S.T.C. (I.) during the past month.

Guy Fawkes.—On the 4th, " Guy Fawkes " night was revived by the customary bonfire and firework display for the children (young and old) in the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess. A huge bonfire, material for which must have taken some considerable time to collect, presented an original reminder of G. Fawkes and his G. Plot. An effigy of the " Fearer " (as our wireless announcer aptly pronounces the word), complete with one thing he'll never get far enough East to need, a topee, was well and truly burnt. The children (?) were delighted, even those who occupied the front seats and looked quite grown up seemed very well impressed. The *coup de etat* was the innocent explosion of the first cracker, whilst all eyes were glued to a rocket high up in the air. However, the display was voted quite a success and led to several independent bonfires on the following evening (the real fifth).

Ex-Services Association Ball.—On the same evening the annual Ex-Services Association Ball was held at the Gun Carriage Factory in which quite a few N.C.O.s of the S.T.C. (I.) acted as officials. Sergeants Spearpoint, Greig, Wilson H. and Chambers acted as M.C.s. Corporal Keighley, Lance Corporals Thomas and Bateman, Signalmen Howard, O'Connor and Clarke were " managers " of sideshows, which proved a popular attraction. A letter of appreciation of their efforts has since been received from the Brigade Commander, which gives them a considerable pat on the back.

Armistice Day.—On 12th November a combined parade service was held in the Garrison Church, which was well attended and had the unusual feature of being conducted by four chaplains.

Debate.—It would not be fair to omit to mention a rather unusual event that occurred on 11th November in the form of a debate by N.C.O.s that " Germany's chances of winning the war are remote." A few days before the chota " Parliament " assembled the faces of a few N.C.O.s could be distinctly noted as becoming " Chamberlainish " or "Atleeish." The economic situation was reviewed, *via* the *Statesman* and any political-looking person on hand at " wireless " times. Old members of the Unit in particular may appreciate the names of the speakers. Sergeant Mullins opened the debate for the motion. C.S.M. Ellerton-Long was the Leader of the Opposition. C.Q.M.S. Quinn, Sergeants Chidgey, Williamson and Driver, and Lance Sergeant Tant nobly performed the task of speaking for the motion. Sergeants Goat, Connolly, Bush and Kerr and Lance Sergeants Lynam and Adkins endeavoured to speak against the motion. We understand the time limit of four minutes imposed for each speaker was forgotten and that one recorded saying was something on the lines of a man who was not a politician. No names, no P.D.

Point-to-Point.—The Nerbudda Vale Hunt held their Point-to-Point meeting on the 3rd Cavalry Parade Ground on 18th November, presenting an interesting card of seven races. Sergeant Farlow kicked off by winning the B.O.R.s' race on " Gigolo," with Corporal Taylor second on " Smee." Havildar Major Mahboob Ali won the V.C.O.s, I.W.O.s and N.C.O.s' race on " Cherry." Captain Iftikhan scored in the Nomination Lightweight race on " Le Fleche " and again with " Toff " in the Open Nomination race, Captain Whistler being second on " Mulvaney " in the latter race. Miss C. Hay beat the other ladies on " Holycross " in the Ladies' race. L. D. Jang Bahadur won the I.O.R.s' Race on " Simon," after a very fine race. Finally, after Major M. T. L. Newington had been unfortunately disqualified from winning the Heavyweight Nomination race, owing to having run outside a flag, Captain C. C. Morrison was awarded the race on " Mohan." The afternoon provided excellent entertainment and the attendance of members of the S.T.C. (I.) was notably large. The course provided quite a few upsets, but had the advantage of being almost completely in view of the spectators. The N.V.H. are to be congratulated on a well-spent afternoon and popular opinion votes for another early meeting if only to compensate for the " Blockade " caused by those campers on the racecourse.



Lt.-Col. T. B. Gravely, O.B.E., Major M. T. L. Newington and Lieut. B. H. P. Barnes at the Nerbudda Vale Hunt Point to Point

Arrivals and Departures.—This is where we tackle the Part Two side of the Unit. No doubt a trifle dull to those within the Unit, but nevertheless of great interest to old members of the Unit. During the month we have welcomed Lieutenant-Colonel (Q.M.) A. Newton, Royal Signals, I.A., Major J. E. F. Paton, Royal Signals (as second-in-command of the Battalion), Brevet-Major G. S. Hurst, I.R.R.O. (for a short stay only), and 2nd Lieutenant F. Hickley, A.I.R.O. (for a similar short stay). Q.M.S. (F-of-S) Fuller H. and family from another station in India, Corporal Hooper M., M.M., Signalmen Tassinari and Kinge also from an Indian station. Corporal Hooper has been with us during the past seven months and liked his stay so much that he couldn't leave us.

We have said *au revoir* to Captain H. G. S. Bivar, A.I.R.O., and 2nd Lieutenant L. F. Reeves, Royal Signals, S.R. S.S.M. Drudge and family leave us in the very near future, also C.Q.M.S. Goat. We trust their new stations will be up to expectations.

Promotions and Appointments.—Normally a small feature hidden away in some remote corner of the Unit notes. This month we have quite a few to record. The Blue Book scored for the treasured few. Congratulations are extended to Sergeants Williamson T., Goat A. and Connaghton J. and Corporal Taylor E. on losing the Temporary to the ranks stated. (The last of the Mohicans). Lance Sergeant Ditchfield O. and Corporal Nixon H. on obtaining these ranks (Pukkha). R.S.M.s Newbury R., Weston H. and Taylor A., R.Q.M.S. Ellerton-Long A., W.O. III (S.S.M.) Howard T., Q.M.S. (F-of-S) Fuller H. on their promotions to these ranks, and to U/Lance Corporals Coulson R., McAra J. and Dixon-Browne A. on their appointments.

Agony.—Stanley, George V. "Congratulations. How is it done? Horace."

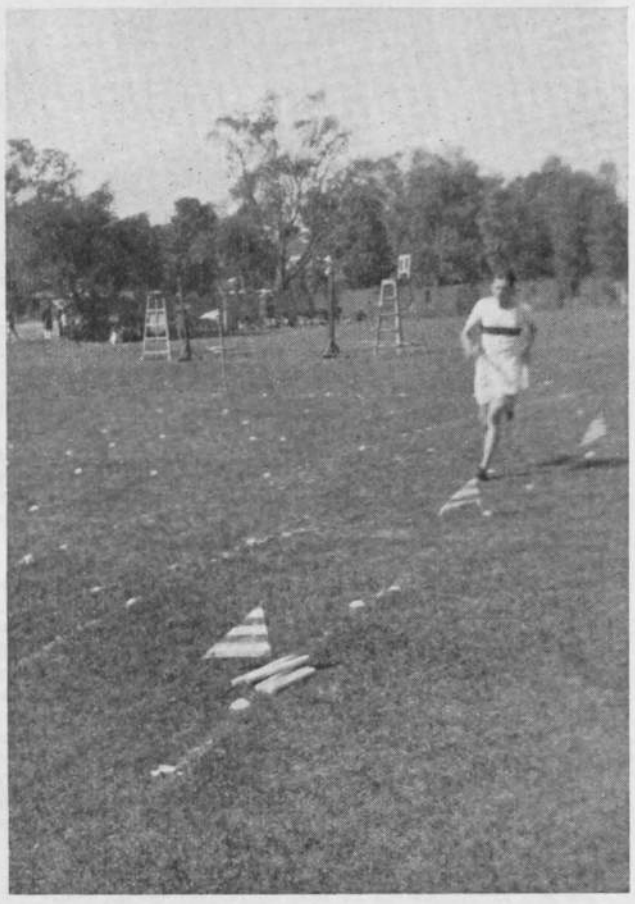
Opportunity Lost.—The command "March to attention" being given just when the old hand was about to reply to the question of a recruit, "What medal is that which you are wearing?"

Sincerity.—The expression, "Yours till Hitler unveils a monument to a Jew."

CAVE CANEM.

SPORTS NOTES

Hockey.—Although hockey is regularly played within the S.T.C. (I.) we notice that "A" Company have been producing some consistently good wins during the month. On the 5th, versus the A.F.I. (Nagpur Rifles) they won by 3—1. On the 6th, versus "F" Company, they won again by 3—1. On the same day their "B" team beat the R.A.M.C. to the tune of 8—1. On the 10th, versus the A.F.I., they won by 4—1, and on the 21st they won by 6—1 in their game with "D" Company.



Lieut. B. H. P. Barnes in the 440 metres at the Olympic Athletics

Cricket.—Cricket opened up during November with a game against the 2nd Battalion, K.O.S.B., "A" Company winning this match. On the 16th, a trial match was played between two teams of "A" Company. Results, unfortunately, are not available, but we believe one or two possibles were noted.

Athletics.—On Saturday, 25th November, eight members of the S.T.C. (I.) wended their way to the Garrison cricket ground to participate in the Jubbulpore Olympic Athletic Sports and put up a very fine performance in winning two events out of three and being placed second in the other event. The team comprised Captain D. J. Goldsmith, Royal Signals, Lieutenant B. H. P. Barnes, Royal Signals, Sergeant Collett L. F. S., Lance Corporals Bateman G. and Williams F., Signalmen Richards R., O'Connor F. and Reedman C. They were successful in winning the 100 metres and 200 metres relay races and obtained second place in the 440 metres relay race. Lance Corporal Bateman, who took part in the high jump, obtained third place.

Golf.—A quiet month from the point of view of notes. The winners of the Eduljee Cup were Lieutenant McConnell and Lieutenant Bourney, 2nd Battalion, K.O.S.B. We have started our series of matches with the Gun Carriage Factory, losing the first round. We hope, however, to obtain a win in the next round.

CAVE CANEM.

1st Indian Divisional Signals, Rawalpindi

October, 1939.

General.—The hill season for this year has ended. The main body of the Unit left Upper Topa at midday, 14th September, rather earlier than is usual, the families returned on 9th October, and the rear party joined us on 11th October, having finally closed the station until next year. We are now well settled and training is in full swing. The M.A.R. Section of "A" Corps Signals have joined us and will shortly proceed to join their Regiment at Nowshera; Lieutenant R. J. Johnson is in command, assisted by Sergeant Andrews. Our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel R. Jee, M.C., who returned from U.K. leave recently, has now handed over command of the Unit to Major J. F. Charlesworth, and will shortly leave us to command another Unit. We all wish you the very best of luck, sir, and hope to have the pleasure to be able to serve with you again during our service. Captains H. D. Orr and R. B. S. Eraut have also reached us safely from U.K. and settled into their respective jobs. Fighting "K" will shortly return to us from Waziristan. The long-promised record of their action during absence on service will no doubt materialise.

The Rawalpindi District Motor Cycle Trials took place recently. Two teams from this Unit took part, one of which reached third place. Lance Sergeant Tant and family have left the Unit on posting to Jubbulpore. Best wishes, Apollo; we shall miss you if we serve at Ghariom again.

Congratulations to Hon. Captain Sowar Khan Sahib, Bahadar, O.B.I., I.D.S.M., on being promoted to that rank.

Sergeants' Mess.—We bade farewell to Upper Topa in the shape of a social and dance and rejoined the Mess at Rawalpindi. Things are rather quiet at present, except for plenty of tennis. We are promised the first dance of the season during the latter part of this month, after all the ladies have settled into the winter quarters. Murree beer does not need so much ice these days; the weather is much cooler, so cool in fact, fans have ceased to bother our wireless reception. A number of our neighbours, the I.A.O. Corps, have joined the Mess to assist us in eating. They have recently returned from the U.K. and familiar faces are among them. We are pleased to see you all and hope you will enjoy yourselves as you did in the old days.

Sport.—Owing to change of stations, matches have been confined to Inter-Company and Section games. We played the Worcestershire Regiment, at soccer, the result being 3—1 against us.

Everybody is taking full advantage of the new swimming bath. We hope for some aquatic sports in the near future.

Waziristan District Signals

Headquarters

November, 1939.

Greetings.—We take this opportunity of wishing all ranks of the Corps, and especially those in the war zone, a bright and happy New Year.

General.—Once again we are settled for the winter season, 1939-40, and already a large percentage of the Section has taken advantage of the golf course, as can be seen from the number of broken clubs and lost balls.

All ranks extend a very hearty welcome to Mrs. Smith, the wife of Signalman Smith R. (026), and all sincerely hope that her stay with us will be a very pleasant one indeed. We also welcome Signalman Smith R. (026) from Wana Section.

Lance Corporal McWilliams J. has left us and our very best wishes go with him.

Signalman Hood L. J. arrived here during October. Happy stay, Lofty.

Several Sectionites have joined us to participate in an upgrading Course from O.W. and L. to E.S. We wish them success and hope they will have a pleasant stay with us.

Sport.—Once again our sports are in full swing and our football team, under the capable guidance of Sergeant Mulcahy and Signalman Ridgway, are in excellent form. Up to date, we have not suffered defeat. Well done! Our hockey team are also proving themselves more than a match for most opponents.

Finis.—We notice that our " Beer Lovers " have long faces; " Water Waggon Predicted." It's a shame that prices are rising; still, cheer up, Tomo!

WAZDISTSIGS.

W.O.s' and N.C.O.s' Mess.

General.—Once again we are settled down for the winter season. It is still quite hot during the day but very pleasant in the evening. The families returned from the Murree Hills on 18th October, and all are pleased to be here once again.

Social.—The season opened on 21st October with a Dance. We were pleased to see the Commanding Officer and his wife, and all the other officers in attendance. During the evening we tried out " Boomps a Daisy." It was good fun, but done a little too vigorously, as one or two of the ladies complained of bruises next day. However, everyone enjoyed themselves.

On 25th October, D.H.Q. invited us to a Tennis "At Home." Everyone enjoyed the evening out. The tennis was very good indeed and we are looking forward to more shows of that kind.

Congratulations.—To Captain (Quartermaster) A. E. Turner, M.B.E., on being mentioned in the " Gazette " for his third " pip."

Arrivals.—A hearty welcome is extended to C.Q.M.S. Freeman and family from Bannu, Sergeant Gordon's family from Dehra Dun, and Mrs. Bennett and Mrs. Smith from England. We hope you will enjoy your stay with us.

Greetings.—Christmas greetings may be too late, but we wish a happy New Year to all members of the Corps wherever they may be.

KIKO.

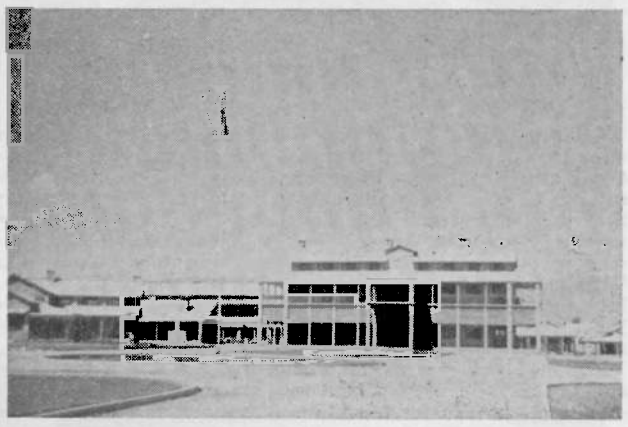
Wana

Well, here we are, back again in print, and ready with all the Section's news, views and items of interest. We are now comfortably settled in our new quarters and everyone here is busy pegging away at Section training. Our new billets are absolutely top-hole, built on a neo-lavatorial design, complete with running water, and if old Wana-ites could return and see them, they would simply wag their heads and murmur: " Who would have thought it." The Section has undergone some very drastic changes since last month's notes, and the main question now seems to be: " Whose turn next? "

Apart from the rumours which are rife about a spot of bother in Europe, everyone's thoughts here seem to be centred round



Old Signal Lines, Wana



New Wana

the pay bloke. " I wonder how much he will give me for Christmas " seems to be the theme song. Speaking of Christmas, we would welcome any suggestions as to how we should spend our vacations.

Arrivals and Departures.—Quite a number of changes have taken place during the past month. We welcome to our midst our old Section Commander, Lieutenant A. F. McGill, Royal Signals, and we wish him all the very best and hope his stay will be both long and pleasant. Sergeant Coles has joined us from H.Q., and to him we extend a glad hand and hope that he will be quite happy in his new role of Section Sergeant. Also we have Signalman Waugh (complete with canine friend)from another station. Here's all the best, Ging.; now you are a real frontiersman.

We regret to announce the departure of our esteemed Section Sergeant, who has gone away to qualify to join the ranks of the W.O.s. We wish him all the best in his struggle for promotion. At the same time we miss him badly, and, as I write, a tiny tear drops upon my pad. Good luck, Sergeant Collins; I hope you read this. Signalman Neve (Blue Eyes) has left us to join the Cavalry Troop, and doubtless by now he is walking with a permanent limp. Anyhow, good luck to him in his new environment. Other departures include Signalmen Coleman, Baker and Fawley, who are away on E.S. Courses, and, last but not least, we have lost our I.M. (incidentally our horizontal champ.), and also 026, who was always a close second. Both these celebrities have gone to a well-known resort.

General.—Nothing startling to report this month; the usual grippers are still holding the stage, and if all we hear is true, the European situation has been cleared up, tied in pink ribbon and docketed.

Social.—Cinema de luxe, complete with thousands of interludes for fruit and refreshments (raspberries), showing three times per week perhaps. (We seem to see Mr. Hore Belisha's hand there.)

All section dances have been cancelled, owing to all our ladies volunteering for the front. Other activities, nil.

This Week in the Garden.—He's handy with a rake, a lathe or a D.III. Who? For the first correct guess we offer the proverbial cigar.

Howlers.—He sprained his ankle sliding down the barrister.

He found the accused lurking in the virginity of the absolution rooms.

He thought Pop and Panel were somebody's parents.

I stand to be convicted.

I saw two ex-Punky blokes from India.

Conclusion.—We send our best wishes to all our civilian friends who are now under training. Don't forget Wana is a nice place if you like solitude.

Hebrew Mail.—Badli. "What about a line? Teaker."

China. "We would like a complete set of Mah-Jong rules."

THEW-POP.

Razmak

November, 1939.

Calling all Cars.—The Section had six days' holiday last month, when the lads meandered over to a neighbouring Camp to have a look at the exciting night life there! Never mind, the recruits enjoyed it, or so they said, and let's hope they did. Actually the column was fairly hard (no "flicks" for six days) and we were glad when we arrived back to the old red roofs. The country over which the Brigade was operating was as only Waziristan can be, and it was not until the last day that we kept to the road for any length of time. At many points we had a first-class view of the many "battles" that took place, and, of course, the lads built the necessary night protection. The hostiles will insist on ramming bed-legs down the barrel and sending them over with the usual greetings. "Little Willie" even ducked when the Mountain Battery opened up in camp, and the cry of "Got him, sir," echoed. Cheer up, Willie, they won't get you.

Communications throughout the column went splendidly, and 637 messages were passed without any appreciable delay.

To sum it up in a few words, we might well say: "It's no good having polo ponies there, my lad; it's chargers, 17 hands and over. Now when I was at, etc.," and so on.

Camp News.—And the great big world keeps turning. The Orderly Corporal rings the Signal Office to get the correct time a few minutes before twelve noon, to enable himself to blow the Station hooter at the correct time. Of course, the Superintendent would say, "If you wait a few minutes the hooter will go and it will be twelve noon." The indent for a new Tele 110 was thrown out!

Talking of stores, Signalman Browning has lost one brown sock, complete with suspender. Finder will be rewarded. Will he?

Flash.—Latest Political Intelligence reports state that a typical Wazir was actually moving with the column, but those who know and saw him state that it was Signalman Slaymaker with several days' growth of beard. But how can one tell the difference. Did he look rough? Not much.

International Hook-up.—Word has reached the scribe that very shortly a certain N.C.O. of the Section is holding an exclusive "Art" exhibition. Shady work was done in getting the photographs into the Station and if he goes to bed early at night there is no reason why everybody should be clamouring to know the reason. The whole thing is to be made public soon. How soon, Busty?

At the time of writing, the general thought is Christmas, and who is going to hold the enviable position of Duck Orderly till the great day arrives. If it is anything like last year, well then we won't have a tick coming. We shall tell you all about it.

As the strains of the last waltz reach our ears we say, "can" it, brother, till next month, for the loaded dice of destiny are about to be rolled.

GAVIN.

Bannu

General.—Looking down the roll of the Section, I find that very few changes have taken place during the last quarter. Many perspiring brows cooled suddenly when education classes were cancelled prior to what was to have been the examinations during October. However, someone had a bright idea to re-impose the sweated brow by introducing I.T., and many Marconi-minded men have come to light. Some of the more intensive ideas include speech between a "C" set and a No. 1 set, a one valve sounder, and a five-valve tele 110.

Kohat District Signals are assisting us in trying to keep raiders on their side of the border. C.W. is being maintained on No. 1 sets, which are situated in various Frontier Constabulary Posts.

Sport.—The Section hockey and football teams are shaping quite well under the guiding lights of Signalmen Sangster and Harris respectively. Latest news from this department relates to budding referees, but so far the writer's siesta has not been disturbed by shrieking whistles.

Christmas.—Christmas preparations have begun with one Tommy Sangster, who is to be seen calling the roll at noon every day (Sundays included) on the banks of the local Tiber. "Quack" has been substituted for "Sir." He will not divulge the punishment meted out to absentees but a broom handle has been reported missing from a certain barrack room in Egerton lines.

Further Outlook.—Slight depressions *a la* Brass Hats, with very bright intervals near the Sergeants' Mess, and perhaps some really sunny periods in the near future.

N.C.O.s' Mess.—A beetle drive and dance opened the winter season, when Bannu N.C.O.s turned up in force to start the ball rolling. More functions have been planned for in the future, of which more anon. Guy Fawkes night was successfully celebrated by a certain section of the Mess, but that's another story.

P. B.

Peshawar District Signals

October, 1939.

Quite a time has elapsed since the last appearance of notes from P.D.S., for which I apologise, and offer any excuse on the assumption that any excuse is better than none. Owing to the slight disruption of mail services these notes may be too late for October's issue, but I hope not.

General.—We are now coming to the close of what has, comparatively speaking, been a mild summer, and due partly to this, but principally to the sterling efforts of the Anti-Fever Squad, cases of malaria, etc., have been few and far between.

Arrivals and Departures.—One or two of our personnel have been posted somewhere and some new chaps have been posted here from other places. (Censor, please note.)

Courses.—The following Courses have been successfully concluded (for some): O.S. III to II at Landikotal; Junior N.C.O.s' Course at Peshawar (under Sergeant "Thunderer" Jones of Depot fame).

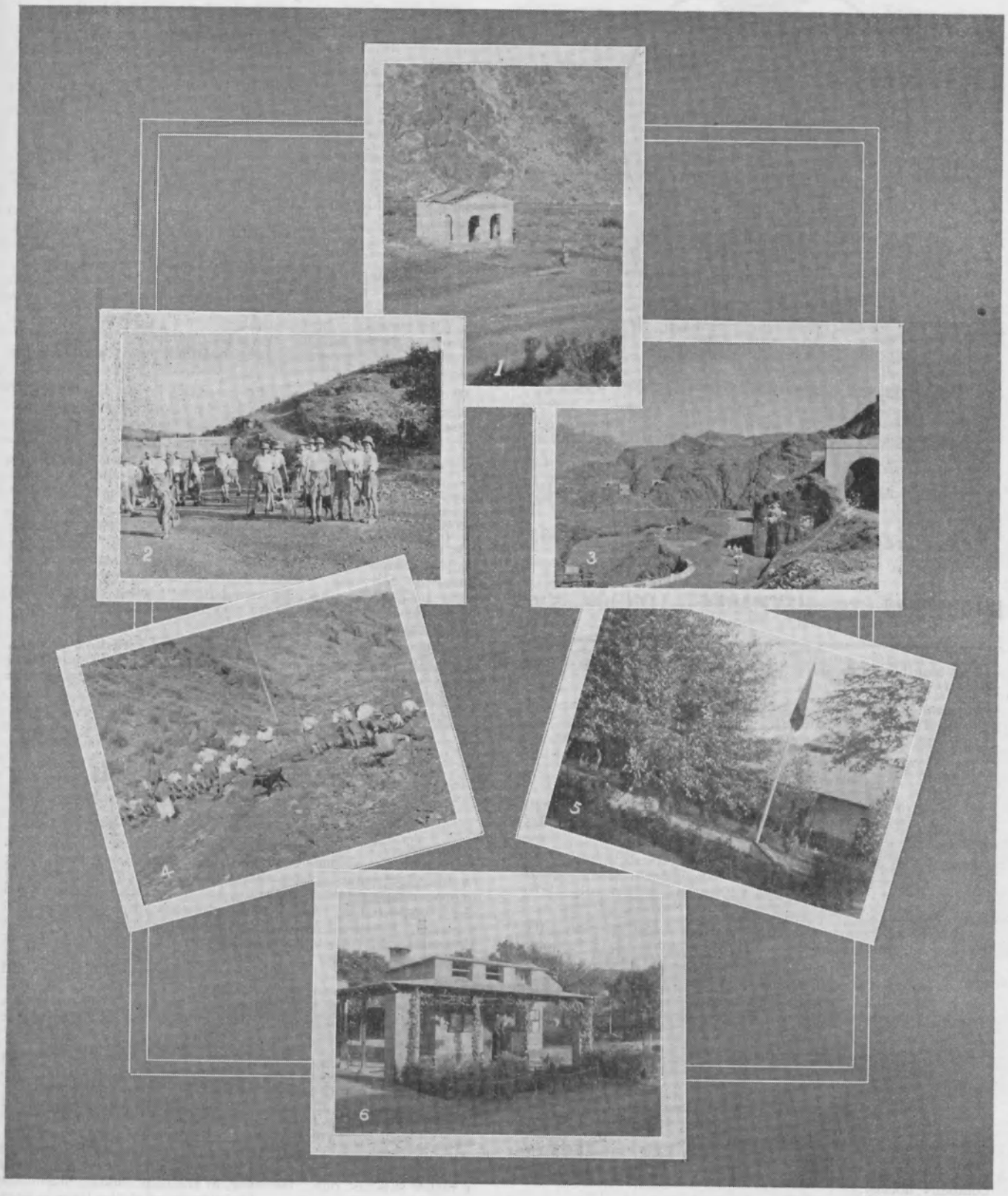
The undermentioned Courses are still in progress: O.T. Course at Peshawar; Musketry Course at Peshawar. (Brrrrrrr.)

NOTE.—An Observer/Bomber Course starts periodically (unofficial).

Entertainments.—The Dance Band has been putting in some intensive practice and the first Unit Dance of the season is booked for the 28th of this month, by which time the members of the fair sex should have returned from the hill stations.

Overheard.—During an operators' grip: "... 'im? 'E couldn't send a stamped postcard." "Yeah, I know 'im. Can't even read the C. and M."

PESHAWAR DISTRICT SIGNALS



1. Afghan sentry and guardroom on the "other side"
2. Group at Frontier
3. Strolling along the Khyber road
4. The Section has a breather
5. The Detachment lawn, Landikotal
6. The Section office, Landikotal



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This Month's Fairy Story.—The following will be repatriated to the U.K. : . . .

Oh, dear !—It seems that a certain senior N.C.O. rang up one of the W/T stations to confirm their frequency and, unfortunately, at the same time the operator was ringing to order his supper.

The following conversation ensued :
Senior N.C.O. : " What frequency are you on now ? "
Operator : " Three egg banjos and a pot of char."
(Collapse of Senior N.C.O.)
(Collapse of operator occurred later, when S.N.C.O. found his voice again.)

Sport.—The enthusiasm for football at present is positively feno—phenom—terrific. Scarcely a day passes now without at least one team, frequently two teams and periodically three teams taking the field.

The first XI have just realised their ambition by sinking the R.A.F. team to the tune of 4—1 on OUR ground. (Ex-P.D.S.-ites please note the " OUR " ground. The late Tanks ground is now ours.)

A project is on foot to turn the Stadium (to the uninitiated, the grass pitch at the back of Khyber barracks) into a grass hockey ground.

The B.O.R.s' hockey XI met the I.O.R.s' XI in a game last week, and after a keen game we emerged victors by 2—0, Sergeant Gibbons scoring both goals.

A local Derby—Onecoy versus Twocoy—on the Garrison Ground resulted in a draw, each team scoring once. Keen tackling by Signalman Mulholland of Onecoy, and " Impassable " Chalmers of Twocoy were the real high lights of a spanking game, which everyone enjoyed. (Wait for results of the Inter-Company hockey.)

Conclusion.—For the present there is no more, so, until next time, 73s from P.D.S.

Stop Press.—Which V.C.O. wanted a number of pole-bars to construct a pole crossing ? Oh, gorsh.

SKIM.

Landikotal Detachment

Our O.C. has just returned to the Section after a three-weeks' illness. We hope soon to have his support on the hockey field, as since he left we have not been at all successful. Perhaps the loss to us of his verbal support has had some effect on the morale of our opponents.

Sergeant Jones (of Depot notoriety) has been officiating O.C., and has been instrumental in straightening a few spines. He is now in Peshawar in charge of " J " Section and his place has been taken by Sergeant Pendegast.

We have just said good-bye to the O.S. 3 to 2 Course, which has been taking place up here since the beginning of July. Results are not yet known, but I understand that one or two chaps have a fairly good idea how they fared, " Ohm's Law " being to blame.

The less agile members of our community, i.e., the Sergeants, discarded their crutches, and managed to annex the first prize in the Landikotal Brigade Bowls Tournament. It is generally agreed that the cups are excellent, but that their shape could be altered to advantage.

We are sorry to lose Lance Corporal Deverson and Signalman Baker L. They are both useful hockey players as we hope they will soon prove in their new surroundings. Signalman Baker went to " J " Section.

Early in July the Section went on a dog and stick walk to the frontier post. Everyone enjoyed the walk, and the enclosed snaps show us at the frontier post and en route, providing the censor doesn't object.

On 7th September the Landikotal Point-to-Point Meeting took place. We entered six mules and one horse. Signalman Jogindar Singh was first in the mule race, and as we had our money on him, the " Tote " provided us with the necessary funds to carry on backing our fancies. Lance Naik Ganga Singh was fourth in the horse race. He put up a very good show as he fell once when leading.

We hope to include notes every month from now onward, that is if our activities are confined to Landikotal, and should like to hear from ex-" L " Section chaps whenever they feel like dropping us a line.

Beeryo, chaps !

Lucknow District Signals

Eastern Command, India.

October, 1939.

General.—We apologise to all ex-" B " Corps and 3rd Div. readers for the absence of notes for the last few months. Many changes have taken place, chiefly the arrival of the Corps from another station, the departure of the old " Div." overseas, and the unexpected arrival of ninety " has-beens " from the Old Country. Many old and rather welcome faces were seen among the latter, some whom most of us only dimly remember, having bid the sunny climes of India farewell in the hoary past. The fact that they had left " cushy " digs., maternal landladies and easy jobs made them none too amiable companions at first. Now, however, they are resigned more or less to the inevitable, and have even entered the more enlightened and respectable " gripping schools."

For the benefit of ex-Karachi " wallahs " it should be fitting to give a few details of our exit from the gateway of the East. Although an American visitor to Karachi once said in an interview with a reporter of the local rag that " Karachi was about the size of a cemetery in New York and twice as dead," to many, the days of basking at the Lido, or at Clifton, were very happy ones. After many feats of strength at the Transit Siding the day arrived for the actual departure. The send-off from the Rest Camp was a rather subdued one. However, at the Cantonment Station we received a royal reception. The pipe band of the Baluch Regiment were in attendance, and for the period that we waited

there, entertained us with some rare marches extremely suitable for the occasion. After many farewells were said by all, we moved out to the strains of Auld Lang Syne. Some grim faces were seen as we left; even the Doctor, of Mist Expect Stim fame, was seen with a tear or two running down his leather cheeks.

Thus we left and set face for a new hunting ground for most of us.

Arrivals.—We welcomed the arrival of Major R. L. M. Rosenberg, to assume the command of the Unit, and Major T. A. R. Scott, now in command of No. 1 Company. Major H. P. Hart joined us to take up the reins as second-in-command.

Departures.—We have said farewell to Major J. E. F. Paton. To those of the old "B" Corps who served under him and remember the plays he produced for the Karachi Amateur Dramatic Society; we wish him all the best of luck in his new station.

Ten of the "has-beens" left us, among them "Flossy" Cloke and "Solo" Brown of Burma fame. We shall miss you from between the sticks, Flossy.

Sergeant Wellock and family, and C.S.M. Moult, have also left us.

Births.—Congratulations to S.S.M. Bailey and Mrs. Bailey on the birth of twins, a son and a daughter, Nigel Harcourt and Pamela Ann, at Meerut on 4th November.

Also to Sergeant and Mrs. Nichols, a son, Robert Richard, at Meerut, on 27th October; and to Sergeant and Mrs. Scratcher, a son, Trevor Allan, at Meerut, on 9th November.

Promotions.—Records seem to have forgotten us of late, and there have been very few promotion pints. Lance Sergeant (T/Sergeant) Peters has dispensed with both the "L" and the "T," and Lance Sergeant O'Malley has left the Corporals' Mess. Corporal Beatt has also left the "L" behind, and that makes up our total to the time of writing.

In conclusion we might add that we promise our readers a more regular rendering in future, and wish them the season's greetings for Xmas, and for the year 1940.

Goo.

SPORTS NOTES.

Football.—Although we have only played friendly games up to the present, some fine games have been witnessed. The Unit XI is a very strong one, with Greenwood, who won his spurs at Aldershot, and Managhan, the old "B" Corps and Durand finalist, in the forward line, and goals have been very fruitful. We were sorry to see Cloke, the custodian, leave us; we did not need to see the cuttings from the "Ashford Guardian" to know how useful he was.

The Cavalry Troop have been out for blood on more than one occasion, and though they have only a few to pick from, they have a very useful team. They just can't get the better of us yet, however.

Cricket.—Only two games have been played, one with the R.A.M.C. and one with the Indian Gymkhana. The R.A.M.C. proved no match for our very strong side, being skittled out in the first innings for 27 runs, Major Scott taking six wickets for 18 runs, and in the second innings again could only knock up 31 runs. Thanks to Major Rosenberg, who opened, and remained undefeated with 52 not out, our eleven put up the rather formidable total of 103 for 3.

Against the Gymkhana we batted first and Corporal Rylatt found the bowling much to his liking. He carried his bat for the very useful score of 88 not out, scoring a six and fourteen fours. Our innings ended with the score at 162. The Gymkhana were none too comfortable against the good length bowling of Major Scott and Lieutenant Mathews, and could only raise 60 runs towards our total. Thus we were victorious in both our matches by a very good margin.

Hockey.—The Unit has a team entered in both the Senior and Junior Hockey League run by the local Hockey Association, which commenced on 7th November.

The "A" team is rather a formidable one, and in a match with the "B" team proved their skill by running out the winners to the tune of 4—1.

The results of games played up to the present are as follows:

SENIOR LEAGUE. "A" Team.

v. Youngs Athletic	Drawn	1—1
v. Punjab Regiment	Won	2—1
v. N.A.S. School	Won	2—1

JUNIOR LEAGUE. "B" Team.

v. Meerut College "B"	Won	5—0
v. Punjab Regiment "B"	Drawn	1—1
v. Youngs Athletic "B"	Won	3—0
v. Comrades	Drawn	2—2

4th Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop (India)

December.

General.—It will probably come as a surprise to old members of the Troop to hear that A.H.Q. have at last decided to Indianise, and have therefore issued posting orders in respect of all B.O.R.s, with the exception of Sergeant Page, whom we leave behind to carry on in "Q."

During the three years the B.O.R.s and I.O.R.s have been together, the spirit of comradeship has been of the best and all have worked together and without friction in upholding the reputation of the Troop. The results of this working together can be seen from the very excellent reports the Troop has received from time to time, and more so in this, our last year together.

The departure is being celebrated by a six-a-side hockey match, to be followed by a tea party kindly given by the Indian N.C.O.s.

It is with a feeling of regret that we leave the Troop, but we feel sure that the Indian Ranks will carry on in maintaining the good tradition already established.

In conclusion, we take this opportunity in offering our respects and good wishes to the Commandin, Officer, our second-in-command, the warrant officer, and all Indian Ranks of the Troop.

AU REVOIR.

Departures.—C.Q.M.S. Dilworth; Sergeant Hylands, Lance Sergeants Grafton and Robertson, and Corporals Glover and Rawcliffe.

Promotions.—Congratulations to C.Q.M.S. Dilworth on attaining that rank.

Palestine Force Signals

Headquarters

November, 1939.

General.—Palestine Force Signals is still on the map; in fact we have been increased by our friends "from long time," the Reservists, who apparently included Signalmen Pike and Harrop, to add to tne troubles of us who remain here.

We say cheerio to Nos. 5, 8 and 12 Sections, who have left us for "somewhere in the universe"; old friends have been parted but it was the usual soldier's farewell, and we wish them luck in their new station and a speedy return. Notable departures are R.Q.M.S. Tebbey, with C.S.M. "Bill" Solly as second-in-command, Sergeant Vigurs and C.Q.M.S. Hall. The officers commanding Sections are: [Sorry, "Buck," that's not permissible.—ED.] Departed members will note with pleasure (?) that "Cinderella" has been evacuated from the Mess to the great indignation of a certain Sergeant (R.E.); she was "murdered" a few days after their departure.

We welcome to our fold new officer arrivals from the United Kingdom and hope they will find their new vocation a change from "Civvy Street."

Promotions and Appointments.—'Undreds of 'em, but here are about 20 per cent. by names:

Congratulations to R.Q.M.S. Wattley, M.B.E., on his commission from the ranks to Lieutenant (T.M.O.)

The same to: R.Q.M.S. Higham, C.S.M. Miles, S.S.M. Stibbs, Sergeant Vize, U/Lance Corporals "Andy" Troke and Moore (Haifa).

Christmas.—The exigencies of the Service permitting, we hope to have a bumper Christmas this year. The Children's Party and Christmas Tree will take place as before, with the exception of the absence of the original Father Christmas, whose place is being fought for very heavily. May the best father win.

Howlers.—The new tooth extractor in Germany—only Hitler is allowed to open his mouth (?).

The man who lost his kit bag, containing eight pairs of K.D. shorts, while on leave—kit bag since been found—great hopes for eight pairs of K.D. shorts (in fact, prayers are offered).

Rugby.—We at last boast a rugby team. There appears to be only about two other teams in our district, but that doesn't make any difference. Jerseys and knee caps have been purchased and we are all ready for the first round.

Tailpiece.—Who are the four " Snakes " who crawl round the bunks at night ? Let's hope they don't bite their own tails sometime.

BUCK.

No. 3 Section.

November, 1939.

When we heard that war had broken out our first reaction was one of relief that it would no longer be necessary to invent excuses for not writing any WIRE notes. However, it seems that the good work is to go on as long as possible and our optimism was short-lived. It appears that we must not give any information away which would be of use to the enemy, so we conceived the idea of putting in the heading and leaving a blank space underneath. This should be sufficiently mysterious and so confusing that the enemy agents and the dhobi wouldn't even know if there is a No. 3 Section or not. Unfortunately this idea was not received favourably, so here we are again—or are we ?

The trouble at present is not what to write about but what not to write about. A trifle involved, but true.

If, for instance, we published the information that Lance Corporal Creed has almost completed experiments on his new Propaganda Machine, which works c/w on 10-14 metres from 06.00 hrs. to 22.00 hrs. daily, we are liable to get heavily censored and Signalman Scott would have to take the job over.

While we would not lower ourselves to be drawn into a vulgar and wordy brawl it has been brought to our notice that certain other Sections of Palestine Force Signals have been showing evidence of malicious envy. This is understandable to a certain extent. But they can't all expect to be as good as we are.

M.T. Notes.—

The O.C.'s Austin has improved
Since the engine's been removed.

Sykes's 'bike is off the road,
It couldn't stand the extra load.

The Duchess is a funny car,
It wobbles to and fro ;
It needs about a quart of juice
To make the Duchess go.

STORY WITH A MORAL.

" Shall I drive a little faster ? "
Said the driver to his mate,
" I'm governed down to forty,
But I can do forty-eight.
Just watch me pass that car in front."
He did it with a sneer ;
But now he's in the glasshouse—
He had passed the Brigadier.

Sport.—Owing to the international situation, some of the younger members of the Section are inclined to believe that we may leave here soon. We older ones know better and shake our heads at such foolishness. Signalman Ford still considers that to buy a patch of land in the local cemetery would be a good investment. We are all gradually wasting away and our acquaintances in Jerusalem who visit us sometimes (on their way to Haifa) and our acquaintances in Haifa who also visit us (on their way back from Jerusalem) are really very sympathetic about it. In spite of this we manage to totter out and show the locals how to play football. Taking a few moments respite from bandit-biting we have played the following games :

v. 2nd Queens	Won	4—2
v. Police, Jenin	Won	2—0
v. Rural Police	Lost	4—0
v. Palestine Police, Nablus	Drawn	1—1
v. Urban Police	Won	3—1
v. Welch Regiment	Won	6—2

Yes, there are a lot of Police round here.

Goings and Comings.—We recently said good-bye to Lance Sergeant Cant, but not before we had congratulated him on becoming T/Sergeant. At the same time we nearly had a tragedy in the Section. A certain W.O. had his grips packed all ready to move off and the band was standing by ready to play the " Good-Time Charlie Melody " when the order to move was rescinded. He managed to survive the shock, but only just. A recent arrival to the Section is 2nd Lieutenant E. Sharpe. We hope he likes the Section as much as we do.

There are, of course, many rumours regarding forthcoming moves, but up to the time of going for censorship there is nothing definite. So you may hear from us again next month.

CHIB.

No. 6 Section

November, 1939.

Introduction.—Our late scribe having been found out, is now serving his time at an out-station. He seems to have made a clean getaway with the month's " griff." His successor has made some unsuccessful attempts to scrutinise the office files for a new scoop, but it was not until consultation with the local dhobi that he was able to compile these notes.

General.—The outcome of the European situation has not affected the working of the Section to any great extent, although it seems to have brought disappointment to some optimists who had been eagerly counting the days. Perhaps there had been some notion of U.K. leave in the near future. The lucky individuals who took the first spot of leave have returned. Their grip entitled " Subs. that pass in the night " leaves the optimists wondering whether it is not better to remain on terra firma.

Congratulations.—To our O.C. on being mentioned in despatches for devotion to duty. Well done, sir !

Appointments.—We also congratulate the following on having dropped the " U ": Lance Corporals Harding and Lawrence. Thanks for the ginger beer, Corporal.

Arrivals.—We extend a hearty welcome to our new Section Commander, S.S.M. Stibbs. Was it getting too cold in the hill station, sir ? We also welcome to the fold Lance Corporal Griffin and Signalman Hill.

Departures.—Quiet, please !

Agony.—" What about my books, Busty ? Surely you know enough about I.C. engines now. Ginger."

" What price the ticket now, Badgy ? The Boy."

THE EAST'S WEST END.
(Dedicated to our new super Cinema.)

By some process of conversion,
The " Gaff " we all once knew
Was taken from its perch on
A site, out in the blue.

And neither 'twas before its time
That that Black Monster fell,
For many a patron's mind, like mine,
Had thought much better of—well.

But listen, chaps, the worst has been,
And now for compensation,
There's something new built round the screen,
Oh, boy ! it's real sensation.

Three " ackers " takes you in the Pits,
Six " ackers " in the " Gods " ;
There's boxes, too, just for the nits
Who wish to pay eight clods.

Now if by chance you're blessed with cash,
And the canteen seems too far,
You'll get liver, chips, and eggs and mash
From the cinema-cum-naffy bar.

There's one thing yet that could refine
This superb " gaff " a lot :
Although it has the Neon sign,
A milk bar it has not.

Hockey.—On 21st October, the Brigade Headquarters' team, which includes a large complement of the Signal Section, met the 56th Field Company, R.E., in our first game of the season. In this match, which was good to watch, Corporal Heward had the honour of scoring our only goal of the game and the first of the season. The Sappers brought the result to a draw when they scored in the second half. In a return match the Sappers made a decisive win, the score being 3—1. The " Cads " of No. 2 Wireless Company defeated our lads by 5—1. The most recent game played by the Brigade was against the 2nd Battalion The H.L.I. The " points " in this match were mostly at the umpire, who wasn't sure why he had blown the whistle. Anyhow, the Jocks say they won 4—1.

Soccer.—The Brigade Headquarters' team has played several games since our last issue of notes appeared. It should be mentioned that although our victories have been few, several excellent games have been played. One in particular was against the Sappers, which we won by 7—3. They evidently kept the game in mind, for in the return match they won 4—0. We could perhaps report many more wins if all our players could get away from duty together.

Tail-Bit.—Full particulars on " How to acquire perfect " black-out " results may be had from Signalman Kidd, of the " Back on the Tack " Brigade.

R. J. M.

No. 9 Section

November, 1939.

Much water has passed under the bridge since we last appeared in print. We are now comfortably esconced in huts, and the vista of tents which has decorated the camp throughout the summer has disappeared. None too early, for the first rains have already given us a foretaste of that glutinous variety of mud which appears to be the main product of a Palestine winter.

Salve.—We welcome to the fold 2nd Lieutenant R. Liddington and various other ranks, most of whom were earning hundreds of pounds per week in " civvy " life but are now broke on Thursday.

We congratulate Local Corporal McConnell-Wood and U/Lance Corporal Roberts on their respective appointments. The " ackers " will come later—we hope !

Individual training has been in full swing for some time and numbers of Infantry Signallers have returned to their Units after training, with the morse code fixed firmly in their hearts and an application to transfer to the Corps in their pockets.

What is this Siegfried Line ? First a subscriber asks the exchange for it, and now the dhobi says his washing has improved by hanging his clothes on it. There's dirty work somewhere ! Even our correspondents promise us a line, but do not mention any particular make.

Au revoir ; and may some of those bottles of beer seen making their way across the Channel lose their way and find a home in Palestine. The quota will admit them.

DOOK.

Malaya Command Signal Company

October.

I wonder how many poor unfortunate WIRE correspondents fainted when they received the " Business as usual " notice. Maybe it would be a much better idea if the Unit Censor wrote the notes. At least he would know what to put in them—or would his notes also be censored ? " Big fleas, etc."

Our sympathy is extended to Gunner, Driver, Signaller, as the case may be, McRae who, after being attached to the Unit ever since he arrived in the colony, was returned to duty last month. On the other hand, we congratulate Lance Bombardier McRae on taking the first step up the ladder. Now, now Mac., be kind to your soldiers.

Congratulations also to C.Q.M.S. Nix on grabbing a handful of leave.

Where are the days of yore ? Ay, where are they ? Since the balloon went up, working hours in the Company have been—quoting Unit Orders—"All day and every day." And what do the old colonists think of the idea ? Tamby, a sheet of asbestos !

However, the technical training is benefiting from the longer hours Freddie Keeling and his brood of linemen, Holden and his gaggle of operators, and Sailor Parsons with his bevy of Asiatic linemen.

The first squad is a voluntary effort, consisting of operators who feel that they have received the call And are they getting on ? To hear Albert ask for a W.K.4 is a joy. Maybe he didn't know what it was exactly, but the mere term " W.K.4 " sounds impressive. A great pity that Ginger Dinneen asked whether you wanted two jars or not.

The second effort is getting along fine. All the operators are being whipped into shape and already are taking control on shoots, etc.

Trade tests are to the forefront of most people's minds. I hope to have something to say on this subject next month.

The old Asiatic linemen's class has now been completed. All the students passed their tests and are now looking very self-conscious in their new uniforms.

The scream for economy has brought to light many amusing incidents. I think the following is the best. Letters to-day must be typed on as little paper as possible, crushed up into one corner. In this way three or even four letters can be written on a sheet of paper which with a normal layout would take only one. The Ordnance Asiatic clerks were most careful about doing this as were they in the tearing of the paper along a ruler. But, when asked what they did with the spare paper, they replied, " Threw it away."

And to think of Pete Gwillim sending memos. to the C.S.O. written on empty cigarette packets.

We are beginning to wish that someone would write to Mick Woolhouse. He could take it if they'd let him. How long ago is it ? Three days ?

" The climate in India is terrific." At least, so we have been told. But poor old Ted Greenwood couldn't take this. Sunday morning tennis left him moulting. The snake in the grass.

In these days of strict economy one must be very careful that the Censor does not waste his blue pencil, so, cheerio, folks.

SPORTS NOTES.

Hockey.—The hockey season is now well and truly opened. Up to the present date we have played fifteen matches. These give rise to great hopes for the tournament. We have entered the Small Units Competition, in which we meet Company teams, and so far have been holding the Loyals' Battalion team. An Army trial was held on 25th October. The Unit had six representatives in Lance Sergeant Thompson, Signalmen Ross, Clayton, Ingham and Prime and an Officer. I think that even if these players do not get their places they put up a good show. Results are as follows :

v. 12th Infantry Brigade (Ross, Thompson 2)	Drawn	3—3
v. 2nd Loyals (Ross)	Lost	2—3
v. Indian General Hospital (Thompson, Ross, Twiddy)	Won	3—1
v. Y.M.C.A. (Twiddy 2, Thompson 2, Edwards)	Won	5—3
v. 12th Infantry Brigade (Thompson, Twiddy, Ross, Edwards)	Won	4—1
v. H.Q., Malaya Command (Twiddy, Thompson 2)	Drawn	3—3
v. Raffles Institute (Ross, Twiddy, Thompson)	Won	3—0
v. 2nd Loyals	Lost	0—3
v. 31st Battery, R.A. (Forward 2, Edwards, Stokes 2)	Won	5—2
v. H.M. Submarine " Proteus " (Ross, Twiddy, McAuliffe, Thompson 2)	Win	5—0

v. R.E.s, Pulau Brani (Price 2, Thompson 3, Twiddy 2, Ross, Prime)	Won	9—2
v. Indian Association (McAuliffe 3)	Won	3—2
v. 2nd Loyals	Lost	0—2
v. Signals, Changi (Stokes 2, Thompson 2)	Won	4—0
v. Clerical Union (Brady, Price, Twiddy)	Won	3—1

The Unit's first team is usually : Sergeant Funnell ; Signalman Clayton, C.S.M. Harvey ; Sergeant McAuliffe, Lance Corporal Penman, Signalman Ingham ; Signalman Ross, Lance Corporal Twiddy, Sergeant Thompson, Lieutenant —— and Signalman Prime.

It will be noticed from the list of results that Changi Signals cannot play hockey. That is not a boast, merely a bald statement of fact, and if Changi Signals would like to take me up on it, I'm sure that Jack Sharpe would be pleased to pick a decent crashers' team to knock them off the island.

Rugby.—The Unit has been unable to form a full side. At least we could have done so but the allotment of grounds is a bit of a snag, as there is but one ground in the Area with at least five teams fighting for it. However, there are seven Signals in the Depot's Area team and we usually find one reserve. Sergeant Holden, Corporal Spriggs, Lance Corporals Gamble, Maddison and Newsham, Signalmen Ingham and Fulcher are the Unit representatives. It is hoped that one or more of them are picked for an Army trial.

Tennis.—A team has been entered in the Inter-Unit Competition and there are six entrants in the Individual Championships. No matches have been played as yet, but prospects are bright.

Basket Ball.—A new basket ball ground has been marked out and when the weather permits there are a few blood matches to be played off. Seniors *versus* juniors should be a good draw, especially if the ground is either very hard or very muddy. It is hoped that the married ladies meant their challenge. Now that my Bachelors' Club has been started again I'll love playing against them.

P.T.—Voluntary P.T., under C.Q.M.S. Wally Parker, has commenced. And what a class. Prunella Spriggs is well to the fore. Shades of the early morning P.T. And do the fellows like it ? They even choke off poor old Wally when he is late.

Dominoes.—Thompson and Ambury beat Sharpe and Tatham for the championship of the China Seas. What a fight. Guess Jack is getting too fat for this sort of thing now.

A Six-a-side Hockey Competition has been started. So far only two ties have been played. Six minutes of torture. Albert and Co. are very busy talking tactics and rather fancy themselves for the final.

November, 1939.

Something tells me that Christmas is fast approaching. Snow is expected any moment. Even our " all the year round swimmers " have stopped attending the swimming baths.

Even Part II Orders wear a festive air. Promotions and upgrading arrived just in time for the big pays. The following promotions were made. They were " acting ranks " for three months and are now substantive : W.O. II (F-of-S) White A. to be Sergeant-Major, W.O. I (F-of-S), C.S.M. Harvey C. to be R.Q.M.S., S.S.M. Woolhouse (Mickey) to be C.S.M., C.Q.M.S. " General " Gordon to be S.S.M., C.Q.M.S. (F-of-S) " Ginger " Kavanagh to be W.O. II (F-of-S), Corporals White E. and McDonald P. to be Sergeants, Lance Corporal White E. to be Corporal, Signalman Wild and Laker to be Lance Corporals. Stout work, tellahs. Out of their clutches at last. What, Lofty ? Who said you'd never be a Field-Marshal ? Oh, yes, and T/Lance Sergeant Thompson G. has dropped the " T." Just in time, Dickie.

Six members of the Unit upgraded on the last Trade Board. Lance Corporal " Soapy " Hudson and Signalman " Paddy " Slavin (the Killer) are now Operators, Class I ; Signalman Leah, Class I, I.M. ; Signalman Williams, Class II, Fitter Signals ; Signalman Marsden, top rate Despatch Rider ; and Signalman Sayers, Lineman, Class III. Excelsior !

On the same Trade Board Lance Sergeant Thompson and Lance Corporal Parent obtained additional qualifications as Clerks. Maybe they have eyes on the main chance and are expecting another crisis next year.

Congratulations to the Chief Signal Officer on his promotion to Lieutenant-Colonel.

Ex-colonists may be interested to know that Bill Coton is still with us. He is stationed at ——— and now that he can tell a spade from a club we find him " yonking " fairly regularly. Or can't he tell them apart ?

2nd Lieutenant L. F. Reeves has now a table in the C.O.'s Office. The sea air seems to be doing him good. There are still some spare tables already " lettered." What offers ?

Work in the Unit still goes on apace. Signalman Johnstone took over the job of sports groundsman and he now spends his time tootling round the hockey pitch on his patent motor mower surf board, complete with topee, sunglasses and eyeshade.

The three training squads are working hard, and maybe our linemen-to-be will soon have an area to cover.

One of the Operators' Instructors was seen the other day sitting on his bed thumping on the cover of Vol. 5. When asked what was the matter, he replied, " Oh, nothing ; I'm just punching up." Deaf. Well, " Hazard " a guess.

In conclusion I would like to wish all ranks in the Corps and all past members a prosperous as possible New Year. May your barrels be bottomless.

Agony.—To Haggis and Ricardo. The above refers to you. More will follow later, I hope.

SPORTS NOTES.

Many old Malayans would be staggered if they could see the amount of sport that is played in the Unit now. One evening there were no fewer than two hockey teams, one football team and three parts of a rugger team fielded from the members of the Unit. Results have been very satisfactory up to now.

Hockey.—Results :

1ST TEAM.

v. Clerical Union (Brady, Lt. Price, Twiddy)	Won	3—1
v. 2nd Loyals	Lost	0—1
v. S.C.R.C. (Lt. Price 3, Prime)	Won	4—2
v. Police S.S. (Sergeant Thompson 2)	Won	2—0
v. R.A.O.C. (Sergeant Thompson)	Won	2—0
v. 2/17th Dogras (Ross)	Drawn	2—2
v. 2/17th Dogras (Twiddy)	Lost	1—2
v. 2nd Manchesters (Thompson 4, Ross, Twiddy, Lt. Price)	Won	7—1
v. R.A.O.C. (Thompson)	Drawn	1—1
v. R.A.M.C. (Ross 4, Twiddy 3, Lt. Price 2)	Won	9—1
v. Force E.M.U. (Twiddy 3, Lt. Price)	Won	4—0

2ND TEAM.

v. 11th Battery, R.A.	Drawn	0—0
v. R.I.A.S.C. (Corporal Stokes 2)	Lost	2—3
v. R.I.A.S.C.	Lost	0—2

"A" TEAM.

v. 7th H. Regiment (Thompson, Edwards)	Lost	2—4

The Loyals and R.A.O.C. are still our bugbears, but we are battling on.

Rugoy.—Results :

v. 11th Battery, R.A.	Lost	6—0
v. 35th Company, R.E.	Lost	11—0

Owing to the heavy fixture list compiled by the Combined Depots team we had to cancel arrangements for the formation of a Company team. As it is we usually provide eight, nine or ten players in the Depot side. Such stalwarts as Tommy Holden, Thompson (junior), Fulcher, Smith, Lamb, Maddison, Edwards, Ralph, and Wally Parker. The last-named has had to pack in owing to a strained shoulder.



Malaya Command Signal Company



The Winners



The Losers

Tennis.—The Unit entered in the Inter-Unit Knock-out Competition and met the R.E. "B" team in the first round. Our team consisted of Lieutenant (I.P.C.) Bevan, 2nd Lieutenant Reeves; C.S.M. Woolhouse and S.S.M. Greenwood; Corporal Stokes and Signalman Ross. We lost the match by two sets to one. However, it was learned that there is the makings of a good team in the Unit.

Football.—The enclosed photographs may be of interest.

Malaya Command Signal Company.—Back row: O'Mara (linesman), Edwards, Funnell, Mansfield, Harvey, Harris. Front row: Parent, Penman (capt.), Duckworth, Labrum, Simms, Laing.

The winners of the Six-a-side tournament. Operators: Back row: Sigley, Wilks, Sykes. Front row: Walker, Laing, Simms.

The losers, the Unit Office.—Back row: Parent, Lieutenant Price, Harvey. Front row: Sharpe, Gwillim, Thompson.

Football is still being played. Results to date are:

v. 31st Battery (Twiddy)	Lost	1—3
v. 11th Battery (Penman 3, Twiddy 2, Sayers, Slavin)	Won	7—4
v. 7th H. Regiment (Sykes)	Drawn	1—1
v. Mount Faber (Slavin, Johnstone)	Drawn	2—2

Lieutenant Price, the Sports Officer, has purchased a badminton set, and with a little practice the lads are hoping to crash into the local leagues.

And lastly, Lance Corporal Camp is trying to raise a basket ball team good enough to challenge the American ladies' team which is expected in the colony shortly.

TOMMIE.

Fort Canning Detachment

October.

Our notes seem to have gone astray in the excitement of the last couple of months, and apologies are therefore extended to all our readers.

General.—Things are very much changed in Fort Canning; our strength is thrice that of a short while ago, and it has become the "Grippers'" paradise; Thursday and Sunday nights, Tombola and whist nights, have become real "chokers." The two Busties and Flav are well up to the front, but Blackman stands alone as the biggest strangling menace ever.

The Detachment has been very busy this last few months, and we are doing our best to keep up to standard. Cable laying is in full swing. A Signal Office has been established here and is now working true to form, thanks to Lance Sergeant Hollingshead. Our Office Staff and the D.R. Section have both been kept exceedingly busy, and all round I think everyone is doing his bit. It is as the C.S.O. tells us when we arrive in Malaya: "We are small, but we let them know we are here."

There have been two additions to the Office. Firstly, Caxton Hall, the christening of which and the laying of the foundation stone being carried out proudly by Corporal Bellis. And, secondly, our Rogues' Gallery, presented by our worthy Chief Clerk, Sergeant Jackman.

Upgrading is coming off very shortly, and a few members of our band are getting prepared for more "Akkers."

Arrivals.—Signalmen Blakeney and McLennan have arrived for a short stay with us. Blakeney is puzzled about trees and buses; perhaps "Wiggy" will explain to him one day. We hope their stay will be a happy one.

Departures.—Major Watts have left us. We hope he enjoyed his stay here.

Congratulations.—We heartily congratulate the C.S.O. on his promotion to Local Rank and also a Captain.

Sport.—Football and cricket has finished and rugby and hockey are on the go. Topper and Jonah are i/c Rugby and it looks as though they are in for a good season. "Footrest" Daniel Marsden is as much at home on the rugger field as he is on his motor-cycle. Sergeant Jackman is also in great demand as a hockey umpire.

Agony Column.—To "Wiggy," ex-1st Divsigs., now Sarafand (we hope). "Am still here. How is the pier? Have got a camel, please send a desert. Stewy, 500."

To "B" Corps Sigs., India. "Only 8 per cent. these days. 98 per cent. Flavell."

To "Bing" Harris. "How is 'Civvy Street' going? The Boys."

Au revoir till next month.

GEE KAY ESS.

Fort Canning Detachment

December, 1939.

To-night I have left the billiard room, where the Saturday night " Gripper " meeting is held, and settled down to try and let our readers know what is happening in Fort Canning. Before I commence I might as well tell you that to-night's meeting commenced with " How to pot red from an obtuse angle " and then went on to Hitler & Co., and finished up with whether Manchester City's colours were " light " blue or " sky " blue.

We regret that by the time these notes appear in print it will be too late to wish readers a merry Christmas, but we, in this " happy " land of palm trees, beautiful sunsets, and curry and rice, hope that Christmas was enjoyed by all of you, and we extend our heartiest greetings for a bright and prosperous New Year.

The detachment is going as strong as ever after the rather busy time we have been having lately. The laying of cable goes forging steadily ahead, under the keen and watchful eyes of Lieutenant Flynn and our popular Foreman, S.M. White, whilst the clerical side of the F.E.C. Department is kept in good order by Lance Sergeant Hollingshead.

Our notable draughtsman, Corporal Bellis, has a worthy understudy in Signalman McLennan, who arrived from Alexandra early last month ; whilst on the other side of the office Sergeant Jackman and our worthy editor (that's me) are still trying to wade through the latest Army Orders and A.C.I.s, with Blackman waiting for other important things that come out of the War Office bag, i.e., the Clerk's dream "Amendments."

Blackman still holds his " Gripper " shield, and owing to his rather successful arguments, in which all contestants dropped out, we are going to issue a set of amendments to "Army Sports and Games " and the English Dictionary.

The D.R. Section is still carrying out its job efficiently under that notable leader of men (?).

Our relations, the R.E. fixtures, have brought a new addition to the Fort in " Whisky," a very intelligent little puppy, who can take William Youngers as good as the two " Busties." " Whisky " is doing quite well, except for a fall off the verandah, and will be a likely successor to the famous " Bismark " as Canning mascot.

Congratulations.—We extend our heartiest congratulations to S.M. (F-of-S) White on attaining that rank.

Also to Signalman (Danny) Marsden on obtaining his DII.

Entertainments.—Early in the month Headquarters held a Junior Ranks Dance at the S.V.C. Drill Hall. This was a great success, with Signals playing a large part in the organisation, Lance Corporal Jones being chairman of the committee. The R.E.s also did their share. We were honoured by the presence of the G.O.C., and many other officers. For the first attempt at such a large function the result was very good, and we hope to try and repeat the success in the near future, with all little errors rectified. The Bar was the most difficult to manage, and, probably owing to the personality of the bar-tenders, ran out about midnight, but was rescued by one of the committee, who volunteered to go to Fraser and Neaves and obtain a fresh load ; the loading up was done quite well.

We are short of a crooner since " Bing " left us, and " Taffy " Pleavin seems to be improving enough to be a likely successor.

Sport.—Nothing of note has happened in the rugby or hockey sphere, but we hope to print the losses or successes of our rugby team next month.

Finis.—Before I finish here are some titbits from a General Knowledge paper set by ? :

1. Does Goering hang his medals on the Siegfried line at night-time ?
2. Did Henry VIII claim marriage allowance ?
3. Bonny Prince Charlie married Magna Carta, I think.
4. Oliver Cromwell had his " Ironsides " made in Birmingham.
5. Big Bertha was Hitler's mother (blowing up, runs in the family).
6. Was Titus Oates any relation to Quaker Oates.

I will close now with our old *finale*, " Tida Appa," and happy hunting.

GEE KAY ESS.

Island Detachment

December, 1939.

Once again we are settling down to a life of normal routine, stand too, stand down, maintenance and all that goes with it.

Social life is resuming a normal atmosphere with carnival dances, whist drives, and tombolas. Knitting for the ladies as an extra. We are beginning to feel the effect of the war in one way and another, the price of cigs. and bottled food going up. Delays in the surface mails, only one since October. The sinking of two boats and several tongkangs by mines brings the reality of war to our doors. Much interest was taken in the recent black-out and mock air-raid practice. Everything went off smoothly ; in fact the only thing missing was Adolf's bombers. Pulau Brani wounded were patched up a little too early. Perhaps one of the officials had a date. Who knows ? On ringing up H.Q. to inform them of the gallant way in which they had performed their duty, they were gently but firmly told that they had started before the enemy raiders had left their base, so the casualties had to play at being wounded again. The efficiency of the local detective agency brought to justice a hoaxer of no mean repute recently. I have heard since that this agency is second only to Scotland Yard. It happened that a phone message was received at the guard room that six battleships were attacking the island and the R.E.s were to send all available tongkangs to engage them. To say there were flat spins and earthquakes in that company is putting it mildly. The culprit was immediately pointed out by the " Sigs. Tec." owing to the fact that he used the wrong phone—an extension to the guard room.

Tailpiece.—Will Signalman Moffat please pipe down when it comes to diving.—Sandy.

Who asked the M.O. to come and look at the casualties in the recent air raid practice two hours before the warning sounded as they wanted to go to bed ?

P. B. B. M.

Malta Signal Section

November, 1939.

A happy New Year to one and all of you.

Recollection of last month's scribbling reminds us of a promise—a promise made difficult of fulfilment as the subject is controversial. There is no doubt we could enlighten " the powers that be " on how to finish this war game even sooner than the nine months we are allowing. *They* would say, however, that our conclusions were not conclusive—and that's where the controversy would arise. We are afraid, therefore, that the natural period of gestation must be permitted—and await the result. We fervently hope for a little " Home for the Jews."

Nothing of outstanding importance takes place here. Perhaps the most noteworthy event during November was the return to the Island of Mrs. Bury and Anne, the wife and daughter of our C.S.O. A number of N.C.O.s and men have been successful in upgrading and are to be congratulated. May the extra monies involved not burn too large a hole. Congratulations, too, to Corporal Johnson on attaining substantive rank. Sergeant Sargeant, Signalman Ramm and Driver Bedding have come safely through a period in hospital, but we still await the discharge of Signalman McSweeney.

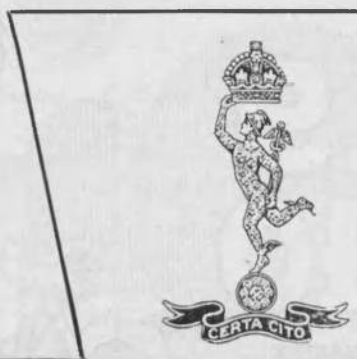
Quite a useful football team has been gathered together and after a few friendly games has aspired to the Command Junior Knock-out Cup. The R.A.S.C. have been beaten 5—1 and the " tipped " winners, " The Malta Police," *given* a draw. After the replay we hope to make further progress in the third round. " Shades of 1931."

A little home-made doggerel to conclude :

To define war one might as well
Invoke the aid of Dante's hell ;
In times of peace there still is strife—
So what is war ? Ah ! War is life.

NEMO.

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VOL. XXI.—No. 240 FEBRUARY, 1940 PRICE—SIXPENCE

Editorial Notes

Situations Vacant.—We have been asked to announce that vacancies exist for ex-soldiers as temporary clerks in Royal Signals Records Office.

Ex-members of the Corps who have any clerical experience and are desirous of being considered for such employment should apply in writing to the Officer-in-Charge, Royal Signals Records, Balmore House, Caversham, Reading.

Wages for male clerks, 58s. for a 44-hour week.

Vacancies also exist from time to time for female clerks and typists, and wives or daughters of ex-members of the Corps above the age of 18 years who desire nomination are also invited to apply as above.

Wages for female clerks are 31s. to 46s., according to age.

Royal Signals Comforts Fund Dance.—A most successful dance to raise money for the Royal Signals Comforts Fund was organised by the Entertainments Committee and took place at Peter Jones, Sloane Square, on 19th January. Under the able chairmanship of Mrs. P. Doyle, who was energetically supported by Major H. J. F. White and assisted by Mr. Tressidder and Mr. Tunbridge (members of the Chelsea branch of the Rotary Club), this committee provided an excellent evening's amusement.

Amongst those who purchased tickets, many of whom brought parties, were: Brigadier H. Clementi Smith, Major Conway Gordon, Mrs. P. Doyle, Captain Faulks, Brigadier A. C. Fuller Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. Harris, Mrs. C. Humphreys, His Honour Judge Konstam, Major Mann, Major Meers, Captain W. Lewis, Colonel G. Ozanne, Brigadier W. R. C. Penney, Brigadier G. G. Rawson, Major the Lord Sandhurst, the Lady Pender, Colonel T. W. Vigers, Mrs. H. C. B. Wemyss and Colonel G. C. Wickens.

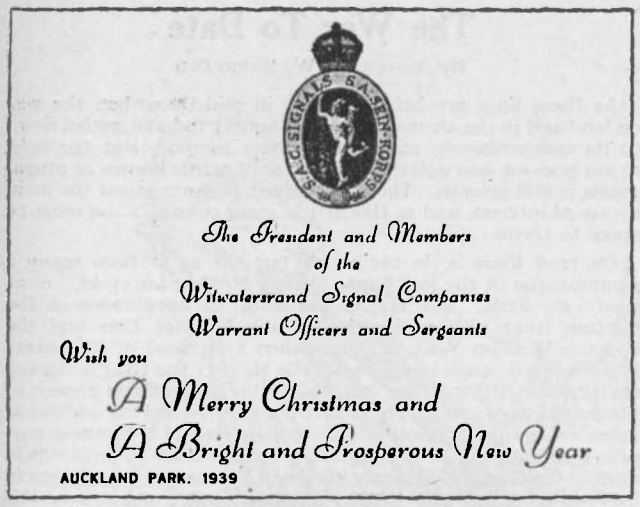
Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal kindly presented a writing case to be auctioned. This was bought by Mrs. J. Pearce who, retaining a note from Her Royal Highness, handed the case back for re-sale. It was finally purchased by Mr. Melford Stevenson and realised a total sum of £18.

Messrs. Peter Jones generously presented a dress to be raffled and this, together with a box of cigars given by Colonel Vigers, was won by Colonel G. Sale, who purchased a large number of tickets. These two items brought in £20.

Other prizes presented were: sherry, by Lord Sandhurst and Messrs. Thresher; chocolates, by Colonel Sale; manicures, by Angel Curtain, 14, Albermarle Street; shampoo and set, by "George," 30, Knightsbridge; inkstands and cigarette lighters, by Colonel C. A. Oliver and Officers V (London) Corps Signals.

A non-stop programme of music was provided from 8 p.m. till 2 a.m. by the dance band of the Middlesex Yeomanry and the London Casino Band.

During the interval Brigadier Clementi Smith explained the object of the Fund. He thanked the Chelsea Branch of the



Christmas and New Year Greetings to the Corps from The South African Corps of Signals

Rotary Club for their co-operation in organising the dance; also the members of the Central Committee, especially Mrs. Vigers and Mrs. Rowley, for the excellent work they are doing.

A full statement of the dance accounts is not available at the time of going to press, but it is understood that the Fund will benefit by a sum well over £70.

Many were the enquiries as to when the next dance would be held. May we assure our supporters that we hope to repeat the venture soon after Easter. The actual date, time and place will be notified through these columns in due course.

Birth.—On 18th December, 1939, at Kempstowe Nursing Home, Ootacamand, India, to Gwen, wife of Major W. M. Clapp, Royal Signals, a son.

In all future issues of this publication, "Corps News—Officers, Extracts from 'The London Gazette'" will be found at the end of the magazine.

Bound Volumes, "The Wire."—We have been asked to announce that bound volumes of the Corps Magazine for the years 1929, 1930 and 1931 are urgently required for the completion of a Mess Library. Any reader having such volumes for disposal is requested to communicate with The Editor, 95, Belgrave Road, London, S.W.1.

Will those readers, Units, Messes, etc., requiring copies of the 1939 production for the completion of their Libraries kindly order at an early date, as the supply is limited. Price 8s. per copy, post free (at home or abroad).

EDITOR.

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The Committee gratefully acknowledge receipt of the following:

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Twenty-two parcels have been despatched to date to Royal Signals Units overseas and at home. These parcels, which weigh anything between 20-50 lbs., contained in all approximately 1550 woollen comforts and, in addition, many pairs of cork socks for gum-boots, razor blades, playing cards, literature, etc.

Signals Association and Ex-Service Old Comrades Branch Notes

EXETER AND DISTRICT BRANCH

The following letter was recently circulated to all Branch members:

"Royston,"
Countess Wear,
Exeter, Devon.
December, 1939.

DEAR ———,

Brigadier Clementi Smith, Chairman of the Central Committee of our Association, has recently appealed to all members of the Association to continue their support and co-operation in the matter of subscriptions during the war period.

Our Branch Chairman (Brigadier W. G. Michelmore), who is on active service, has asked the Vice-Chairman (Major E. Heron Varwell) to carry on for him during his absence, and this Major Varwell has kindly consented to do.

We cannot, unfortunately, hold our Annual Dinner this year, but it is hoped that members will continue their support and

wait patiently until the day of reunion comes, keeping in mind the good comradeship upon which our Branch has been built up.

If you have not already paid your subscription for this year will you kindly send it to me, or to the Hon. Treasurer, Captain H. D. G. Foord, R.N., Oak Cottage, Lympstone, Exmouth, before the end of this month.

With all good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

J. W. WESTERN,
Hon. Secretary.

Benevolent Fund Notes

The Administrator gratefully acknowledges receipt of the following :

CASH SUBSCRIPTIONS from :

Mr. A. Shepherd.

Chester Branch Signals Association.

APPEALS dealt with :

1	Widow of N.C.O., Lancs.	Grant	£4	o o
2	Ex-Signalman, Manchester.....	Grant	£3	o o
3	Ex-Signalman, Essex	Grant	£1	5 o
4	Widow of N.C.O., Hants	Grant	£3	o o
5	Signalman, Hants	Grant	£5	o o
6	Signalman, Exeter	Loan	£4	o o
7	Widow of Signalman, London	Grant	£5	o o

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

Obituary

It is with deep regret that we have to announce the death of Lieutenant and Quartermaster J. A. Eves.

Jack joined the ranks of the Royal Engineers in January, 1909. He went to France in 1914 and served there till the end of the war. Finally, in 1935, he was discharged as a W.O. Class I, in order to become Lieutenant and Quartermaster to the 55th Divisional Signals at Liverpool. He soon became a very popular and well-known member of the Unit. After embodiment of the T.A. in September a great deal of long and hard work came his way, but it was all cheerfully tackled. He went on leave on 30th December, 1939, and all outwardly seemed well.

On 4th January, 1940, he was at an entertainment with Mrs. Eves when he became ill. He was operated on for appendicitis, but complications set in and he died on 13th January, 1940, at Broadgreen Sanatorium, Liverpool.

The funeral took place at Newbury, on 19th January.

All ranks of the 55th Divisional Signals join in offering their deepest sympathy to Mrs. Eves and her son, Derek, in their great loss.

For
" GAZETTE NEWS—OFFICERS "
See page 66

The War To Date

By MAJOR E. W. SHEPPARD

As these lines are being written, in mid-December, the war on land and in the air may be said definitely to have settled down to its comparatively uneventful winter tempo. But the fight at sea goes on, and activity in the war of words known as propaganda is still intense. These are indeed at the moment the main scenes of interest, and in this article some consideration must be given to them.

On land there is, in the words familiar to us from many a communique of the last Great War, " nothing tor eport," or at least very little. The B.E.F. has made its appearance on the fighting front marked by the French Maginot Line and the German Western Wall, and has taken first blood of the enemy in some small patrol encounters. His Majesty the King, following the example of his father, has visited his soldiers and airmen in France during a long and extensive tour, which had the additional value of serving as another link in the bond of a common purpose now indissoluble uniting the Western Allies—a bond which, despite the laughably clumsy efforts of German propagandists to drive a wedge between them, will endure until, and it may well be long after, that common purpose has been achieved. For the most part, however, the battle front has been quiet, and it may paradoxically be said that the most significant events of the war on land have been the events that have not happened.

It is now known, for example, that in the third week in October the German High Command definitely intended to launch a large-scale attack on a wide f ont, with the purpose of clearing the whole of the wide No Man's Land between the Siegfried and Maginot Lines, and of delivering a massed assault on the latter if the success of the preliminary operations should be such as to warrant it. But the reception that their attacking troops encountered was so uncomfortably warm, and their losses so heavy, that they could do no more than occupy the small areas of ground voluntarily evacuated by the French, after a gratifying heavy toll of casualties had been levied as the price of these petty gains. The great assault which, according to plan, was to follow was still-born.

Equally abortive was the next attempt of the Germans to solve the problem of the Western front by an advance through the Low Countries against the north flank of the Allied line. It is doubtful if much more was hoped for as a result of this fresh violation of the territory of inoffensive neutrals than the gaining of a more advantageous jumping-off ground for air and naval attacks on Britain. The German High Command, at least, can hardly have had any higher expectations, though possibly Hitler, whose knowledge of military matters is still little, if at all, above the average of the rank he held during the Great War, may have indulged in more sanguine dreams. Once it was known, however, that the invaders of Holland would be faced, not only with her own small though stubborn forces, but with the much larger ones of Belgium, too, and with French and British reinforcements behind them, then the High Command once more shied away from the plan, covering their timidity by a weak plea that it had never been seriously entertained.

In this state of suspended animation the Western campaign is likely to remain until the coming of better fighting weather in the Spring. During the interval we may expect to be entertained —or bored, according to our mood—with imaginative forecasts of the " truly horrible war," to quote the egregious Ribbentrop, that the Nazis have in preparation for us. Already fantastic stories of secret weapons and fearsome devices are being put into circulation by devious neutral means. These, though they will, of course, be given such attention as they may deserve, need not, and will not, be taken at their face value, neither Britain nor France is in any mood to be frightened into fits by turnip ghosts of this kind.

The war in the air, though more colourful, has been little more eventful from the larger point of view than that on land. There have been one or two small-scale attacks on German naval and seaplane bases, which, though their material results may not have been important, have shown that the hostile defences can be penetrated without loss by the skilful pilots and formidable machines at our disposal. The moral effect of these attacks, combined with that of the issue of the spasmodic air battles



CONGRATULATIONS, YOUNG FELLOW !

that have taken place over the Western front and the North Sea, has been further to strengthen the high spirit of the Allied air arms and their confidence in themselves and their equipment. At the moment, in fact, the Allies are, man for man, and machine for machine, ahead of their enemy. It may well be believed that the latter has something better " up his sleeve " in the way of aeroplanes, and command of the air may well, as it did time and again in the Great War, fluctuate from one side to the other, as new and more formidable types of machine take the field. But there is no reason to suppose that Germany will ever be in a position permanently to gain the air ascendancy that she certainly does not possess to-day ; indeed, the balance of rate of new production is even now turning more and more against her, though the resources at the Allies' disposal are still far from fully developed.

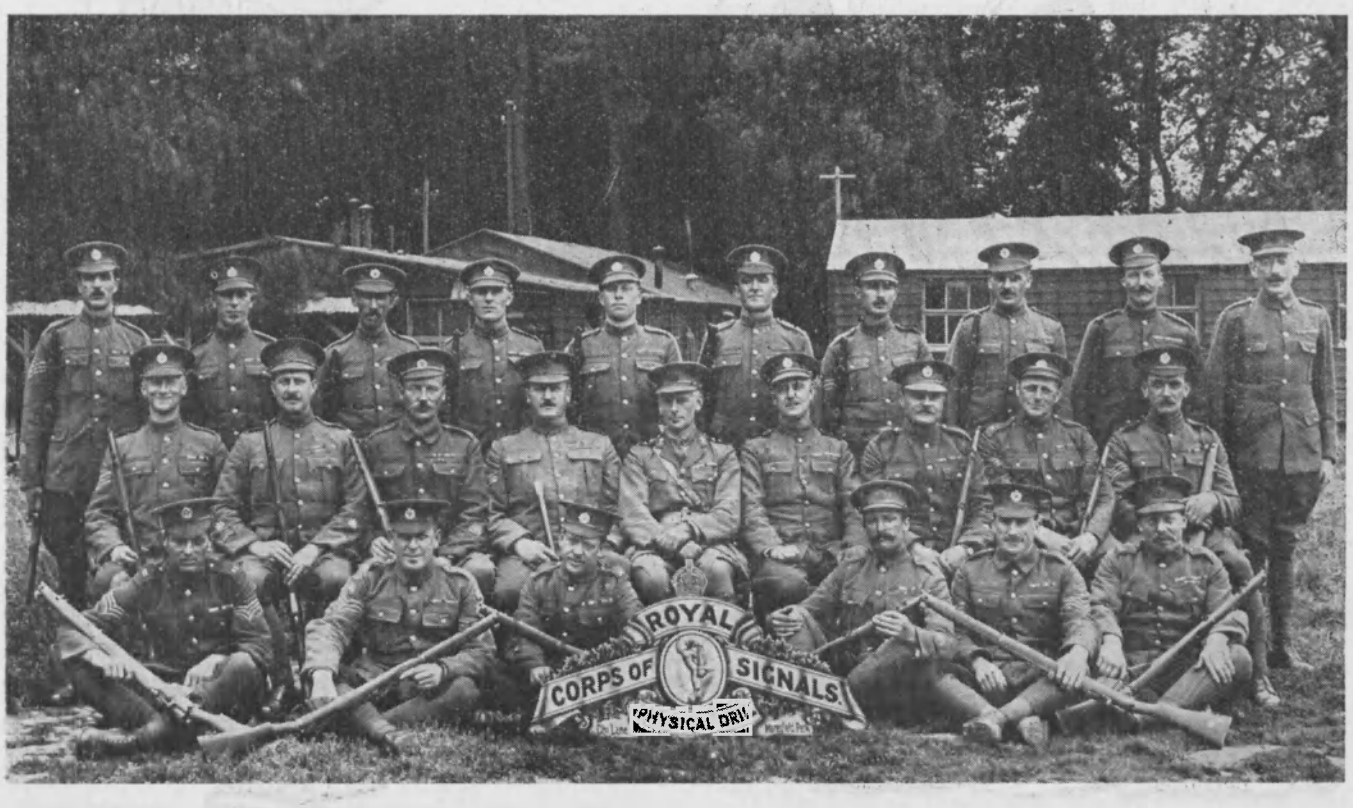
It is now possible to gain a general conspectus of the results of the war at sea during the first hundred days of hostilities, and the figures are impressive proof of the Allied ascendancy in that field. British naval losses have totalled 50,000 tons, the bulk of it being accounted for by the " Courageous " and the " Royal Oak." As against this, the Germans have lost over forty submarines, and during the greater part of the time her rate of loss has been at the rate of one every other day. The remarkable stories put out by her propaganda service as to her rapid rate of submarine replacement must be heavily discounted ; if she could better her Great War output of two per week it would be a remarkable industrial feat under present-day conditions, and this leaves out of account the question of manning the new craft, in which she is already faced with considerable difficulty.

In the last few weeks Germany has, therefore, elected to resort to a new form of maritime " frightfulness " to supplement the failing efforts of her surface and under-water raiders. The so-called " magnetic mines," sown in large quantities in our East Coast waters, contravened all the rules of warfare to which Germany is a consenting party, and for a space increased the toll taken of British and neutral shipping. The device, however, was not a novel one, and counter-measures were quickly put in hand to meet it. Already the menace, though not yet eliminated, may be said to be under control. Indeed, the bulk of the losses caused by it are now falling more and more upon neutral ships, who do not benefit to the same extent as our own by the protection of convoy escorts and mine sweepers.

With all this, the total net loss inflicted on our mercantile marine during these hundred days is no more than 60,000 tons of shipping, out of a total of 21,000,000 tons. In the light of these figures the Germans' claim to have crippled our sea power and instituted an effective blockade of Britain can be recognised as a mere flight of uninspired fancy. Meanwhile, the iron hand of our own blockade has fallen on German overseas exports, which have hitherto been exempt from it. Already of her annual peace-time imports of £300,000,000, £175,000,000 have been cut off. The bulk of her resources on which she relies for payment for the balance will now be shorn away by the disappearance of her overseas export trade, and even the smaller neutrals are already jibbing at her continual requests for immediate delivery of goods on no better security than promises of payment at some distant date in a currency of uncertain value.

Supplies from what German propagandists describe as the " great storehouse of Russia " will have to be enormously

— REMINISCENCES —



MARESFIELD PARK CAMP, 1920

Back Row (left to right).—Sergeant Jefferies R., Staff Sergeant Farrier Lloyd, C.Q.M.S. Bird R., Sergeant Legg J., Sergeant Norton, Sergeant Squibb, Sergeant George, C.S.M. Adams, C.S.M. Santer R., C.S.M. Nolan P.

Middle Row (left to right).—Sergeant McGrath, R.S.M. Collins, R.S.M. Muntzer, Sergeant Scott W., Lieutenant White, R.S.M. Marshall W., C.S.M. Hallam, Sergeant Wyatt, Sergeant ——

Front Row (left to right).—Sergeant Prior, C.Q.M.S. Walshaw G.,C.S.M. Burrows G., R.S.M. Mepham C., Sergeant Foster A., R.S.M. Boulger H.

increased if they are to make up for these heavy losses of other sources; in peace-time they totalled less than £1,000,000, and how far Russia can, or is willing to, increase them is highly doubtful.

A few remarks may be appended about the most active front of all—the propaganda front. A considerable amount of nonsense is at present in vogue on this subject in the British Press, which is making the mistake of confusing volume with content. Obviously the worse the cause, the greater is the volume of propaganda required to "put it over," even temporarily; but the only reliable criterion of the ultimate value of propaganda is not the amount of it or the cost of it or the effort put into it, but its effects on the minds of those subjected to it. German propaganda has three main objects—to convince the German people themselves that they are fighting a righteous and successful war of self-defence; to persuade neutrals that their interests would best be served by a German victory; and to discourage and drive a wedge between the Allied nations. There is little evidence that it has succeeded, or is likely to succeed, in any one of these three purposes. Even as regards the first of them, the hocussing of what Hitler himself has called "the stupid and sheeplike German people," not all the shrieking of Goebbels and his gang has managed to whip up any of that fiery and universal enthusiasm for war that inspired the nation in 1914. The Germans will fight and fight well, because they are a regimented, orderly race, accustomed by temperament and long habit to do what they are told with little attempt to reason why or make reply; but their rulers are now embarked on the interesting but perilous experiment of trying whether it is possible to fool all the people all the time, and the answer, even with Germans, surely will be still in the long run in the negative.

As regards the neutrals, German policy has lost her all her former friends and sympathisers and won her but one doubtful and dangerous new one, and German propaganda has done nothing to change that situation. There is not a neutral, from the greatest to the smallest, that desires her victory or would do a hand's turn to help her to it, save under pressure of fear or dire necessity. The picture of Hitler's Germany as the champion of the weak and peace-loving neutrals is so unconvincing that not all the propaganda in the world could "put it over," nor is it made more so by the repercussions on their trade and shipping and the lives of their seamen of her ruthless but ineffective naval methods. If ever it becomes safe and profitable for the neutrals to fly to the help of the conquering Allies, Germany will be able to see for herself how little effect her propaganda has had upon them.

As for its results on the will to win of the Allies and the closeness of inter-Allied relations, the frigid reception of Germany's repeated peace feelers and the recent Franco-British agreement to pool all their material and financial resources for war supply is a crushing and conclusive answer. German propaganda in Britain, so far as it is listened to at all, arouses only amusement, with occasional exasperation. Most of it is an insult to the meanest intelligence; but it would require a much higher degree of cleverness than the egregious "Lord Haw-Haw" and his confreres have yet shown themselves to be capable of to make it worth while to switch on to hear even a good advocate defend a bad cause. The acute French intelligence finds in it merely a bait for devastating repartee. German propaganda, in a word, is po tentous in its volume and industriousness, but sadly lacking in skill, and, outside its own frontiers, completely barren in results. But even were it cleverer, and more seductive than it is, it would matter little in the end. Realities have an unpleasant but inescapable habit of making themselves felt sooner or later.

The pressure of Allied sea power on the life of the German people will not be shaken off, however loudly and often Goebbels avows that Britain is blockaded and the German fleet controls her surrounding seas. The assertions that the heart of France is not in the war and that she is being made the catspaw of perfidious Albion will not open to the German armies the way through the Maginot Line. Goering's invincible air force will frighten us no more than the Invincible Spanish Armada of historic memory, however loudly and long it claims the title without putting itself to the test of action. Germany will not win the war by vociferating in defiance of the facts, that she is winning it, or has already won it, nor in real life can the worse cause be made to appear the better by the methods laid down by Lewis Carroll's Bellman: "If I tell you three times, it is so."

The Finnish Campaign

(By A.S.N.)

For some weeks the campaign in Finland, in essence a side-show to the greater war in Europe and on the seas, has taken the centre of the stage and aroused the interest and admiration of the world.

The prelude was brief and simple. As soon as the war between the Allies and Germany had got well under way, Russia set about garnering the share of the spoils allotted to her under the terms of the Nazi-Soviet Pact. Eastern Poland fell into her hands almost without a blow, after the resistance of the Polish armies had been broken by the violent and repeated hammer strokes of the Germans in the western and central parts of the country. The three little Baltic States, Esthonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, saw themselves constrained by the overwhelming might and prestige of the Red Army and the Red Air Force to accept pacts which allowed Soviet troops and aeroplanes to be quartered permanently on their soil, and converted them for all practical purposes into vessels of their powerful neighbour. Finland was next on the list, and Soviet Russia presented her with a set of proposals which, in like manner, would have meant the loss of her independence, had they been agreed to. Soviet troops and air forces along her northern shore of the Gulf of Finland; the surrender of the territory in the Karelian isthmus, on which her great army leader, Field-Marshal Mannerheim, had built the formidable defensive belt which bears his name, in exchange for a barren and unwanted area of desert to the north of Lake Ladoga; and the loss of the valuable nickel mining area in her arctic lands of the far north—these were the terms of the proposed treaty, by the acceptance of which Finland might have bought a brief nominal independence, as a puppet state of the Soviet, in exchange for the freedom and prosperity which she had enjoyed for twenty years, and had used to the hurt and menace of none. She refused to acecpt these terms, though still prepared to negotiate for others less humiliating and fatal. But Russia would have these or none, and after a brief interval devoted to the final preparations for the war of conquest that she had irrevocably decided on, she presented Finland, at the end of November, with an ultimatum: "Accept or be destroyed." We need not dwell on the ridiculous pleas put forward to justify her action—that Finland, a nation of four million souls, was threatening the safety of one of a hundred and sixty millions; that the Finnish Government, which has ruled peaceably for two decades over a contented and prosperous people, was a brutal and bloodstained tyranny the continued existence of which Red Russia, that paragon of civic virtue and beneficent administration, could no longer tolerate; or that the Western Allies, whose hands are full and more than full with a life and death struggle against Germany, were planning to add Soviet Russia to their foes and to use Finland—which their forces cannot reach—as a jumping off ground for an attack on the Soviet. Not a soul outside Red territory believes a word of this farrago of hypocritical and sickening rubbish; and only a few Communist writers and agents have dared to say that they believe it—or, rather, have not dared not to say it, since their pens are in prostitution to their Red paymasters. A bad cause calls for a bad excuse, and Russia's attack on Finland is as naked and unjustified a piece of aggression as history has to show. And all the world has hailed with huge delight the spectacle of Finland resisting that aggression with heroism, skill, and—so far—success. The Red giant has not been overthrown—it is hardly possible, with so huge a disparity of strength, for him to be. But he has been made to bleed and howl and stumble, and held up to the amusement and contempt of all beholders, and the Finns, even if finally overwhelmed, as it seems that, without powerful aid from outside, they must be sooner or later, have taken a full toll of their foe and claimed a share for themselves of the glory that still haloes the names of Thermopylae, the "Revenge," and Appomattox, when brave men fought to the end against hopeless odds, and fell "not conquered but worn out by conquering."

Finland's strategic position may be briefly described. The country is something like an hour-glass in shape, some 600 miles in length from north to south; its southern bulb, where all the larger towns and ports are situated, and the bulk of the population dwells, measures 400 miles from east to west, and the northern and smaller bulb, thinly peopled, and covered for the

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most part with dense forest, but containing the valuable nickel mines, over 200 miles from east to west. Between them is a narrow connection, barely 125 miles wide at its shallowest, an equally bleak and barren land. Against all these three areas the Russians launched heavy attacks which began in the first days of the war.

On the southern front their advance is severely cramped by the lie of the land. Just north of Leningrad, the former St. Petersburg, lies the huge inland sea of Lake Ladoga, leaving only a narrow belt, the Karelia isthmus, between its western shore and the head of the maritime Gulf of Finland. Even this narrow isthmus, a bare 50 miles across, is cut up with large lakes, rivers and marshes, and amid these have been erected the formidable Ma nerheim line. So far it has defied all the Russians' efforts, even to break into its forward zone. Their main attempt has been made at the mouth of the Taipale river, which flows into Lake Ladoga from a smaller lake to the west. But they have not, at the time of writing, succeeded in setting foot on the northern bank of this river, and further to the west they have, for the most part, confined themselves to feeling their way cautiously forward over the No Man's Land between their frontier and the outposts of the Finnish defence line. Only in one area on the Finnish right centre have they launched a strong assault with the assistance of heavy artillery, mssses of tanks, and flocks of bombing planes. But with heroic gallantry the Finns have held their ground.

Severe fighting has also raged on the northern side of Lake Ladoga, where Russian columns have been tryin; to wheel round the corner of it into the rear of the Mannerheim Line. But here, too, they have been brusquely checked and are still held fast half-way along the eastern shore. This southern campaign has been further marked by attempted landin s on the northern coast of the Gulf of Finland and naval bombardments of the fortified ports. The landings have been beaten off, and the warships have, as was only to be expected, got the worst of the duel with the forts. The vaunted Red Air Force, after a series of short raids on Helsinki, the Finnish capital, in the first few days of the war, when it missed every military objective, but took some toll of helpless and harmless civilians, has since held its hand—hardly, it is to be supposed, from humanitarian reasons, but because of unfavourable weather, the unexpected efficiency of the hostile air defences, and the threat of counter-raids on Leningrad.

The most dangerous area strategically for the Finns is, of course, the narrow central theatre; if the Soviet troops could reach the head of the Gulf of Bothnia here, they would cut the railway running along the coast from Oulu to Tornea in Sweden, by which Finland can best get material help from the outside world, and would be able to hamper considerably, if not entirely to prevent, sea traffic from Sweden across the Gulf. Here then the Russians, based on the line of the Leningrad-Murmansk railway, which runs along parallel with the Finnish eastern frontier, advanced in several columns across the high ranges which form a defensive barrier across their path to the Gulf of Bothnia, but they met with pertinacious and skilful resistance by Finnish troops who know the country well, and are expert marksmen, and skiers. Such progress as they have made at various points has had to be fought hard for and purchased at a high cost in losses, not only from the enemy, but from the rigours of the severe weather, and these last have been increased because of the poor clothing and footgear worn by the unfortunate Soviet troops.

In some of these threatened areas indeed the Finns have been able to react vigorously and wrest from the invaders the gains achieved in their first drives. If the Russians here succeed in the end in reaching the Gulf of Bothnia, it will only be at the price of great efforts and much suffering and loss.

Only in the far arctic north have the Soviet forces anything really tangible to show for their aggression. Here a first onslaught, supported by the Red navy and assisted by some of their famous parachute battalions—whose efforts met with little success—was heavily repulsed. But after it had been several times repeated, the Finns had to give way before superior forces, and retired south-westwards along the so-called "Arctic" road towards the head of the Gulf of Bothnia, laying waste the whole country as they fell back, villages, farms, nickel mine works, and everything which could be of use or comfort to the enemy. This success has been, up to date, the sole fruit of the Red Army's campaign of barefaced aggression.

It is only fair to admit that it has been faced with great and unavoidable difficulties from the first. A fierce winter climate, for which the ill-clad and ill-shod soldiery were but poorly provided; short hours of daylight and long northern nights which work in favour of the defence; a foe consisting of brave and skilful enterprising individual fighters, operating in a country of hills and lakes and wood, of which they know how to take the fullest advantage—all these have set the Russian High Command and its forces a series of knotty problems. So far, however, the Red Army has utterly failed to justify the opinion entertained in many well-informed quarters that it is amongst the most formidable armies of the world. Its tanks have failed to do anything worthy of note; its artillery has shown poor marksmanship, and its munitions have been found woefully defective; its infantry is clumsy, wooden, and lacking in either dash or initiative; its supply and transport services have proved unequal to the heavy demands laid upon them; and the command and staff work seem at best to have been mediocre. In fact, the harsh verdict that so far the Red Army has shown all the ineradicable vices of the old Czarist armies without any of their compensating virtues would seem justified by the earlier events of the Finnish campaign.

About the ultimate issue of the war it would perhaps be unwise to prophesy. It is hard to see how the Finns, especially when Spring brings with it conditions less favourable to them, can indefinitely resist their colossal foe. Yet if even a brave little people deserved to win through to victory and continued life, it is they; and the heart and conscience of the world would leap with joy should they, by some miracle, be able to do so. Meanwhile their valiant deeds and indomitable spirit in these days of disillusion and gloom have come like an invigorating breath from the saga days of the old heroic north; and even should the tale end, as do so many of these sagas, in death and disaster, and the fall of the hero in the midst of a surrounding ring of dead and crippled enemies, history's epitaph will still be found in the immortal words of a French king, defeated in battle but not disgraced: "All is lost—save honour."

B.E.F. NOTES

Royal Signals, France

With the existing censorship regulations it is difficult to give any coherent account of our movements.

To understand our present composition the reader should know that only in December, 1938, this Unit was reduced to one Company, and remained so until June, when it was decided to expand to its proper size. In June a large batch of Reservists joined for training, to be sent home again in August, when a second batch of Reservists joined for training. Mobilisation was ordered on 1st September, which meant the removal of the greater part of the second batch of Reservists and their replacement by some of the first batch and by others whom we had never seen before.

Rarely, if ever, can a Unit of any arm of the Service have contended with such circumstances on the outbreak of war; not only were our officers and men changed over in a completely bewildering manner, but also motor transport and stores of all kinds were drawn and issued in the shortest possible time. The fact that mobilisation was carried through without a hitch, and that the Unit was actually doing its job within ten days of Z day reflects the very greatest credit on all ranks, and it would, indeed, be difficult to select any particular branch of the Unit for special praise; neither would they wish it. The result is that we consist of a great number of Regular Army Reservists and Supplementary Reservists, most of them married men with families depending on them. Such a situation is a new one in our experience. We did not leave our families in married quarters at our home station, they are spread all over the United Kingdom and in many cases in greatly reduced circumstances. During the latter part of September we were in our concentration area in the West country; here we were able to settle down a little as a Unit before all our transport left for overseas. A few days afterwards we moved overseas ourselves by train and boat, and went to our concentration area in France.

There, a few days later, our M.T. joined us, while we were making the acquaintance of French billets. This is a suitable place to mention our Supplementary Reserve I.C. Drivers, who joined us on mobilisation and who have since proved their worth in no small measure. In our whole movement we have so far had only one vehicle casualty, which speaks very well for the standard of driving and maintenance. We hope that before long they will be paid at a rate more in accordance with the ability which they have shown.

We moved from our French concentration area to our present position by motor transport. We had good weather and an enjoyable journey. Few of us expected to be allowed to move with no attention from the enemy, but that is what actually happened. Arrived in our present billets we have settled down nicely. We have plenty of good buildings, a dining hall where every one can sit down to his meals, a recreation room, which also acts as a church on Sundays, and very fair billets. Rations are uniformly good, and many people at home have been very good in sending us parcels of comforts of all kinds. We also have wireless sets sent by Lord Nuffield's Fund, and a budding concert party.

Our formation has carried out some training exercises since our arrival. These are the only collective training we have done, with the exception of a single exercise in the concentration area before leaving England. Individual Training, however, has been attended to under Unit arrangements. In most cases it is simply a matter of refreshing the knowledge already held by our Reservists, and it would seem that if the test comes we shall be able to acquit ourselves in accordance with the best traditions of the Corps.

At the present time leave is the order of the day, and never was leave more eagerly awaited, or, you may be sure, more thoroughly enjoyed.

Our Christmas celebrations are now behind us. We all had the best Christmas it was possible to have under the circumstances. The dinner on Christmas Day was very good, and Messrs. Guinness gave us each a bottle of their excellent production. As most of us are married men our thoughts were not in France that day; there are 296 children whose fathers are in the Unit, and as already has been said they live in all parts of England, Scotland and possibly Ireland, not to mention Wales. Through the kindness of the C.O. and his wife, a Christmas presents fund was organised and we were able to send presents to all of them, so that none of them felt forgotten that day. In connection with the Christmas dinner we should all like to mention the name of Sergeant-Major Lay, who at long last has handed over the duties of messing N.C.O. on rising to higher things. To his efforts is due that high standard of messing that we have been able to maintain and in no small measure contributes to the content of all ranks. That contented spirit will help us to await the future with equanimity.

With G.H.Q. of the B.E.F.

Calling all Signals! Calling all Signals! Once again you are about to be tormented for the space of a few minutes by the silly mutterings of "Ack Pip Beer." You over there in the corner! I am calling to you as well. Put down that pint and finish it after you have read this. I thang yow!

As you know, scribes for the WIRE from the S.T.C. always make a point of telling readers (both of them) what a cold time they are having in that famous resort for health and beauty. In my capacity as an ex-S.T.C. scribe I therefore consider my unworthy self a competent authority to inform you that the weather here at the moment is far from being pleasant. In fact, I have found a place to rival our famous rendezvous "Somewhere in the north of England" for unpleasant weather. The B.B.C. said we were enjoying almost springlike weather; I report that we are having LOUSY weather. Those less gentlemanly than I call it—plue pencil—weather. So much for the snow and ice.

Since my last issue of notes managed to pass our illustrious Editor (he does not pay me for publicity, Signalman Snooks) much water has flowed under the bridge of time. The main event in the past month or so was Christmas and all that goes with it.

Contrary to the ravings of Lord Haw-Haw, our dinner on Christmas Day was fit for a king of any country. Pork, turkey, sprouts, goose, beer (gallons of it) were to be found on our particular menu. As you can imagine, the afternoon was spent "sleeping it off." In the evening we had a "reet good do in t'village 'all' (to use my native Lancashire dialect). A Signalman Locker—Sam to his pals—was crowned King of Grippers by the "Director-General of Gripping" (your venerable scribe) amidst all the glorious splendour which accompanies such a ceremony. Officers were present and for the first time were able to set eyes upon such an ancient ritual being performed. Ahem! In a few words, a good time was had by all.

The festive season was brought to a climax when, on New Year's Eve the English troops were entertained to a dance in the Chateau. Owing to a slight indisposition, your scribe regrets that he cannot give an eye-witness account of the evening's proceedings. The main difficulty, apparently, was the French dance music which has a style of its own, and if you have ever listened to the French bands on the radio you will unders and what I mean. Anyhow, when Mr. Atkins decides to have a good time, all difficulties are overcome. As the proverb goes, "All's well that ends well."

A clerk has just wandered into the office, and upon being asked the result of our last football match against the French, replied: "Nark it, mate; nark it." From that unsavoury comment you can judge that we lost, as on previous occasions. In this case the score was 4—1; but although we lost we enjoyed a really good game, because the French are wizards at soccer. We are now looking forward to a match on Sunday, 4th February, and HOPE to win. In case of a defeat, someone has suggested that we make ourselves scarce.

It is surely fitting that we should throw out a few laurels to various people. Although late, congratulations are sent to the

(*Continued on page* 58)

HOME STATIONS

Yorkshire I.

1st Operators' Training Battalion

Headquarters Section

General.—Before beginning this month's notes I would like to wish all WIRE readers a very happy New Year. Let us hope that it may bring back peace to a distracted world. The old year ended with a bite in the air, and, although it was definitely not a white Christmas, there has been plenty of snow during the first week of our return from leave. Many desperate struggles have taken place between rival Squads and the snowballs have not always found their intended targets—as certain Instructors are well able to confirm.

Social.—As was stated last month the Unit had to spend Christmas in barracks, but for all that there were great celebrations. The revels began on Christmas Eve with a concert given in the Regimental Institute by the Unit concert party, assisted by Sub Lieutenant Amos and a cabaret of Volunteers from the A.T.S. The C.O. voiced the opinion of all when, in an appreciation after the performance, he said that the show was worthy to be put on in any military camp in the country. The concert saw the debut of the Unit dance band, under the direction of Signalman Dobson, which provided the music throughout the show. One of the most enjoyable turns was, undoubtedly, Signalmen Reeves and Richardson's impersonation of those cads of the Music Hall—The Western Brothers. Another very praiseworthy effort was the Hilly Billies—Signalmen Clarke, Swann, Burton, Pairandeau, Pearce and Race—singing prairie songs round the camp fire. Signalman Usmar gave an amusing if not too daring strip-tease act, whilst the shadow sketch, " On the Table "—given by Sergeant Wagner and Lance Corporal Dunn—was a realistic if rather gruesome parody of the operating theatre. Every performer deserves the gratitude of us all for their really polished entertainment. It was grand fun and by popular request a repeat performance was given on the following Friday.

On Christmas Day it was the dinner which claimed everyone's attention—a veritable feast with turkey, roast beef and pork the guests of honour ! Cigarettes, beer and minerals were provided, and, with paper hats, crackers and seasonal decorations, it seemed almost like home again. In the evening there was a smoking concert—a cheery sing-song by All Ranks in one of the Mess Rooms. It was here, also, that an All Ranks' dance was held on Boxing Night to the music of Signalman Dobson and the Melody Makers. It was a rousing and exhilarating night until the untimely departure of the A.T.S. rather put a stop to the dancing. Training was begun again on the following day, but it was a labour of love as on the Saturday we all went on seven days' leave. After a luxurious stay in " Civvy Street " we are back again and passing through a sort of anti-climax. However, arrangements are well in hand and several concerts and sketches will soon be produced. Many of us are hoping that Signalman Reynolds will soon give us another of his delightful piano recitals which were such a popular feature on Sunday afternoons just before Christmas.

Sport.—Since our last report there have been no Battalion soccer matches, although several inter-Company games have been played. Unfortunately, from the point of view of the team, we have lost the services of one of our brightest and most popular stars—Gomm, who has now become a Cadet with an Officer Cadet Training Unit. His departure is a great loss to the team. Cadet Gomm and one of our other players, Signalman Smith (ex-St. Mirren), were chosen to play for the Garrison in a match arranged with Darlington F.C., which took place on Saturday, 13th January. In a brilliant display, the Garrison completely overwhelmed their opponents by scoring 10 goals to nil, of which Gomm obtained four. This defeat must have been a great shock to Darlington, but it was no surprise to us as every member of our eleven has seen service with well-known professional sides.

A knock-out competition has been arranged for rugby, on similar lines to the soccer tournament in which we reached the final last month. Our first fixture in this new competition is against the 1st General Trades Training Battalion on Saturday, 27th January. Trials have been held, with this tournament in view, and I can safely predict that the Battalion will be represented by a fairly sound fifteen for the first game.

Owing to the Christmas and New Year leave no fixtures have been played by the hockey eleven, but it is hoped to resume them as soon as possible.

Postings and Courses.—Corporal Williamson attended a Course on Teleprinter Maintenance, which was held at the Post Office Research Station.

Lance Corporal Hufton attended a Physical Training Instructors' Course and obtained a satisfactory report.

Promotions and Appointments.—The following have been allotted vacancies at the 152nd O.C.T.U. : Signalmen Browne G. E., Duke S. B., Tate J. H., Gomm B. A., Wainwright G. A., Warner J. V., Dewick D. S., Cooper R. A., and Acting Corporal Elston J.

We congratulate them on their selection and hope they will make full use of their great opportunity.

In conclusion, cheerio to you all until next month !

No. 1 Company

Introduction.—On —— September, 1939, Regular, Reserve, Militia and Territorial personnel were banded together to form the No. 1 Company of the 1st O.T.B. Owing to heavy work and/or laziness the WIRE has not received notes from this Company. However, the ball has been set moving as a New Year resolution.

Training began as soon as possible after the formation of the Unit and we find that the N.C.O.s i/c the Squads are Regulars, Reservist and Sergeant George. Sergeant George also comes from the 42nd. We have, also, the services, as a civilian instructor, of " Taffy " Steele, of the old " E " Company fame. Some may remember him in the 4th Divisional Signals, and others in Egypt.

Now for a word or two about the trainees. In September the main body was drawn from " B " Company, Militia Training Battalion, and the Company was made up to strength with details from Kent. The majority of them have, on conclusion of their training left us for the Holding Battalion and other places. Amongst those to leave was the first squad of teleprinter operators, which was composed entirely of Militiamen. The squad instructors are rather proud at the moment as they have been informed, " thro' the usual channels," that up to date No. 1 Company has produced the best results of the four Companies in the Battalion. The instructors do not want to take all the bouquets, as the results obtained have only been made possible by the keenness and co-operation of the trainees.

Arrivals and Departures.—These are too numerous to mention individually, but we would like to extend our best wishes to Signalmen Plunkett P. N. P. and Wainwright who have been posted to O.T.C. Units as cadets, and to Lance Corporals Healey and Haxell who left us for the 3rd S.T.C.

Marriages.—Congratulations to the undermentioned, who have taken unto themselves partners : Sergeants Scott, Hatton, Summers and Cooper, Lance Corporal Hurst and Signalman Marsh. There may be others ; if so, they have the same congratulations.

Leave.—A few of the Company managed to wangle leave at Christmas, but the official leave period was from 30th December, 1939, to 6th January, 1940. Special trains were put on the lines for the troops. These (es)special trains caused much anxiety and " blue air," but we eventually arrived at our destinations late, strange but true, after volunteers had come forward,

asking if they may play stoker, push the train, or even haul it! Ex-H. T. Drivers longed for the creaking of saddles, the straining of traces and the whipping of the pole-bar.

Appointments, Promotions, and Demotions.—These, also, are too numerous to mention individually—and after all, this is not a Part I Order! We must, however, congratulate our Company Commander on his appointment as Acting Captain.

Jews' Mail.—To all at Peshaw Dist. "Bottoms up. Tok-dong."

To Horder C. "What about it, pal? P'kok (Bill)."

To wind up, we wish the members of the Corps, at home, abroad and with the B.E.F., all the very best wherever they may be, and A PROMISE OF REGULAR "WIRE" NOTES (Unit Correspondents please note.—Ed.)

"ZUCKERS."

No. 3 Company

A great deal is expected of all men in these days, but a great deal more is expected from some men—anyway, here goes.

General.—All personnel are back to work after the Christmas and New Year leave. About 20 per cent. of the Company went on leave for the period 21st to 29th December, and the remainder for the period 31st December, 1939, to 6th January, 1940.

Arrivals.—A/C.S.M. Jones D from No. 1 Company.

Departures.—Signalmen Gomm, Duke, Watson and Corporal Elston (our journalist) to the 152nd O.C.T.U.

Congratulations—Marriages.—Lance Corporals Wilkin and Glendinning, Signalmen Tiltman and Johnson. May all their troubles be "Group E wonders."

A better effort will be made next month to give a fuller description of the doings of the Company. We lost our scribe at very short notice this month and he took his pencil with him.

No. 4 Company

News from No. 4 Company is scarce. I have been away from the Unit for over a month and I am only just beginning to pick up the threads of the so-called social life here again. At the time of writing these notes the camp is covered with a thick blanket of snow; many are the fights between the W.A.T.S. and the troops, and snowballs are the order of the day. Lance Corporal Dunne J., known to many of his friends as "Chesty," has proved himself an expert shot, as a certain poor Signalman can prove. In fact, the Company is thinking of sending him over to Finland where his services may be of use.

Most of this Unit had eight days of glorious leave at New Year, and the remainder had Christmas, but, of course, the Scotsmen in our Unit were delighted to go home for "Hogmanay." Anyway, leave has to come to an end and everyone is now back on the job, the dining-halls are again filled with the sound of morse code tapped out with knives, forks, or spoons on the tables. The Teleprinter Operators repeat to themselves in a kind of daze, "A S D F—L K J H G," which all goes to show that training is now in full swing.

We are pleased to record that Sergeant Mattock has now been promoted to S.S.M. He is well known for his service in India; also, for being a champion sprinter who carried off most of the prizes during his running days.

We are sorry to lose Lieutenant MacNeal who has been posted to another Unit. Mr. MacNeal was educated in Belfast, and will be well known to many Irishmen.

That's all for this month, so, until the next issue, No. 4 Company send all best wishes and good luck wherever you may be.

J.H.O.

Boys Training Company

Dear readers,—An apology for omitting a contribution to last month's WIRE would be superfluous. Our intelligent readers will observe from the following items of news that this was impossible. Reports show that several sprinting records were made when the boys were allowed to take possession of "B" Sandhurst Block. This building was projected in the bad old days when fags were 10 for 6d. So many incidents, however, impeded its progress that its completion became about as probable as the one about the Last Post.

Some doubt is expressed as to whether normal routine can continue in view of such amenities as hot water and spring beds.

On Monday, 11th December, the Company celebrated a trifling event: a change of Officers Commanding, the opening of the new building, and the approach of Christmas leave.

Although we may not mention the names of officers, we would like to thank the Officer Commanding who has just left us for all that he has done for the Company, and wish him the very best of luck wherever he is at present.

To our new Officer Commanding we extend a hearty welcome and trust that his stay with us is a long and happy one.

The celebrations on this memorable day took the traditional form of a "Gobble" Concert and Dinner. This form of celebration is almost as old as the Company and its success was assured After the concert the Commanding Officer addressed the Company. The splendid way in which the various functions "went off" was a credit to the Company Staff.

The day's programme finished about midnight and about eight hours later we reluctantly proceeded on leave. The curtain will now be lowered to denote the passage of time. Twenty-two days later members of the Company hurried back to barracks from all over England.

While recruits glory in the comforts of our new home from home, the old perspirers spend many pleasant hours gripping about the hardships of winter '37.

The cooking arrangements are magnificent and we regret to admit that any further jokes about rissoles and things are entirely out of the question. In fact, the only way to take the rise out of the cooking staff is to pinch their self-raising flour.

On 12th January Messrs. Griffin and Pellant joined the ranks. They have been trying to do this for several months now and we congratulate them on their sudden success.

Billeted "Somewhere in England" are Messrs. Grainger, Barker and Moseley. After the comforts they have been used to, we hope life amongst civilians is not too hard for them.

Ex-Rats awaiting posting were surprised to find that they had to take their turn in the wash-up. Signalman Marshall made an indignant protest that the training was useless to him as he intended to remain a bachelor.

Hoping you have a very happy war.

Yours sincerely,

A. JAY.

PS.—Tommy, fascinating dancer of Blackpool, communicate Stan Curtis (Weever to Wearer).

PPS.—Mac, from Jubb. The date still holds good. Smudger C.M. Salaams, etc.

S.T.C. Wales

2nd Operators Training Battalion

No. 2 Company

After four months under the guidance of our O.C., formerly well known to the world as the jovial Uncle Jack of the B.B.C., the Company is rapidly assuming quite imposing dimensions; imposing, that is, to those of us who have watched its growth from its rather nebulous state in September last.

Training.—We offer our congratulations to those in our training squads who, under the able tuition of Sergeant O'Hara and Lance Corporal Bainbridge, passed their Group "E" in time to celebrate the result at Christmas. No one who was in the vicinity of the Company lines during Christmas could doubt that suitable celebrations had been achieved.

Marriage.—Hearty congratulations, too, to S.S.M. McKenzie who was married during the Christmas period and has not yet

returned from his subsequent leave. We all wish him the very best of luck.

Sport.—Sport in the Centre on Boxing Day included a cross-country run which resulted in C.S.M. Shardlow and Signalman Green, D. J., being well in the fore.

On the afternoon of the same day an inter-Company rugby tournament was arranged. Our match with No. 1 Company was, unfortunately, lost, but only after a very hard and enjoyable game.

May we rather belatedly wish any one who has nobly read these notes, incidentally our first, a very happy 1940.

No. 3 Company

The Company has overcome its growing pains and is now a lusty infant. To those who have joined, the best of luck, and to those that follow, may they carry on in the same spirit as their predecessors.

There is nothing to report in the sports line as there is so much to do and so little time in which to do it. We now have, however, three well-equipped grounds, of which full advantage will be taken as the days lengthen.

The Company, less those on leave, were liberally entertained not only by the authorities, but by the local inhabitants during the festive season, and to all who helped the Company wish to voice their warm appreciation.

THREECOY.

No. 4 Company

Happy New Year, everybody. Keyboard Operators calling. This is our first attempt at scribing, but hope it won't be the last. Thanks to a fine organising S.S.M. (Ivor Cox) and very efficient Instructors, composed of Regulars, Reservists, and S.R.s, training is going along splendidly. We are very fortunate to have such a fine O.C., and an equally fine C.S.M. in the person of " Dodger " Green, of Indian fame. Ask the Orderly Corporal !

Good luck to the first Squad which passed out in record time and are now doing duty " Somewhere overseas."

Congratulations to Lance Sergeant Grattage on his recent promotion to the " Benedicts " class. Some 'opes, Sammy, we can't spare you. A happy gathering was present in the " Manip " tent, where the O.C. presented him with suitable gifts from the Permanent Cadre. Why the " alarm," Sam, when you can't hear it go off ?

The Company leads the way in the efforts for raising " brass " for the Comforts Fund. Keep it up, lads. What we want to know is, " Who put most in the swear box, the C.S.M. or ' Echolastical Jack ' ? " We presume the latter, as the box has ceased to function.

The Christmas festivities arranged for the boys left in camp were enjoyed by all, and the coffee and biscuits taken around by the N.C.O.s was appreciated by the recruits. It really encouraged them to think that the Army is not so bad after all.

Congratulations to the Company's side on reaching the final of the " seven-a-side " rugger tournament. If encouragement had had anything to do with it, you would have won it, but weight told in the end. Hard luck !

" FARMER."

2nd Depot Battalion

General.—The task of producing soldiers is cheerfully being carried out by the staff of the Battalion with amazing smoothness, notwithstanding the conditions met with here.

Arrivals and departures have been many during the last month and we wish everyone a happy time in their new stations.

Promotions.—Congratulations are extended to Lieutenants L. C. Udell and J. H. Ellis, R.Signals, on attaining commissioned ranks as shown.

Entertainments.—We have been extremely fortunate in the way of concerts and shows. Between E.N.S.A. and " local talent " our evenings of entertainment have been numerous and of pleasing variety. We greatly appreciate the magnificent work necessary for their success.

Christmas.—All Ranks in camp thoroughly enjoyed the excellent period of festivities over Christmas. The dinner on Christmas Day was a great success and we thank our cooking staff and A.T.S. for the hours of work put in.

Dance.—An All Ranks' Dance was held in the ballroom on the night of 11th January and, under the direction of our R.S.M., Murray, was very successful. As the " locals " say, " Nos dda."

D3.

" A " Company Depot Battalion

General.—We must apologise for the absence of notes during the last two months and plead the old, old story, " wirk." (We don't even know how to spell it.))

Recruits still pour in and out, and some of the boys from this Company have gone abroad already.

We bid farewell to our S.D.I. who has been promoted to commission rank. Good luck, sir, and thanks a lot for your many good turns to the Company !

Entertainments.—Under the very able direction of our O.C. Company the camp entertainments maintain a very high standard. We have E.N.S.A. and local shows about twice a week, in addition to our own talent concerts on Sundays.

Our thanks are due to the entertainers who give their services free in their spare time. Jolly good show chaps ! Jolly good show !

Things We Want to Know.—Has " Speedy " got the sand out of his hair yet ?

Why "A" Company Office is not labelled " Information Bureau ? "

Leaves.—The Cadre have now all had their Christmas leave and are settling down (and settling up) once more.

Arrivals.—We welcome Signalman Vaughan from the 1st Holding Battalion and Signalman Platts from Armoured Divisional Signals. They have come as replacements on the Cadre.

GRIGGLE.

" C " Company Depot Battalion

Hail and Farewell.—Our New Year greetings are belated this year. Our excuse is that we are so busy that we did not realise that 1939 was so near its close. Nevertheless, we wish our comrades everywhere all that they would wish themselves for 1940, and to old " nasty " we wish ——. Sorry, Mr. Censor !

Introductions.—In fulfilment of our promise last month we here introduce the junior N.C.O.s of the Cadre : Corporals Booth G., Beasley F., Doble J., Jones G. A., Macey R., Oglanby Rushman W., Lance Corporals Atkinson J., Barker H., Ellis J. D., Holness E., Hine C., Pain P. H., Keane P., Nicholson N. F., Sheard H. A. (Tex), Shorter W., Cleverdon, and those I've missed —Corporals Harwood and Harrison. I think that's all.

Training.—We must justify the excuse used in the first paragraph. We wish to place on record that the first Squads of Drivers and D.R.s have now left us for various destinations. We hope that by the time these notes appear in print Field Units are beginning to appreciate our efforts. Despite the difficulties experienced at the commencement of training we have managed to keep up with the programme and, in fact, beaten it. This is due, in no small way, to the keenness of the lads themselves.

On the D.R. side a few burnt-out clutches already testify to the keenness of our future " Pheidippides." Within the next few weeks we will be sending out the first of Mr. Graham Walker's " lads." Their previous experience and interest has been appreciated by their Instructors, and we hope they will leave here with a little additional knowledge to benefit them under more difficult riding conditions.

A.T.S.—As a bachelor I'm treading on dangerous ground here, so I hope my nom-de-plume is not too easily recognised.



(With Acknowledgments to "The Tatler"

A ROYAL SIGNALS TRAINING UNIT—By "MEL"

We really do appreciate the assistance the ladies are rendering us, but we do miss that freedom of expression that has been so soothing to ruffled tempers in an emergency. Just before Christmas swearing boxes adorned many of the offices in the camp but, to our credit, the chief complaint was that the results were poor. The story that a certain Q.M. put in half a crown in advance has not been confirmed, but you know what Q.M.s are !

Nevertheless, purity of language can be taken too far. We would love to hear what the T.M.O. thought when he found that one item on a vehicle outfit list had been amended to read : " Files Illegitimate—One." (This is a true story.)

Crashers' Club.—To qualify for membership one has to fill in A.F. A3676 (inner sheet A). New members are generally greeted with the order of the raz.

Fortunately, we have had only one serious accident and we are very pleased to be able to report that Signalman Teal J. showed a hearty contempt for the D.I. List and is now well on the way to complete recovery again. We all wish him a speedy return to normal activity.

Having heard nothing to the contrary we presume that Casemore's chance acquaintance, the donkey, is none the worse for its ordeal. We hope it doesn't miss its old barrow ; Casemore certainly didn't !

I believe that Corporal Jones (Office Clerk) would like to address a few well-chosen words to members of the Crashers' Club. At least, I've heard a few choice utterances from him when he sees a new " entrance form."

Puzzle Corner.—Here, dear playmates, are a few things we'd like to know. Firstly, was the Sergeant-Major the victim of some infectious disease during the New Year festivities ? In fact, what we'd really like to know is " How many spots hadst thou, O, James —— ? "

Who called our midget P.T. Instructor " goalkeeper ? " And does he give the order, " On the hands down," so that he can call the roll ?

What was it that " Brad " picked up in the palm lounge ?

Finis.—And that, for this month, is that.

DICKIE.

Yorkshire 3

3rd General Trades Training Battalion

As this is the first of our monthly series it will be short but sweet.

All seem to be settling down admirably in their new situations and new surroundings and, for most of them, it is quite a pleasant change after walking about in mud and rain all day.

The black-out does not worry anyone a great deal ; in fact, I think I can safely say that everyone can find his way to the " Jolly Sailors " without any difficulty, although I will not say that for their return journey.

As usual the troops have made a good impression on the opposite sex and by what I hear, one of our old Sergeant-Majors is only 19 !

The A.T.S. have arrived here to help us with our general duties (on and off) and they are doing it very well (off). Before coming into the office the girls leave their coats and respirators in the bath room, over the bath side. As you know, the weather has been very frosty and one morning the pipes were frozen up, so for the past week everyone has been wondering who the bright spark was that left the tap turned on. I will leave you to guess the result when the thaw set in that morning ; but that gives you one instance in the life of a W.A.T.

The Christmas dinner was a great success. The officers and sergeants were the fatigue men for that morning and they did very well, for officers and sergeants. The first course was soup, followed by peas, potatoes, turkey, pork and greens, and a glass of beer or, if you preferred, lemonade. I might say that the lemonade was left until last.

Then came the Christmas pudding, with cigarettes, nuts, apples and oranges to complete the dinner.

By the way, who was it that tipped the Sergeant with an ha'penny ?

For the tea, although most of us were still feeling the effects of the dinner, we had fruit and custard, mince-pies, dates, and, of course, a cracker, and after that Hitler could have blown us over.

One of the lads had a box of cigars given to him by a certain old lady in Whitby. Half-way through the first one she told him that her husband had had them given to him **six** years before and had been saving them for an occasion such as that. He was puzzling for half an hour how to " flick " it and appear to have had a good smoke.

There were various entertainments and dancing given for our benefit at the " Spa," and our entertainments officer has done good work in arranging dances held at the N.A.A.F.I. By the way, lads, listen to this, we are using what was known as the Ladies' Conservative Club, but it isn't quite so conservative and with the beer sale it is more Liberal. However, we found the floor in excellent condition for dancing and, I might tell you, our W.A.T.s can shake a nifty foot.

We owe our thanks to the voluntary Signals band and hope to have a proper band in the near future.

We'd Like to Know.—Who the A.T.S. was that thought the Admin. Wing was a Chinese general ?

Who made the standing orders to include putting out the cat at night in the A.T.S. sleeping quarters ?

Who was the butcher that cut the fat off the brisket ?

Well, lads, after that I will leave off, wishing you a happy and prosperous New Year.

S.O.B.

SPORTS NOTES

Football.—So far as G.T.T.B. are concerned, there is precious little of note to write home about, chiefly due to our not having a ground of our own to play on. It may, or may not, be known that great difficulty is being experienced in procuring a suitable flat field in the district. However, several irons are in the fire at the moment and before long there is every reason to believe that our boys will be wearing Battalion and Company colours on a certain pitch. No names, no pack drill, so for the time being let's leave it at that.

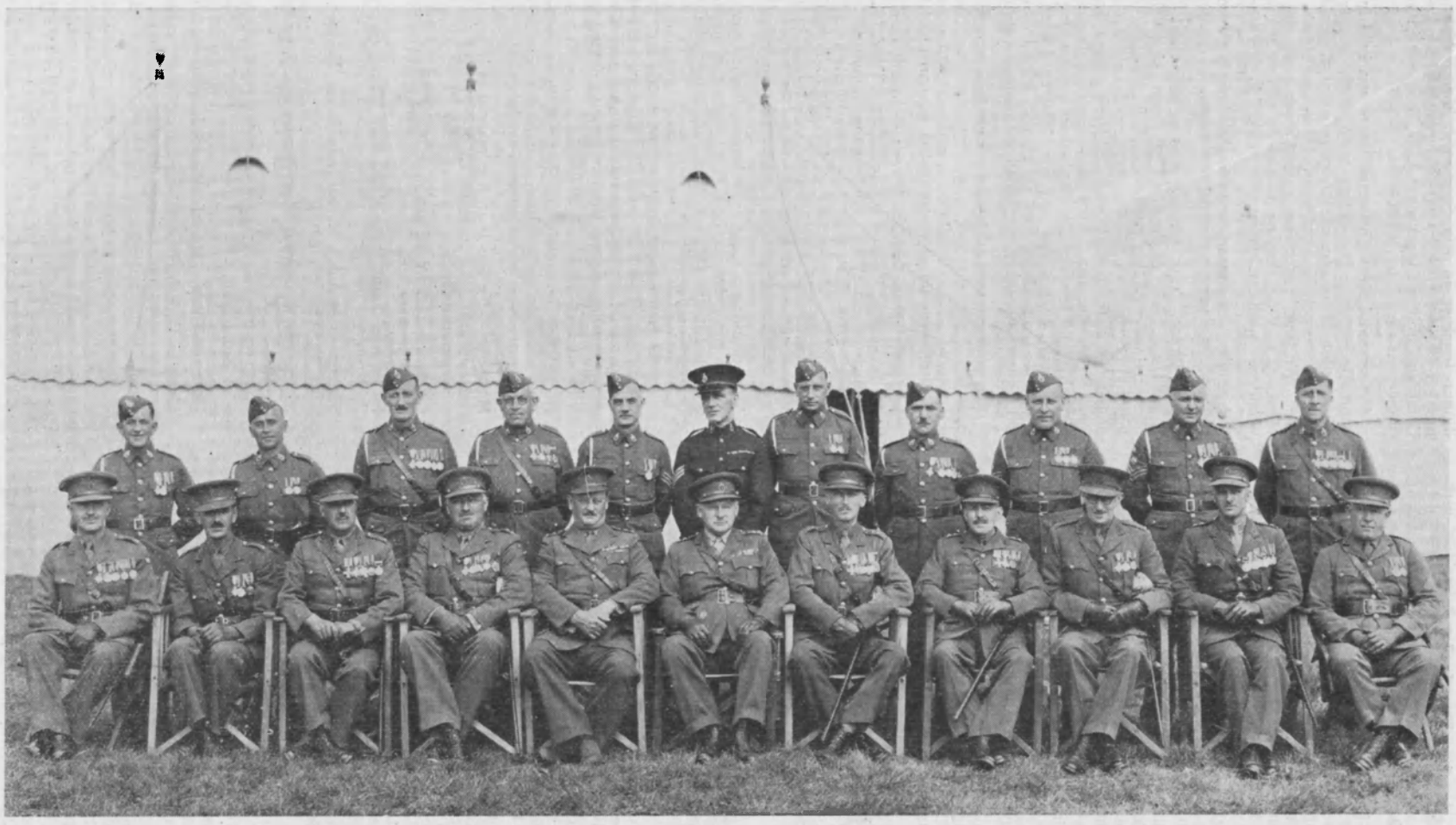
But whilst on the subject we must not lose sight of the able assistance our lads have given to the S.T.C. team during the last seven games. No less than 40 goals have been tucked away, against which only 15 goals have been conceded. Here are the amusing but very satisfactory results to date :

v. Whitby Sparks F.C.	Won	6—3
v. Mission to Seamen	Won	10—2
v. Whitby Arcadians	Won	3—0
v. Pickering Town	Won	6—5
v. Whitby and District	Won	3—1
v. Whitby Police	Lost	1—3
v. Whitby Argyle	Won	11—1

Lance Sergeant Taylor, for instance, came to us as a right half-back. He fitted in admirably in this position and, moreover, has shown to advantage in various other positions. Undoubtedly our utility man. Guess there is a surprise in store for a certain young greyhound (or Alex. James in the making) when we come to grips with Depot Battalion. Then there's Signalman Hall, an extremely useful left half-back, who never fails to use the ball to the best advantage. Lance Corporal Pugh also does his stuff, in no mean way, at inside-left, while S.S.M. Lambert (our latest capture) will want some stopping in the forward line. We have two fine fellows in Lance Corporals Rowberry and Marsland in looking after the uprights, not forgetting Sergeant Oakley at left back and Lance Corporal Burden at right back. Sergeant Morton and Signalman Coombs are also very much in the limelight, and we have no hesitation in predicting a very formidable eleven once old man " frost " shows us his heels. In the interim, any volunteers for a couple of ski-ing football teams ?

JAS.

TWENTY-ONE YEARS AFTER



Officers and other ranks of the 1st and 2nd London Corps Signals, T.A. in camp at Corfe Castle, Dorset, August, 1939, who were serving in the Great War twenty-one years ago

Back Row (*left to right*).—Lance Corporal Pease S. W. A., Sergeant Pipe C. W., C.S.M. Allardyce W., C.S.M. Moorse L. F., Sergeant Stiff H., Sergeant Rankin J., Lance Corporal Cruse J., Sergeant Richardson H. H., C.Q.M.S. Tickell W., C.Q.M.S. Watt J., C.S.M. Wrightson A. H.

Front Row (*left to right*).—Major S. A. W. Philcox, Major H. T. F. White, Major W. H. Lloyd, M.C., Lieutenant-Colonel C. L. H. Humphreys, T.D., Colonel G. D. Ozanne, M.C., Colonel T. W. Vigers, O.B.E., M.C., T.D., Colonel H. Lloyd Howard, M.C., T.D., Lieutenant-Colonel C. H. Oliver, M.C., Major T. S. A. Campbell, Lieutenant Quartermaster S. W. Delbear, M.M., Captain P. R. Mann

A.A. Signals, Berkshire

No. 1 Company

The chief event of the past month has been Christmas, and full advantage has been taken of the festival by all members of the Company. Some time before, Christmas leave was being enjoyed, but like all good things this has now come to an end. The actual day itself was a feast of good things, from breakfast till supper (and after !). Dinner was enlivened by the A.T.S. (and the mistletoe did not blush) and by the demonstration of health and beauty exercises by " M. La Rue." We cannot leave the subject of Christmas without a word of congratulations and thanks to " Nobby " for his brilliant menu card, and also to those members of the Company who decorated the various rooms so tastefully.

The Company Order have recently contained the names of several men destined to bear another stripe. To these we extend our hearty congratulations. We also welcome our new R.S.M., who has come among us, and we wish him success in his new post.

There has now been instituted in the evenings a series of lectures on " Electricity and Magnetism " by the Company Commander, and we are now being initiated into the mysteries of "O.H.M.S." Law, and all its relations.

Congratulations to Signalman, I beg his pardon, Lance Corporal Coldwell, on being awarded the Order of the Silver Roneo for devotion to Part II Orders, but what unkind soul put the raspberries in his Christmas stocking ?

AC. AC. CHARLIE.

A.A. Signals, Nottinghamshire

January, 1940.

General.—We again open our notes with the comment that the social life of the Unit is to the fore as our military activities remain unchanged.

Arrivals.—One officer, 2nd Lieutenant G. Pirrett, has joined the Unit, and to him we extend a hearty welcome.

Gazetted.—2nd Lieutenant G. D. Curtis, late of No. 2 Company, was commissioned on 15th December, 1939, and subsequently reposted elsewhere.

Courses.—At one of the O.C.T.U.s we have Lance Corporal Trease J. and we all hope he successfully passes the course and eventually gains a commission.

Another candidate, Lance Corporal Finlinson P., is due to proceed to an Infantry O.C.T.U. on the 26th inst. To him, as well, go our good wishes for a successful course. In his case it is most probably a farewell to the Corps and to the Unit.

Discharged.—The first discharge since the Unit embodied took place on 4th January, this being Signalman Smith R. E. on medical grounds. One other, Signalman Wand H., is to be discharged at the end of the month on similar grounds.

Evening Instruction.—During the past month a series of three talks by the Quartermaster (Lieutenant H. E. Mott) was given in the Officers' Mess to all officers, W.O.s, and a few N.C.O.s. The subject was Q. accounts in general.

With such a wide subject the Quartermaster was only able to touch briefly on each heading. The questions asked by the interested audience were many and varied. It is hoped everyone present has benefited by these talks.

Early next month a second series starts, the R.S.M. to give the first talk on " Military Discipline and Law."

The Commanding Officer in his opening remarks stressed the importance of these discussions for all Section officers and senior N.C.O.s, and trusted that all concerned would benefit by them.

Christmas Festivities.—All ranks who could be spared were granted 48 hours' Christmas leave, but for those not on leave the usual festivities were held. Our Sergeant-Cook (Lance Sergeant McKay, an ex-Naval P.O.) excelled himself with the dinner and all present heartily endorsed the vote of thanks passed at the end of the dinner.

After the time-honoured custom of " waiting at table " by the officers and senior N.C.O.s the latter enjoyed a well-served dinner together in the Sergeants' Mess. Although small in number we greatly enjoyed the company of the C.O., Second-in-Command, and 2nd Lieutenant J. W. Grieve at our first Christmas dinner.

A Sergeants' Mess Christmas Draw was held in the Mess on 22nd December. The prizes were fairly evenly distributed. The writer being one of the prize-winners, perhaps the word " evenly " is not the word some of the other Mess members would use. We were *glad* to see a good share going into the Officers' Mess. The W.O., having 17 tickets and only drawing blanks, would not, perhaps, choose the " glad " in this case.

A similar Christmas Draw was also held in the men's club and this, too, was very successful (for some).

Unit Dance.—12th January was an important date for us, as it was the occasion of the first Unit dance, at which the D.C.S.O. honoured us with his presence. This was held at one of the leading hotels. All tickets were sold before the dance and dancing was greatly enjoyed by all those able to drag themselves away from the bar. Like most Service dances the lack of formality and the friendly atmosphere went a long way to make the evening such a pleasant one. Partners were plentiful and the M.C. (2nd Lieutenant D. Hayes) included some old-time dances in the programme, which the majority appreciated.

The arrangements of the dance were in very capable hands and it seems almost impossible to surpass the success of this first adventure. Even the black-out and the turning out in the bitter cold afterwards failed to damp the enjoyment of those present.

Sergeants' Mess Social.—A very enjoyable evening was spent in the Sergeants' Mess on the 18th inst. The C.O. and officers of Headquarters and No. 1 Company honoured us with their presence. This particular date is an important one for us as it marks the first anniversary of the Unit's formation. On this date the C.O. was commissioned. The raising of the Unit, in fact, was authorised from a date in December, 1938, but the C.O. commenced the task of raising the Unit from 18th January.

After drinking a toast an enlarged, framed photograph of the Mess was presented to the C.O. on behalf of all Mess members ; this for use in the Officers' Mess. A happy reminder, we hope, of our early days together.

A games tournament followed, at which R.Q.M.S. Hooton S. and Sergeant Thorne H. were the winners. It was good to see our Orderly Room S/Sergeant running round with his score sheets, recording scores, the bar for him having to be neglected during the progress of the games.

He was not completely disappointed, however, for later he was able to make up for lost time. A most enjoyable social came to an end in the very early hours of the morning.

Marriages.—No less than five marriages to record this month. Here they are and good luck to them all on taking over these heavy responsibilities :

C.S.M. Herring W. C. to Eileen Mary Crane, on 9th December, at East Finchley.

Signalman Grant R. to Hilda May White, on 23rd December, at Beeston.

Signalman Bennett H. to June Joyce Bridges, on 23rd December, at West Bridgford.

Signalman Woodward F. to Mavis Carnill, on 20th December, at Lenton.

Signalman Barclay G. to Rome Flora Davidson, on 4th November, at Edinburgh.

Here and There.—Heard in the Orderly Room this week.

Clerk to Orderly Room Sergeant : " Can we get disturbance allowance when the Orderly Sergeant continues to disturb us early every morning ? "

A recent accident to one of our lorries resulted in head injuries to one of the occupants. At the civil hospital later a pretty nurse was putting stitches to the wound. The injured Signalman was heard to remark to the nurse : " If you have any cotton left, you might put a button on my trousers."

G.G.

A.A. Signals, Gloucestershire

No. 2 Company

11th January, 1940

Christmas.—The good times of Christmas are over,
The turkey's a mere memory,
It was all very nice to remember,
But it's what happens next worries we.

A decorated Drill Hall and stage. Tables laden with food. Crackers, cigarettes and beer. The unusual experience of being waited upon by the senior N.C.O.s. A happy and gay spirit prevailed throughout the evening of Saturday, the 23rd. As an additional contribution to this seasonal gaiety " Enery " and his footlight personalities provided us with a home-made concert party and show. Songs, recitations, piano, piano-accordion and trumpet solos, " Sarah and Enery," " Enery " and his phono-fiddle, and, last but not least, magic by " Will Amaze," who also kindly compered the show. It is my regret that I cannot reproduce on paper the expressions and noises by one, Signalman Beacham in his rendering of " Old Susannah." Altogether, a very good show indeed, chaps. Thank you Messing Officer and Messing Corporal. Thank you, cooks. Thanks " Enery " to you and your celebrities. Thanks, every one, for a jolly good evening.

Command.—The occasion above was one also for saying good-bye to our late Commanding Officer who, although not actually severing connection with the Company, leaves to take up another appointment in the Unit. It is with regret that we bid him farewell, but our best wishes go with him for the future. Much hard work under difficult circumstances has been his lot in the formation and building up of the Company and it must have been equally hard for him to say goodbye to us. We thank you, sir, for all you have done for us in the past. To your successor we extend a warm and cordial welcome and trust his stay will similarly be a very pleasant and happy one.

Commissions.—Well done to those granted emergency commissions from the ranks. A nice wedding present for one of you, whisked away almost immediately to somewhere else in England. Best of luck to you all.

Trade Boards.—Space will not permit individual names and details but congratulations to the lucky ones. " What's yours ? " in celebration by the married folk has been little heard. Increased compulsory allotments and a reduction in " make up " by the firms no doubt is the reason. You lucky people.

Change of Address (and Dress).—Congratulations to our late C.Q.M.S. but our regrets in having to bid him farewell on his promotion to Warrant rank I and departure to H.Q. The welcome mitt is extended to C.Q.M.S. Katon, ex-2 Section, No. 1 Company in relief, with congratulations at the same time on the attainment. Best wishes and good luck to you both.

Warning.—Beware of the " love bug." Speedy Leap Year fillies. Watch your step, Alfie.

Tea Shop Tit-Bit.—Romance behind the counter for eligible folk. Who is next for favours.

Proposition.—Early morning route marches in Suits A.G. heavy. How about it, Harry ? What exclamation this time ?

Twoco.

The First (London) Ack Ack's

It is only natural that these notes, covering Christmas and the New Year, should be largely concerned with social events. But, while the accent may appear to be on the lighter side of things, we have been busily engaged on the serious side, too.

Apart from regular duties, some intensive training has been tackled by all hands and numerous members of the Unit have taken, or are about to undergo, their appropriate trade boards.

For the line maintenance sections, the cold weather has proved a trial, but the men have found their lined, leather " gherkins " and winter " woollies " a sound protection against bitter winds.

Our new building is rapidly approaching completion and the last stages of the bricklaying have been reached. It is now possible to appraise the smart modern exterior line of this big drill hall and training centre, with its wide sun-trap windows. Other parts of the original building have now been decorated in a restful two-tone green scheme. Before very long our quarters will be exceedingly attractive as well as useful, and we shall be proud tenants.

Two interesting promotions are to be reported. Captain J. Killeen is now Adjutant, in succession to Captain E. H. Clarke, while Lieutenant M. Mitchell has recently acquired his second " pip." We are sorry to say good-bye to Captain Clarke, who has helped us through some very difficult times, and we all wish him the best of luck.

Social.—Christmas Day was very jolly for all ranks who had to remain nearby. The men's mess hall was gaily decorated and, with a grand Christmas dinner by way of a change from the familiar beef, the " homey " Christmas spirit was soon evident. Turkeys, pork in the shape of a whole pig (Mr. Winstanley's special pride), Christmas puddings, and the usual good things abounded. In the time-honoured manner, the men of the Unit and the bonny lasses of our A.T.S. Detachment were served by the officers and senior N.C.O.s, the C.O. himself presiding at the festivities.

An informal concert followed in the afternoon, the proceedings concluding with a dance at night. These events, capably organised by Corporal Manley, were open to relatives and friends.

No special event marked the turn of the year, but it is said that the Sergeants, in particular, made the New Year very welcome. We hope that events will justify their greeting 1940 so heartily.

Early in the month 2nd Lieutenant J. Hinde presented us with his production of " Aladdin," written by Signalman Frost A. E. and Signalman Blackman R. G., and acted by some of the boys and A.T.S. Although lack of time for rehearsal took away some of the smoothness of a well-drilled cast, the show was good fun and was well received by an enthusiastic audience which packed out the little hall.

Our annual party for the children of men of the Unit is always a great occasion and this year's was no exception. In fact, it had a deeper significance than usual and was more successful, even though it was held in two halves, on 20th and 27th January. The Brompton Dugout, specially decorated for the occasion, formed the *venue*, the C.O. and his wife acting as host and hostess. Some splendid presents, donated by Sir William Prescott, Hon. Colonel of the Unit, were handed to the boys and girls by Santa Claus (our worthy C.S.M. Blood, heavily disguised in red cloak and white beard). Gifts for the related evacuees among the youngsters were thoughtfully reserved by the C.O., who obviously enjoyed his game of " Nuts and May " as much as the children.

On Sunday, 21st January, the finest entertainment we have had since the war began was provided by members of the " Little Revue " company in the Parry Theatre of the Royal College of Music. This event was organised by 2nd Lieutenant J. Hinde (Signals) and 2nd Lieutenant Forwood (R.A.). The artistes included Elisabeth Welch, accompanied by Reginald Foresyth, Hermione Baddeley, Alice Lloyd, Kay Young, Edward Cooper, Bernard Miles—whose turns sparkled with brilliant wit and subtlety—and our own Signalman French S. A., who played some fine piano solos, with C.S.M. Blood leading community singing. The well-known and the lesser-known stars gave their best, and if our next professionally-assisted concert is as memorable as this one we shall be very lucky.

Forthcoming events here include a production of " Babes in the Wood," by the London H.Q. of the Civil Defence Corps, and our own people in the former West End farce, " Third Time Lucky."

So, with informal concerts also being given on alternate Tuesdays in the Brompton Dugout, we can hardly complain of lack of entertainment.

The third issue of the " Ack Ack Mercury," the Unit magazine, will shortly appear and it is evident that the journal is very well established with its readers. Copies circulate, we hear, not only among Signals Units in this country and in the B.E.F., but, also, among R.A.F. and Navy men—not to mention some that have found their way to Canada and the U.S.A.

Sport.—Like many other Units, our programme of outdoor sport has been heavily curtailed on account of the weather. We

have played some football with scratch teams which suffered defeat on two occasions.

Many members, including A.T.S., have been skating vigorously, not only on the well-known indoor ice rinks, but also on the Serpentine.

Our various indoor games tournaments for darts, table tennis, and billiards are progressing smoothly, but the rounds have not advanced far enough to disclose many likely winners. Corporal Perry, a table tennis league player, is strongly fancied, but several contestants are hoping to catch him off his game.

Boxing now takes place regularly on two nights each week. The sport is most popular and practice bouts have pointed out some promising men. It is hoped that a team capable of representing the Unit will be built up in due time, and that our keen challenges will be as keenly accepted by other Regiments.

The writer feels compelled to observe that these notes only outline in a very perfunctory manner the many events with which this Unit is concerned. If, as yet, we lack action of one sort, we certainly enjoy another kind. So far!

E.G.L.

[We have much pleasure in publishing the page of Photographs (opposite) of the "Local Dugout," which have been unavoidably held over since the December issue.—Ed.].

West Country Divisional Signals, Devonshire

No. 1 Company

January, 1940.

General.—Individual training continues to progress and the Company was well represented in the trade tests which were recently held, 10 men obtaining BIII ratings, and a further 12 their Group "E." However, we look for a further list of successes before long. There are still quite a few who need to get up to the mark.

Sport.—The Company played No. 3 Company in the Inter-Divisional Association Football Cup Round, losing to the latter Company 4—3. The Company continues to supply several prominent members to the rugger fifteen, which is having a highly successful season. The Company hopes, also, to be well represented in the cross-country running and in the boxing for the Inter-Divisional contest.

Social.—It seems generally agreed by All Ranks that the festivities of Christmas for those who remained behind were a great success. The festive events were started by a Stag Party held by part of "D" Section on 18th December. This was followed by a Company dance on the 20th, the day before the first leave started. The dance was an all-uniform affair, both male and female. The ladies were mostly either A.T.S. or V.A.D.s. No. 2 Company once more supplied the band, who were hard worked throughout the evening. The Colonel very nearly won the balloon dance, and, altogether, the event was voted a great success by everybody present. We are already booked for another Company dance to take place shortly.

On Christmas Day the Company took part in the Unit Church Parade and the Christmas dinner was held in the Company dining-room, where the officers tried their skill at carving turkey, and then, assisted by the Sergeants, waited on the men. This was followed by the traditional plum pudding, and the men were then given supplies of cigarettes. The cooking staff did their stuff nobly and received a hearty cheer, as did the Company Commander.

The Commanding Officer, the Adjutant, and other officers of Unit Headquarters visited the dining-room during dinner and were given a hearty welcome.

In the afternoon, after a very necessary period of rest, several members of the Company found their way to the Y.M.C.A., where, through the generosity and kindness of that institution, they were given a tea, followed by a dinner at 6.30 and a concert in the evening.

The next day the Company held an informal entertainment in the Town Hall and throughout the period of Christmas leave there have been many private parties given to individuals by the local residents, who have shown every kindness to the troops the whole time they have been here.

There are some compensations about spending Christmas with the Army after all!

ONECOY.

No. 2 Company

Time marches on! Here we are at the beginning of 1940—a year of mysteries ahead of us.

By now Christmas leave is a thing of the past and we are settling down again to normal routine. Christmas under war conditions proved to be very jolly, and those of us who were unable to get home had a right good time. The time-honoured customs were maintained and dinner was served by N.C.O.s of the Company with full ritual, made complete by the visit of the C.O. and other officers of the Unit.

Social life again has proved successful and a Christmas party for the families went off merrily. We had about 40 guests and there was some good fun with games, Christmas tree, conjurer, etc. Appreciation is due to the officers and Sergeant-Major for the success of this party and the Committee who assisted to make the show go with a swing.

Our first event this year was a dance with No. 3 Company the two Companies combined for this affair, and the Town Hall was packed with a happy throng. Unanimously, the dance was a tremendous success and those responsible in organising the affair may feel gratified. We look forward to the next with eager anticipation.

Christmas brought us more weddings, and to those who took "the plunge" we extend good wishes on behalf of the Company. It is worthy of note that our bachelor Sergeant fought to the bitter end to save his friend from female wiles—even to the extent of losing the ring on the way to the Church, where he assumed responsibilities of best man! All ended happily, however, and the mystery was solved in time for the ceremony to proceed smoothly.

Things We Want to Know.—Why the junior N.C.O. who feeds continuously throughout the whole day never gets fat?

If a certain senior N.C.O. intends to make a habit of "merry making" at Company dances?

Who was responsible for his condition on the night of 10th January?

What did public opinion think about the doleful notes of a saxophone played continuously from "somewhere in East Anglia" to "somewhere in Devon?"

No. 3 Company

Christmas is past and Christmas leave is nearly over, but there remains one outstanding memory.

Most of us had been in the Army only for a very short time before war broke out, and those who had been Territorials before had only seen each other on three evenings per week. We hadn't very much chance of getting to know the rest of the Company, but by Christmas everyone knew everyone else fairly well and it was good to see the spirit of comradeship which the Army gives you.

We had a magnificent Christmas dinner, with plenty of free beer. The officers and Sergeants waited on the men and one and all enjoyed themselves. Our thanks go out to an anonymous donor who gave each man a pint of beer, which, we can assure him, was very much appreciated. The Y.M.C.A. had arranged an enjoyable evening, including a dance, which went with a terrific swing.

On Boxing Night we co-operated with No. 1 Company and gave a dance. The music, we are glad to say, was provided by a dance band composed of members of Nos. 1 and 3 Companies. We should like to congratulate this combination and say that we hope to hear more of them in the near future.

THE FIRST LONDON ACK ACK'S

(See December notes for story)


1


2


3


4


5


6

(By Courtesy of the "Evening Standard")



OFFICERS

. . . of The Royal Corps of Signals can only have confidence in their outfitter if they have the knowledge that garments are cut by craftsmen, made by tailors skilled in military work, and materials of the highest standard. These are guaranteed you when your kit is produced by ALKIT, so that you have full satisfaction.

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A concert, arranged by E.N.S.A. and produced by Will Hay, was presented in the Town Hall last week. It received a fine reception, which was well merited, and we hope to have more E.N.S.A. concerts very soon.

A number of the Company have got Trade ratings since the last issue, which is very encouraging, and we hope by the next issue that at least 90 per cent. of the Company will have some sort of trade rating, even if it is only Group E.

We have lost a valuable member of our soccer side, but we still feel confident of beating our opponents in the semi-final of the Divisional Shield which is being played at the end of January.

THREECOY.

Army Signals, West Riding of Yorkshire

January, 1940.

During the past month, the majority of the members of the Unit have enjoyed eight days' leave on account of Christmas, although the exigencies of the Service compelled it to be taken in four periods.

For those whom duty detained here over the festive season adequate preparations were made upon the usual lavish scale. Several lads for whom it was their first experience of Christmas in the Service have expressed their pleased surprise at the completeness of the arrangements for their comfort. In addition, all who could be spared from duties, and wished to avail themselves of it, were granted extended week-end to the night of Boxing Day.

While the preparations were being completed we were visited by a number of representatives of the Press and some of the photographs taken on that occasion were published in several of the northern papers. We trust that they are suitable for inclusion with these notes.

In the absence of the Commanding Officer, to whom a telegraphic greeting had been sent, Major J. W. Chalmers wished the troops a Happy Christmas, and passed to them the Commanding Officer's best wishes. As is customary the men were waited on by the officers and sergeants of the Unit.

Entertainments.—On 14th December we were visited by an E.N.S.A. " Sing-Song " Party, who gave a very successful concert in the N.A.A.F.I.

12th January saw a visit from the R.A.F. " Lintonian " Concert Party (from Somewhere else in Yorkshire) and their show was very much appreciated by a packed house in the gymnasium.

Owing to intensive training and leave it has not been found practicable to give another Unit concert, but the dance band is still flourishing. I had almost forgotten to mention that they provided the music for the " Lintonian " concert.

Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess

On 11th December the members entertained the officers of the Unit at a games tournament, during the course of which we managed practically to fill up the blank numbers on the Christmas Draw. The draw itself, on the 19th, was the occasion for another social evening.

One of the " high spots " of the Christmas festivities was the Children's Christmas Tree on the evening of the 21st in the Mess. This event was attended by all the officers of the Unit and the guests sat down to what one of the youngsters described as a " scrumptious " tea arranged by the Mess Cook, Mr. E. Burkes. C.Q.M.S. Lloyd deputised for Santa Claus.

On Christmas Day the officers foregathered in the Mess to receive the members' greetings before wending their way to the men's mess room. The Mess exchanged Christmas greetings with the Commanding Officer by telegram.

The members held their own Christmas dinner on Boxing Day. On the evening of the 27th the members were " At Home " to the families and friends of the Mess, and a very enjoyable time was had by all present.

Cheerio, " SPASIGS."

Scottish Divisional Signals

Since our last contribution our surroundings have changed in many respects, from the solitude of the countryside to the darkness and humidity of " a city." Despite this paramount change, everyone remains high-spirited.

General.—Successful Christmas and New Year's Day treats, crowned by a visit on Christmas Day from the Divisional Commander, who wished everyone a very Happy Christmas and New Year, are delightful memories of our initial stay here. Visions of turkeys, plum puddings, lemonade, beer, chocolate, cigarettes, etc., in consequence, still linger in our thoughts.

Leave.—Several hundred men are now hard at work after their privilege leave which extended over a period of one month and which adversely affected the smooth running of the Unit's training. However, their holiday has benefited them tremendously and, with renewed vigour, they are now ready for a long spell of arduous work.

The festive season, the " receiving time," brought gifts in plenty from various sources, including such comforts as scarves, gloves, helmets, and other woollen necessaries from our very own Comforts Committee. " Jock's Box," of course, was a notable feature in this respect, while the chief of the local Corporation, in no small way, helped to make Christmas and New Year a " never-to-be-forgotten " occasion.

New Arrivals.—The strength of the Unit has again changed with the arrival of two new officers, both of whom have had a

ARMY SIGNALS (W.O.s & SERGEANTS' MESS) "AT HOME"



1



2



3



4



5



6

(All photographs are reproduced by kind permission of "The Yorkshire Post")

1.—Presents for the children. (C.Q.M.S. Lloyd, Sergeants Clay and Ramsden)

2.—Decorating the Christmas tree. (Old Razmaniacs will probably recognise two notorious characters !)

3.—Decorating the Mess-Room. (Corporal Costello)

4.—Who's for duff ? (Sergeants Wells and Dewsbury)

5.—Here's the best ! !

6. Ah ! That was good ! !

spell with the B.E.F. in France and their knowledge and experience from " over there " will be extremely helpful to us in training. To them we offer a hearty welcome and feel sure that they will prove to be notable pivots in the training of the budding signalmen.

Another addition to the family is Sergeant Blair, fresh from the A.P.T.S., and his presence augurs well for the physical well-being of our young men with the knowledge he is able to impart in their training.

Obituary.—It is with deep regret that we record the death of Signalman Richardson, from the South, who died whilst on leave. The heartfelt sympathy of the officers and men of the Unit is extended to his parents on their sudden bereavement. He had only been in the Unit a few months, but in that time he had shown himself as having the capabilities of becoming a good soldier and signalman. His friends in the Unit will find it difficult to find someone to fill his place, spiritually and physically, as he had been friend to them all.

" Heil Hitler."—Towards the end of last week a concert was held in the barracks in aid of the Comforts Fund of the Unit. The sum realised will go a long way towards providing us with the necessaries which we require during the cold winter months. Such entertainment as was provided that night cannot fail to attract appreciative audiences and, with the audiences, the money to fill the coffers.

The show comprised, in addition to variety acts, a three-act pantomime " Dick Whittington " and presentations by members of the Unit, who excelled themselves in their various turns, which included music, song and dance. The credit for the show is largely due to the people from the outside, who included the Commanding Officer's wife, the wives of officers of the Unit, and in no small way to the producer of the pantomime. Every member of the cast, civilians and Signalmen alike, were highly commended by the Commanding Officer who gave an address after the show and conveyed the thanks of the officers and men of the Unit to those who had helped to produce such excellent entertainment.

The highlight of the evening was a skit on Hitler, presented by officers and men, who gave a realistic but amusing impersonation of the Fuhrer, and his three " Stooges," Goering, Goebbels and Ribbentrop. To put the finishing touch to their portrayal of these famous, or I should say " infamous " gentlemen, they had a stein song, " Heil Hitler," the words for which were as follows :

" Heil Hitler, Ja ! Ja ! Ja !
Oh ! what a funny little man you are,
With your little moustache and your hair all blaa !
Heil Hitler, Ja ! Ja ! Ja ! "

Credit for the pantomime and this little parody goes to a Mr. W.B., what one might call a " rising " success in the manufacturing line in Glasgow.

D. W. M.

Northern Ireland District Signal Company

On New Year's Eve we made the usual resolutions, which were sacramentally confirmed the morning after amidst hasty ablutions, convulsions, distortions, explosions, and contumacious reflections. When this peculiar war is over nearly all of us should be qualified for some sort of Northern Ireland medal impressed with a miniature engraving of a pint glass surrounded by biscuits and cheese, the reverse side being a lop-sided bird's eye-view of the interior of the northern bar.

Arrivals.—We are glad to welcome several new arrivals. Their regimental numbers are not quite dry, but they are swiftly learning the procedure inside and outside of barracks and, in due course, we shall undoubtedly report their successes on trade testing boards, draught boards, and dart boards.

Departures.—We much regret the loss of Lance Corporal Garton, Signalmen Balnis, Farmer, Farrell and Green. They all contributed to the health and strength of our hockey and football teams. They have left us to become instructors with a Training Battalion somewhere in Yorkshire. We wish them luck !

Organised Games.—Certain sportsmen stationed here good humouredly complain that they and the games they play in are not sufficiently reported. We, therefore, declare that we have to respect the iron necessity for censorship that stops us from naming the actual Units we have come in contact with on sports grounds. Also, as we invariably win, a natural sense of modesty prevails over the descriptive pen. However, it is time now for a tribute to our football team which, in the last month, has played three games with local R.A.S.C. Companies and one with a local R.A. Battery. We have won three and drawn one. The scores against the R.A.S.C. were : 4—2, 3—3, 8—4. Against the R.A. we won 5—3. We congratulate Signalman Greenwood for scoring 10 of these goals, Corporal Swetnam for six, and Signalman Denehy, Maxwell and Pink, who scored two each. Worthy of mention in despatches, also, are Signalmen Allsop, Cable, McNulty, Carter, Steele, Court, Belcher and Bowen, all of whom, on the wing or in defence, gave their full share and something more to the achievement of these grand results.

Queries.—Of all the things we should like to know this month it is the name of the Sergeant who, when in charge of a fatigue preparing the Children's Christmas Tree and Party, turned to a man standing idle and said : " YOU, BRING IN THE PIANO ! " . . . We also wish to know the effect produced upon a married Signalman who received, from the Signalman who shares his house, the following note : " Dear Bamber, when you get home, please prepare hot bath as I am on coal fatigues and must wash dirty face before taking dear wife to flicks. Yours truly, Geoffrey."

Conclusion.—In the fifth month of the war, in which we have not yet felt extremes, most of us are still wondering when we shall have our opportunity of hanging our washing on the Siegfried Line. Most of us can now speak fairly understandable Irish, and now we want to speak French, which is only natural. We have grown tired of the black-out. We too frequently see the Sergeant-Major with his rag out. It's all Hitler's fault. There is only one thing to do. We must declare war on Germany a second time, and then see what happens.

Meantime, we must continue to publish Part II Orders with reckless abandon, trusting that the statistics these contain will in some way offset the disparaging remarks that gush out daily from radio station Hamburg.

Some people seem to think us a little slow in pushing on the war on land. But let us not be too critical. If we must fight, we must be trained and armed. We cannot hope to win the war with rolled-up copies of daily newspapers.

THE GLOOMY DEAN.

WITH G.H.Q. OF THE B.E.F.

(*Continued from page 45*)

men of "Ajax," "Achilles " and " Exeter," who gave such a fine battle with " Graf von Spee." Congratulations also to our many friends in England and other parts of the Empire who have received promotion in the past few weeks. To the many WIRE contributors in England who are keeping us in touch with home scandals, etc., we send our best thanks.

During the past month we have said good-bye to the Smith brothers, whom I mentioned in my first notes as being typical cockneys. We wish them all the best. An addition to our fold is Private Davenport of the R.A.S.C., and we trust he will have a long stay in our happy family. He is also a Londoner, but not quite a cockney.

Leave is now in full swing, and whilst one member is suffering from " after-leave-fever " the other is groaning with " expectant-leave-itis." At the moment your scribe is one of the latter, and in the next few days hope to reach the shores of England. During his brief stay he hopes to visit a Signal Unit and find out what you chaps like to read about from this side of the Channel. Further outlook : considerable improvement in these notes, we hope.

Having delved through the various items of news we find that the " Ministry of Inflammation " will not permit us to say more. The censor has his proverbial blue pencil poised for action, and having a strong desire to keep our good name (as if we ever had one) we will close.

This is the Beerschender Humbug, Station Blitzkrieg, and Station Rissole on the 100 centime band. You have just heard your news in English. Good night and thank you for your attention.

Carry on, Milk Wagon !

ACK PIP BEER.

STATIONS ABROAD

Signal Training Centre (India)

1st January, 1940.

Once more we embark upon the task of recording events during the past month. Before we commence, perhaps, it would be advisable to remind readers within the Unit that in view of the Editor's injunction in the November issue of the WIRE to avoid reference to names and numbers of Units and names of officers, there are quite a few incidents of interest that cannot be mentioned too fully. During the month we have had several changes amongst the personnel of the Unit. We welcome Sergeant Richardson G., Lance Sergeant McCunnin P., C.Q.M.S. Nicholls C. and family, Corporal Duggan from Meerut (the latter having become so attached to Jubbulpore that only a posting could solve the problem), R.Q.M.S. Coombes L. from Kohat, R.Q.M.S. Wyeth E. and family, Signalman Haylock J. from Rawalpindi, C.S.M. Gudgeon G. from Waziristan, Lance Corporal Cockell S. from Quetta, and Signalman Relph H from Poona. Most of these appear to have already settled as fixtures and we trust they will find Jubb to their liking. Against this increase we have to record the departure of several old hands of the Unit. Our best wishes go with S.S.M. Drudge J. and family, now at Karachi, R.S.M. Weston H. (of C.T.S. fame) who is now safely at Meerut, Corporal O'Brien H. who went to Risalpur, C.Q.M.S. Agar G. and family, Signalmen Lund E., Browne L., Campbell J., Cave R., Powell R., Kelly W., and Lance Corporal Bateman G. (the artist) who now reside at Rawalpindi, S.S.M.s Catford R. and Greenwood E., and Lance Corporal Newsham J. posted permanently overseas. And, finally, C.Q.M.S. Goat A., who has gone to experiment in Cherat.

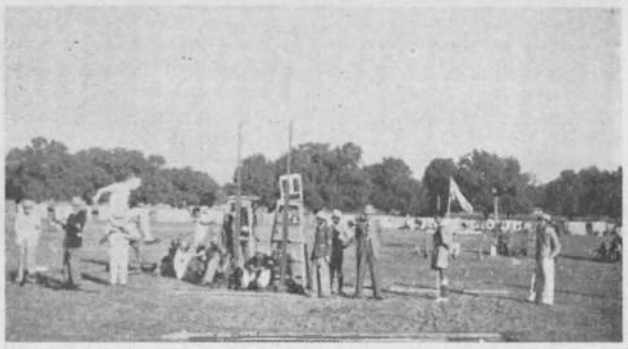
Births.—Our congratulations are extended to R.S.M. and Mrs. Strange on the safe arrival of twin daughters, Millicent Mary and Frances Cicely, at New Delhi, on 24th and 25th November, 1939.

General.—With the advent of December the prominent feature seemed to be preparations for, and celebration of, Christmas. A variety of entertainments was held within the Unit. On 2nd December the All Ranks, S.T.C. (I) held a dance in the Regimental theatre, run (in the main) by the junior N.C.O.s, which attracted a large attendance and provided an excellent evening of entertainment. Our pat on the back goes to the wag who, in the momentary absence of the M.C. during the Paul Jones, calmly announced, " Gents, back 44 paces." On 20th December the W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess started the ball rolling towards Christmas with their Christmas Draw, at which a variety of good prizes were " given away," W.O. I Le Grys (A.E.C.) annexing the turkey, Sergeant Armstrong collaring the goose, Lance Sergeants Dumville and Hackett-Evans (R.A.M.C.) acquiring two ducks apiece, the former also receiving quite a useful bottle of Enos. To enumerate the many prize-winners and prizes would be beyond the space allowed by the Editor (by the time he had even edited the items he would be either deliriously d——k or not human, and one must be fair, after all, even to an Editor). Suffice it to say that the draw provided ample compensation, wet and dry, for a very modest speculation. The draw was followed by a dance and cabaret, concluding a very pleasant evening. The " managers " are to be congratulated on the exceptionally good fare provided.

The next item at Christmas was the Children's Christmas Tree and Party and the " At Home " to the Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess held by the officers in the Regimental Theatre on 22nd December. The show commenced with the usual merry-go-rounds, helter-skelter (sorry, that was at Wormwood Scrubs in 1915), the up-in-one box and down in another, elephant and camel rides for the children (?) ; the latter providing quite a few thrilling moments. This was followed by an excellent tea, with a terrific run on such things as mince-pies, jellies and chocolate, etc. After a miniature cinema show depicting the famous Charlie Chaplin, a feature enjoyed by all, the children were collected and awaited the appearance of Father Christmas with great eagerness. True to form he duly appeared with great gusto from the snowy clouds and distributed to each of the children a very presentable toy. The S.T.C. (I) dance band provided light music during the party and finally led the audience in carols to conclude the Children's Christmas Tree and Party. The children, having been safely gathered with their toys, were despatched homewards (for daddy to show them how it worked), the parents were invited to partake of refreshments ; this time of a very seasonable and adult nature, thus winding up an entertaining afternoon and a very enjoyable evening. On 23rd December the All Ranks' Christmas Draw was held in the Corporals' Room, at which many prizes were given away, notwithstanding the fact that relays of junior N.C.O.s obtained sore throats with their continual call of " Blank." After the draw a special presentation was made by Corporal Thom to Lance Corporal Hockings. Strangely enough the parcel, when opened, revealed a beautiful little drum. We wonder why ? We did hear a song some years ago, which ran something like, " I was a kid with a drum." But, surely, not that, Corporal Thom ?



Sergeant Collett, L., winning the 100 metres race at the Jubb Olympic Sports for the S.T.C. (I) team



Lance Corporal Bateman, G., " trying " the Long Jump at the Jubb Olympic Sports

On Christmas day the customary dinner, with turkey and Christmas pudding, was disposed of by the junior N.C.O.s and men, the Commanding Officer attending, with the officers, to give the toast. The Warrant Officers and Sergeants acted as waiters. On Boxing Day the Warrant Officers and Sergeants held their annual Christmas Dance in the Sergeants' Mess, which was very well attended and was voted to be a very good evening of entertainment.

On 27th December the annual All Ranks' Coster Ball was held in the Regimental Theatre. Some very good " disguises " were



Lance Sergeant Mitchell, G., outside the church after his marriage to Miss Lorna White

seen, Mrs. Ellerton-Long and Lance Corporal Softly R. securing the prize for the best coster dress, Mrs. Bush and Lance Corporal Hockings N. being awarded the prize for the best fancy dress, and Mrs. Dawson and Sergeant Richardson obtaining the prize for the most original dress, the prizes being very kindly presented by Mrs. Gravely. A return presentation from Lance Corporal Hockings to Corporal Thom was made and, this time, on the parcel being opened it was found to contain a beautiful little doll. Well! Well!

On 29th December the Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess held their treasure hunt for the children, followed by a tea. The treasure hunt proved to be a very exacting one, the course extending for a few hundred yards and we witnessed quite a few amusing events. After tea in the Mess the children were amused by members of the Mess in different games and, finally, came home with a bag of sweets each.

Marriages.—Our congratulations this month go to Lance Sergeant Mitchell G. on his marriage to Miss Lorna White, at the R.C. Church, Jubbulpore, on 7th December, 1939. The members of the S.T.C. (I) dance band did the honours and formed an unusual archway of musical instruments.

Concert Party.—The S.T.C. (I) Concert Party, which provided some splendid entertainment a few months ago, is being revived. By the time these notes are in print it is hoped to have held further concerts.

CAVE CANEM.

1st Indian Divisional Signals, Rawalpindi

November, 1939.

Since our last effort times have changed. Everyone is talking of postings and promotion. Numerous young N.C.O.s already have secret stocks of K.D. in their bottom drawers, with two tapes thereon, just in case their face fits and most of the "old 'uns" are just sitting tight and wondering, wondering whether it's a small crown required or a large one. A few N.C.O.s of the Unit are at the moment in the process of being turned into M.T. drivers and the vehicles into scrap metal. No crashes have happened up to Press time, but we feel certain that the gear boxes will require the services of an experienced "dental mechanic," it being rather doubtful if any teeth remain. (Bill Moody doesn't like "Austins." He never did like small things.) We are busily preparing the re-organisation of certain Sections. The I.O.R.s are working at full pressure to get their Class III operator telegraph rating, while some are tackling the mysteries of a motor-cycle. Further courses will commence shortly. The head of "D" Section is busy at it these days; it's a good job he speaks "Urdu." We have ceased "spit and polish." Ex-Divites will be surprised to know that we no longer polish our equipment, but just use saddle soap thereon. "J" and "L" Sections have joined their Brigades for training. They have proceeded to the usual haunts for this and in our next notes we shall tell you all about them. "F" Section, with "Little Aubrey," have also joined their Regiment. "Little Aubrey" will be back for Christmas, we hope.

We deeply regret to announce the death of one of our Despatch Riders, Signalman Wood R., whilst on duty as special D.R. on 13th November. He was involved in an accident on the Grand Trunk road on his return to Rawalpindi. Although only a newcomer to this Unit from U.K. he was popular with all. We are grateful to the Chief Signal Officer, his S.O., and All Ranks of "A" Corps Signals, who attended the funeral, and thank all for the beautiful wreaths and flowers. Our sympathy is extended to his parents in their great loss.

Congratulations are extended to the following on reaching their respective ranks. R.Q.M.S. Snook, R.Q.M.S. Wyeth, C.S.M. Garroni, A/C.Q.M.S. F. of S. Chambers, Corporal Cox, Unpaid Lance Corporals Faulkner and Pratt.

Sport.—The Unit is enjoying an exceptional amount of sport these days. A Section League was started about the beginning of November and was to include football, hockey and atnletics. Although the latter has not yet materialised, we hope to see some outstanding performances in this field.

We had a few entertainments this month in the form of dances, whist drives and a cabaret performance in the Regimental Theatre. A new sport, originated by one of our lineman N.C.O.s, is "Heading the Jumper." The jumper falls from a shelf in the store on to one's head (the shelf should be about 10 ft. from the floor). Having struck one on the head one says, "The bloke who hit me is on a charge," and immediately proceeds to the B.M. Hospital.

Jews' Mail.—To 3713 Eva. "How about it? Syd 6269."
To Nuddy. "Can't find Spalding. Tommy A."

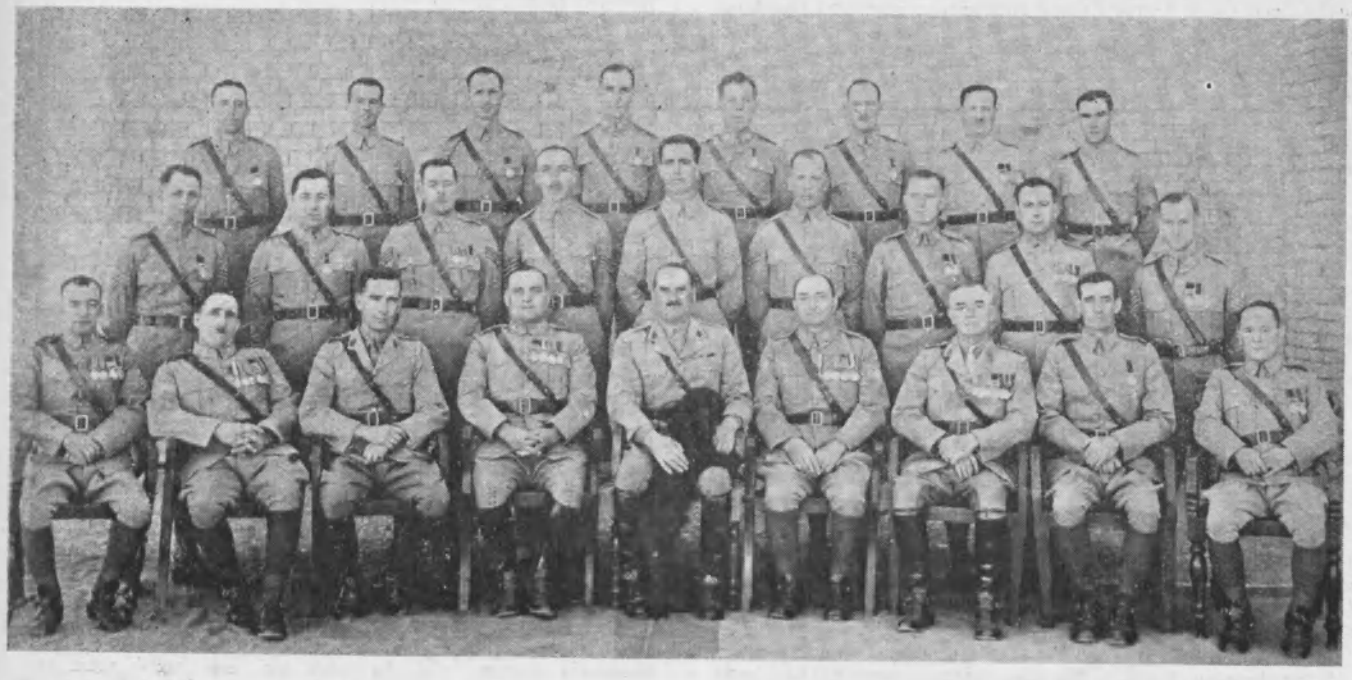
Western (India) District Signals

December, 1939.

Once more, with furrowed brow and aching wrist, the moving finger writes and, having writ, moves on. Since last we appeared in the news changes have occurred both in personnel and establishment. Early in December we lost C.S.M. Conway, Sergeant Penny, and 26 other of our stalwarts who departed for warmer spheres and southern climes. Another batch went to swell the number of those already at Meerut. To offset them we welcome C.Q.M.S. (F. of S.) Chambers, Lance Sergeant Pike, Corporal Sharvell, and four Signalmen from various other stations. We trust that their stay here will be very pleasant. Promotions have, so far, been few, but we have to congratulate the following on attaining new ranks as shown: C.S.M. Smith, S.S.M. Mills, C.Q.M.S. Campbell, Lance Corporals Etherington and Wright, Unpaid Lance Corporals Hunter and Vaughan. One more rung on the ladder of fame surmounted—well may Hitler tremble. The Christmas festivities came; I don't think any one tried to stop them coming as a matter of fact, and were duly surmounted with the aid of black coffee and aspirins. They commenced with a draw in the Sergeants' Mess, to which the junior N.C.O.s were invited. Judging by the number of prizes that were not won by the junior N.C.O.s the draw was highly successful (*Honi soit qui mal y pense*). The draw was followed by a dance which was greatly enjoyed by all present. (Some of the fairer sex will be more careful in the boomps-a-daisy next time, methinks.) Next day came the Christmas tree and cinematograph for the kiddies. The C.O. and Father



The Funeral of Signalman Wood R. (1st Indian Divisional Signals)



WESTERN (I) DISTRICT SIGNALS

Christmas were also fortunate in finding presents on the Christmas tree, and we trust they will be put to good use. A dance followed and the celebrations came to a close in the early morning, after a very good show.

The Corporals' Mess Draw followed on the 24th and the food was very evenly distributed to those starving winners. The draw was followed by singing and games in the Corporals' Mess, music being provided by the " Igloo " band (to L.W. and J.B.—no comments). On Christmas Day we dined ; in spite of the fact that we were waited on by the senior N.C.O.s we had a very good dinner. The C.O. made a speech, in which he welcomed newcomers and expressed a wish that they would be happy during their stay there. In the evening the lines were almost deserted, the majority of the single men taking advantage of kind invitations given by married members of the Unit to parties. From first-hand experience I must say that the parties were very nice, indeed, and we are very grateful to the donors. On Boxing Day the Sergeants' Mess held a (gorge)ous ceremony and the Corporals' Mess also scoffed. After thoroughly filling themselves they all congregated at the Sergeants' Mess to shake it down to the strains of music kindly provided by Harry Roy, Benny Goodman, and other famous band leaders (Rs1 As12 a record).

During the mornings over the holiday period there have been several football and hockey matches, including those in fancy dress, where the more daring members of the Unit were wont to show how funny they could look by improving on nature with costumes of weird, wise and wonderful design. The hockey tournament was won by the Corporals' Mess, of course (one sack of beer being the prize).

Congratulations to Lance Sergeant and Mrs. J. Camp on the birth of a son, at the B.M.H., Quetta, on 13th December, 1939. Third time lucky, Joe.

We deeply regret to announce the death of Farrier S/Sergeant Bellwood, who died at the B.M.H., Quetta, on 24th December. He was buried the same day with full military honours. He will be greatly missed by All Ranks of the Unit who always had time to stop and have a chat with Shoey. Our deepest sympathy is extended to his relatives in their bereavement.

Sports.—Corporal Barlow and three Indian N.C.O.s were very successful in this year's horse show and succeeded in beating redoubtable opponents in the tent-pegging competition and winning first prize.

The I.O.R.s of this Unit were also successful in winning the Western (I) District Hockey Tournament. There were several keenly contested games during the tournament and the final proved no exception. It was first played on 6th December and resulted in a draw, even after extra time. In the replay, on 9th December, the Signals were successful, beating the M.E.S. 2—1.

At the conclusion of the game the cup was presented to the winners by Brigadier Finnis, who congratulated them on their magnificent play.

Owing to other Units being short of good men our football and hockey teams have been sadly depleted and sport has been confined to friendly matches.

RONKAY.

Jews' Mail.—Bombroffee. " What abart a line ? ' The greatest mistake of my life.' "

Glyn, " X " Troop, Egypt. " Seyeeda, Owz Warah ? "

Gibbo, China. " Still bottle-fed, ' littul lad ' ? "

Peshawar District Signals

December, 1939.

We have not had the pleasure of seeing any notes in THE WIRE for some time past from this Unit. The last effort has not yet appeared in print and has probably fallen a victim to the Imperial German Navy which, we hear from Zeesen, has everything under complete control.

News from Charing Cross.—Mr. Records, operating from " Somewhere in India " (for the censor's benefit), has been active lately, and this Unit will present a strange appearance shortly. Several well-known faces are already missing and more are due to go. It comes as a shock, really, to find so many " M.E.S. fixtures " going on their way. They are far too many to mention individually, but we must mention one—Sergeant Hayes J., who, having already completed 10 years in the country, left us recently, but is still " somewhere in India " (no " griffin," see). From all accounts he has settled down in his new station. Anyway, he took some 12 of the " locals " to keep him company. We understand he is taking his " tonic " at a greater altitude now.

To all who have gone and to all who are about to go, we offer our best wishes and wish them good luck in their new stations. The old saying about our loss and their gain comes to mind and, for want of anything better to say, we'll use it once again. It may be hackneyed, but it expresses the feelings of one and all.

Entertainments.—The Unit dance band (no wisecracks) is going great guns under " der Furher—Bar on Joe." Their fame is spreading far and wide—well, anyway, they have played at Nowshera.

At one very successful Unit dance, when the revels were at their height, one large mirror got very badly bent. The only clue we have is that someone was heard to remark in awed tones, " Didn't it make a —— row."

In preparation for the Christmas festivities, the Corporals' room has been redecorated. During the rejuvenating period the Corporals moved " en bloc " to the Canteen and seized the opportunity to accept the " locals' " challenge to a billiards and snooker match.

Phew ! What a sort out. In spite of a smashing effort by Corporal (Nuffield) Lockey and various plucky efforts by outclassed but undaunted junior N.C.O.s the Signalmen gave (further) evidence of ill-spent youth, by winning every game (including one set of snooker by a margin of 102 ! Gippo !).

Still the experience was worth the licking and the Corporals are practising steadily for the re-play—to be held, preferably, when they get some new talent !

As we are on the subject of entertainments we mention, in passing, " Gippoing " is verboten ; we won't say why, but a clue to those in the know is, " Crasher doesn't like it any more."

Promotions.—A free issue of beer was obtained (?) from the following : Lance Sergeant Mills, on dropping the T., and Lance Sergeant Spence, on achieving the third. In spite of the cold weather there are a number in the Unit still feeling warm (Blushes from Jim and Bert.)

Things We Should Like to Know.—Who is the mysterious " pinky-petal wallah " ?
Does Pixie believe in fairies ?
Who has been " horning in " on the sax ?

Overheard.—During the officers versus sergeants' soccer match one of the officers happened to shoot at goal (no, not his own). A spectator appealed for a foul. Why ? For not passing it through the proper channels. (Adjutant playing right-half, get it ?) Nice work, Bob ! " Just two puffs forward, and two puffs back—what are they cribbing about (Steam Roller H——n) ?
" Kitna baje that suit case ? "
" Never again, it's not worth the candle."
" I only stood on it. (What a weight off the contractor's mind.) "

SPORTS NOTES

Organised.—Since acquiring the Tanks' soccer ground (can's be vulgar and say football—it lets the side down, chaps, it lett the side down) soccer has definitely taken hold of the Unit, and many old-stagers, whose boots had been packed away, have once again disported themselves in " scruff " matches.

The first team, without attaining any startling results, go steadily on and, although the recent postings have depleted their ranks—our left back and captain, " Chiefy " Spence, leaves us shortly—we are lucky in having several promising substitutes.

We played Kohdist Signals recently, winning a clean, well-fought game by two goals to one, " Joe " Hepworth doing the necessary scoring. On the same day, our rugby team lost, after a magnificent struggle, to the R.A.F., Kohat, by 6 points

to 7, Baker scoring for us from two penalty kicks, one of which was scored from a few yards off the half-way line.

This match was followed by an All Ranks' Dance.

Question : Is that a sport ?

Answer : Ask one or two of the people who went.

The following day saw the annual officers v. sergeants' soccer match, which resulted in both sides winning (?) (2—2). The large crowd was agreeably surprised by the quality of the football (pukka Corinthian stuff ; you know, no quarter asked and certainly none given).

A match has been arranged between the officers and sergeants, combined team and the rest, and will be played shortly—we hope. The officers and sergeants played the rest at hockey recently and various supporters lent vociferous support, including Sergeant (Sailor) Haines and child. (Where did you get that technique, Sergeant, and the child ?) In spite of determined efforts by both teams to obtain the winning goal the game finished in a draw, each side scoring once—a worthy result. (Good show, chaps.)

" PESHDIST."

Lucknow District Signals

Meerut.

December, 1939.

General.—We wish all members of the Corps good hunting in the year 1940.

The Christmas holidays were spent in the usual spirituous fashion, a rather heavy programme of festivities being enjoyed by all.

The All Ranks' Dance was held in the dining-hall on the 22nd. The band of the 14/20th Hussars were in attendance and most Units in the Station were well represented.

The boomps-a-daisy proved a great favourite, as was proven by the aching hips of most participants.

The Commanding Officer and officers of the Unit were present at the dinner on Christmas Day. The senior N.C.O.s showed their ability at passing the goose (Nippies in fatigue dress). The C.O., in his speech, put hopes of a *jalai* boat further in the background with hints of hard work ahead. We didn't worry much about this however, for, as far as work is concerned, we can take it.

On Boxing Day a comic football match was arranged between the magicians of this Unit and some shady members of the Signal Squadron. The referee, complete with trumpet, ta-rah, blew the advance and, sometimes, the retreat, and did his utmost to separate the Witch and one of Belisha's Own from being manhandled. There was no score, which seemed a fair result, as the ball kept lodging in the camouflage of Maginot Soldier Number One. This difficulty was overcome when the ball was substituted by the pole-sitter's waistcoat.

The Pagal Gymkhana on the 30th provided some grand fun, with bullock cart races for the seemingly infirm, together with the rounding-up of some very sorry-looking and wilful horses purloined from the bazaar at half-price.

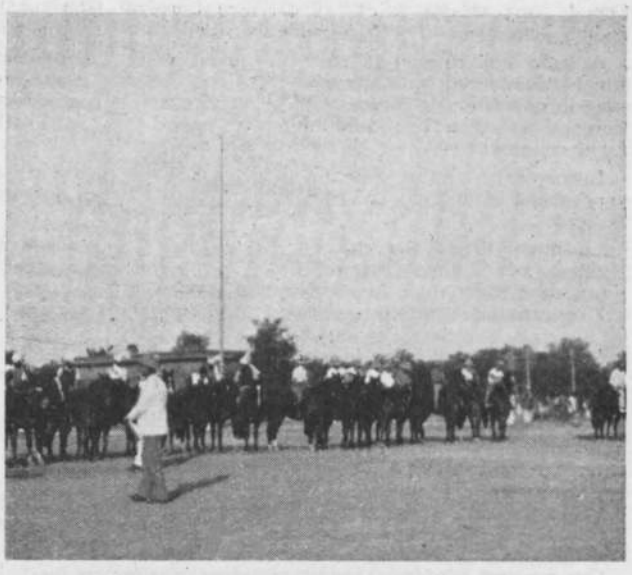
The old soldiers' race brought forth some lengthy handicaps, and was won by the Commanding Officer, who became the recipient of a medal, and what a medal ! (What price brass).

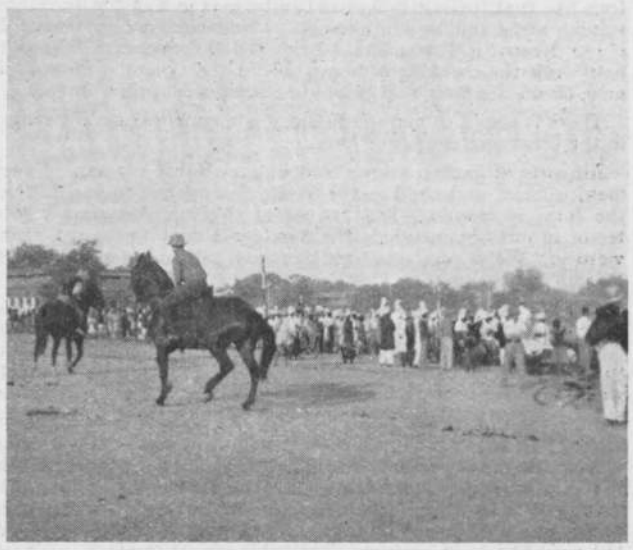
At the end of a very amusing afternoon Mrs. Howe very kindly presented the prizes to some very worthy winners.

Corporals' Mess

A social evening was held in the Mess on the 26th and members of the Men's Mess were invited. Liberal quantities of mother-in-law (old and bitter) produced some very fine turns. The Doctor was in attendance, complete with many kinds of herbs in the raw. This was his first appearance in social life since Mist Expect Stim was used as an embrocation.

Seventeen members of the Mess sat down to a dinner on the 30th. R.Q.M.S. Hope, our old P.M.C., was the guest of honour.





The Pagal Gymkhana

After a very delightful meal the " Gripping " Shield was presented and was passed on to a very worthy winner, none other than Argus Grainger. We might add, for the information of old Mess members of " B " Corps Signals, that the bogy radio set of Karachi is working once again.

Nuts and Bolts.—Who said, " Oh, Sergeant, I haven't had my dart-board yet."

Who is now spending a wee while away from home ?

Who excused himself by saying that his black eye was the result of a bomb outrage in married quarters ? Soda water by Krupps.

Where did the poison pen come from, or who snooped in Ghandi Gardens ?

How did stew on the menu become mosquito sweat on the plate ? P.R.I., please note.

Cheerio.

Goo.

Sports Notes.—A return game was arranged with the Indian Gymkhana, who were out to avenge their defeat of a month or so previous. This they succeeded in by defeating the Unit XI

by two wickets. The scores were as follows: Lucknow District Signals—125 (Major Scott, 38; Lance Corporal Ghey, 35). Indian Gymkhana—133 for 8 (Signalman Bell, 4 for 56).

A team was entered in the All India Cricket Tournament which commenced on Christmas Eve. In the first round we were in opposition to Meerut College. Thanks to a century by Corporal Rylatt in the second innings we passed this round with flying colours.

In the next round we were not so lucky, however, as we met a very strong team from Lahore and were beaten by an innings. Scores:

Lucknow District Signals—1st innings, 137 (Lance Corporal Burden, 35; Lance Corporal Ghey, 35). 2nd innings, 184 (Corporal Rylatt, 104; Lance Corporal Burden, 37).
Meerut College—1st innings, 131; 2nd innings, 161 for 6.

* * *

Lucknow District Signals—118 and 98.
Lahore Railway XI—232, winning by an innings and 16 runs.

Ceylon Signal Section

December, 1939.

Once again the Section is rushing into print. How long will it last? Echo answers: "Not very long." (Keep it going, "Ceysigs." We are glad to hear from you.—Ed.)

Our greatest activity takes place before sunrise; at least, it feels like that. Ghostly figures can be seen in Echelon Barracks, waving arms and legs in all sorts of unexpected directions. It is our Keep Fit Movement. Even the O.C. appears. For the first week the creaking of bones ou did the Colombo crows, but now, chests are flung and biceps inspected with pride.

There is a spot of method in our madness as we are competing in the great modern pentathlon.

All sorts of games, known and unknown, are played. Every man, woman, and child in the Section competes, so you can see the form is terrific. The arrival of the foreman struck such terror in our opponents in the first game that we scored a fine victory. We're producing another fast ball (it's a trade secret) for our next game.

After a good deal of deep thinking there emerged from the Test Room the only telephone fit for a lineman to use. It's the Guidera Special. You wear it like a respirator and, according to our spies, the inventor can be seen tracing faults, complete with his chest protector and his own ladder. How this ladder works, nobody knows. There's a suspicion that it's on the principle of the Indian rope trick.

Does W.J.A.N. remember Higham Ferrers? It was good to see him in print and hear about the Ack Acks. There are several Blackdownites here, including some Sappers who fought in the war of September, 1938. The Censor must be very hard, but we'd like to know more, if possible, about the war. What's "Sammy" doing so far from home?

Will Malaya Signal Company write about their P.A.D. Scheme? Last heard of it was growing, even though Gunner McCrae and the "Heroun" were fighting over it. It ought to be providing some roses round Sergeant Funnell's door.

"CEYSIGS."

Egypt Command Signals

It is possible that those readers who are in the habit of reading the WIRE with a particular view to the news from our Unit may have been disappointed by the continued absence of notes from Egypt Command Signals in the past three issues of the WIRE. It is with a desire to indicate that we have not been split up or ceased to function as a separate Unit that these notes are written, as well as to provide news for those readers in other parts of the world who may be interested.

It will readily be understood that in these days of war it is not possible to give much news of a military nature, thus such items as change of station, increase or decrease in numbers, etc., must be omitted. In the notes which follow it is intended to deal with conditions as we now find them in general and, to a certain extent, to the effect which the war has had on our activities here, together with a few items regarding local affairs.

Throughout the month of August, although we were most of us watching with close attention the progress of affairs in Europe and continuation of the German policy of aggression against the small states, it is safe to say that even up to the very last moment when we heard the momentous statement by the Prime Minister that we were, once again, at war, not one of us had seemed to have accepted the possibility that we should again enter into a major conflict. We were continuing our normal training and most of the lads were more concerned with the results of the up-grading courses which had just been concluded than with the thought that we were soon to be on active service; others were very busy in an effort to decide the time of departure of the next "Blighty" boat or about the start of football and the chance of making a spot of cash on the old coupons.

However, the commencement of the war put aside all these pleasant peacetime occupations, etc., and we, who had grown accustomed to the even flow of routine peacetime work at a station which has most of the amenities of a Home station, were to see with a degree of pride the rapidity with which troops were moved into war stations, for those of us whose duty caused us to remain at Unit Headquarters the swift and efficient manner in which huge parties and also small Detachments of troops and the attendant stores, etc., were moved. A very interesting point which was noticed throughout those first few days of war, was the evident spirit of quiet and certain confidence in both the cause for which we are fighting and in the equipment which we have to fight with, evinced by All Ranks.

Following the departure of the major part of the Unit to war stations we at H.Q. found that our guards, etc., came round much more quickly and that we had a considerable increase in our daily work to contend with. However, we did, at least, have the pleasure of sleeping in barracks and not out among the dust and sand storms of the desert, which we have often heard referred to in most descriptive terms. As we settled down to the general idea of being at war and with the gradual smoothing out of various problems which were met with in the early days of war, we all found it necessary to help with the filling of sand-bags and other means of protection for certain buildings in our area which were ear-marked as raid shelters. It may be an old standing joke that the Q. Staff and office personnel never do any hard work, but this was very quickly changed when the "big fill" started for we had everyone, even the C.S.M. and A.S.O., out filling sand-bags each afternoon until the job was done. It was with some envy that among the varied dress which was seen during these afternoon parades we noted the A.S.O. (Administration Staff Officer) digging lustily and clad in the latest Paris model of rugby shorts (delightfully winged and offset by gaily coloured hose). We also became quite conversant with the varied duties of passive air defence as the result of a number of exercises in this branch. I found from experience that it is well to be careful of speaking of seniors during a black-out: you cannot see them and some of them do not as yet know their nicknames.

We see the arrival of many new chaps and also the departure of some of those whom we had come to look upon as permanent fixtures.

It is also very noticeable these days that everyone has packed away his civilian clothes (this causes great fatigue to the right arm when in Cairo).

In closing, I may add that although we are busy with the war we still have time to enjoy life and it is very true that troops welcome the opportunity to have a good laugh; this has been shown by the splendid reception which has been given to a concert party known as the O[illegible] S.s (I leave that to you to figure out) which was formed by this Unit with the assistance of members of almost every permanent Unit in the Garrison. The business of attending to the stomach has not been overlooked: at the present time a number of people are very busy making sure that we have a jolly good time at Christmas.

As a finale may I, on behalf of All Ranks of Egypt Command Signals, wish members of Signals in France, at Home, and elsewhere, a very happy New Year (and, although it is more than probable that this will not be in print until some time after Christmas, the least we can say is that we certainly hope that you all had a good Christmas).

NOMAD.

Palestine Force Signals

Headquarters

November, 1939.

General.—We extend our hand to one officer and twelve other ranks who arrived all fresh from the United Kingdom during this month. We are still wondering if they really did miss that tenth torpedo; anyway, we hope some of them (battle dress) won't find Army life too hard.

With Christmas drawing near we wander back, in thought, to our childhood days in England, in 1935, and wonder whether we shall see another Christmas in Blighty. Just in case we don't, the following is the proposed Christmas programme for this Headquarters, subject, of course, to the exigencies of the Service:

On Christmas Day our presence at reveille will be graced (?) with two Sergeants, complete with buckets of rum tea. The day will be normal, except for pictures at the "local" in the afternoon and a bumper smoker and concert in the evening.

Boxing Day, if the Unit is not entirely unconscious, will see us at the seaside of Tel-Aviv for the day. The evening will be devoted to such habits as personnel may be inclined to pursue. ("A" Corps (England) will understand!)

With Christmas over we hope to have an All Ranks Dance in the men's dining hall. It promises to be a great success. I say this because this is my final attempt at journalism, and the notorious "Chib," of No. 3 Section fame, will be responsible for the task in future.

On New Year's Day we have nothing yet mapped out. Perhaps the absentees will have returned, who knows; but in any case for some I know, Christmas will be enough. The menu for Christmas still retains its English aspect.

Departures.—We said good-bye to an officer and twelve N.C.O.s, who left us this month.

Sport.—The rugger XV are doing remarkably well of late; likewise the soccer and hockey teams. It was unfortunate that Signalman Orr should break an ankle so early in the season, and we hope he will be well enough to tag on at the end.

Promotions.—Lieutenant G. D. T. Harris, Royal Signals, to Acting Captain, whilst employed as Commandant to the Signal School. Lance Corporal Blishen to Corporal (good work, Blarsh!). Signalmen Cruden and Ellis to A/U/Lance Corporals. Sit tight, Darkie! Congratulations!

Pathos.—To the person who stole my watch. The strap is in the same place, but I have changed the time of my ablutions!

Officers.—We welcome our Adjutant back to duty, from hospital and sick leave, none the worse for his adventure. Just in time for your song at Christmas, sir!

Tailpiece.—For the benefit of the personnel of No. 3 Section. Signalman "Chib" (short for Archie, I'm told) is planning a big double-cross. That's all.

BUCK.

No. 3 Section

December, 1939.

General.—Our regular scribe has decided that life in Jerusalem is preferable to life in Nablus and will be leaving us shortly.

We wish him lots of luck and sincerely hope that he will do as well at his new job as he did in this Section.

I am determined that ex-No. 3 Sectionists shall be kept posted with the Section news and, despite my amateurishness, have taken over "Chib's" task, and hope to reach his literary achievements.

Promotions.—Hearty congratulations are extended to Lance Sergeant Ferguson on attaining that rank, Lance Corporal Stevens on dropping the U, and to U/Lance Corporal Davidge on getting a grip of that first difficult rung.

Departures.—

Only one of our number—he's sailed away,
He's due for the Maginot Line any day.
The first name is Gripper, the second one's Creed,
We hope he will have all the luck he may need.

Arrivals.—Signalman Mitchell has joined the Section vice Signalman Hodgetts. We hope he has the same affection for No. 3 as our Tony had.

Lastly, owing to our lack of real news, we are compensating you with a pathetic poem.

In old Nablus town, where they grow all the figs,
Resides a forgotten Section of "Sigs."
They think not of bandits, who try hard to scare'm,
But figure out methods to gatecrash a harem.

They've tried this and that, but the way is not clear,
So to while away time they have taken to beer.
Now, the beer sold in Nablus, though tasting quite awful,
Encourages deeds which are not, perhaps, lawful.

Their first little prank did not meet with success.
They invited themselves to the new Sergeants' Mess,
With swift, eager fingers they reached for the beer,
But quicker than that they were out on their ear.

On parade, all their movements were clean-cut and sharp,
But some of the bright lads have made a bad start.
And the P.W.D. sent a young man around
To see where the fault lay; their slopes or his ground.

They attract every morning a crowd from the suq,
They don't gather there just to see how we look.
They wait for the still morning air to be broken
By all except one, whose bolt will not open.

One morning just after the order "ease springs,"
Young Finlay said, "Stand back, I'll brighten up things."
His finger touched trigger. He pressed it. Oh! me,
The next thing he knew, he was doing C.B.

In old Nablus town—as a station it's rotten,
Is this Section of Signals that's been quite forgotten.
When Judgment Day comes for the final election
Number one on the list will be No. 3 Section.

Well, what do you want for your money—Tennyson?

T. WERP.

No. 6 Section

General.—Although by the time these notes appear you will have enjoyed your Christmas pudding, we take this opportunity to extend to all ranks our very best wishes for the New Year. We in this Unit have already closed the doors and windows and lit the fires, not just to keep the wolf away, but to guard ourselves against the monsoon weather, which has arrived with a vengeance. Bathing trunks have been put away, and the wearing of service dress is the order of the day.

Awards.—For gallantry in action, No. 2323664 Signalman Barr T., who was recently cited in orders, has been awarded the Military Med May we mention that recently "Tommy" was called pon to hold the fort, a task which he completed withou surrender, and in doing so, not only did he show his soldierly spirit, but saved his comrades also? We hear that "Tommy" only needs another six medals to be quits with his father—Mr. T. Barr, M.M.

Arrivals.—We would like some, if it's only for "gripping" purposes. What about it, Mr. Records?

Departures.—Lance Corporal Lawrence and U/Lance Corporal Dean have left us for some other cold spot on the map.

Appointments.—Lance Corporals Mallins and Jones to A/Corporal and Signalmen Dean and Channing to A/U/Lance Corporal.

Football.—AREA H.Q. v. No. 2 W/T COMPANY, ROYAL SIGNALS. In this return match the Wireless Company were the visiting team, and although they lost 2—0 they played a good game; there was also some smart play on the part of the Area H.Q. team. Signalman Barr T., who of late we have missed from the field, was responsible for both our goals. Our regular goalkeeper



Signalman T. Barr, M.M.

was otherwise engaged, but we found a good substitute in Corporal Jones I. B.

AREA H.Q. v. 56TH FIELD COMPANY, R.E. The Sappers lost to us once again (5—0). Our team appear to be finding their feet, and are playing some really good games, probably because we employ a selection committee.

RAJMAL.

No. 10 Section, Jerusalem

November, 1939.

General.—This Section being only large enough to supply a few out-stations, there is never much to write about.

2nd Lieutenant W. H. Scaife (S.R.), Royal Signals, arrived this month from the U.K. The Section Sergeant is Sergeant Watts C., and the Company office runner your humble scribe. That comprises all the "home" staff. Of the others we never hear anything about, except when they require a relief—which happens about every week, I think. It is only natural that everyone wants to be in Jerusalem for Christmas; some will be lucky, but we hope those who are not will have a good time and no operations.

Transfers.—We say good-bye to Signalman Morris L. G., who is going just along the road on transfer to the 2nd Battalion The Black Watch Regiment. We hope he will have as much luck as he did in the Royal Signals.

Promotions.—Congratulations to Signalman Chapman on appointment to A/U/Lance Corporal. Well done, Butch. (Corporal "T," please note, but don't come back.) The rest are wondering.

Tailpiece.—All ranks of Jerusalem Area Signals wish all ranks of the Royal Corps of Signals all the best for Christmas and the New Year.

BUCK.

Corps News—Officers

Extracts from "The London Gazette"

[War Office, 3/10/39]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Major (Quartermaster) J. Finmore, having attained the age for retirement, is placed on retired pay, 3/10/39.

Superintending Clerk Frederick Charles Victor Harris to be Lieutenant (Quartermaster), 3/10/39.

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS.

The notification in the "Gazette" of the 1st September, 1939, regarding Major J. W. P. Chalmers is cancelled.

[War Office, 6/10/39]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

R.Q.M.S. Frederick James Dowie to be Lieutenant (I.P.C.), 31/8/39.

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE.

The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants, 2/9/39:

Cyril Henry Aylen.
John Boyd.
Geoffrey Ferris Dixon (late Cadet C.Q.M.S., Worksop College Contingent, O.T.C.).
Ronald James Stafford.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants, 2/9/39:

Lance Corporal Ronald Hugh Cressall (99997) (late Cadet S.M., Alleyn's School Contingent, Junior Division, O.T.C.).
Lance Corporal Peter John Conder (99996) (late Cadet, Cranleigh School Contingent, Junior Division, O.T.C.).
Lance Corporal Gordon Eric Guy Tooth (100200) (late Cadet, King Edward's Grammar School Contingent, Junior Division, O.T.C.).
John Neil Landor (99923) (late Cadet, Uppingham School Contingent, Junior Division, O.T.C.).
Andrew James Clifford Threlfall (98464) (late Cadet, Bedford School Contingent, Junior Division, O.T.C.).
Frank Percival Nurdin (99480).
Wilfred George Duncombe-Anderson (98300) (late Cadet Lance Corporal, Sherborne School Contingent, Junior Division, O.T.C.).
Signalman John Cameron Adam (99578).
Francis Aitken Wright (98070) (late Cadet Sergeant Piper, Edinburgh Academy Contingent, Junior Division, O.T.C.).
George Peter Burt (98354) (late Cadet, Glenalmond (Trinity College) Contingent, Junior Division, O.T.C.).

[War Office, 9/10/39]

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Lieutenant E. O. Bleackley to be Major, 30/6/39.

Robert William Stanley Prescott (100841) to be 2nd Lieutenant, 2/9/39.

LAND FORCES—ROYAL SIGNALS.

EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS:

The undermentioned to be Lieutenants (T.M.O.), 9/9/39:

Charles Uston Field (100624).
William Stevenson (100626).
Cyril Balfour Minns (100629).
James Mollison Laing (100630).

The undermentioned to be Lieutenants (Quartermasters), 9/9/39:

Frederick Charles Victor Harris (100622).
Donald Victor Littlefield (100623).
John Gibson Brandon (100625).
Henry Hamlin (100627).
Alfred Eric Bawden (100628).

[War Office, 10/10/39]

REGULAR ARMY.

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Creighton Derek Lindsay (late Cadet, Oundle School Contingent, O.T.C.) to be 2nd Lieutenant, 2/9/39. (Substituted for the notification which appeared under Royal Regiment of Artillery in the "Gazette" of 26/9/39.)

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Lieutenant F. A. Angell to be Captain, 2/9/39.

Lieutenant I. Y. Moyes to be Captain, 25/8/39.

2nd Lieutenant E. T. Price, from Camb. R., to be 2nd Lieutenant, 1/9/39.

[War Office, 12/10/39]

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Major Herbert Robin Lord Rotherwick (99545) (late Yeo.) to be Hon. Colonel, 2/9/39.

[War Office, 13/10/39]

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Lieutenant the Hon. R. E. Denison-Pender to be seconded under para. 72, T.A. Regs., 1/7/39.

LAND FORCES—ROYAL SIGNALS.

EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS :

The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants :

John Berriman Smith (97925), 9/9/39.
Lieutenant Walter Lewis, M.C. (98512) (late T.A.), 11/9/39.
Stephen Henry Johnson Cox (100601), 23/9/39.
Captain Brian Walton Rowe, M.C. (100588) (late T.F.), 24/9/39.
Lieutenant Jack Radcliffe Schofield Brabham (100600) (late R. Norfolk R.), 24/9/39.

[War Office, 16/10/39]

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Lieutenant F. J. Wheeler, from T.A. R. of O. (R.A.), to be Lieutenant, 2/9/39.

[War Office, 17/10/39]

The names of the undermentioned have been brought to notice by His Excellency The Commander-in-Chief in India, for distinguished services rendered in connection with the Operations in Waziristan, North-West Frontier of India, 16th December, 1937, to 31st December, 1938 :

Major F. K. Wilson, A.M.I.E.E.
Major R. L. M. Rosenberg.
Lieutenant D. C. Lyall.
Lieutenant A. FitzG. McGill.
No. 2309267 Corporal (now Lance Sergeant) Small A. A.
No. 2322261 Lance Corporal (now Temporary Corporal) Kelly H.
No. 2321338 Signalman Petrie J.
No. 2323933 Signalman Hannigan D. K.

[War Office, 20/10/39]

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Captain J. M. Kidd (25771) resigns his commission, 7/9/39.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

2nd Lieutenant W. Butters, from Royal Signals, to be Adjutant 4/9/39.
Captain F. H. Reeks, from T.A. R. of O., to be Major, 1/9/39.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—RESERVE OF OFFICERS.

2nd Lieutenant F. R. Crane, from Manchester University Contingent (Signal Unit), Senior Division, O.T.C., to be 2nd Lieutenant, 16/9/39.

[War Office, 23/10/39]

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Colonel Sir Phillip Carlebach (103572), C.M.G., T.D. (ret. T.A.), to be Hon. Colonel, 2/9/39.
John Clifford Holgate Ellis (103570) (late Cadet, Winchester College Contingent, Junior Division, O.T.C.) to be 2nd Lieutenant, 2/9/39.
Thomas Caleb Loveday (97338) to be Lieutenant, 2/9/39.

[War Office, 24/10/39]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Lieutenant (Quartermaster) F. C. V. Harris (Emergency Commission), Royal Signals, to be Lieutenant (Quartermaster), 3/10/39. (Substituted for the notification in the "Gazette" of 3/10/39.)

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Leonard Aubrey Merry (99358) to be Lieutenant, 10/8/39.

[War Office, 27/10/39]

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Lieutenant G. S. Davison (88438) to be Captain, 4/7/39.
Captain P. G. Goodere-Docker (40371), Royal Signals, vacates the appointment of Adjutant, 9/10/39.

TERRITORIAL ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS.

2nd Lieutenant C. V. Smith (78200) from General List (Cambridge University Contingent (Signal Unit), Senior Division, O.T.C.) to be 2nd Lieutenant, 2/9/39.

[War Office, 30/10/39]

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Sergeant Gordon Sweester Dalton (97959) to be 2nd Lieutenant, 2/9/39.
The date of promotion of Captain A. H. Horton (88558) is 7/7/39 and not as notified in the "Gazette" of 22/8/39.
Lieutenant W. M. Dodds (69527) to be Adjutant, 9/10/39.

TERRITORIAL ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS.

2nd Lieutenant P. T. W. Vance (79284), from Queen's University (Belfast) Contingent (Signal Unit), Senior Division, O.T.C., to be 2nd Lieutenant, 16/9/39.

LAND FORCES—ROYAL SIGNALS.

EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS :

The undermentioned to be Lieutenants (Quartermasters) :

Norman John Woodcock (100675), 16/9/39.
R.Q.M.S. Peter McEwan (104125), 3/10/39.

[War Office, 31/10/39]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE OF OFFICERS.

The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants, 2/9/39 :

Thomas Gibson (104999).
Harold Kenworthy (105000).
James Shepherd (106002).

[War Office, 1/11/39]

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

SPECIAL LIST :

Sergeant Eric Bursell Mee (102577) to be 2nd Lieutenant, 2/9/39.
Sergeant Alister Donald Fraser (102578) (late Cadet Corporal, Barnard Castle School Contingent, Junior Division, O.T.C.) to be 2nd Lieutenant, 2/9/39.

LAND FORCES—ROYAL SIGNALS.

EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS :

The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants :

Captain Cyril Charles James Frost (10894) (late R.A.R.O.), 14/9/39.
Captain Wilfred Nelson Frampton, D.C.M. (102237) (late Royal Signals), 7/10/39.
Lieutenant Clifford Weedon Andrews, M.C. (101871) (late R.E.), 9/10/39.
Robert William Addie (100211), 10/10/39.
William Alan Custance Baker (100213), 10/10/39.
George Henry Davis (101044), 10/10/39.
Geoffrey Cecil Edmunds (98852), 10/10/39.
Cedric Joe Hinchcliffe (100281), 10/10/39.
John Hinton (100282), 10/10/39.
Oliver Hart Herman Lebus (100356), 10/10/39.
John Warrington Shock (100405), 10/10/39.
Sidney Noel Smith (101076), 10/10/39.
Captain John James Gascoigne Harvey (101886) (late R.E.), 12/10/39.
Captain William Edward McNamara, M.C. (101891) (late General List), 12/10/39.
Tom Gascoigne Seton (41431) (late 2nd Lieutenant, T.A.), 13/10/39.
William Lang Sharp (103380), 14/10/39.
John Herbert Peacock (103614), 14/10/39.
Captain Roland Henry Hazel, M.C. (100110) (late R.E.) 15/10/39.
Alexander Patrick McNabb (101890), 15/10/39.
Lieutenant Frank Deane Ransome (103662) (late M.G.C.), 17/10/39.

[War Office, 3/11/39]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Colonel Fitz A. Drayson, M.C., retires on an Indian pension, 19/8/39. (Substituted for the notification in the "Gazette" of 26/9/39.)
Lieutenant-Colonel H. A. J. Parsons, M.C., from unemployed list (late Royal Signals), to be Colonel, 1/10/39, with seniority 15/2/38.

MEMORANDUM.

All commissions granted under the heading of "LAND FORCES, Emergency Commissions" which have appeared in "The London Gazette" or Supplements thereto, to be REGULAR ARMY, Emergency Commissions.

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS:

The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants:

Captain Rupert Allcard, O.B.E. (25386) (late T.A. R. of O.), 11/10/39.
Edgar James Kennedy (103585), 11/10/39.
Douglas John Harris (102706), 12/10/39.
Charles Humphrey Howell Lingard (101056), 12/10/39.
Michael Grey Ridley-Martin (103784) (late Lieutenant, Royal Signals), 13/10/39.
Captain Harold Everard Searles (80781) (late R.E.), 16/10/39.
Lieutenant Charles Anthony De Frece (103274) (late R.E.), 16/10/39.
William Leonard Griffiths (103541), 16/10/39.
Lanoe Graham Drew (100251), 17/10/39.
Albert Edward Tyler (103384), 17/10/39.
Lieutenant John Moffatt Carroll (103456) (late R.E.), 18/10/39.
Edward John Russell Lovelock (101057), 19/10/39.
Ian McIntyre Munro Smyth (101914), 19/10/39.
Gerald Michael Berkeley Wills (102722), 19/10/39.
John William Mills (66350) (late 2nd Lieutenant, T.A.), 21/10/39.
Francis Lawton Allsworth (101032), 21/10/39.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Lieutenant S. J. Williams (58792) (local Captain and Adjutant) to be Captain and Adjutant, 1/9/39.

[War Office, 6/11/39]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS:

The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants:

Lieutenant Robert Stewart Dorward (92968) (late T.A.), 14/10/39.
Reginald George Louis Firman (103535), 18/10/39.
Captain and Brevet-Major Basil John Montfort Bebb (103519) (late R.A.R.O.), 23/10/39.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Captain J. T. Stephen (52925), from Royal Signals, to be Adjutant, 1/9/39.

[War Office, 8/11/39]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS:

The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants:

Lieutenant William Henry Berridale Johnson (102210) (late T.A.), 5/10/39.
Brian Randle David (102318), 19/10/39.
Robert Andrew Fell (100915), 19/10/39.
Stewart Brandon Haywood-Smith (102294), 19/10/39.
George Edward Marfell (47082) (late 2nd Lieutenant, General List, T.A.), 19/10/39.
Hugh Robert Waring Marsh (100922), 19/10/39.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Kenelm Somerset Priaux Butler (98314) to be 2nd Lieutenant, 2/9/39.

[War Office, 10/11/39]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Major C. W. Knight is placed on the half-pay list on account of ill-health, 17/10/39.

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Major E. L. Hill, M.C., D.C.M. (5753), having attained the age limit of liability to recall, ceases to belong to the Reserve of Officers, 3/10/39.

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS:

The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants:

Frank George Michael Riley (103379), 13/10/39.
John Francis Clarke (101036), 19/10/39.
Harold James Thomas (102039), 19/10/39.
Derek Brian Webley (101921), 19/10/39.
Captain James William Armstrong (104361) (late T.A.), 24/10/39.
Philip Edward Brockbank (104294), 24/10/39.
Archibald Stewart (104289), 25/10/39.
Private Gordon Murray Clube (105161), from Artists' Rifles (Cadet, 163rd Officer Cadet Training Unit), 11/11/39.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Lieutenant (Quartermaster) H. Maskell (91422), from Lieutenant (Quartermaster), to be Lieutenant, 18/10/39.

[War Office, 13/11/39]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS:

R.S.M. Finney W. to be Lieutenant (Quartermaster), 1/11/39.
The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants:

Edwy Jabez Reeve (98286), 5/9/39.
William Henry Storey (99057), 5/9/39.
Ernest Norman Clark (98261), 6/9/39.
Edwin Burton Jenkin (103583), 17/10/39.
Captain Arthur William Ash (104869) (late Cameronians), 24/10/39.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

2nd Lieutenant A. Powys-Lybbe (44124) to have seniority 1/8/39.
Henry Frederick Hall (98444) to be Lieutenant (Quartermaster), 2/9/39.
The Rt. Hon. Sir Kingsley Wood, Kt., P.C., M.P., to be Hon. Colonel, 14/11/39.

[War Office, 14/11/39]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

COMMANDS AND STAFF.

Colonel (Temporary Brigadier) R. F. B. Naylor, D.S.O., M.C., from Brigadier i/c Administration, to be Major-General i/c Administration and is granted the acting rank of Major-General, 6/9/39.

ESTABLISHMENTS.

Captain J. D. Haigh, Royal Signals, to be Instructor, 19/8/39

MEMORANDA.

Lieutenant-Colonel H. V. von S. Thorne (late Royal Signals), from half-pay list, is restored to full pay, 15/10/39.

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Lieutenant G. D. Adamson (55) (from Northamptonshire Regt.) to be Lieutenant, 3/10/39, and to retain his present seniority.

[War Office, 15/11/39]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS:

The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants:

David Waite (102347), 1/10/39.
Lieutenant Charles Frederick Lyons (103591) (late East Surrey Regt.), 17/10/39.
William David Latham (101383), 19/10/39.
Roger Erskine Pears (100925), 19/10/39.
Lieutenant Cyril Herbert Mocatta (88977) (late R.E.), 30/10/39.

[War Office, 17/11/39]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Captain W. A. K. Stodart is seconded, 15/11/39.

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Lieutenant L. G. M. Keevil (45696) resigns his commission, 18/11/39.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

The surname of Lieutenant W. M. Dodd (69527) is as now described and not as notified in the "Gazette" of 30/10/39.

TERRITORIAL ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS.

2nd Lieutenant Hon. T. C. T. Littleton (65184), from T.A. R. of O. (General List, R.A.), to be 2nd Lieutenant, 16/10/39.

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VOL. XXI.—No. 241 MARCH, 1940 PRICE—SIXPENCE

Editorial Notes

"Go to your work and be strong, halting not in your ways,
Baulking the end half-won for an instant dole of praise.
Stand to your work and be wise, certain of sword and pen
Who are neither children nor gods, but men in a world of men."

KIPLING.

Royal Signals Comforts Fund.—Under the patronage of Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, a Fund was started in November of last year for the purpose of providing "comforts" for all Units of the Corps both at home and abroad.

Quite briefly, the donations and contributions solicited are primarily utilized to purchase wool which is subsequently converted into scarves, mittens, helmets, etc., by a large circle of voluntary knitters.

It is obvious, therefore, that the measure of financial support afforded regulates the quantity of "comforts" available for distribution.

During the first two and a half months of its existence, the Fund despatched some 30 large parcels containing 2,000 knitted woollen garments together with considerable quantities of cork soles for gum boots, razor blades, magazines, books and indoor games of all descriptions.

For the eminently satisfactory results of the first ten weeks' working we are indebted to many supporters for their kind and generous gifts of woollen goods, but as by far the largest percentage of "comforts" already consigned to Units of the B.E.F. were made from wool supplied by the Fund, the resultant drain upon its resources is a matter which calls for very careful control of expenditure.

Units have been circularised as to their requirements, and although from the lists of "comforts" needed and the enthusiastic letters received from all recipients of parcels it is felt that the Fund is fulfilling a real need, additional financial support is necessary if the Fund is to continue its good work.

Any efforts to raise money through entertainment such as dances, whist drives, jumble sales, etc., would be warmly welcomed by the Committee, who are most anxious to augment the funds as much as possible in order to purchase the maximum amount of wool before the further inevitable advance in price of that commodity.

The Committee hope, through the summer months, while continuing to despatch parcels of books, games, etc., to build up a

large reserve of woollen goods in readiness for the following winter.

All gifts of money, woollen goods, magazines, playing cards and indoor games will, therefore, be most gratefully received by the Hon. Secretary, R.Signals Comforts Fund, 95 Belgrave Road, London, S.W.1.

Royal Signals Comforts Fund Dance.—We have been asked to announce that the next DANCE in aid of the Comforts Fund is scheduled to take place at THE EMPRESS ROOMS, ROYAL PALACE HOTEL, KENSINGTON HIGH STREET, LONDON, W.8, on Friday, 5th April at 9 p.m.

As on the previous occasion there will be many useful and attractive SPOT PRIZES and music will be provided by the popular band of the 2nd (Middlesex Yeomanry) Armoured Divisional Signals.

Prices of admission (exclusive of refreshments) will be 4s. each and tickets of admission may be obtained from :

(a) The Hon. Secretary, R.Signals Comforts Fund, 95 Belgrave Road, London, S.W.1.
(b) Mrs. W. P. Doyle, 19 Markham Street, London, S.W.3, or
(c) Major H. J. F. White, R.Signals, Old Hatfield House, Portinscale Road, Putney, S.W.15.

Old Shirburnians.—Will any old Shirburnian who has not already done so forward particulars of his war service to Surgeon Rear-Admiral B. Pickering Pick, C.B.E., Osborne House, East Cowes, Isle of Wight.

Royal Signals Comforts Fund

In spite of the ravages of measles (of the unpatriotic variety) the Comforts Fund Committee sent out over 2,000 woollen garments during February to Units at home and abroad.

This has been made possible by the kindness and generosity of helpers from many parts of the world. A parcel received from the staff of the Bengal Telephone Service was much appreciated.

The Signal Training Centres are all playing their part and subscriptions have been received from the First where a work party was recently organised by Mrs. R. Chenevix-Trench. At the Second, a committee of ladies under the chairmanship of Mrs. R. Helps, has collected various sums of money and from wool bought has sent a large consignment of woollen garments. Similarly from the Third, Mrs. G. L. Pollard's work party has sent an excellent contribution. In connection with the wool fund for the latter party a reproduction of " Fresh Fields " was kindly given by the Whitby Abbey Players in January, and now news comes of fresh efforts by an energetic sports officer which include various concerts and a Grand Military Ball, when local inhabitants will be offered entertainment and an opportunity of augmenting the Comforts Fund.

In London a White Elephant and Jumble Sale has recently taken place under the administration of Mrs. G. D. Ozanne, from which it is hoped to add the sum of £30 to the Fund. The Central Entertainments Committee under the chairmanship of Mrs. P. Doyle is also arranging a number of events for the near future including a BRIDGE DRIVE on 19th March, and a DANCE on 5th April at THE EMPRESS ROOMS, KENSINGTON, W.8. Full details of these may be obtained from The Hon. Secretary, R.Signals Comforts Fund, 95 Belgrave Road, London, S.W.1.

The Committee gratefully acknowledge receipt of the following

CASH SUBSCRIPTIONS from	£	s.	d
Lines of Communication Signals	2	0	0
Brigadier-General W. P. E. Newbigging	10	10	0
Mrs. Kisch		2	6
1st General Trades Training Battalion	20	0	0
Mrs. A. H. French	1	0	0
Miss Boughton	1	0	0
Eastern Command Signals (Raffle)		12	6
Miss H. M. Hebbert	1	11	0
Lieutenant-Colonel F. S. Morgan	20	0	0
J. E. Prittenden, Esq.	1	1	0
Mrs. Stanton		5	0
Miss Manningham Buller	1	0	0
Mrs. J. Pearce	2	12	0
Exeter Branch Signals Association	1	1	0
Miss Francis (Inland Revenue Office Staff)	2	4	0
Dr. and Mrs. J. H. Brunskill	5	5	0
Birmingham Branch Signals Association	2	2	0
Staff of R.Signals Pay and Record Office (3rd donation)	12	0	0
A.A. Divisional Signals, Cheshire	1	1	0
Mrs. L. B. Nicholls		10	0
Mrs. Eastes		10	0
Staff of Inspection Department (2nd donation)	5	0	0
Divisional Signals, Somerset	2	2	0
Brigadier R. Chenevix-Trench (quarterly sub.)		15	0
R.Signals Officers' Mess, Egypt	2	0	0
Corps Signals, B.E.F.	5	0	0
Proceeds of Dances organised by Central Entertainments Committee	75	0	0
Colonel W. C. V. Galwey	2	0	0
Palestine Force Signals	18	0	0
No. 2 W/T. Company, Palestine	10	0	0
A. J. Tressider, Esq. (monthly subscription)		6	6
Corps Signals, B.E.F.	25	0	0
Mrs. H. Rance		10	0
Mr. and Mrs. W. Butler (monthly subscription)		6	6
Mrs. Robinson	2	0	0
Mrs. Whately	2	5	0
C.S.O. and Staff, Scottish Command	2	10	0
Officers, Scottish Command Signal Company	3	17	6
O.R.s, Scottish Command Signal Company	2	12	6
C.S.O. Scottish Command (Collection Box)		10	0
Major E. Heron Varwell	2	2	0
A.A. Divisional Signals, B.E.F.	8	18	3
Mrs. L. B. Nicholls (Bridge Drive)	1	3	0
Mrs. Bloodworth		5	0
Mrs. J. A. S. Tillard		7	6
Lieutenant-Colonel W. A. Scott	1	0	0
Mrs. G. Tayleur	5	0	0
Mrs. Jack		10	6
Divisional Signals, B.E.F.	3	3	0
Gibraltar Signal Section	4	6	0
Women's Electrical Association (Wimbledon, Unit)	1	1	6
Army Signals, Kent	8	0	0

Signals Association and Ex-Service Old Comrades Branch Notes

Birmingham Branch.—Since our friends of the 48th Divisional Signals left Birmingham and we lost the use of Cateswell House, our social activities have been greatly curtailed, but in spite of depleted numbers we held a successful smoking concert at the Australian Bar, Bromsgrove Street, Birmingham, on Friday, 29th December last. This concert was a joint effort with the Naval Reserve O.C.A. boys, and Mr. H. Toy, of the Navy League, and our own Colonel J. W. Danielson, D.S.O., T.D., acted as joint chairmen. The hit of the evening was Miss Daisy Clifford, the well-known concert hall impresario, and did Alf Wilby get well away ? We wonder if he saw her home and what his better half would say ? George Clay, senior and junior, gave us some melodious old-time songs as well as modern piano accordion playing, and other artistes, whose names I did not catch, contributed to a very happy evening. Plates of beef sandwiches, cheese and pickles fortified us to go forth into the black-out when the proceedings had terminated with a vote of thanks to the artistes who so freely gave their services for our pleasure.

We are glad to record that Billy Realf and his sparring partner Malcolm, did not on this occasion have to walk home to Shirley (five miles) as they have had to do so many times previously. We do not know why, it is one of those mysteries we would like Alf. Walker to solve, but we've heard it rumoured that Scotch at 14s. 3d. a bottle has something to do with it.

Our next event is the Annual General Meeting of the Branch on Saturday, 16th March at the same hostelry (via the Australian

Bar), and in deference to the wishes of some of our old stalwarts we have arranged a small dinner gathering at 7 p.m., the actual business of the A.G.M. not commencing until 8.15 p.m. Tickets for the dinner are 2s. 6d. each and the number limited to 70. Any member not already fixed up please get in touch with the Branch Assistant Secretary, Mr. J. Carnall, 246 Church Road, Yardley, Birmingham.

We would like all members, as well as serving Signals in the district, to note that we meet on the last Friday of each month at 8 p.m. at the above mentioned hostelry and a warm welcome awaits any serving, or ex-Signals fellows who care to join us.

Finally our thoughts and best wishes to those members of the Branch who are now elsewhere O.H.M.S. Bill Langham, Bob Barlow, Bill Richards and others, here's wishing you a speedy leave and we hope when you are in Birmingham you will get in touch with us so that we may quaff a friendly cup together.

JULIUS.

Benevolent Fund Notes

The Administrator gratefully acknowledges receipt of the following :

Benevolent Fund (General)

CASH SUBSCRIPTIONS from :

Signals, Thames and Medway.
Mr. W. Moffat.
Mr. R. W. Butler.
Captain L. S. Weir.

GIFT OF CLOTHING from :

Mrs. A. H. French.

Benevolent Fund (No. 2 A/C 1940)

CASH SUBSCRIPTIONS from :

Colonel G. C. Wickins, C.B.E., T.D
Lieutenant-Colonel E. Bernie Reid, O.B.E.

BANKER'S ORDER SUBSCRIPTIONS from :

Brigadier-General W. P. E. Newbigging, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.
Brigadier C. H. Prickett, D.S.O.
Colonel J. Waley Cohen, C.M.G., C.B.E., D.S.O., T.D.
Lieutenant-Colonel M. E. Holdsworth, T.D.
Major W. E. Pain, M.C.
Captain R. J. K. Fenton.
Captain M. G. Wilson.
2nd Lieutenant J. F. Clarke.
2nd Lieutenant R. F. Weaire.
49th Divisional Signals.

APPEALS dealt with :

1	Signalman, Malaya	Grant	£3 15	0
2	Ex-Signalman, Darlington	Grant	£3 0	0
3	Ex-Signalman, Cheshire	Grant	£2 0	0
4	Signalman, Lancs.	Grant	£4 10	0
5	Ex-Signalman, London	Grant	£2 0	0

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

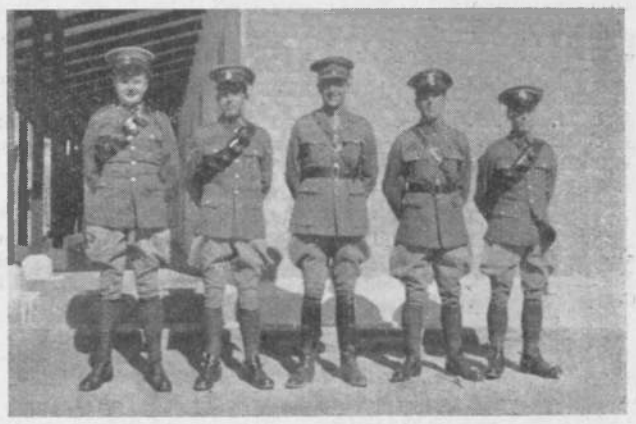
For
" GAZETTE NEWS—OFFICERS "
See page 98

Correspondence

Dett., Zhob Signal Section,
Hindubagh,
Baluchistan.
8th February, 1940.

To the Editor, THE WIRE.

DEAR SIR,—At the request of the Signal Officer-in-Chief in India, will you please publish the enclosed snap of this Detachment, which was taken by the Signal Officer-in-Chief, Brigadier Hitchens, in some future edition of the WIRE. The names, reading from left to right, are : Signalman Corfield, Lance Corporal Shillaker, O.C., Zhob Signals, Signalman McCutcheon and Signalman Owen.



This detachment is part of Zhob Signal Section and the personnel consists of three operators and one fitter. Owing to the fact that hardly anything ever happens in Hindulagh it is almost impossible to send WIRE notes.

Yours sincerely,
A. SHILLAKER, Lance Corporal

Signals in Tanganyika

By 2ND LIEUTENANT C. W. CATT, Royal Signals.

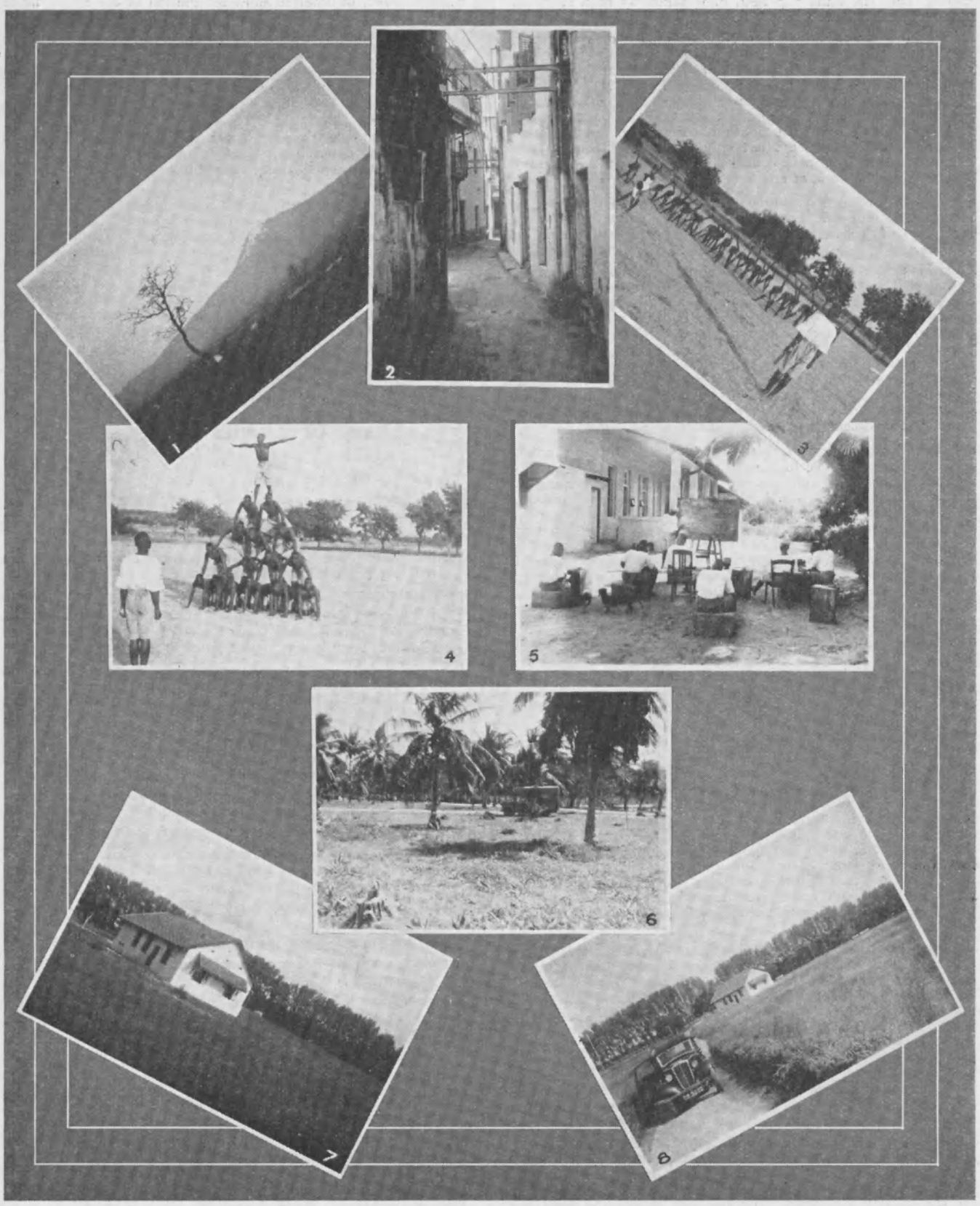
(Sixth Instalment.)

It may be remembered that this narrative of Signals' progress in Tanganyika Territory was brought to the point when the Officer Commanding returned from Moshi to Dar-es-Salaam, by road, and the Foreman-of-Signals proceeded from Moshi to Nairobi by air. This was in January, 1939.

The latter's Nairobi experiences cannot be detailed here. Suffice it to say that it was a change for him to become a mere mechanical robot, and he found it strange not being allowed to offer advice from the knowledge gained by his varied experience, nor to execute work using the methods taught by competent instructors in the past, and which that varied experience, enriched by his own and others' mistakes, has since proved to be the best methods.

About two months after installing the set at Loliondo, no signals were heard for two or three days, and the Tanganyika authorities decided the Foreman-of-Signals had better fly to see what was wrong. Accordingly, a plane was chartered and he flew to Loliondo from Nairobi, verified there was nothing more wrong than low batteries, rearranged schedules to give the personnel a better chance to keep the batteries up with the bicycle charging apparatus, rectified several minor faults which had developed in the general running of the Station, appreciated for the " umpteenth " time how easy it is to overlook simple, well-known facts when one has too many jobs to do and allows oneself to be unduly rushed, and returned to Nairobi the same day. Two and a half hours was the time involved in

SIGNALS IN TANGANYIKA



1. Kilimanjaro from Moshi.
2. Street scene in Zanzibar.
3. Early morning P.T.
4. Early morning P.T. took a fortnight to accomplish this tableau.
5. A class of boys at an Arithmetic lesson.
6. A camouflaged lorry on a scheme.

7 & 8. The Wireless Station and Workshop at Daressalaam.

travel. Had the same trip been undertaken by road it would have required at least a week's hard going.

The Foreman-of-Signals left Nairobi finally on 7th April, taking four of the sixteen sets assembled to the specifications given by the Northern Brigade Signals, and, travelling by rail and steamer, reached Dar es Salaam on Easter Monday, 10th April. On the same steamer was Colonel G. L. G. Pollard, travelling home from India, and he spent the few hours available at Dar-es-Salaam, with the Southern Brigade Signals. It was regretted that the ship did not stay longer, as it would have "helped the cause" to have had a Royal Signals Colonel stay awhile, where Colonels of any branch are rare.

By a series of mishaps, for which no one individual could be blamed, the sets were not off-loaded and did not arrive until nearly a month later. There was, however, plenty of work to be done.

On his arrival at Dar-es-Salaam the Officer Commanding had moved the Unit Offices from the Sergeants' Mess dining room to the offices vacated by the Brigade Staff, they having moved to new offices in the Secretariat building, and had shifted the wireless stores and remaining stores from the Mess Lounge to the new building and an old garage respectively. He had also started and continued with the second intensive Individual Training Period, the office verandah and the wide open spaces being his classrooms. The training was conducted on principles similar to those described in an earlier article published in THE WIRE, but modified by the experience of all concerned.

During March a minor crisis made itself felt in Tanganyika, and it became desirable to have all-military direct routes available for messages to military out-stations. The only thing to try was to tune two of the R.A.F. type sets in Dar-es-Salaam, and send them off with the best four of the native personnel. This the Officer Commanding did, and was gratified to find they were able to go the 400 odd mile journey by road, erect the sets and get into communication with Dar-es-Salaam, without further European supervision. It was intended as a temporary measure, but so valuable were the direct links proved to be that steps were taken to find the money for permanent installations to be provided in 1940.

On the return of the F-of-S the O.C. continued with Individual Training as his main task, fitting into odd periods the "administering" of the Unit and the sorting out of the stores, other than wireless, from the muddle resulting from the move ex Tabora last October, whilst the F-of-S busied himself with the fitting out of the building erected just before the end of last year, in sorting out the wireless stores and in straightening out the ledgers, also taking two or three periods per week on Procedure, Map-reading, Army Organisation and Communications.

One of the outstation sets had been giving trouble, and a week after the F-of-S returned it was necessary for him to be flown there by chartered plane. The outward flight was a delightful sensation for, due to rain, the pilot flew above the clouds for three of the three and a half hours taken. It was like skimming over the top of tons of brand-new well-loosened cotton wool, with above a sky of the most brilliant blue imaginable. Seven and a half hours' flying and four hours on the site were sufficient to accomplish what would have taken about ten days by rail and road.

When the building, stores and ledgers were fairly settled, the sets assembled in Nairobi were tackled, for they had not been tested prior to leaving there. Some difficulty was experienced in getting them to work as required by the Southern Brigade Signals. Inevitable, of course, when guardian bodies like the S.E.E. and C.I.E.S.S. are left out of the scheme of things. However, the two small sets were got going in time for the start of the collective training season—timed for the beginning of May but held over till the beginning of June owing to the fact that yet another task had presented itself and kept both the O.C. and the F-of-S busy: the compilation of War Equipment Tables, Indents, etc.

The Trade Board was completed by the end of May, with fairly satisfying results. It had been decided that five of the N.C.O.s, Signalmen and Boys on outstation or H.Q. station duty should be awarded Class II Operators rating for services rendered. Of the twenty undergoing training, six passed the tests for Class II Operator, a slight lowering of the standard laid down being allowed, in order to show recognition of the efforts made by the askari.

Collective training was started by small schemes with the two small sets a short distance apart, and last year's experience repeated—the complete inability of the askari to establish satisfactory communication on their own. It is hoped these too will eventually get the hang of it, as did the brighter ones now on outstations.

All this time the training of the ten boys recruited early in the year was proceeding steadily; manipulation, procedure, arithmetic and English being the subjects to which most attention was given.

And with the beginning of July came the time for the O.C. and the F-of-S to again leave Dar-es-Salaam. The former to proceed up-country on a tour of outstations, conducting reliefs and executing repairs and improvements where necessary; the latter to return to England on completion of his tour of duty. The latter did so with mixed feelings of "so much to do, so little done," yet "something attempted, something done"; truly thankful to be returning to where the system used is that proved most suitable for military purposes, yet equally sorry to leave a task so incomplete.

Diary of Events in the War

By E. W. S.

1939.

AUGUST 23RD.—Non-aggression Pact concluded between Germany and Russia.

AUGUST 29TH.—German troops occupy Slovakia.

AUGUST 31ST.—Mobilisation of British Navy ordered, and Army and Air Force reservists called-up.

SEPTEMBER 1ST.—German Army and Air Force invade Poland without declaration of war.

SEPTEMBER 2ND.—Britain and France present ultimatum to Germany, demanding cessation of attack on Poland.

SEPTEMBER 3RD.—British ultimatum expires at 11 a.m. and French ultimatum at 5 p.m., and both countries are at war with Germany. S.S. "Athenia" sunk by German submarine. First "leaflet raid" by R.A.F. over Germany. Australia and New Zealand declare war on Germany.

SEPTEMBER 4TH.—R.A.F. raid on Kiel.

SEPTEMBER 5TH.—Second R.A.F. "leaflet raid."

SEPTEMBER 6TH.—French forward troops advance into Germany. South Africa declares war on Germany.

SEPTEMBER 9TH.—Germans reach outskirts of Warsaw.

SEPTEMBER 10TH.—Canada declares war on Germany. French continue occupation of territory between Maginot and Siegfried Lines.

SEPTEMBER 12TH.—First meeting of Allied Supreme War Council in Paris.

SEPTEMBER 14TH.—Germans occupy Gdynia.

SEPTEMBER 15TH.—Germans commence unrestricted air attacks on Poland.

SEPTEMBER 17TH.—Russia invades Poland from East. H.M.S. "Courageous," aircraft carrier, sunk by German submarine.

SEPTEMBER 18TH.—Russian and German troops meet at Brest-Litovsk.

SEPTEMBER 19TH.—Russians occupy Vilna.

SEPTEMBER 22ND.—Second meeting of Allied Supreme War Council in Sussex.

SEPTEMBER 25TH.—Third R.A.F. "leaflet raid" in daylight over Germany.

SEPTEMBER 26TH.—Unsuccessful German air attack on British Fleet in North Sea; three enemy aircraft brought down.

SEPTEMBER 29TH.—Surrender of Warsaw. Estonia concludes treaty which makes her a satellite State of Russia.

"AS YOU WERE!"

RUMINATIONS AND REMINISCENCES AT RANDOM



WE REMEMBER ARRIVING AT THE ROYAL ENGINEERS (SIGNAL SERVICE) TRAINING CENTRE, MARESFIELD PARK, SUSSEX, IN EARLY FEBRUARY, 1920. IN THOSE DAYS (ROUND ABOUT THE STONE AGE OF ARMY DEVELOPMENT) THE PIONEERS OF THE SIGNALS WERE PRACTICALLY CAVE-DWELLERS



WE REMEMBER THE JOY AND RAPTURE WITH WHICH THE PLATOON SERGEANT GREETED OUR FIRST APPEARANCE ON THE "SQUARE" (*) PERHAPS THE HANG OF THE BREECHES APPEALED TO HIS SENSE OF BLOOMER, OR SOMETHING.



AND WE VIVIDLY REMEMBER THE GAY ABANDON AND HAPPY BANTER OF THE RIDING-SCHOOL WHERE THE "WEEDON SEAT" WAS THE ARMY EQUIVALENT OF THE ELECTRIC CHAIR AND THE INVITATIONS TO "QUIT STIRRUPS" GENERALLY RESULTED IN QUITTING THE WHOLE BUSINESS WITH A REMARKABLE LACK OF DIGNITY AND COMPOSURE BUT NOT WITHOUT A CERTAIN DEGREE OF ELEVATION IN THE PROCESS.



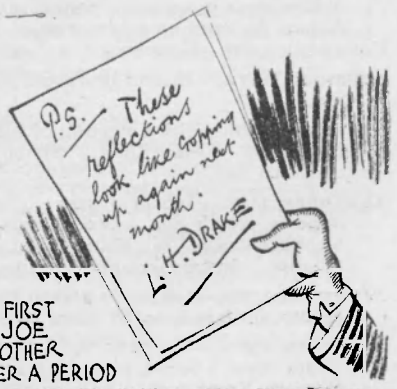
WE REMEMBER THE SICK LINES PICKETS WHEN FOUR HOURS SPENT IN COMPANY WITH SWOLLEN FETLOCKS AND LOOSE HORSES IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT

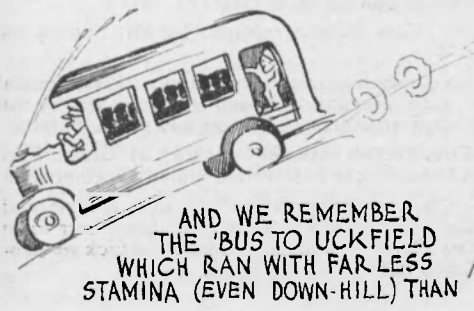


QUALIFIED US FOR A VETERINARY INSPECTION.









AND WE REMEMBER THE 'BUS TO UCKFIELD WHICH RAN WITH FAR LESS STAMINA (EVEN DOWN-HILL) THAN

JOE COTTERELL, CROSS-COUNTRY ACE, WITH WHOM WE TURNED OUT AT CROWBOROUGH IN ONE OF HIS EARLIEST THREE MILES EVENTS

THAT IS TO SAY WE COVERED THE FIRST 100 YARDS WITH JOE AND SPREAD THE OTHER 5,180 YARDS OVER A PERIOD BECAUSE DISTANCE LENDS ENCHANTMENT TO THE FEW.

OCTOBER 2ND.—Fourth R.A.F. " leaflet raid " as far as Berlin.

OCTOBER 5TH.—Treaty signed by Latvia with Russia on terms similar to those of treaty with Estonia.

OCTOBER 6TH.—Hitler in speech proposes terms of peace on basis of German retention of all her conquests in exchange for non-aggression pacts and vague promises of future good behaviour.

OCTOBER 9TH.—Second unsuccessful German air attack on British warships in North Sea ; six aircraft brought down.

OCTOBER 12TH.—Prime Minister declares that Hitler's peace terms afford no basis on which Allies could negotiate.

OCTOBER 14TH.—H.M.S. " Royal Oak," battleship, sunk by German submarines at Scapa Flow. British troops take over sector of front line in France.

OCTOBER 16TH.—French halt advance into Germany and consolidate ground gained. German air raid on Firth of Forth repulsed with loss of four enemy aircraft.

OCTOBER 17TH.—Germans lose four aircraft in raids on British coast. Russia and Turkey break off negotiations for mutual non-aggression treaty.

OCTOBER 19TH.—Treaty of mutual assistance concluded between Britain, France and Turkey.

OCTOBER 21ST.—Four German aircraft brought down in attack on British convoy in North Sea.

OCTOBER 22ND.—One enemy machine shot down in reconnaissance off British coast.

OCTOBER 23RD.—Russia and Finland open negotiations for treaty.

OCTOBER 24TH.—German warship captures American ship " City of Flint."

OCTOBER 25TH.—British air reconnaissance over Berlin and Western Germany.

OCTOBER 27TH.—United States Senate votes repeal of embargo on sale of arms to belligerent States.

OCTOBER 29TH.—R.A.F. reconnaissance over Southern Germany. One German aircraft brought down in Scotland.

NOVEMBER 2ND.—United States House of Representatives votes repeal of arms embargo.

NOVEMBER 3RD.—Norway interns S.S. " City of Flint " with German prize crew on board, on entry into Norwegian harbour.

NOVEMBER 6TH.—Air battle over Maginot Line, when nine French machines attack twenty-seven German fighters and bring down nine without loss to themselves.

NOVEMBER 7TH.—German threat of attack on Low Countries causes King of Belgium and Queen of Holland to issue joint peace appeal.

NOVEMBER 8TH.—Bomb explosion in Munich Beer Hall following on speech by Hitler. Two German machines brought down off British coast.

NOVEMBER 11TH.—Continued massing of German troops on Dutch and Belgian frontiers.

NOVEMBER 12TH.—Britain and France reply to peace appeal of Netherlands sovereigns, restating their war aims and conditions for opening negotiations.

NOVEMBER 13TH.—German air raid on Shetland Isles.

NOVEMBER 14TH.—British destroyer mined and sunk in North Sea.

NOVEMBER 17TH.—Third meeting of Allied Supreme War Council in London. Dutch liner, " Simon Bolivar," sunk by mine in North Sea.

NOVEMBER 21ST.—Japanese liner, " Terukuni Maru," sunk by mine in North Sea. Five German aircraft shot down in reconnaissances in France and over Britain. H.M.S. " Gipsy," destroyer, sunk by mine in North Sea.

NOVEMBER 22ND.—German air attack on Shetland Isles. Eight enemy aircraft brought down in France.

NOVEMBER 23RD.—Germans begin sowing of magnetic mines in North Sea. Seven enemy machines brought down on Western Front.

NOVEMBER 26TH.—Naval battle in North Sea between German battleship " Deutschland " and British auxiliary cruiser " Rawalpindi," which was sunk after a gallant resistance. Polish liner " Pilsudski " torpedoed in North Sea.

NOVEMBER 28TH.—Successful R.A.F. raid on German seaplane base at Borkum. Russia denounces non-aggression pact with Finland.

NOVEMBER 30TH.—Russia invades Finland.

DECEMBER 2ND.—Puppet Finnish Government set up by Russia at Teri oki. German liner " Watussi " intercepted by South African aircraft while attempting to return to Germany, scuttled by its own crew.

DECEMBER 3RD.—German warships in harbour at Heligoland attacked by R.A.F.

DECEMBER 4TH.—H.M. the King arrives in France to visit B.E.F. Agreement signed for financial co-operation between Britain and France. Allied blockade on German exports comes into force.

DECEMBER 7TH.—Three machines brought down in German raid on Firth of Forth. Finns withdraw to main Mannerheim defensive line in Karelian Isthmus.

DECEMBER 11TH.—British troops in action for first time in patrolling activity in front of Maginot Line. H.M. the King returns home from his visit to B.E.F.

DECEMBER 12TH.—First Russian attack in Suomossalmi area of Central Finland repulsed. German liner " Bremen " succeeds in making its way back to Germany.

DECEMBER 13TH.—Defeat of German pocket battleship " Graf Spee " by three British light cruisers off estuary of River Plate ; " Graf Spee seeks shelter in Montevideo harbour.

DECEMBER 14TH.—H.M.S. " Duchess," destroyer, sunk in collision. Russia resigns from League of Nations.

DECEMBER 17TH.—" Graf Spee " scuttled in River Plate estuary by direct order of Hitler.

DECEMBER 18TH.—German cruisers " Leipzig " and " Blucher " and another cruiser sunk or damaged by British submarines in Heligoland Bight. Air battle in which twelve German and seven British fighters were shot down. First Canadian division arrives in Britain.

DECEMBER 19TH.—German liner " Columbus " scuttled by own crew to avoid capture. Germans begin air attacks on unarmed trawlers in North Sea.

DECEMBER 20TH.—Suicide of German Commander of " Graf Spee." Heavy Russian attack on Mannerheim Line repulsed with heavy loss.

DECEMBER 22ND.—Russians compelled to retreat on Northern and Central fronts before Finnish counter-offensive.

DECEMBER 26TH.—First Australian Air Force contingent arrives in Britain.

DECEMBER 27TH.—First party of Indian troops arrive in France. Violent earthquake shocks in Anatolia cause serious damage and loss of life.

DECEMBER 31ST.—Russian 163rd Division defeated and destroyed in battle of Suomossalmi.

1940.

JANUARY 1ST.—Proclamation signed by H.M. the King making classes aged 23 to 28 liable for military service. Two German machines brought down in raid on Shetland Isles.

JANUARY 2ND.—Three German and two British machines shot down in battle over North Sea. Finns repel renewed mass attacks on Mannerheim Line.

JANUARY 5TH.—Mr. Hore Belisha replaced by Mr. Stanley as Secretary for War.

JANUARY 8TH.—Food rationing begins in Britain. Finns defeat and destroy 44th Russian Division in new victory at Suomossalmi, capturing many prisoners and much material.

JANUARY 9TH.—First British prisoner captured by Germans in France. R.A.F. in France constituted under one command.

JANUARY 13TH.—R.A.F. reconnaissance flight over Austria and Czechoslovakia. Enemy machine brought down over Firth of Forth. New claim of menacing German attack on Low Countries ; leave from B.E.F. stopped.

January 16th.—Loss of thirty-five German U-boats since beginning of war officially admitted. Menace of German attack on Low Countries diminishing; B.E.F. leave re-opened.

January 18th.—Loss of three small British submarines while on dangerous duty in German waters announced.

January 21st.—H.M.S. "Grenville," flotilla leader, sunk by torpedo in North Sea.

January 23rd.—New Russian attack in force on Mannerheim Line beaten back. H.M.S. "Exmouth," destroyer, sunk in North Sea.

January 25th.—Dissolution of Canadian Parliament and General Election announced.

January 26th.—Great Russian offensive north of Lake Ladoga fails with heavy losses. Germany bans listening to foreign broadcasts.

January 28th.—Official report to Vatican of German cruelties in Poland published.

January 29th.—Large-scale enemy air attack on shipping off East Coast.

January 30th.—Second attack on shipping; three enemy machines brought down. First British Army casualty list issued.

February 1st.—Limited leave for B.E.F. resumed.

February 2nd.—Russian attacks on Mannerheim Line renewed in great force. Meeting of Council of Balkan Entente in Belgrade.

February 3rd.—Four German bombers brought down in raids on East Coast of Britain.

February 4th.—Conclusion of meetings of Balkan Entente Council. Common agreement on maintenance of Entente, policy of joint neutrality in war, economic collaboration, and friendly relations with Hungary and Bulgaria.

February 5th.—Fifth meeting of Allied Supreme War Council in Paris. Finns annihilated 18th Russian Division north of Lake Ladoga. Loss of H.M.S. "Sphinx," minesweeper.

February 6th.—Amicable settlement reached of "Asama Maru" dispute between Britain and Japan, arising out of removal of German sailors from vessel by British warships near Japanese coasts.

February 7th.—Russian attack on Mannerheim Line continues without cessation, but with few gains of ground and very heavy casualties.

February 8th.—Third contingent of Canadian troops reaches Britain.

February 9th.—H.M.S. "Antelope," destroyer, sinks two German submarines endeavouring to attack Allied convoy.

February 12th.—Arrival of Australian and New Zealand troops at Suez.

February 13th.—Australian troops moved to new quarters in Palestine. Russian attacks on Mannerheim Line capture some advanced Finnish positions.

February 14th.—Two more German U-boats destroyed in attempted attack on Allied convoy.

The Neutrals in the War

By E. W. S.

In this war it is most important for us, as one of the belligerent Powers, to understand, as far as we can, the position and point of view of the neutral nations. For us Britishers every war and this war, perhaps, more than any in our past history, appears under the aspect of a crusade. We never fight so well—indeed we can hardly be induced to fight at all in any other cause—as when we believe ourselves to be the champions of liberty and of the rights of humanity. It is therefore only natural that we should find it hard to understand how any other nation can bring itself to stand aside from our cause or be deaf to its unusual appeal, and that we should even feel somefhing like contempt for what appears to us to be wilful blindness or even cowardice.

On the other hand we have also—or like to think we have—a traditional capacity as a people for understanding the other fellow's point of view. Indeed, if we were not able to some considerable extent to do this, we could hardly have won, and certainly could not have retained, the greatest Empire the world has ever seen; for such Empires have but a short life unless those who hold sway over them understand the minds and hearts of their subjects and can win their respect and affection. It is therefore worth while to try and understand the point of view of those peoples, great and small, who, although they are not and may never be our allies in this war against the armed barbarism of Nazi Germany, can yet do so much, according to their views of the cause for which we fight, to help or hinder us in our efforts to vindicate it.

Let us take first the view of the most powerful neutral of all, the closest to us in blood and beliefs, the great American democracy. The vast majority of the people of the United States lag no whit behind us in their detestation of Nazism and all it stands for. Themselves a polyglot people, who have solved with high success the problem of soldering elements of many diverse races in one great united nation, they hate and despise the crude theories of blood unity which form one of the bases of the ramshackle Nazi philosophy, as well as the cruelty and futility of the methods whereby the Nazis govern their newly conquered alien subjects. Equally do they dislike the regimented life, the sheep-like docility of conduct and mind, the gullibility to propaganda characteristic of the German people under Nazi rule. Hitler and his clique of gangsters and sadists and yes-men seem to them as contemptible as disgusting. While not prepared to rate the idealism and unselfishness of the Allies quite at the value we ourselves may tend to put upon them, there is no doubt as to which of the two warring causes has their vote, or rather perhaps one should say which they dislike the most. They may feel no ardent enthusiasm for France or Britain for their own sakes, but they would regard the triumph of Nazism as an unmitigated disaster for Europe and for world civilisation. They are presumably conscious, too, that if the Allies were to go under, they themselves would have to oppose Hitler's further onward march if any hope of liberty and order were to be preserved for mankind.

Yet they do not feel called upon to stand by the Allies' side in arms, and this for two main reasons. First, because they consider that dealing with Hitler is, for the time being at any rate, primarily the Allies' job, since they have most to gain from victory and most to lose by defeat. Secondly, because they are quite confident that the Allies can, and will, do the job without their help. There are, of course, other minor contributory causes of United States neutrality—the tradition of isolation from the Old World's often selfish and sordid quarrels, inherited from the early Fathers of the Country a century and a half ago—the aftermath of the disillusion and disappointment of the last war and of the lost instalments and unpaid debts which were its heritage—the feeling that the Allies' present troubles are largely of their own making, in as much as they failed to deal earlier and to better effect with the Nazi peril—the presence of powerful anti-British and pro-German elements at home. All these factors combine to bring it about that the United States will go far to help the Allies to secure a peace that will deliver Hitlerism its deathblow, but will not fight beside them to win it by force of arms. The only thing that seems likely to move them from that standpoint is the serious danger of our defeat, but that eventuality, they are fully confident, will never arise. We can only hope they are right.

The case of the other major non-European neutral, Japan, may be quite briefly summarised. She is preoccupied with an apparently endless war of conquest in China, which will require all her energies and resources, and perhaps more, to carry through to victory. She is bitterly disappointed and disillusioned with her former ally, Germany, who has just signed an unholy pact with Red Russia, her inveterate and mortal enemy. She therefore wants nothing better than to be left to herself to extricate herself from her own troubles as best she can, and has no wish to involve herself gratuitously in those of a cynical and faithless former friend almost certainly doomed to defeat in a hopeless struggle.

The two greater European neutrals, Italy and Spain, are actuated by much the same motives in standing aside from the war. Spain, rent and bleeding from the after effects of her own

civil war, has no longer any desire to fight beside a false friend who shamelessly exploited her religious and chivalric feelings and is now an ally of the former common foe. Spain has little or nothing to expect for herself from a German victory and even less confidence in the probability of such a victory—in a word, she would not fight on Germany's side, nor probably could if she would. Italy, for whom Fascism is still an idealistic creed, and not, like Nazism, a mere cloak for imperialistic ambition, has equally come to realise that to enter the war on Germany's side would at best leave her the role of jackal to the Nazi lion in case of victory and would expose her to utter ruin in case of defeat. All her overseas trade, on which she depends not only for the sinews of war but for the necessaries of life, would be at the mercy of the Allied fleets ; her isolated overseas possessions would be overrun by the Allied armies ; her social structure would probably collapse under the long and severe strain, and all that Fascism has done and won in the last twenty years would be swept away. Even could she and Germany win, the latter would take the bulk of the spoils and in the inevitable conflicts of interest that would arise in the Balkans and the Near East, Italy would be helpless to assert and maintain her rights against a rival whom she herself had helped to raise to an insolent and ruthless supremacy in Europe. With much to lose by war, everything to lose by defeat, and little to gain by victory, Italy's path is clear cut. It is of that neutrality, and from it only the certain and imminent defeat of the Allies is likely to move her, in the belated hope of snatching some little thing for herself out of the spoils of the vanquished.

As for the smaller European neutrals, the Low Countries, the Northern Powers and the Balkan States, their position is as difficult as it is cruel. One and all know full well how much they have to fear from a victorious Germany ; it would mean the end of their existence as separate entities and perhaps the end of them altogether. Yet to espouse openly the cause of Germany's foes would merely bring upon them the full force of her armed might and draw down on their peaceful and helpless citizens the dire fate of the Austrians, the Czechs, and the Poles. This is too critical and cruel a decision to expect from any statesman, whose duty after all is not to some ideal in which perhaps he does not believe or considers merely Utopian, but to his own people whose lives and liberty are in his charge.

Germany's conception of neutrality, too, is a peculiar and a jealous one. Any policy or act on the part of a neutral State that does not help her is something to be protested against and perhaps avenged when the time is ripe ; but neutrals themselves have no rights at all save what she herself may graciously grant them, and she will grant them nothing save what serves her own war ends. The difference between the German and the Allied points of view in this respect may be seen in the fact that, whereas Germany does not hesitate to sink neutral ships and drown neutral sailors with the purpose of striking indirectly at Britain, the Allies merely examine their mails and goods to ensure that they are not giving aid and comfort to Germany. Hence, incidentally, it happens that neutral protests tend to be louder and more frequent to us than to our foes. Of what use is it to protest to a Power which will neither listen nor heed ? Whereas from France or Brtain at least a polite hearing and an explanation, and perhaps some relaxation of the cause of grievance, can usually be obtained. It may seem anomalous to us that our small and light pressure on neutrals is more dwelt upon and is apparently found more irksome than the ruthlessness and cruelty of our enemies ; but the explanation is that whereas we are normally receptive and sympathetic, Germany's attitude towards such protests is that they are not only negligible but offensive and deserving of punishment. Should she ever decide to widen the war by attacking some neutral State, she will almost certainly do so on some trumped-up plea of non-neutral conduct or attitude. Hence the smaller Powers tend to refrain from too loud or frequent protests to Germany, which would certainly be useless and might well be dangerous. The real wonder is not that they do not protest more, but that they have been bold enough to protest as often and as firmly as they actually have.

Most of these little peoples are fully aware of the delicacy and precariousness of their position. They know well that Germany will follow her own ends utterly regardless of them or of anyone or anything else ; that if she refrains from violent action against them to-day, it is only because she does not for the moment think such action timely or worth her while, and that if and as soon as it becomes so, she will take it without pity or hesitation.

Possibly a wise long-term policy might favour some form of common unity of action for self protection on their part, but such a policy would take long to negotiate and arrange, and could hardly be brought about in secret, even if crowned with success, might not make for their salvation against a great Power such as Germany, whom all dread, and with good reason, for her might and ruthlessness. It is only natural, and perhaps even wise, for the rulers of these small scattered Powers to take the short rather than the long view and to prefer a present precarious safety to purchasing a remote future security at the price of a greatly enhanced risk. We may think such a decision shortsighted and unwise ; but it is for them to judge, as they alone can, for their knowledge is greater, as is their responsibility, than ours.

We claim that the cause for which we are fighting this war is that of freedom and the rights of men. Countries, too, as men, have lives and rights of their own, whether they be great or small, and whether they heed or spurn the summons to a crusade is primarily their own affair. Those who decide to heed it will be welcome to our side ; for those who cannot or will not, let us believe that their motives are as honest as ours and their circumstances far more dangerous and difficult. This of itself shows that our cause is still alive and flourishing, inasmuch as for them freedom of choice still exists and the right to live their own lives and follow their own roads.

TOMMY THE WORKER

The Colonel stopped and glared around,
Then pointed sternly to the ground ;
" What does this mean ? " demanded he,
" A piece of orange peel I see."
The Major called the Captain then
And said, " By gad, your fault again ,
I really can't think what you mean
By letting all this filth be seen."
The Captain frowned and took the snub
And, calling up the junior Sub.,
Observed, " Look at this mess ;
It's fit for pig, sir, nothing less."
The junior Sub. blushed crimson red,
Then to the Sergeant-Major said,
" I'm quite fed up—an' all that rot—
I mean to say, ' Pigsty '—what ! "
The Sergeant-Major, filled with rage,
Attacked the Sergeant at this stage :
" Brimstone and thunder, strike me pink,
You'll win the war, yes, I don't think."
The Sergeant started in to cuss,
Approached the Orderly Corporal thus :
" You lazy, lumbering, boss-eyed lout,
Who chucked this blankerty fruit about ? "
The Orderly Corporal turned his eye
On Private Atkins passing by :
" Look here, you blob-nosed, pink-eyed sweep,
Just shift this festering rubbish heap."
And Thomas Atkins smiled a smile
And set to work in soldier style ;
" They talk a ruddy lot," quoth he,
" But who does all this work ?—why, ME ! "

HAVE YOU JOINED THE SIGNALS ASSOCIATION ?

Prepare to Mount !

Way back in the dim pre-war ages, we once wrote some WIRE notes which never got any further than the then R.S.M. —he was mentioned twice.

Undaunted, however, we try again, and, since the "Manual of Horsemastership" (19-something) states that all horses should be exercised regularly, this, in this Unit, has been made so by an edict from high authority.

The stables have been attacked by sundry Sergeants with riding certificates. Foremen-of-Signals without riding certificates, and even mere Corporals, without even hope, and now without much skin on the nether portions of their respective anatomies.

We will try, however, to give you some impression of this thing they call exercising horses. The manual calls it "Riding," officers call it "Polo," and what we call it would never pass the Censor.

Now riding may be called an art—the art of coming back, in one piece, with the horse with which one started out. It may also be described as a task—the almost impossible task of keeping the horse beneath the seat of one's (issue) riding breeches, but not too far beneath at any given time.



Officers call it "Polo"

The HALT.

This is by far the most comfortable form of riding ; the horse reputedly standing still, and the rider sitting delicately in the saddle. Provided one's horse is definitely antiquated, riding at the halt is quite a pleasant occupation, though boring after a while.

The WALK.

Walking is an antidote to riding, but the walk I intend to describe is that which is done with the horse underneath. This is a "bottom gear" movement, in which the horse puts one or other of its feet forward, and then overtakes it with the other on the corresponding end. Most horses walk when they leave the stables, but none but the oldest and most decrepit perambulating masses of dog's-meat have ever been known to walk back to stables. This is one of the mysteries of the art, and as such must remain unexplained.

On the rider's part, the walk is the second most comfortable —or rather least uncomfortable—movement of a horse. The motion is reminiscent of that experienced whilst crossing the "Bay" in a Trooper, but, as the horse is rarely walking for any long period, the rider is not normally attacked by mal-de-mer. This is fortunate.

The TROT.

For some unknown reason, the second of the mysteries of the art, any unbalanced person desiring to put his horse into a trot, always speaks with a Highland accent, thus : Terrrrrrrot ! This, the trot, is the second gear movement of the horse. At the trot, the horse moves up and down with a regular motion, at the same time progressing forward. The rider, correspondingly, moves up and down with a less regular motion, and, if fortunate, also moves forward. The ideal method of obtaining comfort at the trot is :

(a) to get off and walk, or
(b) to use a cushion.

No mention of either of these methods is made in the Manual.



"Rising in the stirrups"

The easiest (permissible) method of obtaining comfort at the trot is called "rising in the stirrups." This is a misnomer. What actually happens is that one rises to unforeseen heights above the saddle. Providing that the horse is not covering too much ground, and that one's star is in the ascendant, one descends again into the saddle, far more swiftly than one rose, causing no little discomfort to the horse, and considerable pain even to the most imperturbable of riders.

The CANTER.

This is the third gear movement of a horse. (If, of course, it is a pre-1922 model, it is also top-gear.)

Should the rider have been unfortunate enough to remain with the horse for long enough, it begins to get really wound up, and may decide to "go into a canter."

The only thing one can really do is to grip the reins and hope —I nearly said "sit tight," but, of course, that is a physical impossibility. In abnormal cases, on gripping the reins, the horse stops. This is extremely fortunate. The rider should



"Cross Stirrups"

immediately take the name and number of the horse in question, feed it immoderately with sugar, and should he be indiscreet enough to ride again, ensure, by bribing the stableman, that he is fitted on to the same horse.

The motion of the canter is similar to that of the trot, only more so. The bounce is greater, considerably greater, but the distance covered between each bounce is correspondingly greater.

The only real difference between riding at the trot and at the canter is that the air speed of the rider in the latter case is well in advance of that at the former.

The GALLOP.

The gallop is a distinct paradox. In view of the previous two paragraphs, one would expect the discomfort to be greater relatively to the discomfort at the trot, as the speed of the one is greater than the speed of the other.



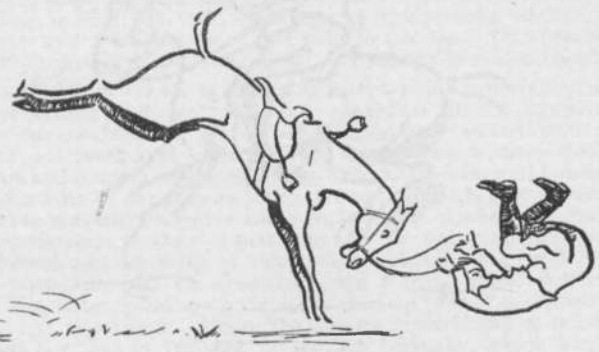
A particularly vicious brute

However, this is not the case. What really happens is as follows: The horse, having managed to get into top gear, covers the ground at a tremendous speed. Sir M*lc*lm C*mpb*ll has never experienced anything to compare with it. The bounce is greater than at the canter, but the distance covered in between bounces is immeasurably so. The horse is going up and down so rapidly that its back covers the ground like an H.F. wireless wave, and the rider never has time to hit the saddle between bounces. Hence, the latter accomplishes a gallop in the middle of a bounce, i.e., sitting on nothing, with the horse sometimes a short way, and sometimes a long way, beneath. Nevertheless, should the rider manage to remain with the horse whilst it gallops—the third mystery of the art—the gallop is by far the most comfortable motion a horse can achieve.

HANDS.

In accordance with general Army principles, this means wrists. According to the Manual, one is expected to restrain a particularly large and vicious mammal by a simple movement of the wrists. Give and take, is how the Manual describes it. Actually, give the horse an inch, and he takes you for miles.

R.S.M.s are unusually adept at managing a horse by wrist movement, but it must be taken into account that personality has a lot to do with it. As the horse has generally almost as much service to its credit as the R.S.M., it knows better than to act more viciously than a playful kitten. The R.S.M. knows this as well, and is therefore quite confident on a horse. Don't let this fool you, though.



There you are, off again !

When trying to stop a horse from any speed above a walk, one doesn't use " hands "—one adopts the position generally taken by the anchor man in a tug-of-war, except that one doesn't dig one's heels in the ground, for the simple reasons that :

(a) the ground is normally quite a long way off, and
(b) it is generally moving rapidly in the opposite direction.

Under these circumstances, as one hardened sinner told me, the most effective thing is to pray.

REINS.

These may be compared to the steering-wheel of a car, except that when one turns the steering-wheel of a car, the car also turns in that direction.

With a horse, " feeling one rein " is supposed to turn a horse in the direction of that rein. In theory this is correct. In practice, however, the only thing to do is to hope. Pull one rein, and lean over towards the side to which you wish to turn, and one of the following alternatives is sure to happen :

(a) The horse turns as you wish. You turn with the horse. This is very fortunate.

(b) The horse continues on its way. You undergo several minutes of agonising despair, and eventually (perhaps) regain your saddle. This latter is even more lucky.

(c) The horse turns in the opposite direction. You do not turn. This is less lucky.

The reins may also be used as a hand-brake—in theory !

In practice, " feeling both reins " may result in :

(a) Nothing happening. This is normal.
(b) The horse turns in either direction. This is hazardous.
(c) The horse stops dead. This is unfortunate.



The horse returns to stables

STIRRUPS.

On the end of long pieces of leather suspended from the horse's back, are horseshoe-shaped bits of iron, into which the feet are fitted before starting out. The feet are also known to remain in that position whilst the horse is walking. Should, however, the horse change into third or top gear, the stirrups become useless. In fact they become an absolute nuisance, because one

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WILL OUR READERS PLEASE SUPPORT THEM IN RETURN ?

★

worries instinctively where the damned things are until they hit one on the shin, and one worries also whether the feet are still there. Later on, of course, one ceases to worry about the feet at all—there are far too many other things to think about.

SADDLES.

The saddle is the least used part of the horse's equipment. It is normally placed in the middle of a horse's back, and tied on with bits of canvas which passes beneath the horse's equivalent to armpits, and is knotted across its chest. The main idea of the saddle is to prevent the rider from hurting the horse, should he return thither, impelled by gravity, after a bounce.

The idea of the bits of canvas is to prevent the horse taking a deep breath before thinking what to do next. This latter is the most useful piece of equipment.

FALLS.

One of the most important, or at any rate most frequently occurring, points to be noted while riding is falling off. This does not mean " falling off " like the standard of dress, or the frequency with which I.C. Drivers have their hair cut. This implies dismounting involuntarily.

Officers and Warrant Officers only are known to fall off on purpose. Other ranks just fall off—intermittently.

The Manual tells us that to fall off one's horse is really a difficult and complicated affair. This information is not to be believed !

There are several—nay, innumerable—ways of falling off a horse. There is no reason whatever to try to fall off on purpose ; this is by far the easiest thing to learn about horsemastership.

If the horse tries to go one way when you expect him to go another, one just falls off ! If the horse bounces slightly higher than usual, one bounces infinitely higher than usual, and by the time one comes down the horse has progressed a further ten yards, and there you are, off again ! If the horse remembers something and stops suddenly, you continue on your way ; after all, why should you be subordinate to the whims of a horse—and there you are—but why should I continue to enumerate ? These things just happen to anyone.

One point, however, is common to all falls. Sooner or later, no matter what the horse does, one reaches terra firma ; sometimes the terra is firma than at others, but invariably the first sensation registered (if one is still capable of registering sensations) is one of profound relief.

Action after a fall is determined by one or other of the following alternatives :

(a) The horse returns to stables. This is eminently satisfactory if the stables aren't too far away.
(b) You lead your horse back to stables. This is undignified.
(c) You remount your horse. This is asking for it !
(d) You are carried back. This is most restful.
(e) You are buried where you land. This is unfortunate.

Never mind, dear reader, don't let this put you off ; the horse will do that !

Happy landings, and loads of liniment.

Yours,
'Erb.
Egypt Signals.

— WITH THE B.E.F. —



Officers of Corps Signals Headquarters, B.E.F.

B.E.F. NOTES

A.A. Signals, B.E.F.

By W.J.A.N.

" Reorganisation," " Movements," " Leave "—all of which contributed towards the absence of notes from me in last month's issue of the Corps magazine, and for which I tender my apologies.

I had intended delivering my usual contribution, in person, on arrival home, but in the hurry and bustle of getting away after having had my original leave period cancelled, I finally left minus the notes in question.

My last instalment described the Unit's preparations for Christmas, and although somewhat belated I feel that we should at least record a very hearty vote of thanks to those who were responsible for producing such an excellent menu.

Owing chiefly to " Movement " and " Promotion " Orders, which robbed us of three of our star turns, the Entertainments part of our programme fell somewhat flat, but the impromptu " smoker " held by No. 1 on the afternoon of Christmas Day was a great success.

Since then we have moved again, also reorganised, and by far the worst part of both was parting with our C.O., who has been a great friend to all ranks on all occasions. Those of us who were privileged to serve under him in peace time take this opportunity of thanking him for his ever-ready advice and help in times of difficulty, and we wish him the best of health and good fortune in his new surroundings.

A host of other good fellows have quietly moved off to " fields and pastures new ": " Knox," " Wildo " and " Bailey " all to the " peerage "; Henshaw, Carney, Quilter, Preston, Brown and that stalwart " Q " bloke, Weeks, to other places of interest. In case we may not meet again during the present schemozzle, you chaps, here's wishing you all " good hunting " and DON'T FORGET THAT NEXT REUNION.

To all those who have " stepped up the ladder " we offer our very best congratulations. (Save your francs for the moment, I will have it later.)

We extend a special hand of greeting to our new C.O., and wish him every success. We likewise greet all our new arrivals and hope they will enjoy their sojourn with No. 1 Unit.

I wonder if Mac wangled his move!

Can any of our readers guess the most popular word with the B.E.F. at the moment? There is no prize for the correct answer and it lasts ten days.

The Februarv-ites were, perhaps, unfortunate with their weather conditions, but all are quite convinced it was well worth it.

We understand, however, that " Tommy's " language was responsible for a sudden thaw in the Yorkshire area.

Here's to the next time!

London Corps Signals, B.E.F.

12th February.

To-day our Section was given its first ordered copies of The Wire. We have been in France for a long time now, and, until quite recently, have had a very busy time. Much work has been done, in spite of the difficult climatic conditions; but we are now adding to our personal comfort and beautifying (?) the rooms of our *chateau* with tables and chairs made from odd pieces of wood. The art of hanging pictures has also spread.

Our sporting activities have been somewhat cramped, but we have managed to arrange three Inter-Section football matches, and a darts match to date. On two occasions we have played soccer against another Line Section and each time we proved superior, winning the first game 5—3 and the second 3—0. In the latter match the goals were scored by " Campaigner " Francis (Young Yob) (2) and Ken. Bardslev (1). We lost one match, against another Line Section, but the score was only 3—0; we hope to have the pleasure of meeting them again (if only for the free tea).

We were beaten in a very close game of darts—a truly marvellous game. At no time was either team in the lead by more than 50 points. Result: 2 games to 1.

We extend a hearty welcome to the newly arrived Section. They are mostly from the old home town, and are rapidly proving their worth.

We are also delighted to have with us a new W.O. in the person of S.S.M. Barker. His frequent quips and strange expressions are very much to the point, and are always amusing.

Leave is now more than half-way through, and soon we shall be scrubbing up our equipment for the second dose (if for no better reasons).

A Soldier's Lament (Agony Column).—What a pity that Charlemagne's hubby has returned home *en permission*. Young Yob has been sadly rebuked, but, as he says, " Never mind, eh? " Amazing, though, how his unslakable thirst has vanished since hubby serves behind the bar too.

Questionnaire.—Who pinched all the dripping, so that we only had one piece of fried bread this morning?

Who sits by the fire at the Signal Office and watches it go out?

Who was the —— who swept all the dirt under Moggy's bed?

Who took the string off the light switch to tie up his dirty washing?

Nobody knows as yet; maybe I'll be able to let you know next month.

Cheerio, all.

The Observer.

Made in a 40-hour week factory



HOME STATIONS

Yorkshire I.

1st Operators' Training Battalion

Headquarters Section

February.

General.—We are now well into the month of February, but there is still no sign of any change in the weather. Ever since the New Year came in there has been nothing but snow, which has made training somewhat difficult. The Operators, however, are a stout lot of fellows and it is going to take more than the weather to damp our spirits. After which preamble, let us get on with this month's notes.

Social.—It has not been a very eventful month, taken by and large, but happily the E.N.S.A. did not forget us. The Coliseum Variety Company gave two performances in the Regimental Institute on Friday, 26th January. These shows were all the more welcome as they were put on in face of much inconvenience suffered by the artists, who, after travelling in something like a blizzard, insisted on presenting their show for our benefit, although they must have been extremely cold and uncomfortable. The show was a first-clas effort, and received well-merited applause.

A concert was given in the Institute by the 1st Holding Battalion on Tuesday, 6th February, commencing at 8 o'clock, and was much appreciated, and a performance by our own Concert Party in the same Institute completes the total of entertainment up to the present time. The Unit Dance Band, however, are putting in a great deal of time and leisure for the forthcoming dances, which are to be held in the near future; and Sergeant Wagner, as indefatigable as ever, has prepared numerous short sketches and revuettes to be presented as soon as possible. It will be seen, therefore, that the Entertainments Committee are not wasting their time.

Sport.—Owing to the snow and the extremely hard nature of the grounds, all field sport has been completely held up. Tournaments had been arranged on a knock-out basis for soccer, rugby and hockey, for all Units in the Garrison, but these have now been cancelled. It is hoped to organise some similar competition when conditions become more favourable. Meantime, indoor recreation has proceeded apace. Particularly does this apply to boxing. On most evenings of the week the converted Education Rooms have presented a very lively scene with budding aspirants being coached in the principles of pugilism by Corporal Pearson and Lance Corporals Long and Brown. In addition, classes in physical training have been started by Lance Corporal Hufton, under the direction of Sergeant Whyte. A complete dossier of everyone's ability as regards sport and entertainments has been compiled with a view to ensuring that each man has a fair trial. Some interesting facts have come to light as a result; we have several men who have represented their counties at rugby football, and several ex-professional soccer players, in addition to a Cambridge University Athletic " Blue," all of which augurs well for our Battalion teams.

The only event worthy of note that has taken place since the New Year was the defeat of Darlington F.C. by the combined Garrison XI by 10 goals to nil! In this match the Operators' Battalion was represented by Signalman Smith (ex-St. Mirren F.C.) and ex-Signalman, now Cadet, Gomm, who scored four goals. As a result of the latter's display in this game, he was chosen to play in the Army Trial to decide the team to represent the British Army against the French Army XI in Paris. The result of this game is old news now, but it is unfortunate for Gomm that he should have to compete against such an accomplished rival as Lawton.

Postings and Appointments.—It is with very genuine regret we record the posting of our very popular second-in-command. His value has been recognised and he takes with him to his new appointment the good wishes of the entire Unit. The P.R.I. has taken over the vacant office of Pay and Accounts Officer.

Honours and Awards.—The Battalion has been honoured by the official intimation from the Army Commander that the services of Signalman (now Lance Corporal) Bond have been brought to his notice for devotion to duty in the Waziristan Operation. We offer him our hearty congratulations.

Promotions and Appointments.—The following have attained the ranks shown: Sergeant (A/W.O. III) Tennant to be C.Q.M.S. Lance Sergeants Melmore, Mattock, Wagner, Burrell and Shepherd; Lance Sergeant Boulton to be A/Sergeant; Corporals Ebbage and Adams to be A/Lance Sergeants; Lance Corporals Ganner, Illingworth, Craig, Bennett, Bagley, Robins, Tyres and Wilkins to be A/Corporals; A/U/Lance Corporal McCullough to be A/Corporal; Lance Corporal Lace to be A/U/Corporal; Signalmen Piper, Bailey, Gratton, Jennings, Parkinson and Brown to be A/Lance Corporals.

Births and Marriages.—We congratulate Sergeant Hatton and Sigs. Melia and White, who were recently married, and also Signalman Cook, whose wife has presented him with a son.

Discharges.—The following have been discharged from the service on the grounds of ill-health: Corporal Bastin, Signalmen Barton, Blackmore, Ferguson, Cowdray-Gadney and Clark A. B., and Driver Aherne P.

Courses.—2nd Lieutenant Pendleton attended Course No. 7 at the Northern Command Gas School and qualified with a Q.1 marking.

A/Lance Sergeant Gavins has been selected to attend No. 44 Emergency Sergeants' Course for Cooks, and Signalman Burrows L. is to attend serial No. 7a Course in Regimental Sanitary Duties at the Army School of Hygiene.

This concludes this month's record, and if it should appear to be a little bare of interesting information, that is the fault of the weather; let us hope that by next month we shall have more to relate.

No. 1 Company

General.—Whoever reads these notes will little realise that we had a fatigue party working for three weeks to get some news. Three men were permanently posted at the Information Bureau, and twenty-six tapping wires (the ones with ears), but apart from fifty-two rumours, an empty bird's nest and a sack of tomatoes, this is all we could produce. (We don't know how reporters live these days.)

Social.—We have had quite a number of concert parties visit our canteen and they have all been excellent shows. Our own Unit has also produced a really good effort. Sergeant Wagner was the " Big Shot " (all shows have " Big Shots "). Signalman Saul (I think he has had tuition from Leslie Charteris) was the compere, and the Unit band and ten others helped to make it a success. Special mention must be made of the " Western Bros." " They're not very W.D., chaps; they are not very W.D.," but they have certainly got something there.

Our Unit dance band has at last been recognised and they are to play at the N.A.A.F.I. Ball on 13th February. The combination of piano (Signalman Dobson), sax. (Signalman Reeves), drums (Signalman Cartwright), piano and accordion (Signalman Robson) and trumpet (Signalman Harris) certainly knows how to spell " rhythm." They are also performing at our own Company dance on 20th February—and if this dance is a success we are promised more. We'll let you know all about it in our next notes.

Sport.—We don't think this rightly belongs here, but it all happened on our Sports afternoon. It looked quite a cold job at first, but when the Company got down to it, somewhere in Yorkshire looked like somewhere in Yorkshire; and by the look of it, Mother Nature must think this a permanent job, or someone must have told here which is our sports afternoon.

We have had two cross-country runs, and so far we have not discovered any budding Nurmi's, but when things are in full swing we expect to produce a good team.

Boxing is becoming very popular, but we haven't been able to show our worth yet.

Marriage.—Congratulations to Lance Sergeant A. W. Hatton who married Miss Edna Jackson at Scarborough on 1st January. May their lives be long and happy.

Agony.—Signalman Morgan A. F., last heard of in Pekin. "How are you? Taff Steel."

Ernie, Stanley and Reggie Tosgood. "Stamps are not yet rationed. Geordie."

Conclusion.—Thanks, chaps, for sticking it out. Shall try to do better next month.

EIDROEG.

No. 2 Company

February.

In perusing the pages of this journal we are often struck by the surprising number of peculiar people whose doings are noted elsewhere, and chronicled, every month, and we have often pondered sadly on the absence of anyone with news value in this Company. It is with some pride, therefore, that we can discourse for a brief space on the curious behaviour of a ge uine eccentric whom we have at last unearthed. This fellow, Signalman, can be hired for a small fee as valet, major domo, or housewife. He will, for example, sew a button on any article of clothing for a halfpenny; he will renovate super-ventilated socks at threepence a pair; and he will prepare for parade the rifles of the rich at ninepence a time. He has informed us, in extenuation of his conduct, that he is about to enter the matrimonial state, where he will doubtless be able to supplement what his wife allows him weekly out of his pay by washing the dishes, digging the garden, cleaning the canary's cage, and making the bed.

An interesting state of affairs has now developed in the cookhouse. One expects an establishment of this nature to be peopled by a Corporal Cook, a few slaves, and a giggle of A.T.S. As the result of recent promotions, our food is now prepared by a C.Q.M.S., a Lance Sergeant, and an odd Lance-Jack or two. An unseemly jest comparing the profusion of promotion with the competence of cooking is on the tip of our pen, but we will leave it there.

One bunch of teletappers have recently sampled civilian delights during their spells with the P.O., and they were thought to have enjoyed to the full the night-life of our great cities. It turned out to be less than the "full," but N.F.R. pay has to be stretched pretty well even to make the "first quarter."

Trade ratings have been distributed with the usual speed and generosity. Lance Corporal Arnold has collected his BII, and Signalman Paterson acquired his BIII after one month's residence in our buzzing beehive. Paterson had had seven years or so as "Sparks" in the Mercantile Marine, but our instructors simply revel in that sort of obstacle. Signalman P. has now gone where all the bad boys go—to the local O.G.P.U.—where, despite the name, the inhabitants look to us like an offshoot of the *White* Russians!

Some of our folks belong to the other colour—two of the "Dead End Kids" were red enough to please Joe Stalin—though, I.T.M.A.!, they had German measles, and our hot-stuff Number Nines are booked for a few weeks' rest and retirement

Athletic activities for some weeks have been largely confined to winter sports.

On one half-day last month there was a great trek, without skis and snowshoes, through the forests of "Nearby," across the wind-swept uplands of "Furtheron," and along the glaciers and avalanche-slopes of "Konkingout." Even the gate-opening sentries earned their moments of respite.

It was shortly after this outing that C.S.M. (Tubby) Murphy and Corporal (Busty) Gillott had themselves transferred to foreign parts "over the water," but we cannot believe there is really any connection between the events. Good luck to you both! Our loss is the Transporting Company's gain. We understand that their percentage of failures in the trade tests is already halved.

Speaking of spuds (we do bump into some, chums!), we welcome home the other C.S.M. Murphy, after his sojourn on Olympus with the gods. "Cap off—face the door—quick march."

Reverting to sport, we have lots of fun and time off shovelling away the snow. If it keeps up its present system of thawing half an inch each day and chucking down a mere couple of inches each night, it will be nearly time for the summer holidays before there is enough snow to bury the Gaiety Theatre and give us a worthwhile toboggan run down to the N.A.A.F.I.

Promotions.—Lance Sergeant Boulton F. to be Sergeant; Lance Corporal Lace J. to be Corporal; Signalmen Piper J., Browne T., Grattan J. and Parkinson W. to be Lance Corporals.

Honours (reprinted from Unit Orders).—"Waziristan Operations, 1938. The Army Commander is pleased to intimate that the services of Signalman (now Lance Corporal) Bond H. have been brought to his notice for devotion to duty."

Marriages.—Congratulations to Corporal Carrison (Ginger) on his marriage to Miss Molly Booth. May you two soon B 3!

AESTAS.

No. 3 Company

General.—Being sensitive and tender hearted, these notes are going to be written with my eyes closed—I hate to see people suffering. The role of journalist fits me like Little Lord Fauntleroy's suit would fit Jack Dempsey or Bill Pack. All you need here is ambition, we will do the rest. Fixed a chap up with a job yesterday—£3 per week as a Test Baby in a pram factory.

Optical Illusions.—Don't look now, but there is a chap behind us wearing '08, no it isn't, it's Mounted; no, its '37 pattern equipment. So sorry to bother you; there are three of them. They sleep in the first three beds on the right in barrack room No. 100.

Congratulations.—To 2nd Lieutenant L. Pendleton on obtaining a Q.1 at the Anti-Gas Wing. To A/Cpl. Wilkins on attaining the "Threes" sweat. Three weeks and three months. Bear up, Hitler's lucky number is seven. To Lance Sergeant Gavins on a Q.T. Course at the School of Cookery. "Who called the cook?" has worn thin now, but we will think of another one by the time he returns.

Postings.—It is not policy to detail movements these days, even in the Corps Journal, so to all those who have left us recently we wish the best of luck and trust that it will be generally "all joy" for them.

Arrivals.—We extend a hearty welcome to the recent arrivals and would like to see them all obtain B.III ratings in record time.

No. 4 Company

We are afraid that this month we shall be unable to fall back upon our old "stand-by," the weather, owing to the censorship on all news concerning it. We have in our Company an officer with a flair for composing; he has had much of his music published and has more pending publication. We wonder if he will compose a symphony on this Unit and the weather we had over fifteen days ago. (Beat you, Mr. Censor.)

We don't know if Spring is in the air, but it's close proximity must be having some effect on our Company; so many people are getting engaged or committing "hara-kiri" by getting married. One lucky man, Lance Corporal Walker A. B. (ex-Egypt Signals), has become engaged to a charming little lady, Miss Ella Watson, who lives in Carlisle, and is the daughter of Flight-Lieutenant J. E. Watson, M.B.E., R.A.F. Of course we extend our heartiest congratulations.

St. Valentine's Day has come and gone and the troops in our Unit were not forgotten by the girls they have left behind. We hear of a certain Lance Corporal answering to the name of "Joe" receiving a shower of Valentines, one addressed him in no less endearing terms than "Sweety Pie." What thrills we get on the home front.

One of our chief sources of amusement these days is listening to "Lord Haw-Haw" on the N.A.A.F.I. radio; we find, however, that he is quickly losing popularity, oiwng to his supposed serious talks becoming stale and boring.

We are pleased to welcome to our Company C.S.M. Murphy C. to take over the vacant post. He will be well known to many "old Signals" for his eleven years' service in India.

Just a word of appreciation from our Company to the A.T.S. for the grand dances they put on each week at the Newbiggin Hall. The concert given by them last month, entitled "A.T.S.-a-Hoy!" was one of the best shows we have had. It was given by local talent, but with a little more professional producing it would be worth taking out as a touring Company.

Until next month we wish you all the best of luck from No. 4 Company.

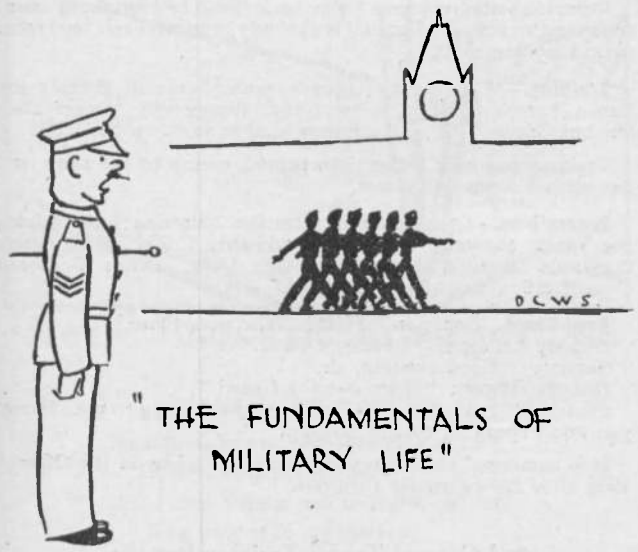
J. H. O.

"A" Company 1st Depot Battalion

Promotions and Appointments.—We convey our congratulations to the following: Corporal Rutherford to be Lance Sergeant; Signalman Beresford to be A/Corporal; and Signalmen Stockden and Stenning to be Lance Corporals.

The "Candidates."—We should like to introduce ourselves as one of the first squads of men recruited by the Joint Recruiting Boards, because of qualifications which should enable us to qualify for the O.C.T.U.

We are at present learning the fundamentals of military life—on the barrack square.



A rather unexpected duty, which appears to form a very important part of our training is the maintenance of a very good polish on the barrack-room floor. This, as we have learned from experience, is not an easy task and the most used phrase at the moment is: "Keep off that —— floor!"

We should like to put in a word for our human "alarm clock," whose vociferous shout shatters our slumbers with the never-to-be-forgotten words "Come on, boys, 6 o'clock! Shutters up, lights on."

The usual places of entertainment, Y.M.C.A. and N.A.A.F.I., were quickly sought out and patronised by all members, not only for "restoring the tissues," but by billiards players, chess experts and masters of table tennis to try their prowess against their fellows.

We should like to congratulate Signalmen Hamilton and Evans on winning prizes at the Company concert held on 22nd November.

Congratulations also to certain members on their unexpectedly successful pugilistic efforts when summoned unwillingly to the "Blood Tub" for "recreational training."

In conclusion, we should like to thank the officers and N.C.O.s of our Battalion for the great interest they are taking in our progress.



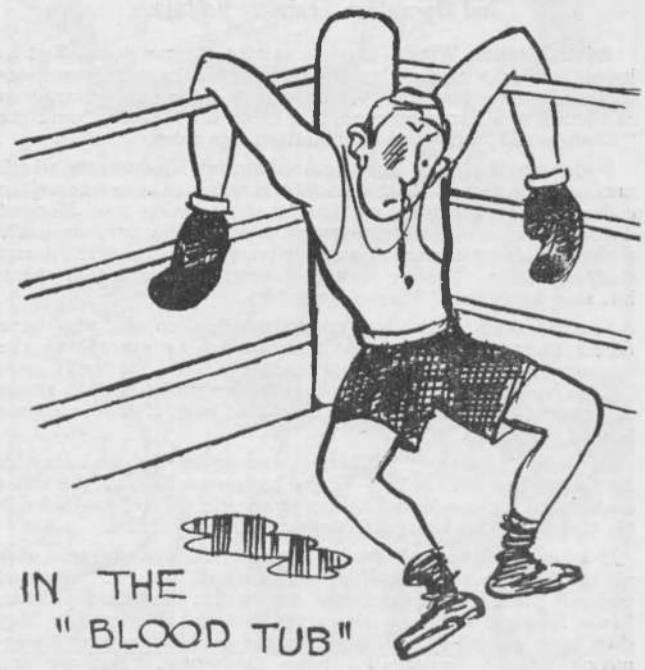
Sketches.—Many thanks to D.C.W.S.

The Philosophy of the Moment.—If it hadn't been for the snow we should have called it "Black January"; but, contrariwise, if it hadn't of been for the snow we probably shouldn't have wanted to.

The most popular song just now is "The snow fell out of heaven and mucked up our programmes too."

The worst of snow is that it lies about all over the place, like the morning after a binge—white, and cold, and cheerless.

Queries.—Since Sergeant Shuttleworth became the Company whispering vocalist, will he pose for "The Sergeant who lost it"?





Can the Company function when it's Sergeants are " insulated " ?

Did the Cadre really volunteer to go on the route marches ?

S.T.C. Wales

2nd Operators Training Battalion

Administration Wing.—Having written the previous effort in invisible ink, for secrecy, we discovered that the experiment was too successful ; this time we are merely taking the precaution of writing in a darkened room and using the " Secret " and the " Confidential " stamps to camouflage our notes.

Following the usual delicate and tactful adjustments which are quite necessary to the smooth running of a cosmopolitan collection of personnel, we find that everyone has clamped down on his job, and administration is proceeding very smoothly under the able guidance of an ever popular officer of India and Catterick fame. " They seek him here, they seek him there, but they can't find ' Possie ' anywhere."

Space forbids individual congratulations to all who have pulled their well-deserved promotions, so we are taking the opportunity of offering them collectively. To the lucky ones " Jolly good luck," and to the others " Don't mistake that crown on the arm of an acquaintance for a boil, even if it does appear to be a bit tender."

Corporal " Johnny " Williams was again the mainstay of Administration and S.T.C. Sports by persuading all the other contestants for the Army light-weight title that it was safer in his keeping. Our heartiest congratulations, Johnny.

Now we come to the " bashful " ones. It is our turn to wish all the best to the following, who entered the " Matrimonial Stakes " during the past couple of months : Sergeant Rickitts, Lance Sergeant Dempsey, Drivers Roden and Muxworthy. May they have a good run. They all came back from their honeymoons looking (apparently) none the worse. But we are, however, deeply concerned with that certain look in Jack's eyes, and wonder what " Griffin " he is daily giving to Sergeant " Taff " Evans, the date of whose entry into the aforementioned " Stakes " will be the most anticipated event of the entire local social season.

Signalman Westgate W. is the father of a bonny, bouncing, baby girl. Nice work, " Lofty " ; we will never judge a book by its cover again.

We extend our greetings to all who have joined us during the past few months, and hope that their stay will prove to be as pleasant as was that of those who have been torn from our safe keeping for the supposedly more pleasant climes elsewhere.

And so for the present we leave you ; we hope to bring you something of interest every month.

SIGNALSAM.

No. 1 Company

General.—As these are the first notes, it will be just as well to introduce the personnel. This month's deal with ex-Indian wallahs, who have returned fairly recently : C.S.M. Sherrington S.S.M. Brunton-Douglas, Sergeant Chrystie, Lance Sergeant Hogg, Corporals Dunn and Etches, Lance Corporals Addlesse and Birkett and Signalman Hough.

Reservists who returned " way back " will be brought in later . according to some, " Datas " is the only man who can remember when they went out.

Training.—The first two squads, under Sergeant Birkett and Lance Sergeant Hogg respectively, successfully passed their ice, but Group " E " and are now hard at work for the BI11.

Training has been rather interrupted, owing to the snow and has settled down again now.

Promotions.—Congratulations to the following on attaining the ranks shown : R.Q.M.S. Marchant, C.S.M. Sherrington, Corporals Bassett, Bridgeman and Daly, Lance Corporals Cowell, Miles, Saunders and Head.

True Story.—Sentry : " Halt ! Who goes there ? "
Orderly Officer : " Orderly Officer."
Sentry : " Good evening, sir."
Orderly Officer : " Turn out the Guard."
Sentry : " I'm S.R., sir. That conveys nothing to me. Would you mind speaking to the Sergeant ? "

It is rumoured that heavy drinking took place in the Officers' Mess after the guard *did* turn out.

2nd General Trades Training Battalion

No. 4 M.T. Company

Promotions.—Bit early yet, chums !

General.—

E.N.S.A. concerts going " strong,"
N.A.A.F.I. slow as ever ;
Guards and duties can't go wrong—
What (blue pencil) weather.

From which, dear readers, you will not learn a great deal Mind you, in these days of rigid censorship, the unhappy scribe has a cast iron excuse.

You see, life becomes increasingly difficult for the present-day journalist. See our short story below and some of you may get the moral.

These notes have to be padded with something, so I resort to rhyme if not to reason ; otherwise there would be nothing left after the censor had run his eagle eye over them. For instance, he cut at least two inches of good laugh out of the last two efforts, and, after all, it was only about the R.S.M. ! Not that I should quarrel with the censor ; he is a pal of mine !

Promotions.—" Wait for it ! "



LOCAL MAGNETIC ATTRACTIONS

MAIN GATE LAMENT.

Something attempted—something done,
To earn a night's repose
But I shan't sleep well to-night, old son,
I'll be welded to my clothes!
For to-night I'll envy the sleeping Corps—
And order arms to the " Time " of " snore."

He chanted this as he put his oil bottle and pullthrough into the breech and sloped arms with the Orderly Sergeant.

Promotions.—Hang on, they won't be long!

Short, Short Story.—(All characters are fictitious—I think).

Dotty Dilman, I mean Ditty Dolman, hang it, I mean our great lover, staggered into the office crying aloud.

" I've seen it! I've seen it! "

" I'm not surprised," said our office lad. (What a common boy!)

" I've seen the face that launched a thousand ships," said Ditty Dolly, or whoever he is, unabashed.

" I've seen you with it," said the area cleaner, " but they must have used it to knock out the scotches! "

Anyway, it made one bloke laugh.

Promotions.—That shook 'em, but I know I will hold your attention until you've seen them; for the time being I've decided to dwell on the weather, seeing as how the " Ministry of Malnutrition " has given permission to tell the outside world.

After four months of intense heat, during which all the gramophone records had to be kept on ice, " the rains came " and with them disease, washed down from the plague-ridden mountains.

Apart from that, there is not the slightest bit of news that would interest Adolf.

PS. (**Gestapo**).—Maybe there is! I sent the orderly to look for the Company Sergeant Major, but when he came back he was absolutely babbling, and through his hysteria I deciphered this:

I seek him here,
I seek him there,
I follow him nearly everywhere!
In one chalet—out again!
Round the block and back again.
Heaven knows where the man gets to,
" He's baffling the enemy, I think," said Sue.

Our Office Boy Says.—That if everyone here was inoculated against " platonic friendship " there wouldn't half be some reaction. I wonder if (th at's all he said.

Promotions.—Corporal Moss J. to Lance Sergeant; Lance Corporals Taylor and Delaney to Corporal; Signalmen Knowles, Newsome, Wignall and Driver Vann to Lance Corporal.

Courses.—A/Corporal —— has proceeded to —— for a Course in ——. Anyway, I'm having a rest from WIRE notes for a month, so until the April issue (foolish thought), au revoir.

DE-HYPHEN.



GARGLE!



No. 3 Company

Nailed.—So, wiping the sweat from brow and rubbing glasses (eye) with anti-dim, here goes !

To avoid giving information to the enemy, although this will not be published until after a 15-days' period, comments on the weather would probably be censored. My comments would certainly be censored, anyhow, so the less said the less the likelihood of a depression, or something.

Meet the Gang.—Being our first appearance in print, some sort of introduction would appear to be indicated. We are the Works-Shops Trades and " class " of the Unit. Officers' names, I understand, are taboo, but here are the senior W.O.s and N.C.O.s (or corrupters-in-chief) : C.S.M. Thorne G., S.S.M.s Kirby E. and Wintermere H., C.Q.M.S. Saunders H., Sergeants Hart A., Dick J., Ashford R., Brooks H., Linton J., Harrod C., Fairclough C., Webb A., Rankin A. and Lyons H., and Lance Sergeant Toogood D. A further instalment will be given at a later date. NOISES OFF (0645) : Lance Corporal Midge Relton.

Lots of Other Things We Would Like to Have Said.—Censored.

Things We Want to Know.—Who sewed the W.O.'s pyjamas ?

Decorations.—By the inimitable Drawing School.

Obituary.—It is with deep regret that we have to record the death of Signalman Morgan W. H., a Militia boy of great promise. He was a trainee clerk and had already shown himself to be a lad of the finest principles. A memorial service was held at the local church and attended by a large detachment of the Unit. We tender our deepest sympathy to his parents in their irreparable loss.

J. R. S.

Yorkshire 3

3rd Operators' Training Battalion

The Entertainment side is in the capable hands of an active committee, comprising one officer, the R.S.M., and a representative of each Company.

Social evenings are " hits " regularly each week and are very popular, judging by the enthusiastic attendance. Space is at present limited, but this problem will, we hope, soon be solved. There was dancing to the latest melodies played by our own Band, which received a hearty reception by appreciative dancers and onlookers on its first appearance last week. We have variety items such as those by Sergeant Dunn of the R.T.R., who should have broadcast, but appeared as a star turn with his piano-accordion, playing classical pieces as well as tango music.

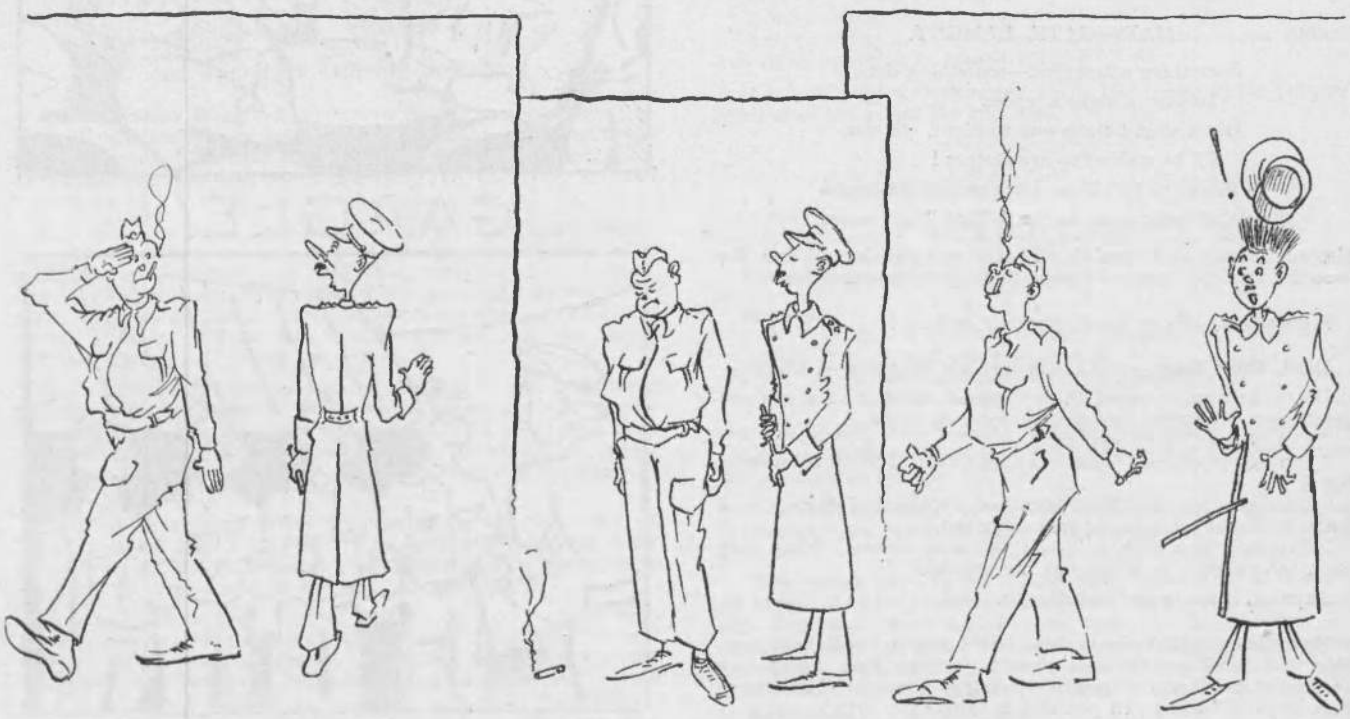
In the final of the Table Tennis Tournament, Section Leader Starkey of the A.T.S. beat Signalman Charity. The Darts Final was also held, Lance Corporal Needham being the winner. Commandant Brown, A.T.S., kindly gave prizes for these competitions.

Our social evenings have a friendly atmosphere, not usually found in formal functions. As the A.T.S. are attached to our Battalion, they form part of our large family. Several entertained us with songs and dances ; others, on occasion, play the drums in the band. Our own boys lpay the uke, tap-dance, and sing to their own accompaniment. Dancing classes have started under a Sergeant and a member of the A.T.S., who are professional instructors in civil life. They teach poise, deportment and ballroom behaviour as a foundation for correct dancing.

It may be added that, having earned an evening's recreation by a week's hard work, the Battalion refuses to be put off by anything, even a burst fire and fifty burst pipes, not mere trickles but spurting cataracts. While the civilian plumber ws mending his last dozen, and the Quartermasters' clerk had got lost under the floor in his search of water cocks, the Orderly Officer was swimming to the Adjutant's Office and strains of merriment could be heard above the lapping of the waves. One victim, who is a journalist when he isn't soldiering, was asked to investigate and report upon the first impressions of one of his comrades, and the following resulted :

When Shakespeare blithely called on the winter wind to blow for the inconsequential reason that it was not as unkind as man's ingratitude he spoke out of time. He had not, I am afraid, sampled the special brand of wind kept for the exclusive benefit of a Signals Training Centre " somewhere in the north of England." The town may not have been able to rival Helen's face lauded by Marlowe as having launched a thousand ships, but it will certainly be known henceforth in the Signals as the place that froze a thousand pipes.

All of which, since it has a hackneyed smear of culture, is a journalists' method of concealing how khaki and the freeze-up made him " fall down " on a story. If Chaucer's monk out



of his cloister was like a fish out of water, then assuredly this poor scribbler has, out of his long coat and slouch hat, been a tropical fish caught in the Arctic ice-floes.

To be intelligible—when I was asked to interview a colleague fresh, like myself, from the squall on his impressions, reputedly salted with cauterised wit, of an Operators' Training Battalion, I heard momentarily in my ears once more the click of civilian typewriters and the tinkle of weekly expenses. That the click turned out to be the commencement of another hail blizzard and the clatter of silver a piquet " easing springs " was tribute to my imaginative powers, but no assistance in supplying atmosphere.

I did find my colleague curled round a radiator which had ceased on the third day of this Ice Age to do more than snore heavily in vain attempts to persuade us that, in spite of the fact that not an ordinary water pipe in the area remained unfrozen, it could still do a job well.

Unfortunately, when I did manage to make myself heard above his chattering teeth and the roar from the 98th burst pipe, he turned out to have been listening too well to his Sergeant-Major.

" Drop me a pearl of your wit in this question of training for Finnish cold," I asked.

" I can't," he said, with unaccustomed dignity and assurance. " I am a soldier first and a commentator afterwards."

I could only conclude that this I.C.W. message had some relation to those " walls have ears " notices and press non-chalantly on.

" Do you think," I asked, making vain efforts to rise to his heights of bitterness, " we will make better Channel swimmers or Sonja Heines after our alternating experience of flooded rooms, frozen rooms and frozen sheets of water ? "

He looked blank ; then he became less soldierly and committed himself so far as to say " I know nothing—except that apparently the quick brown fox is still jumping over the lazy dog."

I looked bright for I had tapped a cardboard sheet, too.

" Yes," I agreed, " but where are the good men who are to come to the aid of this unfortunate party ? "

" You're being funny now," he flattered, and then came as near to thawing as was conceivable in those days.

" If you really want a story I'll give you a good one. Head it " The Truth About Dracula." Do you know that old boy was sadly misjudged ? He was really a scientist ahead of his time.

"All this blood-sucking business that he had as a hobby about here was really an early experiment in the frozen blood transfusing business. I think his real trouble must have been in getting someone in this Siberian outpost whose blood wasn't already in ice form."

I said I could cap that with the real reason for Captain Cook sailing for summer climes, but in his best security piquet manner he pointed to the large notice headed " Official Secrets Acts, 1911 and 1920."

" Do you know," I asked, switching the subject adroitly, " you give the lie to one of our Scots Makkar poets ? He once repeated at considerable length ' timar mortis conturbat me.' Well, you don't worry much about that, so I'll give you a motto for when you get your peerage : ' frigor regalisconturbat me.' "

He said he didn't get me, but if I was talking about dying I was late in the day, for he had not lived for the past week—only existed.

I am afraid I had to leave it at that.

The quick brown dog was jumping once more and the good men being informed that aid was timeous.

I didn't, as may be apparent, find much about Signal Training, but I didn't want to press him too hard lest he lapsed into the habits of a few short weeks ago and commenced to declium, " Check, one, two, three, lead-on, swing."

It's all well-known at any rate and the well-known isn't news. The cold froze everything but the comradeship, and the more we shivered or grumbled the less we disliked it. An evening concert, after all, is much more attractive if it is snowing outside, and even if coal refuses to last for ever, four walls derive extra attraction from each lashing howl of ice-bearing wind.

VE all Signals. VAA still no complaints.
VA AR.

R. E. S.

Eastern Command Signal Company

Headquarters

Since our last appearance in the Wire nothing of exceptional importance has happened, except, of course, such items as would not pass the Censor. It is, therefore, difficult to write anything of interest each month as moves of officers, N.C.O.s and men may not be mentioned.

During January we experienced some of the worst weather on record. Roads were impassable, trains were held up for hours on end, consequently the Despatch Riders had a difficult time in carrying out their duties.

The wave of sickness, especially 'flu and measles (English and German !) spread to all ranks, including our Teleprincesses, one of whom, not being content with Ersatz measles, endeavoured to copy the famous De Reszke cigarette advertisement by appearing on duty with more than half of her face obliterated, whilst another had an argument with the ice when skating.

Nevertheless, in spite of these setbacks, all traffic has been handled in an efficient manner and some of our switchboard operators (who did not report sick after a dance) have been congratulated on their work.

Dances have been held on several occasions, and these have been attended by officers, N.C.O.s and men of Headquarters and other Units, including A.T.S. Units, to whom we always extend a welcome.

A.A. Signals, Berkshire

No. 1 Company

The past month has seen an attack on all fronts by battalions of 'flu germs. The enemy were very insistent and up to 50 per cent. of our detachments were sick at one time. They have now nearly all recovered and are looking forward to their seven days' leave.

The recent very severe weather, apart from holding up all forms of sport, has added a lot of hard work to the lot of our Lineman Section and all the Army comforts (Mk. V) they have received must have been very useful at such a time.

During the past month two of our cooks have been on a Course and have returned full of more recipes than can be found between the covers of a Mrs. Beeton's. Implicit faith has to be placed in the efforts of our cooks and so far they have lived up to the maxim that the way to a man's heart is through his stomach. Could a man fail, though, with a name like B(r)istow. More strength to their rolling pins.

This month there have again been several men who have been punished for their deeds and to these having received stripes we offer our congratulations. Congratulations also to those who have been posted to O.C.T.U.s and, having assumed the band of purity round their heads, we wish them every success in their new sphere.

The D.R. Section have now received their new motor-cycles and instead of the homely pop-pop-pop of a 250 c.c. machine one now hears a throaty roar and a cloud of dust indicating the direction (or directions) machine and rider are taking. (Knowing our D.R.s, these are not always the same !) Who was the D.R. who, having parked his bike, left it in gear, and on going to start it, found himself chasing same towards the nearest shop window. (No prizes for the correct answer.) To Sergeant Holland and his cheeses (no offence lads) we wish many miles of trouble-free running, and, what's more, maybe better weather than of late.

The following sweet little ode came to hand and we are daring to publish it (Editor permitting !) :

THE ORDERLY ROOM

First on the list is R.S.M. Grinter,
Whose sweet sunny smile makes one forget winter ;
The next is the man who looms up so large
And goes by the name of Headington, " Sarge."
The man we see next does all Part II Orders,
But he can spin yarns something like Harry Lauder's ;
Comes Jarvis, the bloke with the sweet curly head,
Who looks like an angel when tucked up in bed.

And Wheeler, who's tough when smoking his " Gun,"
Yet people all know his life's just begun ;
Then Nobby, the draughtsman, cum-filer, cum-clerk,
Who knows all the places when out for a lark.
Then let's not forget them, the A.T.S. two
Who keep all the men from getting quite blue ;
One is called Lewis, the other one, Booth,
They're the oil in the works to help things run smooth.

ACAC/CHARLIE.

A.A. Signals, Nottinghamshire

Arrival.—2nd Lieutenant F. C. Clarke joined for service on 1st February from the A.O.E.R. We extend to him a hearty welcome and hope he will soon find himself at home with Army rules and procedure.

Departures.—The departure of the Officer Commanding No. 1 Company has indeed been a loss to the Unit. Joining us on formation he proved popular with all ranks and many will deeply regret his departure. All acquainted with him bid him good luck and God-speed with his Artisan Works Company of the Royal Engineers.

Under the Ministry of Labour comb-out, Signalman Hale J. was granted indefinite release from service and we hope he will enjoy being back in civilian clothes once again.

Promotion to Acting Rank.—2nd Lieutenant J. W. Grieve has now taken charge of No. 1 Company and his recent elevation has been well received. Everyone hopes that the three stars will be his for keeps.

Courses.—It is with pleasure that we have to announce that Lance Corporal Robertson V. F., Signalmen Haynes D. J. and Wright C. P. have been selected to attend the O.C.T.U. (Infantry) Their success will be the loss of the Unit and Corps, but we hope that they will eventually gain their commissions.

Driver Rowbotham N. has gone to Scotland for a Course on motor driving and maintenance work. We know that he will use the time at his disposal to the best advantage.

Instruction.—Continuing the Monday evening series of lectures, the R.S.M. gave officers, W.O.s and senior N.C.O.s copious details about military discipline and law. The concluding lecture took the form of a mock trial and the Orderly Room Sergeant looked a pathetic figure as the accused. The trial and subsequent comments by the critical onlookers proved informative to all who so far have not been mixed up with the black side of army life It is a matter for conjecture as to where the accused spent his seven days C.B., but he was seen going up the road with the two witnesses about twenty minutes after the verdict had been announced.

Marriages.—None to report this time, although we have received advance warnings about some in the near future, but a deaf ear is being turned to such hints.

General.—The social life of the Unit has not been so prominent this month, as the inclement weather and prevalence of illness have greatly curbed such activities. The Spring, however, is being awaited with eagerness and it is hoped to organise something in the open air when the weather improves.

H. S.

The First (London) Ack Ack's

The most important outward sign of our recent progress is the rapid approach of the completion of our new building. The builders have dismantled sufficient scaffolding to reveal a structure which is both handsome and practical, and their work has advanced to the point when steel window-frames are being fixed in position. It will not be many weeks now before this extension of our premises gives us the " Lebensraum " we greatly need. The new place consists of three spacious floors and a basement.

The ground floor is designed as a garage with loading bays and workshops, etc. The first floor will provide us with a handsome drill hall, at the end of which a permanent stage is being built so that a home for our social interests in the future is assured. A polished teak floor is being laid so that our dance fans will enjoy themselves. On the top floor will be Company offices and lecture rooms, the whole being decorated in the attractive green and cream colours used in the reconstructed section of the Headquarters. The flat roof has been specially strengthened and railed round, thus providing space for parades and drills in fine weather.

The reconstructed section of the old building is now complete, and we hear that the Officers' Mess is a very handsome place, with its modern lighting and panelling.

Our programme of training has advanced considerably, most of the men having secured technical ratings during the recent trade boards. In fact, the training is sufficiently advanced for us to be able to send some of our instructors to the newly-formed R.A. and other Units who have to acquire a working knowledge of signals practice.

Now that the weather is being kinder, all sections are seizing every opportunity to perfect their drill, both with and without arms, with a view to showing off well in the inter-section drill competition scheduled for the end of February. The dignified streets around our headquarters are having their blue-blooded silences shattered by sharp words of command and the tramping of heavy boots. In fact, the last week-end before the competition has produced a positive bedlam in the locality. The eagerness of all ranks to achieve perfection in every movement is already producing slickness which would do credit to any regiment.

The milder weather has come as a welcome tonic to enable us to recover from our share of trouble from the common pests of 'flu and laryngitis, and we are hoping to recommence our numerous sports after the disorganisation in those activities caused by weeks of snow and ice. The cricket fans are waking from their winter sleep and it is believed that the Unit will be able to field a decent side in the spring.

After the big events of Christmastide, our social activities have lessened, but ample amusement has been provided. Corporal Manley and his "Ack Ack Rhythmix" have provided good music for two very enjoyable carnival dances, and individual members of the Unit have taken part in the informal concerts which are held on every other Tuesday in the local Dugout. It must be recorded that 2nd Lieutenant J. E. Hinde's valiant efforts to produce a comedy entitled " Third Time Lucky " have not been successful so far, for reasons connected with duties and illness, but he evidently has no intention of abandoning the attempt without a struggle.

The Local Dugout continues to form the lively centre of off-duty hours. How much it impresses men of other Units (besides ourselves) is evidenced by the behaviour of a Canadian soldier who walked into the Dugout by chance, the night after landing in this country. He liked it so much that, before moving on, he spent most of his leave with us instead of touring the sights of London. Under the guidance of the Unit Officiating Chaplain, the Rev. Bryan S. W. Green, the standard of comfort and entertainment in the Dugout is undoubtedly being maintained at the highest level ; and we cannot tire of expressing our gratitude for his enterprise.

The third issue of the Unit magazine, the "Ack Ack Mercury," will have made its appearance by the time these notes are read. Unavoidable delays have held up publication, but it has been accomplished. The current number features an interesting article on observation, " Eyes and No Eyes," by the second-in-command, the first instalment of reminiscences by C.S.M. Whittingham, M.B.E. (whose recollections are drawn from over 31 years' service), and other bright and entertaining articles and stories by many other members of the Unit.

We are sorry to part company with Captain Blair, who is leaving us for duty elsewhere. After the C.O. and second-in-command, he is the officer with the longest service in our Unit. We shall remember with affection his many good qualities and sportsmanship, for his prowess at running and on the football field put us on the map and encouraged the athletic members to train hard at our annual camps. Do you remember " Our David " in his famous green sports overalls ? Out of the overalls —win a hard race—back into the overalls and organise another race—out again to win another—and so on ! What a man ! A little bird tells us that he proposes to present a selection of his numerous sports trophies to the newly-forming Officers' Mess—except tankards. He puts these to such excellent use that he can't spare one of them.

We wish him good luck and God speed. The whole Unit, but in particular his own famous Section, will welcome a visit from him when he gets a leave home.

E. G. L.

West Country Divisional Signals, Devonshire

Owing to the temporary absence of the Unit Editor it falls to me to write a few notes.

As will be seen from the Company contributions which follow, we have had our fair share of snow and frost. Conditions are improving, training is becoming more normal, and games are now being indulged in again.

The rugby team covered itself with glory, when visiting a Field Regiment in the vicinity in the second round of the Divisional Trophy, by winning most handsomely by 30 points to 3. We now await news as to whom we meet in the next round. Training proceeds along the usual lines, and from the result of trade tests there is evidence that the standard of efficiency is gradually improving.

Several new personnel have joined us during last month, and at the same time we have lost a number of men. We welcome those who have joined us, and wish the best of luck to those who have left us.

W. E. B.

No. 1 Company

Snow and burst pipes have been the dominant features of the past month. During the height of the season insignia of rank seems to have carried no guarantee against receiving a snowball down the back of the neck. However, that is now all melted away and forgotten !

In spite of the 'flu, the Company has managed to struggle through. Individual training still continues and it is going to be a keen competition as to which Company will add most to its pay roll when the total number of trade groups are mustered.

We must congratulate U/Lance Corporal Axe on qualifying so well at his entrance examination for the Foreman-of-Signals, and also on getting his first stripe. Then, too, we have to congratulate Corporal Harris G. A., on his promotion to W.O.III. Unfortunately we have to lose him to another Company, but we shall keep an eye on him in " No. 3."

Sport.—Ground conditions have been responsible for holding up several games, but the Company still continues to be well represented in the Unit rugger team, which continues to add to its victories. Several men are now keenly training for the Inter-Divisional Boxing Contest and for the Cross-country Running team.

Social.—The month has not been lacking in entertainment. The Company ran another successful dance on 31st January, and it is noticed that No. 1 Company are regular supporters of the Unit dances. In addition to this there have been concert parties booked for every week of the last month. " B " Cable ran an excellent stag party on 29th January, which was attended by the Company Commander and most of the other officers of No. 1 Company. The musical and histrionic talent revealed was quite astounding !

ONECOY.

No. 2 Company

Probably the most striking incident of the past month was the invasion of the Company Lines by the recently arrived batch of A.C.I. This lasted for a week, and things certainly were lively whilst the stay lasted ! Their arrival coincided with a heavy fall of —— (!), and whilst the beauty of this weather is appreciated on Christmas cards, the A.C.I. boys were compelled to rough it until they were eventually " togged " with warmer kit and good old army boots. Since then they have, by now, firmly established themselves in the country mansion placed at their disposal under the genial care of our Company Commander and C.S.M. King, and their staff of N.C.O. Instructors. Good luck to them on their launching into army life.

Company affairs still go with a swing, and individual training proceeds much as usual. No doubt everyone will be glad to see better weather, to enable more outdoor work to be tackled.

We have had a fair share of sickness and at present there are still one or two unfortunate lads laid up, and we hope soon to welcome them back in good health again.

We have lost some of our personnel through postings to other Units, and they carry with them our good wishes in their new surroundings.

Turning to the lighter side of life, we have again enjoyed some very fine Dances at the Town Hall, and in addition the weekly visits of concert parties to entertain us is much appreciated, and we look forward to many more before the lighter evenings come to lift the depressing black-out.

Footnote.—

There were rats, rats as big as cats,
On the floor, on the floor ;
There were rats, rats as big as cats,
On the Cider Factory floor.
Our coats were gnawed,
Our sleep disturbed,
As all night long their noise we heard,
As all night long their noise we heard.

I must explain that the rats were apparently affected by the prevalent sore throat plague, and were doing their best to get at a tin of popular throat sweets which reclined in the jacket of a junior N.C.O.

SQUIFFY.

No. 3 Company

We open this month with the pleasant task of congratulating our O.C. upon his recent marriage. We should like to wish him and his wife every possible happiness and good fortune.

We welcome S.S.M. Harris, who has been transferred to us from No. 1 Company.

During the past month, Sergeants Todd and Giece have been promoted to S.S.M. Congratulations to both of them.

The cold spell (officially released by the Censor) does not, from all accounts, seem to have affected us so much as the rest of the country ; but even our few degrees of frost made most people somewhat cold.

A few more members of the Company have left us to go further north. We should like to wish them good luck and say how sorry we are that we shall have no more lampposts to lead the Company.

Our Unit training Course was broken into for a week's Company Training. This was a very welcome change and acted as a break from Individual Training.

We regret to say that our soccer team crashed badly in the second round of the Divisional Shield, but they had not been able to have a single match or practice game since a fortnight before Christmas.

With daylight saving time here within a fortnight we are all looking forward to signs of an early spring.

F. E. B.

Lowland Divisional Signals

Once again the pen has been relegated to another. The weight of responsibility having come to rest heavily upon the shoulders of the worthy " Victoc," it is with some trepidation that your new scribe takes over.

Since the last literary effort appeared in these pages, several new faces have come among us and to all of these we would extend a hearty welcome. Especially would we offer our heartiest congratulations and good wishes to our second-in-command and his charming wife, whose nuptials took us all by surprise, the arrangements and celebrations all taking place in about three days. We had barely recovered from that event when a new arrival in the family of Lieutenant ——— called for further wassail in the time-honoured manner.

Training.—It is nearly two months since we moved to commence our second period of training which is now progressing well. Technical training of an intensive nature has been going on for more than a month, and this has culminated in a Trade

Board at which our trainees have been proving their worth or otherwise as the case may be. A certain reorganisation of sections and section officers has been completed, while our intake class continues to be absorbed by the Companies. The cult of M/T is followed with much energy by all and sundry and an animated situation greeted our T.M.O. on his return from Yorkshire. The Unit is being well represented on other Courses being held in different parts of the country. We have seen several parties of regimental signallers, who have paid us fleeting visits to attend courses here.

General.—Our " Doc.," who at first had faith in " Victoc's " prophecy that fresh air would reduce him to a state of chronic unemployment, has had his hopes dashed. The usual 'flu raised its ugly head in our midst and, in a short while, caught many of us. The V.A.D.s, however, took the matter in hand with such efficiency that we are now nearly back to normal again. Weather has, in common with most places been most unkind. Snow appears with maddening regularity, while the barometer bobs up and down just above zero. This has hampered the programme of outdoor games and recreation, but we must deny at once the rumour that a ski section will shortly be drawing its stores !

Despite the weather, the Unit's social activities have flourished. Dances have been held with much success on Saturdays and our sincere thanks are due to those young ladies who have valiantly turned up every week to make these events so popular. Concerts both by E.N.S.A. and Unit talent, and a film show, have all helped to cheer us up.

Lest the Editor's pencil be invited, these notes will refrain from recording that epic billiards match between Messrs. E—— and L——, of 25 up. Suffice to say that it was one of those things that keep Lowland Signals cheerful and a power in the country.

ATELLTEE.

Scottish Divisional Signals

Despite the conditions under which work has had to be undertaken during the past few weeks, training still " rules the roost " within the Unit.

The severe cold and the resultant discomfort in billets caused a spate of illness among the troops, but apart from this, and other obstacles in the way of frozen pipes, etc., there was no slackening off in the standard of efficiency set by the men prior to the cold spell. However, with Spring not far off, conditions for outside work and recreational facilities should rejuvenate the " winter worn " minds of the men, and, in turn, make rapid progress possible.

Sport.—Sport within the Unit is no secondary consideration, and our A.P.T.S. instructor has shown his driving powers by the introduction of what was formerly unknown sport. Handball, boxing, badminton, cross-country, swimming and other recreational pastimes, guaranteed to make the weakest strong, are included on the stalwart's agenda. A move is afoot at present to mould together a badminton team, as a match has been arranged with one of the local school teams and the keenness and skill displayed at recent practice games augurs well for victory—for us, we hope.

A word of praise is also due to the Padre for the effort he has made in inculcating an interest in the sports sphere.

Greetings.—Cordial greetings are extended to the recent intake of volunteers and recruits who have received a change of garb in recent weeks. Some of the new lads arrived from destinations as far north as John o' Groats (as they say in the Press), while others are helping to change the title of the Unit, with their " queer " Sassenach tongues ! We trust they will not take long in learning our colloquialisms and customs and the art of " spit and polish."

Promotions.—Congratulations are due to the following who have recently appeared on the promotion list : W.O. III Sanderson W. to A/R.S.M., Sergeant McLennan H. J. to A/C.Q.M.S., Lance Sergeants Malone D., Archibald R. and Wright J. to A/Sergeants, Corporal Dale to A/Sergeant.

Arrivals.—We have a new addition to the list of officers in Lieutenant J. B. D——. We offer him a most hearty welcome and trust he will fit in to his new home.

Dance.—One of the highlights of recent entertainments held within the lofty portals of our Unit H.Q. was a dance sponsored by No. 1 Company. So successful was the evening that it has spurred on the Committee into deciding that such evenings should take place every month. As always, dancing did not hold such a great spell over the " boys." as such counter-attractions as the consuming of creamy cakes and sandwiches proved to be much more enjoyable.

Concert.—The song and dance numbers introduced by the cast of the " Uptown Club," who volunteered their services in providing the Unit with entertainment recently, received a splendid ovation from a very critical and appreciative audience.

The artist·s, though not of professional status, have to be commended for their effort, and in undertaking, on their own initiative, such a venture.

Appreciation.—The prompt manner in which Sergeant Wattleworth dealt with an outbreak of fire in a part of the building this week earned him the praise of the Commanding Officer and prevented what might have been a serious outbreak. The local fire brigade were called to the scene, but their services were not required. We must thank them, however, for turning out and adding a little colour to the " ceremony."

Obituary.—We have to extend to the parents of the late Signalman Graham J. our deepest sympathies in their time of bereavement. Signalman Graham contracted a chill which developed into pneumonia only a few weeks after he had joined us, and passed away shortly after admission to a local hospital.

J. C. D. M.

Army Signals, West Riding of Yorkshire

The recent severe weather conditions have afflicted us in a similar manner to the other parts of England, and we have had the same long story of burst pipes, lack of water, deep snowdrifts, glassy surfaces and delayed travellers as other people.

A number of E.N.S.A. Concerts have taken place. One, in particular, on 19th January, was of a very high standard, and very much appreciated by all who saw it. We are very grateful to the artistes who have struggled to reach us through adverse road conditions to present their shows. The weather did its very worst during one of the E.N.S.A. shows, by bursting our main water supply, with the result that the Unit Fire Picquet had to make itself useful in collaboration with the local Auxiliary Fire Service.

On Saturday, 20th January, an All-Ranks' Cabaret Dance was given in the Unit Gymnasium, at which a number of E.N.S.A. artistes very kindly assisted.

The W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess held a very successful Dance on Friday, 26th January. It had been intended to hold it in the Gymnasium, but after a party had struggled all the afternoon to get the place ready, coping with such things as severe snowstorms and a number of leaks in the roof, a fire broke out at tea-time, which was the last straw, forcing them to move to the N.A.A.F.I. After two hours' hard work, doubts were expressed as to the advisability of continuing the function owing to the rapidly-increasing fall of snow, which threatened to make the roads impassable ; but after the amount of time, energy and money expended on the preparations, it was decided to carry on, while the guests promised to do their best to attend. The result was that the attendance exceeded all expectations in the circumstances, and we were practically crowded out. The members are very grateful to the Commanding Officer and the officers for their kind support.

The Corporals held a similar function on 3rd February, which was well attended, and a great success.

Owing to the weather, there has been no sport—unless one includes snow-shovelling under that category.

Cheerio.

SPASIGS.

Army Signals, Kent

No. 1 Company

General.—Since our last notes, our Company has returned to normal once again after the change over from " Squads under Instruction " to Sections. Section Training is now well under way, or, as our R.S.M. would say, " proceeding in an orderly manner."

Arrivals.—Our arrivals during the past month have been far too numerous to mention individually and we extend a hearty welcome to them all.

However, we must make one exception in welcoming C.S.M. Wheeler to our midst, and sympathise deeply with No. 2 Company. Their loss is certainly our gain.

We also welcome Lance Corporal W., back from sick leave, and trust (for our own sake) that it is a long time before another sick leave is required.

Promotions.—Congratulations to C.Q.M.S. Orton, Sergeants Woolnough and McNab, Corporals Colombo and Westoby on their well-earned promotion to W.O. III, C.Q.M.S. and Sergeants respectively.

Congratulations also to the men who have received their first step on the promotion ladder this month.

Departures.—C.Q.M.S. Phillips and Sergeant Smalley left for " somewhere in England." Our best wishes follow them.

" Snake No. 1 " (Jooah) to Small Arms School, Hythe.

Keep that " bow and arrer " clean, Jooah !

Queries.—What certain N.C.O., recently of our Unit " Gestapo," is now spending most of his time in the Company Office — and for no apparent reason ?

A party of men have been seen wending their way round the Barracks in a dazed manner, carrying shovels. We wonder why.

Wanted.—Second-hand snowshoes and huskies. (R.N.W.-C.M.P. please note !)

Au revoir. We trust our first attempt will be passed by the Censor.

WIL-GIL.

No. 2 Company

We regret that there were no notes last month. The joys of a few days away from —— are enough to make anyone forgetful.

After a nice spot of Christmas and New Year's leave, the Company are once again settling down to training, and results are beginning to show reward for the patience of the Instructors. In general with the rest of England, we had rather a cold spell recently, with all the usual freeze-ups and snow clearing. Many and strange were the methods adopted for the clearing of the parade ground, which was carried out on three occasions, as no sooner was one lot of snow cleared away than another lot fell. But all that is now a thing of the past, and only the memories of it remain, especially of spades, and shall we say—buckets !

Congratulations are extended to the following on promotion to the ranks against their names : W.O.s III Shirley and Honor, C.Q.M.S. Preston, Sergeants Kelly, Leach, Smyth, Peck, Salisbury, Prescott, James and Foster, Lance Corporals Reid, Gittens, Estall, Jenkins, Beynon, Brady, Bennett, Laurenson, Smith A., and a few more. Anyone missed, please apply to Hush-hush House, Department of Twerps, where a suitable reply will be delivered by Fumf.

Congratulations are also due, I believe, to an officer who would never even dream of getting married. The Company join in wishing both you and your wife the best of good luck in the future, sir.

The hand of welcome is extended to Lieutenant Hush-hush (saves the Censor a job, eh ?), Signalman Preston and to others whose names I do not know (as yet). We hope their stay will be a pleasant one.

By the time this appears in print we shall have said farewell to Sergeant Foster and his brood, who will have departed for service elsewhere. Hope you enjoyed the trip to wherever it is.

Agony.—MacDonald, Singapore. " Congratulations on the uplift, Mac. How about a line ? Best to the gang. Pdi, Hiram and Slim."

Well, this is all for this time. Cheerio.

SLIM.

No. 3 Company

As this is my first attempt at journalism, I would like to apologise in advance for any mistakes I might make. And now that is off my chest, here goes.

Fisr, another apology. This time on behalf of my predecessor for the absence of any No. 3 Company notes in the last issue of the WIRE. I think he had writer's cramp, housemaid's knee or something.

Promotions galore have been flying around : Sergeants to W.O. IIIs, Corporals to Sergeants, and Signalmen to Lance Corporals. Far too many to enumerate here, but heartiest congratulations to all concerned. May they go still further.

We have had our first casualty. Lance Corporal Causey, a very good man, got married the other day. Good luck, old man ; may all your troubles be little ones.

Talking about little ones, the stork brought a bonny, bouncing boy to Lance Corporal and Mrs. Hilton the other day. The description is Bob's, not mine, you know what proud fathers are like about their first-born.

The entertainment side of the Company is excellently catered for. We have a very fine dance band and run an all-ranks dance every Monday. It is getting so popular that we will have to start turning people away very soon. The concerts are extremely good also. In fact we have some very clever and versatile artists. (No, I am not an American, even if I sound like one).

Messrs. Marks and Spencer gave their annual Social and Dance recently, and Mr. and Mrs. Jones, the manager and his wife (a very charming couple, to whom many thanks), invited 50 of the lads. There was plenty of good food, fun and games, and the lads thoroughly enjoyed themselves, especially when the girls, under the able leadership of Miss Beck, who was in charge of food supplies, waited on them at refreshment time.

Well, this is all I can think of at the moment, so good-bye everybody.

J. E.

P.S.—I hear that the taxi service is pretty good nowadays, even with all the snow we have had. Shovel, sir ! Ask a few of our senior N.C.O.s.

Thames and Medway Signals

General.—It has been some time since you all heard from us in these columns. The previous scribe offers his apologies, but when you hear that his recent promotion to Corporal has made him a busy N.C.O., we are sure you will join us in wishing him all the best.

The Section, in common with most other Units, has grown considerably since hostilities began and already quite a number of recruits from H.Q. have left us, as experienced men, to join other Units. Among the recent departures was that of Section Sergeant Thompson to Headquarters. Our loss is their gain, but as this meant promotion to C.S.M. we find that, although sorry to lose him it is some consolation to know his departure is of benefit to him.

Our new Section Sergeant, Sergeant Manning, is by no means a stranger to us and we have every confidence in his ability to run " the job on hand " in the way it should be run.

Is Spring Coming ?—Quite a large number of men in the fighting forces seem to have decided that now is as good a time as any for marriage. Our Section is by no means an exception and we take this opportunity of congratulating Signalmen Stewart H., Dullage A. and Harbord S. We hope they won't be unduly alarmed if their little ones first gurgle sounds like " iddy-umpty."

Promotions.—Congratulations to the following : Corporal Megilley to Lance Sergeant ; Lance Corporals Colgan and

Devereux to Corporal; Signalman Gray to Lance Corporal; Signalmen Sherriff and Petters to U/Lance Corporal.

Agonies.—Several of us were recently invited to a nurses' dance at the local hospital. There is still some doubt as to who announced: "Please take your partners for a blood test, to be followed by a ride in an iron lung."

During the recent heavy snow, serious consideration was given to the suggestion that our local D.R.s should be supplied with toboggans. There was, however, so much controversy as to who, out of S.B.O.s, Tele-Ops. and Linemen, etc., should pull them up the hill, that the idea was abandoned—much to the chagrin of a four-foot D.R. in a six-foot coat.

A Signalman's Dream.—Quite a few of our Section want half-price cinemas for those in uniform. You know, two for the price of one—A.T.S. the reason.

With the help of some of our Section, the A.T.S. hope to put on a small show soon. Very nice, but we wish a certain clerk-cum-producer would refrain from singing the opening chorus in his sleep

We wondered why a certain young N.C.O. with a lovely suit of "blues" was so fond of bus riding. Now we know. He says it is so profitable, being mistaken for the conductor.

Who, on learning of the recent dental inspection, sent his dentures in an envelope saying he couldn't come himself?

Home Counties Signals (2nd Edition)

We are happy to be able to report that our Commanding Officer is now well again after undergoing a serious operation last October. He resumed command of the Unit at the end of January.

Snow prevented the G.O.C. (Division) from viewing a full parade when he inspected us during the last month. Instead he was able to see every aspect of the men's training both at what we call the "Unit school" and round the Companies.

Arrivals.—The Unit has now three "regular" officers, two of whom have seen service with the Corps in Palestine, Egypt and India. One is known to his friends as "INKY." Another would, of course, be most appropriately nicknamed "JIMMY," and although the proud possessor of a fine broken nose he is no doughty exponent of the "ring," but a county cricketer, having played for Lancashire during the last three seasons.

Entertainments.—The O.C. of No. 3 Company easily wins first prize for entertainment organisation. A full Unit dance and a whist drive stand to the Company's credit for last month. To the dance came Colonel H. Mitchell, M.P., one of many friends we have found.

Unpatriotic German measles and a slight 'flu epidemic gave the Unit's new M.O. something to think about on his arrival, symbolically enough in a snow storm. The Unit hospital now appears strangely popular.

Obituary.—An old member of our parent Unit, Sergeant Forest W. G., died at his home at Northolt on 28th December. The W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess sent a wreath and a representative party went to his funeral. "George Forest," writes his friend C.S.M. Jordan, "was one of the oldest members of the Unit, having joined in 1920. He will be remembered as one of the stars of the Regimental Rifle Team. He served in the Gavalry (Carbineers) in his youth, and afterwards in the K.R.R.s, in which Corps he saw service in India and the Boer War. After discharge from the Regular Army he joined the Territorial Army (10th Battalion Middlesex Regiment) and served until demobilised in 1919, joining our parent Unit on the re-formation of the T.A. in 1920. He served until discharged on reaching the age limit in 1931."

A high authority tells me I give too much news about Officers, W.O.s and Sergeants (—— 'em), so next month look for out some original copy about the MEN.

Northern Ireland District Signal Company

Time here in Northern Ireland is still divided into two parts: the time "on" duty and the time "off." Just so, life also has its two sides: the face side and the reverse, and it is like the tossing of a penny, as first one side and then the other is revealed.

Most of us view only the outward and visible side and there is a thrill of astonishment when we view the other side. We dash about, go on parade, do duties, sweep the floor, sleep, get our boots mended, and perhaps only once a fortnight do we arrive at a rational moment and find ourselves on the outside looking in, that is to say, philosophically considered, inside out.

Corporal Gill.—Our readers will, we hope, excuse us for our use of a name for a sub-paragraph title, but we do this in the hope that it will catch the eye of as many as possible of the friends of Corporal Gill who, after more than twenty years' service, has been invalided from the service. He was a good old stager, a good athlete in his younger days and a good tradesman all his days; the proud possessor of the India General Service Medal, the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal and three war medals. He was popular with all ranks and in spite of sickness in recent months he somehow contrived to be consistently cheerful. He was good at his job, red hot on the piano, played a nifty game of chess, liked a pint and yarn about old days. Now he is living with his people at 12, Hookstone Chase, Harrogate, Yorks., where, we are assured, he has good prospects of a job with the G.P.O., and there we hope he will receive a few lines from his old friends. We wished him luck as we waved him good-bye.

Hail and Farewell.—Last month we omitted to mention the departure of Signalman Mulderig to another Unit somewhere in Yorkshire. However, as this genial Signalman has returned to Northern Ireland for duty, we take this opportunity of expressing the hope that he enjoyed his brief excursion, and we wish him luck with his new Unit, that's us. There has only been one other new arrival this month, and we refer to Signalman Crockett, which is about all we can do at the moment as he has hardly yet had a chance to leave his fingerprints on the notice board.

Exchange Squeaking.—We think a little publicity due to our telephone switchboard operators, whose devotion to duty we cannot help but admire. If we include Signalman Mather there are six of these operators, and we only mention this because one of them has convinced himself that he does the work of two. Operators work in pairs, in three reliefs. The first relief is from 18.00 hours one day to 08.00 hours the next. Second relief, next day, is from 13.00 hours to 18.00 hours. Last relief, the day after, is from 08.00 hours to 13.00 hours, and so they go on from day to day until they go sick. Recent Post Office statistics prove our operators handle an average of almost five calls per minute during peak hours of normal working days, but no statistics are available to show what calls are made outside working hours. However, if Signalman Mather is to be believed, and there is really no reason why we should not believe him, the operators at night never take off their headphones from the time of going on to the time of going off. From which it may be observed, with true Irish aplomb, that the first relief would seem to be worse than the last, and the last worse than the first.

Classified Advertisement.—Now that winter is here, why not learn to dance? Driver (Daffodil) Fern gives lessons daily in his charming studio overlooking Infantry Cookhouse. All latest steps taught. Insteps broken in one week. Ingrown toe-nails no disadvantage. Ammunition boots welcome. 'Phone now for first lesson: A-tisket, A-tasket 2326738. Herrings in tomatoes on Fridays.

Boomps-a-Daisy.—Yes, there has been a lot of dancing and skirmishing down town lately. The foul weather having almost prohibited outdoor games, so who can blame us? Some of us went down the other night to a dance run by the good ladies of the local L.M.S. Canteen, and that was a good evening. Again, in a day or two, we are invited to join the Women's Auxiliary Territorial Service at a midnight ball, and who can doubt that we shall all roll up in great numbers. And even as we write these notes another invitation to a dance comes in from a local A.A. Company's Divisional Signals, so now we do not know whether Saturday morning will find us on the dance floor, the waterfront, or the guardroom floor. But of one thing at last we are all agreed. To whoever says that Northern Ireland life is dull we might well retort: Ah, well, poor fool, but will you never learn that life is a song, and that hard work and drudgery are instructors in eloquence and music, and therefore, that as soon as the irrecoverable years have woven their blue tapestry between to-day and the day when we go to fight the foe, these passing hours of work and play will draw and glitter for us as the songs of the wildest romance and poetry.

THE GLOOMY DEAN.

STATIONS ABROAD

Signal Training Centre (India)

5th February, 1940.

During January the Signal Officer-in-Chief inspected the Signal Training Centre (India) and expressed an appreciation of what he had seen. The month passed through very quietly. One outstanding item during the past few days was the arrival from the United Kingdom of a rather large draft of Militia personnel. Unfortunately, we are debarred from giving an account of their trip out, in fact, the only reply one can get from these people is that they had a good trip. The draft comprised A/Sergeant Ellis G. L., A/Corporal Griffiths J., A/Corporal Fox B. E., Signalmen Applin W., Ashcroft H., Bailey W. C., Bolton G. P., Booker R., Black R. G., Banks B. C., Bates J., Baird D., Browne S. E., Bending H. J., Brookes J. A. F., Burton D. E., Bray A. L., Case W. J., Carlton P., Craggs J. F., Cook J. D., Craven F., Carter, Carlyle W., Bunter G. R., Cathpole R., Collett R. H., Duckenfield E., Davies H., Daws R. F., Downes T., Discombe B. H., Dymonde V., De Bruyne F. W., Ellis T., Evans D. E., Evans A. J., Finch W. C., Graham C. A., Gough P. G., Gardener V. L., Gibson C., Gilmour B. J., Gregory S., Higham W. G., Howell H. O. E., Hurdman R. C., Holstead J., Hodgson P. J., Hoyle F. J., Haywood J. R., Holden R. G., Hearn S., Ashley H. G., Jackson J. F., Jones D., Johnson J. H., Jones G. M., Lamb D. B., Lummis E., Lindley R., Linney K. W., Louey J., Minshall T., Moody F. C., Mackay R. V., Maloney D., Martin J. C., Monks C. E., Moody G., Moore B. N., Maginess G. R., McTaggert C. W., O'Shaughnessy T., Ottolangui D., Otley J. H., Procter J., Parson G. W., Preston G. W., Risker J., Rushton W., Richards I., Reeve E., Reynolds G. T., Roper V. D., Short P. L. E., Suckling W. C., Stamp T., Seddon E., Smith W. E., Stevens A. R., Taffe V., Taylor H. R., Wilkinson D. V., Woodward J., Weaver R., Warren N., Wales D., Weir R. J., and Walton R. H. They appear to have settled down very quickly and we are beginning to get quite used to the unfamiliar forms of dress worn by them, although we must say that battle dress does look very modern even at a dance. Nevertheless we extend to them a cordial welcome and trust that their stay in India may be a pleasant one. We also welcome to the Unit a few new members who have joined from stations in India. Corporal Yeadon A. from Waziristan, Lance Corporal Hawkins E. from Rawalpindi (via Trimulgherry), Signalman Davis S. from Rawalpindi, and R.Q.M.S. Russel and family, who joined us from Trimulgherry.

Departures.—Our best wishes go with the following who left us during the month, Lance Sergeant Macdonald P. to Risalpur, Sergeant Kerr G. and family, Lance Corporal Softly R., Lance Corporal Brennen R., Lance Corporal Maguire J., and Lance Corporal Coulson R., who left us for the United Kingdom. By the time these notes are in print we shall have bid au revoir to R.Q.M.S. Ellerton-Long A. and family, who leave us for Trimulgherry, and to R.S.M. Taylor A. A. and family, who are proceeding to Rawalpindi.

Extensions of Service.—Lance Corporal Coulson R., notwithstanding all the hard words of last year, decided to sign above the M.O. and undertook to complete 12 years. Tut! Tut! Corporals Nixon H. and Duggan J. have also indicated their willingness to complete 12 years.

Upgraders.—Trade qualifications were obtained by the following: Lance Corporal Hawkins E., as Fitter Signals Class III, Signalman Mason B. as Fitter Signals on completion of Trade Course as recruit, and Signalman Gilhool G. as O.W.L. Class III.

Condolences.—Our sympathies are extended to R.S.M. and Mrs. Strange in the loss of their baby daughter, Millicent Mary, who died at New Delhi on 17th December 1939.

Social.—A novel dance, billed as a Station Dance, was run by the Nerbudda Vale Huut on 2nd February, 1940, in the R.Signals Institute. Dancing was provided both inside and outside the theatre, dancing outside being on a drugget stretched in front of the old boxing ring. Two dance bands were in attendance, the S.T.C. (I) Dance Band, who played inside the theatre and a composite dance band from the 2nd Battalion King's Own Scottish Borderers, who played outside on the old boxing ring. This provided a very enjoyable evening and originality was expressed in the form of two of the Nerbudda Vale Hunt hounds who were exhibited on a small platform in the entrance hall. During the evening the pipes of the 2nd Battalion King's Own Scottish Borderers played to an exhibition of sword and other dancing. Two exceedingly good paintings were auctioned by a very able and interesting auctioneer (whose interests at heart seemed obviously those of the Nerbudda Vale Hunt) who managed to obtain exceedingly good prices for his pictures, the proceeds going to a very worthy cause. The organisers and master of ceremonies are to be congratulated on an exceedingly well arranged evening, which showed very clearly that the preparations had involved quite a great deal of hard work.

Sport.—A new feature has been introduced within the S.T.C. (I), in the form of boxing coaching now being carried out in the gymnasium. We understand that talent is forthcoming, although there have been casualties involving even plaster of Paris bandages. Memories of the well known "Blood Tub" of our Depot at home run through our mind coupled with the many disputes that have been honourably settled there. A glance through the Corps Diary will reveal many a championship holder in the Corps, and particularly in India the Corps can be associated with some good records of boxing in the Army Championships. We hope to be able to produce some good results in tournaments later on, and who knows but what our efforts may produce yet more championship honours.

The swimming bath at the S.T.C. (I). will shortly be re-opening when we hope to be able to carry on with a very popular pastime. It is rumoured that extensions to the bath or rather the surrounds of the bath are being considered, which if carried out will vastly improve those days when swimming galas are held.

Games during the month have carried on with the same regularity as usual. We do always manage to produce regular games at Jubbulpore and the records of games during the past month show that we produce quite a good percentage of wins. Games played during January resulted as follows:

FOOTBALL

4th.—"A" Company v. G.I.P. Railway	3—1
10th.—"A" Company v. G.M.P.	1—3
11th.—"A" Company v. G.I.P. Railway	4—1
23rd.—Sergeants' Mess v. Ordnance Club	1—4
24th.—"A" Company v. R.A.M.C.	2—1
26th.—"A" Company v. G.I.P. Railway	3—1
29th.—"A" Company v. G.M.P.	2—2
30th.—"A" Company v. I.A.O.C. Club	5—1

HOCKEY

8th.—"A" Company v. "F" Company	3—1
12th.—"A" Company v. "F" Company	5—2
15th.—"A" Company v. I.A.O.C.	0—3
18th.—"A" Company v. "C" Company	5—2
22nd.—"A" Company v. "B" Company	2—1

CAVE CANEM.

Western (India) District Signals

Quetta.

Yes, we are still here—though wars and tribulations may make the world tremble, we will still hold 'em back at Quetta. We have, however, said good-bye to Corporal Barlow and U/Lance Corporal Cook, who have left us for new spheres. We wish them all the luck possible in their new units. We have something new at Quetta, though—a fire engine! The Fire Piquet went through their new drill with remarkable ease, although the "leading light" of the parade had his spirits somewhat damped. This may, or may not, have been caused by the hose being pointed in his direction. We congratulate Lance Corporal and Mrs. Crockett on the birth of a son, Colin Ronald, at the British Military Hospital, Quetta, on 9th January, 1940. Yet another increase to establishment.

Talking of increases, reminds us that " Wedding bells are ringing for Harry " on 21st February (D.V.,W.P.).

The weather has been very lovely for the past fortnight or so —rain, hail, snow, sleet, and everything barring fog. All right, you blokes of the West, you have no cause for jealousy ; we may be sharing your weather soon (we hope). Individual training is still proceeding apace and learned scholars are still to be seen perambulating the parade ground with pencil protruding from pocket, message pad and scribbling book under arm, and worried look on wrinkled brow. These signs portend a higher rating, so they say, and, *ipso facto*, more pay. I have been asked to give several messages to Jean, but will condense into one succinct phrase : " Puir wee laddie."

We welcome Farrier Staff Sergeant Jagger on his return to Quetta, and trust that he will enjoy his sojourn here with us.

Having no further news to record, we can now sign off as the B.B.C. so often say, " There is nothing of importance to report."

RONKAY.

Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron, Meerut

January, 1940.

Preparatory.—As a new member of this Unit I know little of its past and, in these times of stress, have an almost minus quantity of knowledge to pass on about its future ; however, the duties of war (sorry, WIRE) correspondent have been thrust upon me so I will endeavour in future to keep the A.B.S.S. in the news.

Introductory.—One of the many ex-District postings from Waziristan (in all my eight months' service on the Frontier) I left my fellow sufferers at Delhi to join the newly named Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron ; great were my dreams of Fords and Chevs, but sadly was I disillusioned on being informed that this Unit still had its horses—however, it is a good Unit and a job of wrestling with ration returns etc., is as near as I have come to the " cowboy " business (so far).

Arrivals.—Judging by the state of the R.R.—many. Posted to the Squadron : Corporal Lockey, from Peshawar, Corporal Rawcliffe from Trimulgherry, and Corporal Winter from Waziristan. I hope their stay will be an enjoyable one, personally I am sure it will be.

The other arrivals are infantry and artillery signallers now undergoing a course of instruction for B. III trade ratings. Welcome to them all and congratulations on getting such a seasoned veteran ? (new rates of pay) as Corporal Lockey as Assistant Instructor.

Promotions.—Corporal Rawcliffe to A/Lance Sergeant as Orderly Room Sergeant. Signalman Cox A. A. to U/Lance Corporal, nature of employment, Big Shot M.T. Expert ? In " Q " Office, Reference No. Q3, eh ! Busty ?

Changes in Unit Inventory.—By the time this is in print (if ever) Sergeant " Spud " Thomson will have left us for Blighty. A word to students is in order I think re the inadvisability of encouraging reminiscences of shikari, etc., as some time *must* be given over to training ! Spud has been so long with this Unit that one wonders will things ever be the same without him ? I am sure the Sergeant's Mess will not, even with " Yorky " catching fire at odd intervals !

General.—Most scribes start off with this paragraph but we Armoured Brigade people are *so* different.

The many changes that are necessary for the Unit's change of occupation (for the information of the C.I.D. and Secret Service Organisations I mean the dispensation of brushes, horse, grooming) and *possible* change of venue have already begun ; a great deal of swopping around of sections and new organisation has been carried out so that when the time comes for " fill up " (not feed away) to be the order of the day the A.B.S.S. will be ready, aye ready for wherever the Nazi propaganda merchants eventually decide we would be most useful.

Our N.C.O.s keep returning from Ahmednagar bursting with information on driving and maintenance, and, failing a contingent of A.T.S. Transport Section being drafted to us, to run our M.T., we are looking forward to absorbing stacks of " Griff " from " Motors in a Nutshell " so that we shall be able to look after our own armour-plated super-streamlined steeds in the approved manner.

The Festive Season.—This period is somewhat hazy but I do remember that the dinner arrangements were excellent and that innumerable bottles were sunk in a certain bunk (pardon the so-called poetry).

The Squadron played the District Signals at the usual comic soccer match. The final score is still somewhat in doubt, but the Squadron definitely took honours for the costume turnout. Certain N.C.O., " Shall I put two towels round my waist to look more like Goering ? " Nice work, Ben, it's nice to be so slim.

All the time honoured entertainments were indulged in over the holiday period (some people did get a holiday, didn't they, District ?) and, judging from a consumption point of view a good time was had by all. One certain rotund person's entertainment proved a trifle expensive and he had to return the frame at that.

A few canny Scots (and quite a number of crafty Sassenachs) managed to keep a bit by for Hogmanay Night, and the melodious (?) strains of " Auld Acquaintance " could be heard even before the witching hour had properly arrived.

So ended another year and here's wishing the season's greetings (a trifle belated, perhaps) to all and sundry—and may next year be one of peace.

Sports Notes.—With the continued inactivity on the part of dear Adolf we have decided to do something to create a few casualties. Inter-Section hockey has commenced and the two sections to play first are now licking their knuckles, thanking Providence and muttering swindle under their breaths. The two Macs gave an inspired display of shinty, or is it hurley, and even Uncle had to give way to youth. Result, H.Q. 1, No. 2 Section 1.

A hectic struggle on the part of No. 2 against the (so-called) experts of H.Q.

The match between Nos. 1 and 4 Sections was extremely well contested but lacked the colour of the first game—not homicidal enough. This was another draw, no goals being scored.

Conclusion.—I have just been reading the modifications in the Editorial Notes of the " WIRE " and, as I do not know which county to attach us to I think I will declare a black-out on these efforts before something of a non-neutral nature leaks out.

Cheerio.

BALDY.

February.

General.—Looking back for a few weeks I begin to wonder just why I agreed to this WIRE-writing job—such lack of happenings I never did see, look you !

However, backs to the wall, lads ; it's got to be done, so here goes for the items of interest (?) in the A.B.S.S. to date.

Camps and Exercises comprised the activities of the operators throughout the month and they do tell us the "shops " personnel put in some good work as well.

The 7th February saw our first detachment away to camp. A " C " Set and two B.O.R.s went to Budhera Camp with the 14/20th K. Hussars to work to barracks (Hockley and Griffith were the lucky (?) ones selected to man the " out-set "—the barracks set personnel were too numerous to mention.)

On 17th February two No. 1 Set detachments proceeded to Jhansi with Lucknow District Signals—their success was assured with the inimitable " Jeep " to see them through.

The next to leave were Sergeant Thomson and his merry band (the cream of the Unit, sez who ?) en route to Budhera Camp via Gurgaon ; the night of the 22nd was spent in that salubrious township and the three sets were picked up by their respective umpires (we were acting as neutral Signals on this particular occasion) to do a day's scheme before completing the journey to camp.

There were two stunts during the three days and, although I say it as shouldn't, both of them were most successful. We

shook the critics by working " speech " well over three miles on the move in trucks without suppressors of any kind and not fitted up as Wireless Cars ; our improvised open aerials were the cause of many derogatory remarks, but we were " through," and that is the main item.

The next item on our programme was the Brigade T.E.W.T. on 1st February, when Sergeant " Yorky " Yates, with a " C " Set Detachment moved out to Jhansi. Corporal Winter and Signalman Moysey went also to keep a watchful eye on the catering at Brigade H.Q. There was much dashing hither and yon while it lasted, but both personnel and vehicles stood up to the racket extremely well (" Yorky " left before things got fairly started but never let it be said that he couldn't take it !) and the damage was left for the return journey in convoy, when one Cav. Truck carried away a level crossing gate-post and another turned turtle after dodging the ever-present bullock cart ; however, we got in under our own steam and up to schedule, which is some consideration, I suppose (the convoy, incidentally, was supplied by the 14/20th King's Hussars, so Signals were the blue-eyed boys as far as " red necks " were concerned).

Marriages.—So far, none ; the echo, however, of wedding bells has reached us via that inestimable paper, the " Daily Mirror." One of our number (away at a seat of learning at the moment) has fallen the victim of Dan Cupid's long-range ammo. I cannot give names, but they tell me the secret of his success is Black Magic, or is it Black Diamonds ?

Condolence.—As a one-time fellow member of Bannu Signals N.C.O.s' Mess, the news of the death of Sergeant " Busty " Bye came as a great shock to me, as no doubt it did to many who knew him ; his figure will be sadly missed at Bannu Messes, especially during the hot weather period, when " Nimbo " lemons are the staple drink.

Arrivals.—Nil.

Departures.—Sergeant Steele H. R. on 8th January, Lance Sergeant Marshall on 12th January, Signalman Gentleman J. on 30th January, all to other stations in India ; and Sergeant Thomson to " Somewhere in England " on 4th February. The usual wishes go with them.

Sport.—Owing to injuries and lack of players, due to camps, etc., there is nothing much to report in this line, although we can boast a victory both at soccer and hockey ; the first was due to team work (plus lack of opposition, some folks say), while the second we owe to inspired umpiring on the part of Q/3/Blimp. To give him his due, he did draw the line at biting in the clinches !

BALDY.

Palestine Force Signals

No. 3 Section.

General.—A leave party for Christmas was organised in two reliefs of seven days each, with Christmas Day for all, in Nablus. Judging from the various states in which the leave wallahs returned, it proved to be a huge success. The Sergeant-Major has been signing week-end passes ever since and many of our great savers now find themselves financially embarrassed. Among the latter we find our " Steady as a Rock " personality, Collins D. We are wondering what made him do it. He steadfastly maintains it was worth it. I wonder.

Our Christmas dinner was held in fine style in the largest room the hotel could boast, and, after partaking of a hearty repast one and all repaired to their own little corners and proceeded to make "Allsopps'" fortune. Hostilities ceased with the dawn.

Promotions.—These are too numerous to mention individually as they cover every existing N.C.O. in the Section. Nevertheless, we extend hearty congratulations to them all and hope that soon all these fellows who are keeping their housewives handy will be needing them.

Sport.—Apparently there is no competition in the football field these days, according to the following results :

v. Nablus Police	Won	3—0
v. "A" Company, Beds. and Herts. Regiment ..	Won	2—0
v. " B " Company, Beds. and Herts. Regiment	Won	4—0
v. Royals	Won	5—1
v. " D " Squadron, Dragoons	Won	5—2
v. Nablus Police	Won	6—0
v. " B " and " C " Companies, Queens	Won	5—1
v. " B " and " C " Companies, Queens	Lost	1—4
v. " B " and " D " Companies, Queens ..	Won	5—0



Signalman McDonald in Action

Arrivals and Departures.—Under the former heading we have Signalmen Lovell and Toms. We hope their stay with us will prove enjoyable. In the latter case are C.S.M. Hunt and Signalman O'Donovan. We know they will enjoy their new station.

Conclusion.—Much as I hate to do it, fellahs—I must. I have to trudge through six feet of mud to send these notes.

T. WERP.

No. 6 Section

General.—No aphorisms or proverbs could explain the exact reason why at such a late date I find myself reporting the activities of the Unit during the Christmas and New Year festivities, but I still say " better late than never." Several of our Rechabites are still chuckling over thoughts of Christmas and it will be helpful to other members to glance at these notes. There must be some blank pages in their diaries for week-ending 30th December, 1939 !

The Christmas dinner was quite a success and we were honoured by the presence of our new Area Commander. We concluded the occasion with a musical show presented to us by one of our " squeezebox " players. Donkey races were the chief sport of the afternoon and were enjoyed by many. Others finished the day in glorious slumber.

On Boxing Day the survival of the fittest brought about the visit of a party to the local brewery. Although the rumour ran that no visitors would be entertained on that day, the aforesaid party returned to camp mounted on camels. We assume that the proprietors opened more than their hearts.

Departures.—It was with much regret that we bade farewell to our Commanding Officer, who has been appointed elsewhere. We very much appreciate the work he did for this Unit during his stay as Commanding Officer, Palestine Force Signals. With him go our best wishes for the future.

Courses.—A Driving and Maintenance Course is now in operation for the benefit of most of our Operator Signals. Under the watchful eyes of S.S.M. Stibbs, Sergeant Good and Driver Mechanic Beck they are certainly making good progress, even though some may not realise that they are doing more for their Unit than learning to drive. We can assure them on this if they read on.

Things We Want to Know.—Who was the man who tried to drive his truck away without starting his engine ? Was the driver of another truck nearby running his engine ?

After using the foot pump for a considerable time trying to blow a tyre up, did a certain man find that he had no valve to the tube ?

Yahudi Mail.—To No. 2319403 Signalman or Corporal Dunkley T. " I am still waiting to hear from you. No. 2320002 Signalman Dodd C."

Promotions.—Congratulations to the following on attaining the ranks shown : Sergeant Good W., Lance Sergeants Heward and Jones I. B., Corporal Harding, Lance Corporals Darby and Channing.

RAJMAL.

Corps News—Officers

Extracts from "The London Gazette"

[War Office, 21/11/39]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Major R. H. Wall retires on retired pay, 20/11/39.

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Major E. G. Sinnott (13448) ceases to belong to the Reserve of Officers on account of ill-health, 22/11/39.

EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS—ROYAL SIGNALS.

The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants:

Charles Arthur Robert Massey Bolton (30811) (late Lieutenant P.W. Vols.), 27/9/39.
Arthur McBrinn (103398), 1/10/39.
Lieutenant Christy Anthony Bell (101196) (late R.E.), 2/10/39.
Jeremy Pemberton (100389), 10/10/39.
Frank Charles Douglas Sargeant (100404), 10/10/39.
Lieutenant James Williams (103386) (late T.A.), 14/10/39.
Reginald Pearson Harrison (103373), 14/10/39.
Harry William Lidington (103589), 16/10/39.
Captain Charles Westley Hume, M.C. (25395) (late T.A.R.O.), 17/10/39.
Oliver Robert Corbett (101041), 19/10/39.
Michael Hugh Longworth Standen (102295), 19/10/39.
Hubert John Budd (101341), 19/10/39.
Henry Douglas Corbett Hunter (102400), 19/10/39.
2nd Lieutenant William George Bryant (104296) (late R.E.), 25/10/39.
Thomas Grant Smith (103924), 25/10/39.
Richard Henry Haughton Roe (103921), 30/10/39.

The undermentioned to be Lieutenants (T.M.O.):

R.Q.M.S. Guy Rodwell Bishop (107084), 1/11/39.
R.S.M. Arthur John Carpenter (107085), 1/11/39.
R.S.M. Gordon Victor Leath (107086), 1/11/39.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

The Hon. Lord Stevenson, O.B.E. (104968), to be Honorary Colonel, 22/11/39.

GENERAL LIST.

2nd Lieutenant F. R. Crane (86222) from General List (Manchester University Contingent (Sig. Unit) Senior Division O.T.C.) to be 2nd Lieutenant, 16/9/39. (Substituted for the notification in the "Gazette" of 20/10/39).

2nd Lieutenant P. T. W. Vance (79284) from General List (Queen's University Belfast Contingent (Sig. Unit) Senior Division O.T.C.) to be 2nd Lieutenant, 16/9/39. (Substituted for the notification in the "Gazette" 30/10/39).

TERRITORIAL ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Captain G. A. Keith, from T.A. Reserve of Officers (General List, R.A.) to be Captain, 24/10/39.

2nd Lieutenant G. M. V. Hoare (62084) from T.A. Reserve of Officers (K.R.R.C.) to be 2nd Lieutenant, 22/11/39.

[War Office, 24/11/39]

The King has been graciously pleased to approve the undermentioned award for gallant and distinguished services:

The Military Medal to No. 2323664 Signalman Thomas Barr, Royal Corps of Signals.

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Captain and Brevet Major G. S. Hurst (21071) (now retired) to be Major, 27/10/37.

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Lieutenant A. R. Cave (10103) from General List (Infantry), to be Lieutenant retaining his present seniority, 26/9/39.

EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS—ROYAL SIGNALS.

The name of Lieutenant (T.M.O.) Charles Euston Field (100624) is as now described and not as notified in the "Gazette" of 9/10/39.

Frederick Thomas Pitt (103548) to be Lieutenant (Quartermaster), 23/10/39.

The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants:

Peter Harry Harford (98447), 29/9/39.
Lieutenant Harold Bouchier Sayer (106934) (late R.E.), 2/10/39.
Thomas Cromwell Brian Henderson (101349), 19/10/39.
Lieutenant Gordon Ranulf John Watkins-Pitchford (106086) (late R.E.), 22/10/39.



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Leslie Christopher Suggars (103314), 24/10/39.
William Glendenning (103459), 25/10/39.
Stanley Charles Johnson (103584), 25/10/39.
Arthur Campbell Parker (103601), 25/10/39.
Albert William Grantham (104164), 27/10/39.
Sidney Ogden-Smith (106586), 7/11/39.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Lieutenant-Colonel Frederick Richard Gerrard Forsyth, M.C., D.L. (14986) (late R.Signals), to be Honorary Colonel, 25/11/39.

GENERAL LIST:

2nd Lieutenant C. V. Smith (78200) from General List (Cambridge University Contingent (Sig. Unit) Senior Division O.T.C.) to be 2nd Lieutenant, 2/9/39. (Substituted for notification in the "Gazette" 27/10/39).

[War Office, 28/11/39]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS:

The undermentioned W.O.s and N.C.O.s (R.Signals) to be Lieutenants, 29/11/39:

C.S.M. Charles Patheyjohns (105541).
C.S.M. James Mills (105595).
A/R.Q.M.S. Harold Napper (105596).
A/C.S.M. Hubert Victor George Bloodworth (105593).
A/C.S.M. William John Morris (105594).
C.Q.M.S. Arthur Gould (105556).
A/Q.M.S. Hobroyd Ernest Hugh Clements (105592).
A/R.S.M. Joseph Morris Evans (105555).
A/R.Q.M.S. Herbert Benson (105554).
A/C.S.M. Henry William George Cooper (105543).
Sergeant George Gourlay (105598).
A/Sergeant Ronald John Ross (105552).
A/Corporal James Leonard Mainprize (105553) (R.Signals), to be 2nd Lieutenant, 29/11/39.

The undermentioned W.O.s and N.C.O.s from R.Signals (T.A.) to be 2nd Lieutenants, 29/11/39 :
A/R.S.M. Thomas Alfred Waight (105547).
C.Q.M.S. Basil Collins (105550).
A/C.S.M. Roy Radcliffe McCormick (105548).
Sergeant Anthony Costello Page (105544).
Sergeant George Pirrett (105545).
Sergeant Richard Guy Westwood (105549).
A/Corporal Henry Bruce Hunt (105551).
A/Lance Corporal Donald William Trevor Bruce (105546).
Signalman Francis Musson Sargent (41458) (late Lieutenant T.A.).

The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants :
Norman Charles Vivian Fairweather (106722), 2/10/39.
Kenneth David Gribbin (106723).
John Machin Swain (107028).

GENERAL LIST—ROYAL SIGNALS :
Lieutenant P. McGaw (64493) to be Captain, 22/6/39.

[War Office, 1/12/39]

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS.
Captain R. Knight (60884) ceases to belong to the Reserve of Officers on account of ill-health, 2/12/39.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
Donald Stephen Barwell (92639) (late Cadet Sergeant Monmouth School Contingent Junior Division O.T.C.) to be 2nd Lieutenant, 2/9/39.

TERRITORIAL ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS.
Major H. H. King, T.D. (25398) resigns his commission and retains his rank with permission to wear the prescribed uniform, 2/12/39.

[War Office, 5/12/39]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS :
The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants :
David Gregory Saville (102277), 1/10/39.
Eric James Beaver (101158), 9/10/39.
George Henry Urquhart (106725), 10/10/39.
Harry Sandys-Pemberton (103378) (late Lieutenant Indian Army), 18/10/39.
Lieutenant George Edward Spencer Greaves (106626) (late R.E.), 20/11/39.
Reginald Bleackley Stott (107717), 22/11/39.
Signalman William Bowman (109102), from R.Signals, T.A., 4/12/39.
Sergeant Herbert Robert Pillinger (106161) to be Lieutenant (Quartermaster), 27/11/39.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
Lieutenant W. S. G. Edgecumbe (58933) relinquishes his commission on account of ill-health, 6/12/39.
2nd Lieutenant G. P. Shepherd (67551), to be Lieutenant, 9/5/39.

[War Office, 8/12/39]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
Lieutenant (T.M.O.) Beresford Thomas Sherman to be Lieutenant (I.P.C.), 9/12/39.

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—GENERAL LIST.
Colonel (Hon. Brigadier-General) H. A. Vernon, D.S.O. (14167), having attained the age limit of liability to recall, ceases to belong to the Reserve of Officers, 5/12/39.

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS.
Lieutenant H. H. Andrews (43731) from R.A.R.O. General List (Inland Waterways and Docks Branch), to be Lieutenant, 30/11/39

EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS—ROYAL SIGNALS.
The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants :
2nd Lieutenant Frederick Howard Swales (103619), late R.E., 17/10/39.
Richard Norton Bingham Gatehouse (106074), 31/10/39.
Lieutenant John Wilfrid Ernest Gallop (107803), late R. Sussex Regiment, 10/11/39.
Lieutenant Sydney Bruce Smith (107126), late R.F.A., 14/11/39.
John Lionel Hills (107135), 15/11/39.
Arthur Gilbert Hayles (104841), 18/11/39.
Eric Ralph Haynes (103111), 19/11/39.
John Kenneth Bowden (107698), 22/11/39.

TERRITORIAL ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS.
GENERAL LIST :
Lieutenant-Colonel and Brevet-Colonel E. G. McHutchon, O.B.E., T.D. (25466), reverts to the rank of Major at his own request, 25/10/39.
Captain C. G. Marks (26252), from T.A. Reserve of Officers (R. Berks. R.), to be Captain, 4/12/39.

[War Office, 12/12/39]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS :
The undermentioned W.O.s and N.C.O.s R.Signals, to be Lieutenants, 13/12/39 :
R.S.M. Edward Sidney Willis (105858).
C.S.M. Thomas James Harris (105862).
A/R.Q.M.S. William Ernest Percy Cole (105860).
S.S.M. Thomas Percy Brett (105861).
Sergeant Leonard Golder (105866).
Sergeant William Charles Manning (105859).
A/Sergeant William Albert Guest (105857).
Lance Sergeant Percy Frederick Marshall (105865).
Lance Sergeant Philip Bishop Pitney (105863).
Lance Corporal George Francis Knox (105856).

The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants :
Lieutenant James Rene Vernham (107651), late R.E., 6/11/39.
James Rose (107066), 14/11/39.
Lieutenant Eric George Leader, M.C. (107438) late R.E. (T.A.), 18/11/39.
2nd Lieutenant Michael Luxford Quartermain (88005), from General List (Univ. Cands.) T.A., 22/11/39.
John Orr (108240), 24/11/39.
William Mitchell Macintyre (45051), late Lieutenant K.S.L.I. (T.A.).
Derek Russell Saben (107583), 27/11/39.
Lieutenant Arthur John Etheridge, D.C.M. (107914), late R.E., 28/11/39.
Ewart Charles Harold Organ (108516), 1/12/39.
Signalman Norman Wylde (105855), R.Signals, 13/12/39.
C.S.M. Horace Albert Hayward (105868) from R.Signals, T.A., 13/12/39.
Signalman Charles Robert Bossom (105864), from R.Signals, T.A., 13/12/39.

TERRITORIAL ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS.
GENERAL LIST :
Lieutenant A. A. Hall (57598) from T.A. Reserve of Officers, General List (R.E.) to be Lieutenant, 24/11/39.

[War Office, 15/12/39]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
R.Q.M.S. Harold Victor Wattley (108028) to be Lieutenant (T.M.O.), 1/11/39.

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS.
The undermentioned Captains to be Brevet-Majors, 1/9/39 :
W. S. Wasey (6168).
P. Jennings, M.C. (9742).

EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS—ROYAL SIGNALS.
C.S.M. Richard Hugh Pryce Thomas (105542) R.Signals, to be Lieutenant, 16/12/39.
Captain Arnold James Jack (10630) late Indian Army, to be 2nd Lieutenant, 6/11/39.
Corporal Reginald Alexander Hatcher (109280) R.Signals, to be 2nd Lieutenant, 16/12/39.
The undermentioned from R.Signals, T.A., to be 2nd Lieutenants, 16/12/39 :
A/R.S.M. William Murphy (109281).
Sergeant William Arthur Glover (109285).
Corporal Stanley William Barnett Lee (109283).
A/Corporal Garth Douglas Curtis (109289).
Lance Corporal Peter Garth Hallett (109286).
Lance Corporal Alec Hugo Holladay (109282).
Signalman Trevor Llewellyn Mason Hase (109288).
Signalman John Carol Moden (109287).
Signalman Peter Grainger Stanton (109284).
R.Q.M.S. George Grist (109279) to be Lieutenant (Quartermaster), 16/12/39.
C.S.M. George William Whittington (109278) to be Lieutenant (T.M.O.), 16/12/39.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
Colonel (temporary Brigadier) W. G. Michelmore, D.S.O., M.C., T.D. (25379) to be Honorary Colonel, 16/12/39.

TERRITORIAL ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS.
GENERAL LIST:
Lieutenant E. T. Parkes (44510) from T.A. Reserve of Officers, Regimental List Welch R., to be Lieutenant, 27/11/39.

[War Office, 19/12/39]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS:
The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants:
Captain Bertram James Leslie Hall, M.B.E. (101885), late R.E., T.A., 10/11/39.
Howard Arnold Lacey-Johnson (104843), 17/11/39.
Dallas Gordon Bower (106655), 1/12/39.
Harley Mullen Watson (106316).
The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants, 20/12/39:
S/Sergeant Charles James Black (109318), from R.A., T.A.
A/Lance Bombardier Kenneth George Dobson (109317), from R.A., T.A.
A/Lance Bombardier John Charles Harvey Tucker (109315), from R.A., T.A.
Gunner John William Kearsley (109316), from H.A.C. (Artillery).
Signalman Richard Albert Gordon Stokes (109351), from R.Signals, T.A.

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS.
2nd Lieutenant H. Lynch (69559) ceases to belong to the Supplementary Reserve of Officers on account of ill-health, 20/12/39.

[War Office, 22/12/39]

The names of the undermentioned have been brought to notice by the General Officer Commanding the British Forces in Palestine and Trans Jordan, in recognition of distinguished services rendered in connection with the operations in Palestine during the period 1st April to 30th July, 1939:

COMMANDS AND STAFF:
Major V. J. E. Westropp, R.Signals.

ROYAL SIGNALS:
Major C. Knowles.
Lieutenant R. Linton.
No. 2317030 Sergeant T. Beardmore.
No. 2317990 Lance Sergeant A. Lane.

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS:
The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants:
James Jesse Breeze (107912), 24/11/39.
Thomas Ian Ronald (108242), 27/11/39.
Rupert Ivor Kinross (110167), 1/12/39.
Neville Anthony Lambert (108365), 4/12/39.
Harry Burton Rogers (108761), 6/12/39.
R.S.M. Lionel Stanley Brett (109861), R.Signals, to be Lieutenant, 23/12/39.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
Colonel W. S. Ashley (33453) from R.A.S.C. to command the Unit with pay and allowances of Lieutenant-Colonel, 20/12/39.
The date of promotion of Captain (and Adjutant) S. J. Williams (58792) is 25/8/39 and not as notified in the "Gazette" of 3/11/39.

TERRITORIAL ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS.
GENERAL LIST:
Lieutenant-Colonel E. R. Sutton (32554) from Active List, to be Lieutenant-Colonel, 20/12/39. (Substituted for the notification in the "Gazette" of 19/12/39).

[War Office, 29/12/39]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS:
The undermentioned to be Lieutenants:
Major Frank Herbert Lacey (101162) late R.E., 9/9/39.
Lieutenant Roderick Peter George Denman (15482) late R.Signals, 29/9/39.
Lieutenant Anthony Guy Miller (110380) late Gloucestershire R., 9/9/39.
The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants:
Kenneth Stanley Handforth (106950), 11/12/39.
Private Thomas Stanley Woods (109876) from Essex R. (T.A.), 30/12/39.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
2nd Lieutenant A. McK. Annand (68400) to be Lieutenant, 4/7/39.
2nd Lieutenant A. C. H. Withers (68203) to be Lieutenant, 4/7/39.
GENERAL LIST:
Captain W. Hawkins (58286) from K.S.L.I., to be Captain, 27/11/39.

TERRITORIAL ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS.
GENERAL LIST:
Lieutenant R. C. Newcombe (56145) from T.A. Reserve of Officers (Devon R.), to be Lieutenant, 21/11/39.
REGIMENTAL LIST:
Lieutenant F. L. James (30107) relinquishes his commission on appointment to R.A.F. Volunteer Reserve, 14/2/39.

ROYAL SIGNALS CAR BADGE.



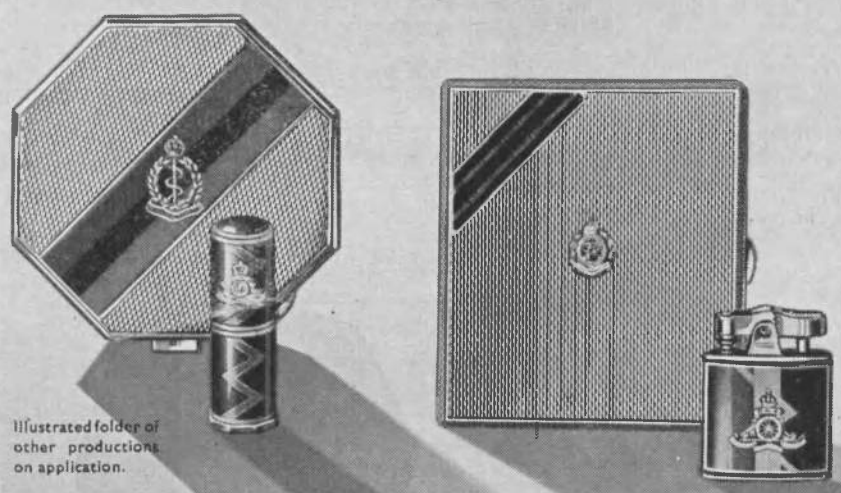
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VOL. XXI.—No. 242 APRIL, 1940 PRICE—SIXPENCE

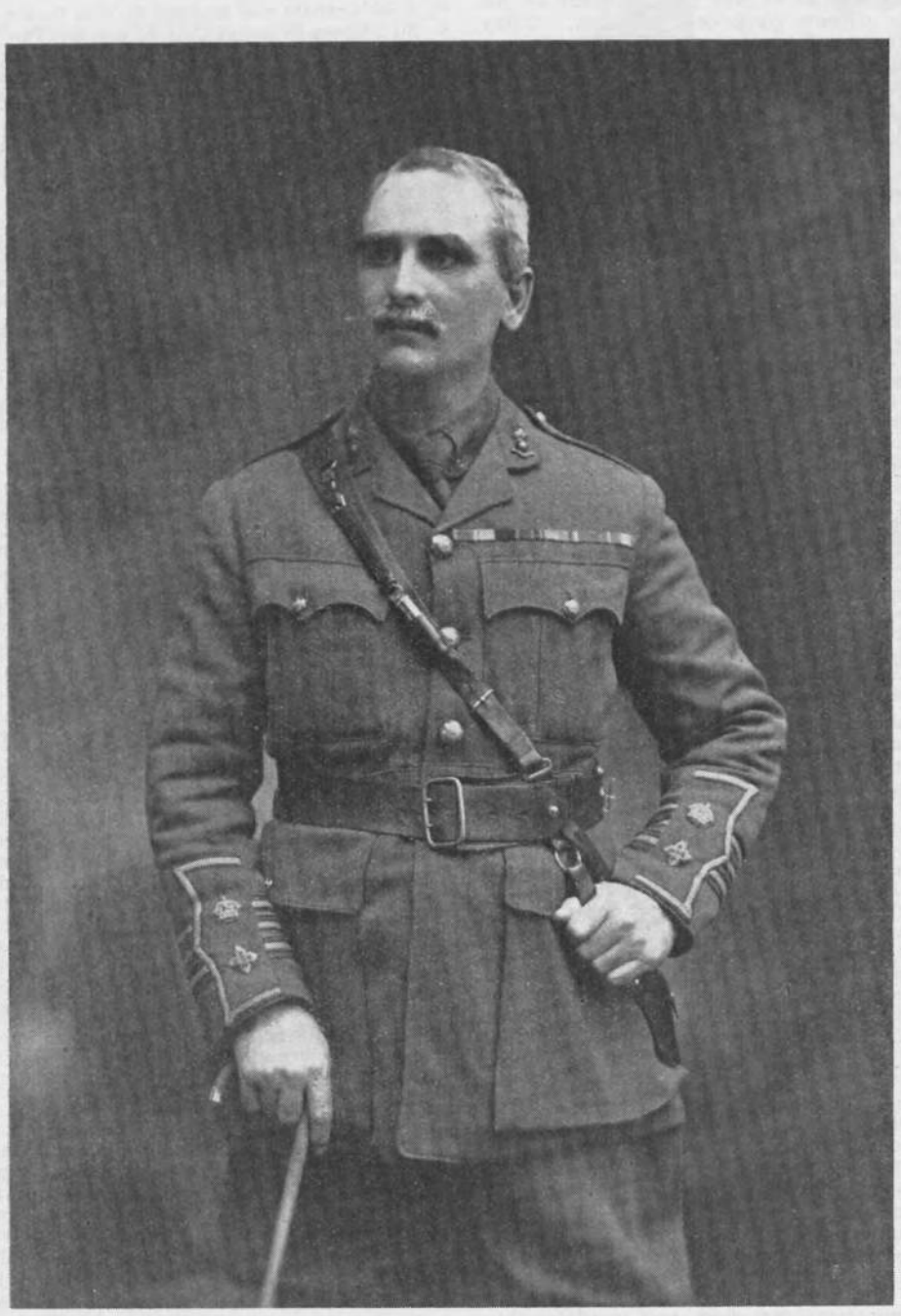
Editorial Notes

Obituary.—It is with deep regret that we record the death of Major-General Sir Graham Bowman-Manifold, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., Colonel-Commandant, Royal Engineers, who passed away at his home at Worplesdon, Surrey, on Wednesday, 13th March, and was buried with military honours at Worplesdon Churchyard, on Saturday, 16th March, in the presence of his family and a large gathering of those who had the honour to serve with him.

Michael Graham Egerton Manifold (later be became Bowman-Manifold) was born in 1871 and educated at St. Paul's School and the R.M.A., Woolwich, from which he passed into the Royal Engineers in 1891, where, after the usual courses at Chatham, he proceeded to the Telegraph Battalion, R.E., at Aldershot. It was not long before he saw active service in the Dongola Expedition of 1896 and the Nile Expedition of 1897-1898, under Lord Kitchener, and, as a Subaltern, he was in sole charge of the telegraphs throughout the campaign. The experience of tackling big jobs early in his career (frequently the lot of Signal officers) was invaluable in later years, and it is of interest to note that when he finally handed over his work, his responsibilities were assumed by a Major and two Captains.

Manifold's next service was in the South African War, where he again distinguished himself in charge of Railway Telegraphs. After that campaign, he widened his experience by serving in the South of England with " K " Company, R.E., which operated under the Post Office. He then graduated at the Staff College and held a General Staff appointment, later attending a Course at the Royal Naval War College. In 1914 he was commanding "A" Corps Signals and on the outbreak of war went to France as Officer in charge of 1st Corps Signals, under Sir Douglas Haig. After successfully coping with the great difficulties of communications during the retreat from Mons, the battles of the Marne and Aisne and " First Ypres " he was recalled home to train Territorial Units. It was thus that he became associated with the Unit that was to accompany him for the rest of the War. (The Northern Army Troops Signal Company training at Biggleswade.) When Lieutenant-Colonel Bowman-Manifold was appointed Director of Army Signals to the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force early in 1915 he took this Unit as G.H.Q. Signals. As Director of Army Signals throughout the Gallipoli campaign, Colonel Bowman-Manifold's energy and adaptability had full scope. His previous contacts with the Royal Navy and Eastern Telegraph Company and his knowledge of the resources of the Egyptian Telegraphs proved of immense value and his selection for such a difficult post was a compliment both to him and to those who appointed him. The system of communications on the peninsula and between various Aegean Islands, extending to Alexandria and later to Salonika, never failed, and the Director of Army Signals' visits to all Signal Units were an inspiration.

After the evacuation of Gallipoli he continued as Director of Signals in the E.E.F. and was responsible for the building up of a fine military telephone service in Egypt. Changes in organi-



MAJOR-GENERAL SIR GRAHAM BOWMAN-MANIFOLD, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.,
COLONEL-COMMANDANT ROYAL ENGINEERS

sation were frequent during 1916 and with the elaborations of the Canal Defences, the operations in the Western Desert and the start of the advance across Sinai, the activities of Signals were intense. With the advance to Gaza, fresh problems of long distant communication for a modern army arose. Brigadier-General Bowman-Manifold, as he was then, inspired all his subordinates in the difficult conditions prevailing. Every device—wireless sets on camels, motor trolleys on the railway—was used to supplement the more orthodox means of communication. The Signals organisation in the field and along the lines of communication were always ahead of requirements.

In the summer of 1917, when Lord Allenby succeeded Sir Archibald Murray as Commander-in-Chief, conditions of trench warfare existed in front of Gaza. All the facilities used in France had been ordered by the Director of Army Signals—power-buzzers, fullerphones, and small wireless sets being available. At the same time arrangements for rapid movement were ready and however fast or widely the troops operated, signal communication met their requirements. So through 1918 problems of administration, e.g., the advent of Indian Signal Units and Troops, the transportation of heavy stores, as well as the building up of a great signal system in Palestine were successfully solved. Brigadier-General Bowman-Manifold's day in these strenuous times would be to indulge in the recreation he loved, namely a ride before breakfast, then he would attend the General Staff conference at 9 a.m. and work in his office till lunch. In the afternoon he would usually travel anything up to 50 miles by car on rough roads visiting Units, and in the evening put in another couple of hours' work at his desk. He also paid frequent visits to Egypt and went to the Soudan. He would often travel at night but, whenever he went by day, his journey would be one of continuous inspection. He would always spot a broken insulator or a slack stay.

Lord Allenby's despatch on the 1918 advance through Syria states that " General Bowman-Manifold overcame all difficulties in the great and complicated system of communications and had never failed to solve the difficult problems caused by rapid and long advances—an organiser and administrator of great ability."

General Bowman-Manifold had the unique record of serving continuously in the same responsible capacity under four Commanders-in-Chief—Sir Ian Hamilton, Sir Charles Monro, Sir Archibald Murray and Sir Edmund Allenby. His loyalty to Signals, for he could have risen to higher appointments than Signals offered had he so wished, was intense. His wisdom and the continuity of policy that he maintained were of inestimable value. In addition he had the gifts of imaginative foresight and tenacity of purpose. In every situation he discerned how it would develop, and he had the courage to act on his own judgment. In 1917, when Allenby's target was to take Jerusalem, Bowman-Manifold appreciated correctly the conditions that would arise twelve months ahead. He ordered from home the stores and equipment and started the construction of suitable circuits that would enable telephone communications to be established between Beirut and Cairo, almost as soon as Beirut was reached in October, 1918.

At the end of the War the task of organising civil telegraph and telephone systems in Palestine fell to the Director of Army Signals—or Signal-Officer-in-Chief as the title became. The demobilisation of troops while military communications had to be maintained over the whole of the occupied territories also called for careful administration.

With the establishment of peace, Sir Graham Bowman-Manifold was appointed an instructor at the Staff College, Camberley, a post he held till he was promoted Major-General in 1921. He wrote "An Outline of the Egyptian and Palestine Campaigns, 1914-18," which was for some years used as a text book for Army Examinations and which was translated into Spanish as a text-book for the Argentine Army.

In 1921 Sir Graham took up work with the Marconi Company and later with Cables and Wireless, Ltd. He acted as foreign negotiator for them, furthering British trade chiefly in Poland, Egypt and Greece. In the course of this work, which he continued until 1934, he visited most of the countries in Europe. He settled down at Worplesdon after his retirement and did work for the British Legion and latterly in connection with A.R.P.

In 1938 he became a Colonel Commandant of the Royal Engineers, an honour of which he was especially proud. He had many other honours and awards. In 1900 he was awarded the D.S.O. In 1915 he became a Brevet-Colonel and during the War was awarded the Order of the Legion of Honour, the C.B., C.M.G., and in 1919 Knighthood of the Order of the British Empire.

Sir Graham was married in 1899 to the daughter of Admiral Sir Thomas Brandreth, K.C.B., and had two sons and one daughter One of his sons was killed in action as the navigating officer of H.M.S. "Exeter" in the Battle of the River Plate. He bore this blow in a truly Christian way, though it saddened his last few months.

So ended a career that should be an example to every member of both the Royal Engineers and the Royal Corps of Signals.

Corps Publications.—The Central Committee regret to announce that as and from the despatch of the January, 1940, issue it has been considered expedient to suspend publication of ROYAL SIGNALS QUARTERLY JOURNAL indefinitely.

In thanking all subscribers for their past support and loyal co-operation, we are authorised to state that the question of resucitating this publication will be brought forward for consideration on the cessation of hostilities.

" Wire " Subscribers.—With the introduction of security regulations, and the constant movement of Units and Unit personnel, it is no longer possible for the Editorial Staff to keep themselves acquainted with up-to-date location information as was practicable under peace time conditions.

In order to ensure prompt delivery of the Corps Magazine in future, therefore, subscribers are kindly requested to notify this office whenever they change their present address.

EDITOR.

Royal Signals Comforts Fund

A concert in aid of the Royal Signals Comforts Fund was very kindly given by the Metropolitan Police at the Chelsea Town Hall on 8th March. The evening was much enjoyed and a profit of £17 1s. 9d. was realised. A bridge drive was also organised by the Entertainments Committee at the Overseas League on 19th March. There was a good attendance and the Fund benefited to the extent of £7 19s. 6d. Thanks are due to all those who so kindly gave the prizes, which added interest to the afternoon, and it is hoped to hold another bridge drive shortly on a larger scale. The success of both these entertainments is largely to be attributed to the energy and hard work of Mrs. P. Doyle, the Chairman of the Entertainments Committee.

Large presents of woollen goods have been received from the Lady Mayoress's Comforts League, the Overseas League, the Women's Voluntary Services League, and the Friends of the Fighting Forces.

The Committee would like to mention to all their supporters that they are collecting woollen garments now and will continue to do so through the summer to be stored ready for next winter. It has been suggested that this store should contain a minimum of 24,000 garments and it is therefore hoped that all knitters will continue their efforts during the next six months. Arrangements are being made to store the garments in such a way that they will be protected against moths, damp, etc.

It is understood that many Units are making arrangements to store their own woollen comforts through the summer. It is suggested that the best method of keeping these safely is in special moth-proof bags, which can be bought quite inexpensively. . The Comforts Committee would be willing to arrange for the purchase of these for any Units requiring them.

A request has been received from a Unit that is about to move into summer quarters in the country for tennis racquets and other sports equipment. Plenty of ground is available for games, but being a newly-formed Unit there is no money to buy the necessary gear. It is thought that other Units may be in similar straits, and the Comforts Fund would therefore be

most grateful for any gifts of old tennis racquets, deck tennis sets, cricket bats, etc., in order that they may be distributed as required.

The Committee gratefully acknowledge receipt of the following :

	£	s.	d.
Mrs. Coales	1	0	0
Mrs. E. A. Osborne (second contribution)	2	2	0
Lady Kingsley Wood (second contribution)		10	0
Malta Signal Company (monthly)	8	15	0
Divisional Signals, B.E.F.	2	0	0
Staff of Records and Pay Office, Royal Signals (monthly)	13	5	0
Balance from Dance organised by Royal Signals Comforts Fund Entertainment Committee	4	14	9
152nd O.C.T.U.	3	1	10
Mrs. Cook		5	0
R. Jeffries		10	0
Hong Kong Signal Company	$100.00		
All Ranks, H.Q., Divisional Signals, B.E.F.	6	6	8
Inspection Department, Engineer and Signal Stores (monthly)	4	0	0
The Domestic Fellowship, Regent's Park Branch	2	11	0
W. Butler (monthly)		6	6
Mrs. Anthony		5	0
Divisional Signals, B.E.F.	3	5	0
The Lady Maureen Stanley	1	1	0

Benevolent Fund Notes

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2	Wife of Signalman, Newcastle			Grant	£5	0	0
3	Ex-Signalman, Cambs.			Grant	£3	0	0
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5	N.C.O., London			Grant	£3	0	0
6	Wife of Signalman, B.E.F.			Grant	£1	0	0
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8	Wife of Signalman, B.E.F.			Grant	£2	0	0
9	Ex-N.C.O., Essex			Loan	£5	0	0
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(Signed) T. H. L. Spaight, Lieutenant-Colonel,
Administrator, Signals Association Benevolent Fund.



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For
" GAZETTE NEWS—OFFICERS "
See page 130

The "Whang Boys" Abroad

(By kind permission of "Motor Cycling")



(By Courtesy of "Motor Cycling")

"Everyone . . . seemed to have specialised in some form or other of motorcycling sport. 'Lofty' Lobb delighted in riding through fire and glass."

The Adventures of Some "Motor Cycling" Despatch Riders from their Days of Enlistment Amusingly Recounted

By

SIGNALMAN R. J. ALLEN

WHEN war broke out a fellow clubman, hereinafter known as Alan, and I rushed round on a certain 250 Ariel in a frantie endeavour to enlist as Despatch Riders. No recruits being required, we were refused, fortunately, because a few days afterwards Uncle Graham gave us the chance to enrol. This splendid "Motor Cycling" scheme is well known, and to make a long story short, we were soon called up. Owing to certain unforeseen difficulties, however, Alan went first, but I soon joined him "somewhere in the north of England."

During the next few days many other "Motor Cycling" recruits appeared on the scene. What a gang we were! Soon each day became like a club outing. Every one seemed to have had some weird and wonderful experiences, as all seemed to have specialised in some form or other of motorcycling sport. "Lofty" Lobb delighted in riding through fire and glass; "Silent Stanley" performed on grass tracks very successfully, whilst "Trashy" was never more content than when he was playing with ancient models.

TRAINING

Then started three weeks of high-pressure training, during which we managed to find quite a few moments of leisure. "Trashy" managed to procure (I won't say how) a 13-year-old 250 New Imperial, on which we played with great gusto over the local roughery. Owing to this rushing around and to our habit of using the word "whang" when describing speed under adverse conditions, we soon became known as the "Whang Boys"—a name that has stuck to this day.

During this period we also found time for fun and games in another direction—barrack-room raids. These were quite terrific affairs, for obviously when 20 or so hefty blokes suddenly invade your room and start turning beds upside down with, perhaps, you in it, you start fighting as if your life was endangered. After one of these raids, when the invaders had undoubtedly been victorious, we put our heads together in an endeavour to think out something unique by way of retaliation. Eventually one of us had a brainwave. "Darky" who many a time has left portions of his leathers on Brooklands, suggested our removing the pins from the raiders' beds. (The framework of an Army bed is held together by pins, and with these removed the bed is on the verge of collapse.) When the enemy was safely out we removed all such pins. As it happened, they returned quite tired after a long "bash" over the roughery—part of the training, so, as they came in, most of them sat, or fell, on their beds. What a treat! The floor was one mass of beds and blokes. The ensuing battle was the most furious ever.

LEAVE

Then came a tremendous surprise—seven days' embarkation leave after only three weeks' service. The train journey home was like a trip to a trial. The talk was all "bikes" and what we



(By Courtesy of "Motor Cycling)

"We have also found another way of passing the time—tobogganing . . . 'Trashy' . . . acquired an old pram . . . in which two can sit, but not in comfort."

would do during our leave. In spite of the fact that during the previous three weeks we had covered a considerable mileage each day, every one seemed most anxious to get on his own machine, or, as it was put, on a " real job," and have a " whang."

During this period of freedom I begged or borrowed (shame on me !) a Ford Eight, and four of us—" Lofty," Alan, " Darky " and I—met in London for a wander around to drink " lemonade" with our respective parents. We had a date, too, with Uncle Graham. So off we set for the palatial building of Temple Press. After stopping all, or any, work in the office and ruining a camera, we departed with the staff's good wishes ringing in our ears and all the copies of that week's " Motor Cycling " that were about in our capacious and ever-open pockets. A few days after this we all met at the station, complete with parents, girls and our public (one small boy !) to return to " somewhere in north England." It was a real reunion.

When we got back we found every one rushing around in ever-decreasing circles, for shortly we were away to . . . " Somewhere in South England." We still found a little time for fun and games however. " Trashy " had brought his 1927 big-port A.J.S. up with him and one night, whilst he was out, we fetched it into the barrack room and put it on his bed. His face as he walked into the room was a picture. We helped him to remove the " job " from the bed and then he commenced to start it up, just to show us what a healthy exhaust note it had ! And it had ! Not content with this, he then started to demonstrate how easy it was to lift the front wheel—the wall stopped him, luckily without damage.

FUN AND GAMES

The gang we had " laughed-off " so well in the matter of bed pins scored a complete victory about this time. Unfortunately, they were not coming overseas with us, but they were also moving to continue their training with another Unit. On the day of their departure they were roused by the Sergeant with a cup of tea (?) at 4 a.m. to move at 5 a.m. On their way back from breakfast, approximately 4.30 a.m., they entered our barrack room and, whilst we were still asleep, systematically turned us and our beds upside down. Before we could untangle ourselves they were —gone ! A case of " he who laughs last " I am afraid.

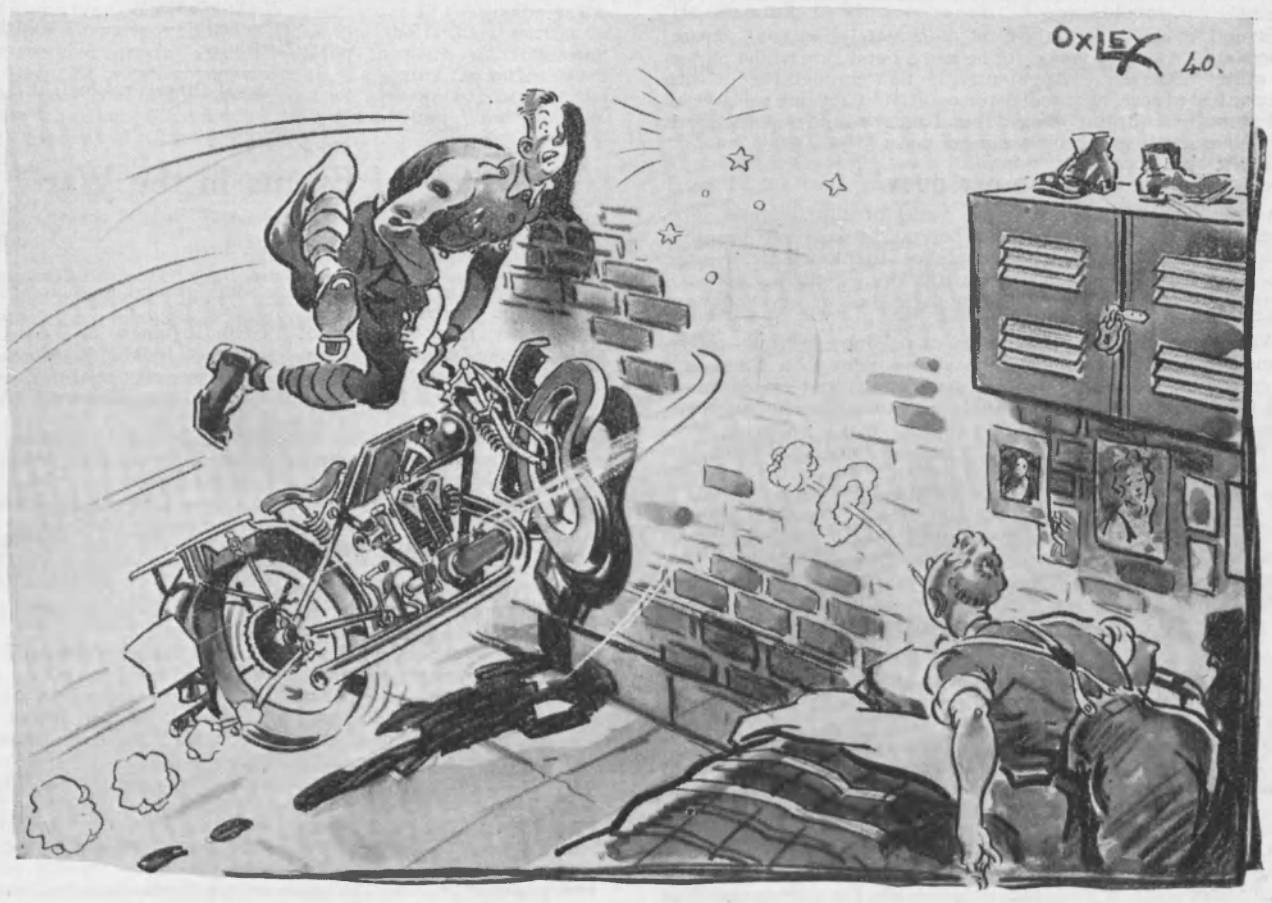
The journey to " somewhere in South England " was very interesting, for it included a " picnic " " somewhere in the middle of England. It was here that Alan " bought a box." A beauty ! Over the top with the best of luck and two " luverly " black eyes. His was the honour of the first real tumble—the twerp !

We stayed at our new home for about a fortnight and then off to " Somewhere in France." Unfortunately, " Darky " was taken ill with tonsilitis and was left behind. Two riotous days were spent at our port of embarkation—days well up to the " whang " standard. While we were waiting we were sailors for 18 hours, but " Lofty," " Silent," three others not mentioned before—" Streaky," " Misery " (his name is Joy) and " Unlucky" —and I managed by very clever " fiddling " to secure a bunk each, so we spent most of the time sleeping. Once more luck was with us, for the crossing was smooth throughout. Upon landing on the other side we were marched to some barracks to await the unloading of the lorries and bikes.

That little job took two days, whereupon we started off for our ultimate destination. All this time our chief diet was corned beef, owing to the fact that as the cookhouse was moving, cooking facilities were very poor.

IN FRANCE

Each day the weather became colder until the roads were, without exaggeration, one long skating rink. In addition to this,



(By Courtesy of " Motor Cycling ")

" He then started to demonstrate how easy it was to lift the front wheel—the wall stopped him . . ."

it was so cold that goggles were useless; they just became covered with a thick layer of frost. I was with the advance cookhouse party—[You would be.—ED.]—and I had not gone far before I was well and truly on my ear, a performance I repeated several times. I learned afterwards that all the D.R.s "bought it" at least once. Luckily, only one of us was hurt at all seriously, and he has since rejoined us none the worse for wear.

Upon arrival they gave us our Christmas dinner—corned beef stew! [What, no crackers?—ED.] The billets in which we spent our first few days were not too good, but once things had settled down a bit all the D.R.s moved into houses, where we have been ever since. This is far better. We still sleep on straw, but each room has electric light and a Valor stove, and by watching and enlisting the help of the "old hands," we have managed to make ourselves comfortable.

Another thing. Now that the cookhouse has settled down, the grub has considerably improved, but it still leaves us needing a supper. Luckily there is a stove in the billet, and many a weird concoction is cooked on this. Still, it is always delicious to us. Most of the boys are really good cooks, and they all seem to have a dish at which they are extra hot. Mine is hard-boiled eggs!

ON DUTY—

Our duties are worked in shifts, four of us on at a time, three of whom go on Letter Service trips, which are run to regular schedule to various units. The fourth man stands by waiting for any urgent special message, and then he will "dice" to his destination as fast as is safely possible. Ever since our arrival the roads have been really dangerous, so much so that some days the runs have been done in "bugs," i.e., small lorries. These "bugs" have very large section tyres, but, in spite of this, the one I was in recently became caught in the tramlines, which were great ruts owing to the ice and frozen snow, and in our endeavours to extricate ourselves we slid around in a complete circle! Very nice!!

Several of us have fallen off, fortunately without injury. "Gee Gee" was very lucky, for he had a burst tyre whilst motoring quite "sharpish." Apparently, he flew through the air with the greatest of ease, but landed quite softly. I am sure we have all had more thrills in the "bugs" but I must admit that the roads were far worse than when we were riding.

—AND OFF DUTY

As you can realise, working the duties in shifts enables us to have a little time to ourselves. When not cooking, our leisure is usually spent in playing darts matches, thanks to Mr. Norton who sent us such a magnificent board before we left England. Of course, we also have the everlasting cards, but we never play for money—it is against the rules!

We have also found another way of passing the time—tobogganing. Adjoining the billet is a slide similar to a chute in a swimming pool, and this is one mass of ice and frozen snow. The toboggan used to consist of a sheet of metal similar to the direction signs used by the A.A. and the R.A.C., and oh, boy! did it skate! To keep to the course one has to negotiate a narrow gateway, so we have been having plenty of thrills. Those who could stay on could cover anything up to 113 yards for this is the distance covered by record-holder "Lofty," with "Misery" a close second. Unfortunately, directly after this record was made the lump of metal—sorry, the toboggan—was claimed, and, in spite of our protests that we had found it in the snow, we had to hand it over.

NOT DOWN-HEARTED

Were we down-hearted? Yes—I mean No! "Trashy" by a bit of nifty bargaining soon acquired an old pram. The three remaining wheels were soon removed and behold—a new toboggan in which two can sit, but not in comfort. Also, once in you cannot get out until thrown out. This magnificent affair will not keep to the course, with the result that every run spells disaster. Personally, I have been out at all angles, but, apart from one or two stupendous bruises, no real damage has resulted. The mæstro of this toboggan is undoubtedly "Silvo," who, for some unknown reason, stays on board for longer than any of us.

As each day passes so the life grows more and more like a job, but I am enjoying myself, and, judging from the singing that is at present to be heard, I should say that the rest of the boys feel the same.

Correspondence

General Headquarters,
British Expeditionary Force.
27th March, 1940.

To the Editor, THE WIRE.

DEAR SIR,—Your readers will, I think, be pleased to see the following copy of a letter from a senior French officer about a detachment of the Royal Signals in the area under his command. Places and names have had to be omitted, but I may say that the detachment came from a Supplementary Reserve Unit:

"My dear ———,

"I suppose you know that for the last fortnight I had here at the ——— Barracks a contingent of 125 British troops I have been glad to welcome.

"Being a strict disciplinarian with my own troops, I had to advise the new contingent that the same rules were to be strictly observed by our Allies.

"I am glad to say that at every point of view, behaviour, order, in, as well as out of duty, are quite perfect; I did not look after their work, but our allied troops seem to do it most actively.

"Yesterday we had a parade in the Barracks, and as Colonel ——— was here on Friday, I told him how anxious we would be to see a British section take a share in the parade. He allowed it immediately.

"The British section besides, turned and paraded in the most perfect way; the 'Prefet,' who was present at the show, admired it as I did myself.

"General ———, Commanding ———, comes here tomorrow and Lieutenant ——— shall be introduced to him.

"I write by same post to Colonel ——— to tell him how satisfied and grateful I am.

"It's 'all right.'

"Yours truly,
"(Signed) ———, Colonel."

Yours faithfully,

Signal Officer-in-Chief, B.E.F.

Diary of Events in the War

(Continued)

By E. W. S.

1940.

FEBRUARY 16TH.—Russians gain some ground in their attacks in the Karelian Isthmus.

FEBRUARY 17TH.—Rescue of British prisoners on board the German auxiliary warship "Altmark" by H.M.S. "Cossack," destroyer, in Josing Fiord, off Norwegian coast.

FEBRUARY 18TH.—Norwegian protest to Britain about infringement of neutrality by H.M.S. "Cossack."

FEBRUARY 19TH.—H.M.S. "Daring," destroyer, torpedoed and sunk in North Sea. Finns complete destruction of Russian 18th Division north-east of Lake Ladoga.

FEBRUARY 21ST.—British trawlers, newly armed against enemy air attack, drive off German aeroplanes in North Sea. Russian air force bombs Swedish frontier village of Pajala.

FEBRUARY 22ND.—Two enemy aeroplanes brought down on north-east coast of England.

FEBRUARY 23RD.—R.A.F. machines bomb German warships in Heligoland Bight.

FEBRUARY 24TH.—Machines of R.A.F. in France reconnoitre into enemy territory as far east as Vienna and Prague.

FEBRUARY 25TH.—First Canadian Air Force squadron arrives in England. Arrival in Rome of Mr. Sumner Welles and Mr. Myron Taylor from United States to explore and report on present European situation.

FEBRUARY 26TH.—Finns abandon Koivisto island and Russian offensive approaches Viipuri.

FEBRUARY 27TH.—Two enemy machines shot down in raid in North Sea. R.A.F. reconnoitre over Germany as far east as Berlin and drop leaflets in streets.

FEBRUARY 28TH.—R.A.F. again reconnoitre as far into Germany as Berlin and also fly over Kiel and Cuxhaven.

(*Continued on page* 132)

B.E.F. NOTES

H.Q. Signals, B.E.F.

Since the issue of our last notes to THE WIRE, things have grown more interesting in the realms of sport, and some very keen engagements have taken place in Inter-Section soccer games —incidentally, H.Q. Section and No. 51 Line Section took the lead, and H.Q. won by a short lead after a hard and well fought game.

The intention is now to build an Inter-Section League, and there is no doubt but that the lads are in for good things to come where soccer is concerned.

No. 1 Company are to be congratulated on winning the first encounter with an " away " team, when they beat the Sappers 3—1 at the usual " Somewhere." Those of us who witnessed this match realise now that the tales of lads in the thirties being past their best, are purely mythical, especially when we consider the goal Sergeant McLauchlan scored to give No. 1 Company the lead in the second half of the game.

There is no doubt about it, we are going to produce a real good side to represent the Unit, and, have hopes that once the selection committee have agreed on the lads to form the team, we may be able to meet some of the local French clubs.

Before ceasing the digression on soccer, mention must be made of the Officers versus Sergeants game. Unfortunately this must be chronicled as third-hand information as, in the Sergeants' trial game (yes, folks, we took it as serious as all that !) the scribe became a casualty. It was noticed that the Officers' custodian took the field carrying a chair. Various tales are still circulating as to why he did this. However, the Sergeants ran out winners by the only goal of the match, and we wish to congratulate the Officer who made this possible. We did not know that the M.O. was a student of Allan Morton.

I almost forgot to mention that in addition to soccer, rugger is also on the go, and the first, and to date, only encounter was Officers versus D.R.s. The Officers ran out winners by 6 points to nil.

So it will be noticed that we are not allowing boredom to enter into our scheme of things ; and the scribe hopes to be able to report on our success in sporting activities.

As regards other spheres of daily life, since the last issue of notes nothing drastic or otherwise has occurred to shatter our tranquility, and we carry on with the good work.

Most of the officers have had their spell of leave now. Writing of this we notice that the tailoring trade must have been pretty active at home these past few months, judging by the " British warms " which have appeared in our midst.

Death —It is with deep regret that we report the death of No. 2327289 Signalman Timpany G., which occurred at a casualty clearing station on 28th February. He had been in ailing health for the last few months. We offer our condolence to his brothers and folks at home.

SHAN.

2 First London, B.E.F.

" For the light of ' B ' Line Section shall not burn unseen. Away with the bushel, and now we shine once again in all our glory."

Since " The Observer's " last contribution to these columns we have been removed from our former marble halls and re-planted among our brother Sections, "A" and " C," sharing with them the various guard duties. Keen rivalry will soon promote medal or banner or something for the smartest Section. The others claim to be able to shave with their mirror-toed boots, but—you ought to see our blanco'd gaiters !

Even the cooks are entering into the spirit of competition. Our man " Max " is doing fine lately. The other day he invited us up to partake of his eleven-course luncheon. Roast potatoes, cauliflower, gravy, salt, pepper, mustard, bread, margarine, and —*the piece de resistance*—peach melba and custard. To follow, was dog biscuits and Dutch cheese—for the elite.

A beautiful town is our new abode. Plenty of everything, and a Provost Sergeant to keep a fatherly eye upon us all. I have forgotten to mention that we have laid quite a number of new routes. The fine weather has helped considerably, and we have seen the best in our working detachments. I have dedicated a couple of rhymes to them :

" B " LINE QUAD DETACHMENT.

We are the lads of Sergeant " Bill's " Squad,
He guides with a hand that's as firm as a rod ;
It is said that a nag from the Aga Khan's stable
Could never keep pace when we're laying quad cable.

" B " LINE CABLE DETACHMENT.

And we are Sergeant Gardner's boys, we love to get work done,
He often asks us when we're out, "Are you having any fun ? "
None can improve our crossings pole, when we are on the job,
And he wouldn't part with one of us for twenty bob a nob !

Welcome.—We are glad to have back with us " Bubbles " Skinner, who has been in hospital for a long time. Two new members have joined us : " Butch " Woodward and Bill Ball. They have already made themselves at home and are now, after four days, no longer strangers. Good luck, chums !

Sport.—We are proud to announce that of the Line Sections here we are the only one who have been represented in the Unit match against the R.A.O.C. Three cheers for " Nic." !

We have played " C " Line Section again. Result, to our credit, of course, 4—3.

Against "A" Line we were settling down to tan their hide when the rains came. However, after ten minutes' battle, we checked out at 2—0, again in our favour.

A plucky team of French local lads fell under our mighty power to the tune of 8—2. A good fight.

We shall continue to reign victorious !

Darts.—" Bubbles " says that the Don R.s were beaten last night, easily, too. Take a bow, boys.

Questionnaire.—Who tried to break in a new pipe with some fine old French shag (very black) and was queer for three days ?

Who took the radio to pieces and then discovered that the source of supply was not connected properly ?

Who has come back from leave with a broken heart ? (She's fallen for the R.A.F.)

What has become of Uke's pullover, with all the gay medals and inscriptions on it ?

Who had the Easter egg and three little chicks ?

Who were the weaklings who had to have drag-ropes on the drum-barrow ?

And who emptied all their tea grouts in Tilly's mug ?

Cheerio, all.

THE OBSERVER.

HOME STATIONS

Yorkshire I.

1st Operators' Training Battalion

No. 1 Company

General.—Due to the severe censorship, we poor journalists are living a hand-to-mouth existence, and unless something exciting happens soon, we shall be compelled to resign.

Nevertheless, the Company is keeping up the good work, pushing out B.III operators as fast as we can ; the average percentage is maintaining its high standard.

Social.—We mentioned in last month's notes that we were to hold a dance ; due to German measles, however, we had to postpone it until the following week. It was hailed throughout the Company as a roaring success—and the men are crying for more. No wonder ; there were eighty A.T.S. invited, and the men who couldn't dance, at least didn't mind being wallflowers. Numerous engagements will be announced shortly. There were hurried farewells and parting kisses, just before the A.T.S. fell in smartly outside.

Departures.—We said farewell to our " Prince of Tickers," Lance Corporal Cadwell, and wish him all the best in his new Battalion. We hope his ticks are not losing their velvety edge.

Camp Cinema.—Everyone in the Signals will remember the Camp Cinema. Well, all we see now is the charred remains. Last Sunday, after giving a wonderful performance, it laid down its weary structure in a well-earned rest. It defied all fire brigades in the area, and went out in " flaming " glory. (Incidentally, its rival, the Garrison Cinema, was showing a picture " Where's that Fire ? " Was it a coincidence ?)

Sport.—The Garrison Football Knock-out Competition is due to start very shortly, and we will give you the results as it progresses.

Agony.—To all those who should write from all those who can't write—WRITE !

GESUM.

No. 2 Company

March.

In No. 2 Company, training has continued " as usual," despite changeable, and, at times, most unpleasant, weather conditions.

To those who have passed their B.III or Group " E " trade tests we offer our congratulations ; to those who have recently joined us, we offer our best wishes, confident in the hope that they will at least equal the achievements of their predecessors. We also offer our congratulations to Lance Sergeants Boulton and Ebbage, who have been promoted to the rank of Sergeant; to Lance Corporal Lace, on his promotion to Corporal ; and to Signalmen Robinson R., Taylor C. G. and Bennett F. U. on rising from the ranks to their first " tape." We also offer our best wishes to Signalmen Littledale, Sheppard, Meiklejohn and Lenihan, who have left us to join the 152nd O.C.T.U. We sincerely hope that they will not be long in getting " the pip."

Sport.—Owing to weather conditions our activities have largely been confined to indoor sport, which have been tackled with enthusiasm, and to some snow-clearing, which was not quite so enthusiastically done. We would like to extend our thanks to Lance Corporals Brown, Harris and Roberts for their great assistance in organising some excellent boxing programmes. It is rumoured that Lance Corporal Roberts carries a hammer and jumper in each glove, and we think his mark will be felt for a long time in this gay city. Our prospective B.III clients went into the game with all hands, and we don't think any foes will get away unmarked if they come up against some of these boys. Watch out, Lord Haw-Haw ! One of them was heard to remark that it was good practice for key-sending to tap the other fellow's nose or any other object that looms into view.

We welcome Signalman Brunton to our Company ; he used to twinkle his toes with Manchester City. (He said it was a very nice change to come to a dry, warm climate.) He is proving very useful in giving P.T. exercises on sports afternoons, under the supervision of Sergeant Whyte (late of Blackburn Rovers). Congratulations to Signalman Smith S., who was chosen in the team to represent the Army against Darlington F.C.

As a result of trials held on 4th March, the Company feel confident that they can beat all-comers at table tennis. A much larger number competed in the trials than was anticipated, and the difficulty will be, not in finding sufficient players to make up a team, but in deciding who shall be left out.

Snippets.—What did " Q." say when he saw some of the " salvage " ?

Another N.C.O. is to join the ranks of the " worse halves " —we think this is topp(er)ing news.

The new machine in the Corporal's Room is proving very " fruitful " to those who know how. Their experience with pressing the key has probably something to do with pressing those little knobs.

The junior N.C.O.s must be getting hot at table tennis ; they have broken two bats already.

It was a pity that THAT MAN showed his dislike for our Cinema so savagely.

No. 3 Company

Introduction.—Hello, everyone ! Three Company is on the air again, and feeling very pleased with themselves, too, revelling in sunshine after the long spell of ice and snow. Makes one feel like a spot of " visual," what ?

We welcome our Captain, who has recently arrived to take over the Company. You may rely on our full co-operation, sir !

In the main we are jogging along very much as usual, but a few nights ago something happened which will affect the leisure hours of most of us here. Nothing less than the disappearance of a well-known landmark—the Camp Cinema—which has been reduced to ruins by fire. We are afraid the black-out was spoilt for miles around, but it *was* rather a big job for the P.A.D. men. Perhaps a new super-cinema may spring, phœnix-like, from the ashes.

Congratulations.—To A/U/Lance Corporals Ingram, O'Kines, Brackenbury and Whitehand, who have " gone up one." They'll soon drop the A/U.

This Month's Moral Thought.—Remember, a man who never made a mistake never made anything.

Wanted.—Volunteers for Corporal Gillotts' " Strength through Joy " movement. No connection with any other strength organisations.

We close with a note of thanks to Hoppy and Nobby for their masterly description of the " line-feed " on a concrete mixer.

JOE EGG.

Boys Training Company

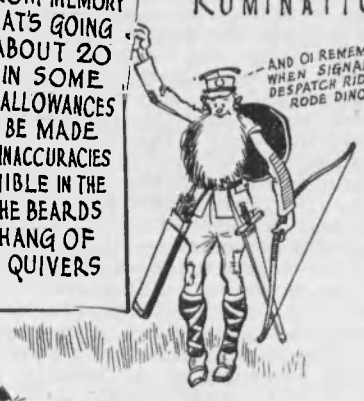
Dear readers,—Between you and me and the censor, there may be something in all the talk we hear of Hitler's secret weapon after all. The Company has just recovered from an attack of German measles. The usual gibe from the local wits was, " Had a spot of bother I see " ! Yes, the attack was so severe that even our best wisecrackers had to resort to puns.

For the first time for fifteen years Corporal Blades was detailed for Guard Commander. Many were the taunts levelled at this

"AS YOU were!"

RUMINATIONS AND REMINISCENCES AT RANDOM

SINCE ALL OUR PICTURES OF PERSONALITIES ARE FROM MEMORY (AND THAT'S GOING BACK ABOUT 20 YEARS IN SOME CASES) ALLOWANCES SHOULD BE MADE FOR ANY INACCURACIES DISCERNIBLE IN THE CUT OF THE BEARDS OR THE HANG OF ARROW QUIVERS





WE REMEMBER A BRIEF BUT EXHILARATING PARTNERSHIP WITH A STREAMLINED STICK OF DYNAMITE ON PILTDOWN COMMON AND ROUGH-RIDER Sgt. HEWITT'S SOLDIER'S FAREWELL ON OUR WAY OUT.



WE REMEMBER THE INTRODUCTION OF ROLLER SKATING AT THE MARESFIELD GYMNASIUM, THE SIGNALS THUS GIVING A LEAD TO THE ARMY IN MECHANISATION.



AND WE REMEMBER MAJOR H. A. SPENCER, M.C., WHO "NURSED" ONE OF THE GREATEST CHAMPIONSHIP BOXING TEAMS THE ARMY HAS EVER KNOWN.



WE REMEMBER JOHN GARRONI, DOYEN OF THE S.T.C. DRAWING OFFICE IN THE 1920's, PLUS PERSPIRATION, "PLUS FOURS" AND PLUS CAT.



WE REMEMBER HAROLD NOKES AND HIS HOME-MADE "GOLIATH 8" AT ALDERSHOT IN 1924. HE WAS



SO MECHANICALLY-MINDED HE PROBABLY HAD AN AUTO WHEEL FITTED TO THE PERAMBULATOR IN HIS INFANCY.



AND WE VIVIDLY REMEMBER ONE NORCROSS AND AN ALL-IN "REGIMENTAL" HE DIDN'T TURN A HAIR.

well-bitten old warrior, yet he showed no uneasiness. The appointed day arrived and, undaunted by sarcasm, he performed his duties as per regulations—up to a point. Everything in the Guard Room was lovely until he asked the waiting man to fetch the flintlocks. We realise, of course, that a bloke who fills the post of Medical Orderly, Air Raid Warden, gardener and frothblower has very little time for modern ideas.

It has been noticed that ever since the poor Company cat was killed, Corporal Horstead has been acting rather strangely. The cause of this has been discovered and I set it out in verse in the hope that the subtle beauty of the poetry itself will hide the tragedy of the subject :

A LAMENT.

The Company once possessed a cat
Which vied its cunning 'gainst the rat ;
T'would squash a mouse beneath its flipper,
And thus would earn its daily kipper.
Yet even those who liked to feed it,
Admitted that we did not need it,
And so authority decreed that it—
Must die.

Thus, early on one cheerless day,
Friend Horstead took the cat away ;
Across the sullen moors they speed,
To find a spot for his foul deed.
Up a shallow stream he tracked,
And there performed his ghastly act.

The grisly tale is far from ended,
For Corporal Horstead, sore offended,
Argues that he's had to stoop
To murder, and in one foul swoop
To drown a cat whose course was run.
Why ! Hang it, chaps, " It isn't done " !
His crime of that poor feline's death
Now haunts him like a new MacBeth.

One of our officers introduced a " Beetle Drive " into the Club entertainments programme. The popularity which it received inspires one humbly to suggest other novel games, such as " Dinosaurus Dance," " Caterpillars' Concert," " Bugs' Ball " and " Bottles and Draughts." Needless to say the suggestions were welcomed with a soldier's farewell—the Company version being " Garnawayyertwirp," or something.

The Company cinema shows (now held weekly) have proved so attractive that the local cinema proprietor has set fire to his building in a fit of jealousy. The Company's taste in films seems to range from Boris Karloff to Shirley Temple, taking in its stride Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck and an advert. for Austin cars.

The Company congratulates the following on their appointments : Lance Corporal Blades T. to be Corporal ; Signalman Smith (Kitchen) to be Lance Corporal ; Phillips to Corporal Boy ; Perkins, King J. and Kneebone R. to Lance Corporal Boys.

We extend our heartiest wishes to the following ex-Boys, who have left us for other Units : Signalmen Marshall, Griffin, Pellant, Render, Pritchard and Emery.

No doubt the enemy agent who burnt our rissoles this morning would like to know where they are posted, but we ain't talkin'.

Once, the area around our noble building was resplendent with verdant lawns. If the censor will permit me to mention that it snowed a couple of months ago, it will help the readers to understand that the once resplendent lawns are now mud-baths for bright-breasted birds and colonies for congregations of cawing crows. As the jovial Corporal Hakesley says, " It makes you think."

We welcome to our fold recruit boys Harding and Metcalf. May their stay with us be a happy and profitable one.

Yours, and welcome,

A. JAY (Exeunt).

SPORTS NOTES.

Owing to very bad weather conditions and isolation we have not been able to play any outdoor sport ; that is why no notes have appeared in the last two issues of THE WIRE.

Football.—The Company played their first game of 1940 against No. 2 Line Company and were very unlucky to lose 1—0. The play was scrappy with occasional bursts by the forwards, who were stopped before they had a chance to get within striking distance. After half-time the passing was more accurate and Kneebone R., by covering well, stopped a few strong shots from finding the net. However, a few minutes from the end the opposing centre-forward broke away and, as the goal-keeper ran out, deflected the ball into the corner of the goal. The annual fixture with the School of Signals was played a few days later in a very strong wind. Boys' Company, kicking with the wind, found the ball rather hard to keep down and many corners were taken, but were fruitless. After the change-over attacks on the opposing goal were more frequent and the goal-keeper was lucky to keep the forwards out for so long. The game ended in a draw (0—0) much to the relief of everyone, who had had enough of ball chasing for one afternoon.

The first round of the Training Battalion Knock-out Cup was played on 12th March with the Boys' Company playing No. 3 Shops Company. The Shops turned out a strong team, including Signalman Warren, an ex-Boy of "A" Team '39 fame. From the kick-off the Boys' Company attacked down the left wing and a shot by Mullin P. was turned over the bar to give a corner. After this the Shops' backs had a very hard time, and Boy Ward was " sandwiched " in the penalty area when jumping to meet a ball. From the spot-kick Lance Corporal Smith A. gave the goalkeeper no chance, and so gave the Company the lead. Soon after this the Shops' goal was again in trouble and a centre from the left was deflected goalwards and a back, making a hasty clearance, kicked the ball to Lance Corporal Smith, who increased the lead. The play was then transferred to the other end, but Rowe and Martin, covering well, soon had the ball back and from a pass from the right-wing, Ward sent in a screw shot which found the corner of the net. A few minutes after half-time the opposing right wing broke away and centred for the centre-forward to send in a shot which Kneebone did well to save. This was the only chance the Shops had, and the Boys' Company kept them out by quick tackling and first-time kicking. Lance Corporal Boy Forsyth was outstanding at left-half and Lance Corporal Smith A. gave a fine performance at inside-left. The final score was 3—0, so the Boys' Company pass into the next round, where they play No. 4 M.T. Company.

Rugby.—A Training Battalion trial was held on Scotton and the Boys' Company was well represented. It was then decided that the rest of the Training Battalion would play the Boys' Company. The game was very even, and it was only when a three-quarter was taken from the Boys that the Training Battalion scored and the game ended with the Training Battalion winning by 5 points to nil.

Boxing.—Lance Corporal Boy Perkins and Boy Wride entered the Boys' Garrison Light-weight Championship and both won their way to the final. Some misunderstanding brought them against each other in the final, which should not have been, owing to the difference of age. Boy Wride, however, fought Lance Corporal Boy Perkins rather than have the boys scratched altogether, and put up a very stout resistance against such odds. The fight was stopped in the first round with Perkins the winner.

Indoor Games.—Boys' table tennis team met the Training Battalion team and lost 5—1. Boy Le Hardy won his game and secured a place in the Training Battalion team which reached the semi-finals of the Garrison Knock-out Cup. Signalman Birkett also represented the Company. Lance Corporal Boy Sanders and Boy Richardson W. played for the Training Battalion darts team against the Green Howards. The Training Battalion lost by two games to one.

DOOGY.

HAVE YOU JOINED THE SIGNALS ASSOCIATION ?

S.T.C. Wales

2nd Operators Training Battalion

Following up last month's notes with a zeal that brings its own reward, we have under the spotlight this month C.Q.M.S. (Busty) Stalley G. A. Congratulations, " Tiny," every acre of you, on attaining that exalted appointment. Come down and see us sometimes and give us the " Griffin " on how to become a millionaire and what " Aggie " does to justify his existence. Congratulations, also, to Lance Corporals Dews A. D. and Mosely A. on their promotion to Corporals, and to Signalmen Barnes C. W. on getting one foot on the ladder.

Sport is being organised more widely in the Wing and soon we hope to make the name of " Admin " respected, if not feared, in that field. (Local scribes please note.)

New arrivals since last month's notes are welcomed through these columns ; the welcome is extended to the soldiers' wives who have decided to " Come all over Welsh," too. By the way, Sergeant " Taff " Evans and Lance Sergeant Dempsey R. have not reached a decision as to whether " Taff " and his " intended " can live as cheaply as one, but " the sentence will be pronounced later."

Soon our delightful surroundings will be supplemented by a blaze of colour, which originated in H.Q. and Woolworths, but a spare copy of Mr. Middleton's annual would be very acceptable, if addressed to Tara's Sanctuary.

SIGNALSAM.

No. 1 Company

Cadre—Continued.—S.S.M. Burton (ex-Egypt), Sergeant Colling (ex-India), Corporals Bridgeman, Daly, Bassett (ex-India), Batchelor, Hope (Blighty Wallahs), Lance Corporals Haywood, Head, Duke (ex-India), Hingston, Norris (S.R.s).

Congratulations.—To Sergeant Birkett on passing his Squad off in final B.3 Test, and to Sergeant Hogg on passing his off at Preliminary Tests, 100 per cent. To Lance Corporal Head on his baton.

Training.—This is in full swing again after bad weather. Better facilities later will improve the standard, although results so far are very satisfactory. O.S. 1 fired a Musketry Course, with dire results to everything except targets.

Extracts from Papers.—" C.R.A. has two messages for delivery to 2nd and four addresses respectfully." Must be pretty high up to deliver them that way.

" Two-letter calls used on point-to-point working." It is rumoured that one-letter calls are being used at this year's Grand National.

Sports (?)—It is rumoured that a certain well-built (*sic*) Sergeant has taken up golf. Some will have it that he has only been hired to roll the greens. Others that he has joined the " Dig for Victory " Campaign.

No. 2 Company

General.—The Company has managed to settle down fairly well during the last month or so, and training proceeds along usual lines. Our senior Squad now has thoughts of where they're going to after they have completed their Class III test. Nobody knows whither the trained recruits are going, or if they do, there's not the slightest chance of Adolf hearing about it. We don't even know ourselves.

Arrivals.—Too numerous to mention individually, but we welcome all the new Squads and hope they enjoy their stay with us.

Departures.—S.S.M. (Pip) Pearson to No. 4 Company ; tough luck on us. The following to O.C.T.U. Units, and we hope to meet them again in different circumstances : Signalmen Jenkins, Brisbourne, Sylvester-Bradley, McSweeny, Scott B., Morris, Warren and Geary. Best of luck to all of you.

Promotions.—Congratulations to the following on attaining the ranks shown : R.Q.M.S. Shardlow, S.S.M. Pearson, Lance Sergeant Redgrave, Corporals Bainbridge, Buckby and Hall, Lance Corporals Saunders, Marks and Warren.

Hearty congratulations are extended to the following recruits who have got their feet on the first step : Unpaid Lance Corporals English, Conder, Barker, Sylvester-Bradley, Brown, Stevens, Brisbourne, Edens, Saunders, Brooks H. R., Farrow, Wrigglesworth, Winn and Wilson.

Postings.—Most irregular ! Most irregular ! Our one and only R.Q.M.S. (Maurice) Shardlow has strayed from the path and now hangs his cap in General Trades Training Battalion. No. 2 Company will probably never be the same again. Still, the office has his kettle, so we see his smiling face every break-time.

Tailpiece.—At the present moment, the Company is undergoing an eliminating process to find the star sportsmen, so we cannot include any notes on sport. When Lance Sergeant Redgrave, our sports representative, has finished the combing out, we hope to have something worth writing about.

GINTY.

No. 4 Company

Absence of notes for the past two months is regretted, but this was unavoidable owing to the effects of the inclement weather experienced.

With snow and ice everywhere, the recruits revelled in snowballing and " bob-sleighing " ; the various types of sledges, although amateurish, were very effective. Ask " Oldted," who just escaped with his life by jumping three feet in the air in the nick of time. Although training was severely handicapped, Squads are passing out with regularity, thanks to the efficient Instructors and Administrators. We hope the boys will keep up their high standard.

Building operations are going along nicely, and we shall all be thankful when the " house-warming " day arrives.

A very enjoyable day was spent recently by a party from the Company, who visited a local coal mine, by kind invitation of the general manager. From all accounts, one or two were relieved to reach the surface again.

Congratulations to the " old crocks " on winning the first soccer match against the " Goons." It is understood, however, that more than one " old crock " spent his week's pay on " Sloans " afterwards. With the lighter evenings, organised games have commenced and are proving a great success among the recruits and permanent cadre alike.

We are not so pleased with the " hikers " whom we believe scrounged a lift back on a 'bus and swanked of a 12-mile hike. You must go into training, Greg and Jack.

The Company is still ahead with the Comforts Fund, but more support is needed if the high standard is to be maintained. Do your best, lads !

Good luck and best wishes to the boys of No. 4 Company now serving omewhere beyond.

" FARMER."

No. 5 Company

We have now in our small community a C.Q.M.S. in the person of C.Q.M.S. Shorrock, and we shall now be able to trace our stores—we hope.

A football team is also in existence, but so far has not been tested.

Our No. 2 Squad are pleased to see a change in the weather, having, during their period of training as T.S.B.O.s, also passed as Class I snow-clearers, much against their wills.

Stop Press.—Congratulations to Mrs. and S.S.M. Douglas-Beveridge on the birth of a son on Sunday, 10th March, 1940. The Orderly Officer's Roster can now continue as usual.

2nd Depot Battalion

March.

General.—We must apologise for the absence of last month's contribution—we were " shovelling snow." Everyone here is now recovering from the severe weather of late, and looking forward to the summer. Seeing the lads repairing their moth-eaten bathing costumes, and re-stringing the rackets, brings me to the conclusion that this will be our " bumper " season.

The staff of the Unit are now taking part in recreational training each Wednesday, and are becoming quite proficient in the art of manipulating the ball on the playing fields (not of Eton).

Departures.—Since our last contribution we have lost our R.S.M.—R.S.M. Murray—who has left us for an O.C.T.U. Good luck, sir ! We wish you all the luck, and as good, if not better, dart matches.

Arrivals.—We welcome R.S.M. Storey and C.S.M. Bartley to the Battalion and hope their stay will be a pleasant one.

Howler.—Who was the " Q " bloke who thought (?) that the abbreviation for General Trades was a man's initials ?

This is all for this time. Mine's a bitter !

D3.

" C " Company Depot Battalion

The snow, which a relenting censor allowed even the Press to mention a few weeks later, had to melt in the end. The result was just plain mud, though our D.R.s have been trying all along to convince the world in general that it is a particular shade of crimson, in colour. Anyway, some of our town-bred riders have renewed acquaintance, more or less forcibly, with God's good green earth, and with the not so green bits, too. Still a little touch of iodine covers a multitude of shins, and the bikes are still there to fall off. Or are they ?

We hear tales of one lad, a former dirt-track ace, burying his bike up to the number plates. While we can't vouch for this we can pass on the story (authentic) of a corporal instructor, Ellis is the name, who, riding at the back of a night convoy, found the pace so slow that he felt the need of a reverse gear. In the end he had to go up and ask the leading bugdriver why in the —— he was going so perishing slow. " I've gotta follow the D.R. in front," said the driver, pointing to a glowing rear light the regulation distance in front.

Off went the Corporal to speed up the D.R.—only to find a push-bike being perspiringly propelled up a one-in-six gradient by a very fed-up old gent. As they say in the Garrison Theatre, " you go'a a larf ! "

Anyway we certainly have the ideal country around here for training D.R.s and M.T. drivers with all types of going for the bikes, from fast main road work to real plugging " six days " stuff off the dead-beaten track. Fellows who never handled anything heavier than a pint mug a few weeks back, now manœuvre a heavy truck as easily as Goebells garbles the 'ganda.

Our D.R.s have had all-day runs, black-out trips on and off convoy and day schemes in signal offices somewhere back-o-beyond; everything, in fact, that they'll be likely to meet when they join the B.E.F. And to those of our pals who have already left this salubrious spot for *la belle* France, we send hearty greetings. To one particular D.R., who went off owing the writer half-a-crown, we send a reminder, too.

SPORT

2nd S.T.C. Hockey

The above subject has received not one word of description since its inception some six months ago. This has not been due to dilatoriness, but rather to a desire to see the culmination of an experiment which has been very ably conducted by R.Q.M.S. Shardlow, who is responsible for the welfare of hockey at the 2nd S.T.C.

In common with practically every other Signal Unit in England this Centre found that it had a large number of ex-India hockey players who, together with the in-flow of recruits, presented a formidable problem from the point of view of choosing the strongest representative side.

Another problem which faced the Centre last September was the lack of grounds. The camp bowling green which, admittedly, presented a wonderfully true playing surface, but possessed two main disadvantages, was finally chosen. These disadvantages were the fact that it was rather under size, and, also, that it was practically surrounded by glass windows.

Then the brilliant idea of playing seven-a-side hockey and banning all hitting of the ball was evolved. This system, straight from its commencement, produced a combination type of clever " stick-work " hockey, which, according to the spectators, was pretty to watch.

Eventually, after a severe weeding out had taken place an S.T.C. team took shape and they were trained together to play " flick " hockey not as individuals, but as a machine.

The local hockey team, which contains three Welsh international caps, heard about this S.T.C. team and arranged a match to be played on their full-size ground. The experts gave us their opinion that our type of " flick " hockey would not stand up to the more robust type of hockey favoured in this country.

The result was a 2—1 win for the Centre, and the civilian team admitted that they had never been so outplayed before.

The record of matches appended below is the best praise which can be given to the " flick " type of hockey, where every player is merely a cog in the machine, and not an individualist.

Various players, ex-players and hockey enthusiasts, whose experience of Corps hockey dates back as far as 1920, claim that the 2nd S.T.C. hockey team is the finest combined Signals *team* ever to play. This, of course, as opposed to individualism.

These are the fixtures played to date and we hope to have fresh laurels to add before the next issue.

v. Local combined clubs	Won	2—1
v. Local Searchlight Brigade	Won	6—1
v. Field Training Regiment	Won	4—0
v. Local combined clubs	Won	4—1
v. Local University	Won	4—1
v. Local seaside club	Won	6—1
v. Field Training Regiment	Won	3—0
v. Field Training Regiment	Won	11—0

The regular team was selected from : Goal-keepers—Lance Sergeant Craig, Lance Corporal Delaney ; backs—Sergeant Evans, Lance Sergeant Redgrave, C.S.M. Rawson ; halves—Lance Corporal Rookes, R.Q.M.S. Shardlow, S.S.M. Brunton-Douglas ; forwards—Lance Corporal Beatty, Signalman Hough, Sergeant O'Hara, Lieutenant Poulton and Lance Corporal Price. Reserve—Sergeant Grattage.

In conclusion, it may be mentioned that we have the services of one of our dental surgeons as centre-forward now, and our centre-forward has moved to his more familiar position of outside left.

Yorkshire 3

3rd Operators Training Battalion

Sport.—Since the formation of this Unit seven hockey matches have been played. Owing to the lack of hockey pitches the games have not been as numerous as could have been wished, but those which have been played have been enjoyable. The team has so far been composed mainly of ex-India wallahs, who are quite at home with a hockey stick, although some find the grass pitch very different from the hard pitches of that land of sunshine. Despite this fact, we have so far managed to hold our own, for we have won four matches, drawn two, and lost only one.

The Battalion has had five representatives in the S.T.C. soccer "A" team and five in the " B " team, both of which teams are entered in local leagues. Inter-Company and Inter-Squad matches are being played.

YORKSHIRE 3



No. 19 Squad



"A" Company. Officers, W. O., N.C.O.s and Men

A rugby XV has just been started and hopes to put in a few games before the end of the season.

Entertainments.—During the past month our new band of seven instruments has been a great attraction, entertaining at the Sunday social evenings of the Operators and A.T.S. by playing the latest dance numbers and sing-song music. Its success can be gauged by the fine reception it received when playing at the Spa to a happy crowd of four hundred Signals, A.T.S., and their friends on 2nd March. Sergeant Gunn, R.T.R., again played classical and popular pieces on his piano accordian to many encores; whilst Sergeant Mace of the R.T.R. gave a very fine performance as a siffleur and imitator of bird calls. Signalman Barrie sang Scottish songs to the enjoyment of the crowd. From this fine show the local Signals Comforts Fund benefited.

At other social evenings arranged for the entertainment of the troops, Volunteer Hughes of the A.T.S. and Lance Corporal Black, O.T.B., have sung, Signalman Campbell gave an agile exhibition of Cossack dancing, and many joined heartily in the community singing of popular melodies.

Dancing classes, ranging from poise and deportment to the tango, have rapidly brought on many recruits, who now confidently show their rhythmic skill on the dance floor, to the great enjoyment of themselves and many fair military partners. Other dancers seek this form of recreation as a pleasant exercise.

The A.T.S. gave a dance, which was thoroughly enjoyed by an enthusiastic crowd of khaki-clad dancers, neat and trim—the absence of civilians being a marked feature. Our Operators' Band was deservedly selected to play at this function and worthily upheld its high standard.

One innovation at a recent social evening was the holding of an impromptu black-out dance. Owing to faulty screening of a window it was necessary to switch out for a minute or so the electric lights in the ballroom. The band continued to play and the dancers kept on dancing.

A cinema show for which our own cinema projector was used was given in the Recreation Room; films kindly loaned by the High Commissioner for South Africa were shown. One, depicting the Kruger National Park in the Eastern Transvaal, when big wild game were photographed from a motor car from a distance of a few yards, thrilled the audience. A tour of South Africa from the Cape to the Zambesi and Victoria Falls was featured.

Hints for A.T.S. Recruits.—In the light of recent experience, we ask A.T.S. recruits to note the following points:

Admin. Wing is not a Chinese military attaché. If you are sent to Admin. Wing, do not go about asking for "The Oriental Department." Be precise.

"The Rev. T. Smith, C.F." is not necessarily a centre-forward, even if his name appears in connection with a football team.

When you go on leave, you will take with you a leave warrant printed on pink paper. Do not feel embarrassed by the order "Volunteers proceeding on leave will show their pink forms when required to do so."

A Crusader's Batman.—"There came to me a varlet wearing a red tunic with two yellow stripes, and saluted me. And I asked him whose man he was: and he said he had no master, and that he would remain with me, if I so desired. And I said I desired it right well. Then we went and fetched me white coifs and combed me right well. . . .

"I afterwards learned from the Knights of Burgundy, when they returned from captivity (for they had brought him to the land of overseas) that he was the most courteous thief that ever was: for whenever a knight wanted a knife, or a strap, gloves, or spurs, or any other thing, he went and stole it, and then gave it to him."—"De Joinville's Chronicle of the Crusade of St. Lewis."

Depot Battalion

We make our first appearance in these columns, belated perhaps, but nevertheless promising regular contributions, with the knowledge that here in this part of the world, training is proceeding apace and things are all as they should be. Already even, some who have passed through the oft-changing ranks of the drill companies to go on either of the training battalions, are sporting their first stripes.

And, though we hesitate to record that the spirit of the "new Army" has already made its mark, we cannot refrain from quoting a pleading letter written by a certain Quartermaster Sergeant to an erring Lance Corporal. (Such is the "price" of fame—or should it be ill-fame?).

"My dear . . . . . " (ran the missive) "I am awfully sorry to be a bit of a nuisance, but the storeman and myself would be very pleased indeed if you could see your way clear to draw your rifle again. Of course, we don't mind looking after it and keeping it clean . . . it isn't any trouble at all. Signed . . . . . Q.Sgt."

Conversation Piece.—Such lovely thoughts. And what about the following conversation between a recruit and his squad commander?

Recruit Brown: "Yes, Corporal, I think your manners are disgusting, your appearance lecherous. In fact, the whole squad are in complete accord with me when I say that higher types of life are found under flat stones in marshy places."

So saying, Recruit Brown replaced the receiver and dashed out of the telephone kiosk into the night.

No. 3 Company Depot Battalion

Hockey Notes.—Hullo, every one! This is No. 3 Depot Battalion calling. I think it is about time we chronicled a little news in this column about our sporting activities.

Since our arrival in this neck of the woods we have played quite a number of games, all of which have been most enjoyable. During last December we were lucky with the weather and were able to conform to programme. To mention some of the games, A.T.S. versus Depot Battalion and Whitby Ladies mixed, and another excellent effort with the R.A. at home which we lost owing to several of our star players not being able to turn out. Lieutenant (T.M.O.) Carpenter is still our stone wall centre-half and, mainly thanks to him, we are able to field a team which will give a good account of themselves against all comers. In the next issue of THE WIRE I hope to be able to produce a photograph which will depict many old familiar faces among the players.

We have a very able and enterprising sports officer in Captain Paulus. He has already produced a Depot dance, and has now started to organise a Depot boxing and football teams. Needless to say all new arrivals are carefully scrutinised and questioned in our constant search for new talent, and we hope to maintain the Corps' reputation in the world of sport and entertainment generally. May we take this opportunity to extend a cordial welcome to all who have recently joined us, and at the same time convey our best wishes to all readers of the Corps magazine wherever they may be stationed.

We were recently asked if we would lend our "Silver Jimmy." The person concerned probably thought it could walk, but nothing walks from the Depot, it just disappears.

Weddings.—"'Ain't it grand to be in love?" I do not know if we are to be regarded as the "last hope" of the lassies in this locality, but if the number of weddings which are due to take place during Easter is any criterion, we are either greatly appreciated, or else ——?

In any case, we hope the result of our labours is as satisfactory as the personnel of the Unit appear to be.

Enclosed are two photographs of the Unit which may be of interest, one of No. 19 Squad, and the other of Officers, W.O., N.C.O.s and men of "A" Company.

Lieutenant Wootten was unable to be present when the latter was taken but we hope to include him in the next one.

Many readers will, no doubt, recognise a familiar face in C.S.M. Pack (ex India), once a modest 15 stone, but now—phew! That is what the war does for some people.

J.J.K.

"B" Company Depot Battalion

Not a great deal to record. The work of the Company is proceeding smoothly and the standard of training achieved by recruits under instruction is proving highly satisfactory.

Congratulations to Lance Sergeant Overton R. W. on his promotion to this rank, and to Sergeants Shipley H. and Scott W.

on their substantiation. Sergeant Shipley has also been awarded the General Service (Palestine) Medal. Lance Corporal Yates G. W., who came to the Company from General Trades, has been promoted to the above rank.

There has been a certain amount of shuffling in the Company recently and we welcome C.S.M. Clevett from Administrative Wing. His place there is being taken by our Quartermaster, Sergeant Kelly E., while Sergeant Cummings C. has moved into the Company stores.

Eastern Command Signal Company

In order to relieve the worries of our scribe, it has been suggested that " Barleux " might be persuaded to write some plain tales regarding the Command Signal Company, and his absence from the last issue of The Wire made us think that he was making a journey south to visit us.

Three men of the Unit proceeded to an Officer Cadet Training Unit in January, and others are likely to follow shortly. We wish them every success in their new venture.

The first " all military " wedding at Command Headquarters took place on 23rd March, when Lance Corporal Holloway A. G., one of our D.R.s, was married to Volunteer A. Duckworth of the A.T.S. Despatch Riders and A.T.S. formed guards of honour and officers, N.C.O.s and " men and women " of the Signal Company and A.T.S. respectively were present at the service held in the Garrison Church.

Several officers and other ranks have joined us from overseas, and after remaining with us for a few hours, were sent on a well-earned leave pending posting to other Units.

A supper dance was held in a new building near barracks on 12th March, and those present spent a most enjoyable evening. It is hoped to arrange another dance on the same premises in the near future.

The wave of sickness is quickly passing, but accidents still happen, such as an operator falling into a drain, with the result that the road near " The Keep " was flooded after heavy rain. This happened at Easter, when the R.E. had no heavy lifting tackle available to remove the " obstruction."

A sports fund has been opened, and various games are arranged two or three times each week between all ranks of this Unit and other Units in the vicinity of Headquarters.

Easter leave takes place in " shifts," and this makes extra work for those remaining behind, but everything goes on as usual and our Signal traffic is handled as it should be.

Scottish Command Signal Company

So you haven't heard from us before ! Well, Mr. Editor, here we make history by entering the columns of The Wire for the first time since our formation. And the reason for our prolonged silence ? We'll say it's modesty and leave it at that.

Before the outbreak of war our Unit was one of the small fry, doing valiant and valuable work, although quite unhonoured and unsung. Resurrecting the old adage, one of our Sergeants suggests we " hid our light under a bushel." But now we burst into print to tell you that we are a force of considerable numbers keeping up the worthy traditions of the Corps and cheerfully carrying on the good work in widely-scattered areas.

At the head of our affairs, Dame Fortune has favoured us with a capable and experienced bevy of officers. The Regular personnel have graduated through the ranks, and there's no denying their gift for understanding the mind of the rank-and-filer. Captain Lothian and Lieutenants Ferguson and Oliver are going great guns after their previous service in G.H.O. Signals (S.R.). Lieutenants Lucas, Barnett and Russel are also officers of the right stamp.

Headquarters.—As our numbers grew we had to step down from our old habitat and set up house in our present headquarters (vacated by the R.A., T.A.). Scenic views apart, all are agreed the change is for the better. Here we have ample accommodation with a canteen attached and, thanks to the C.O., such diversions as an electric radiogram, piano, dart boards, etc., keep time from hanging on our hands. Even unquenchable thirsts accept as natural the ruthless decree which says : " No quick 'uns before 17.00 hours."

On the parade ground the boys are being licked into shape in the appropriate fashion. General appearance and bearing has been greatly improved since we took over our present headquarters, and the will to improve is still strong.

Since September the most notable promotions have been the rise on 29th November, 1939, of W.O. II C.S.M. Bloodworth H. and W.O. II Q.M.S. Clements H. to full Lieutenants. Both, fortunately for us, have been put on the strength of the Company. Lieutenants C. Ferguson and J. Lothian are to be congratulated for their promotion to the rank of Captain. W.O. II C.S.M. Penfold A., from 1st Armoured Div. Signals, stepped in to fill the place of Lieutenant Bloodworth, and we are sure his stay with us will be happy and memorable. C.Q.M.S. Duncan has also had a " lift up " on the Corps roster (when's the celebration party coming off ?). The C.S.O.'s chief clerk—Sergeant McKinnon C.— is now W.O. II C.S.M., and Corporal Moore is Sergeant by rank.

Training.—N.C.O.s' classes are in full swing. Enjoyed by all concerned, they look like yielding good results. Not only are they confined to N.C.O.s, but prospective candidates are also included. In the capable hands of Lieutenant Bloodworth, C.S.M. Penfold, and Sergeants Moore and Whenman, the group are sure to make rapid progress. Among the N.C.O.s two have gone to O.C.T.U. (Royal Signals), and those of us who have been left behind hope they will be sporting their " pips " very soon. Other prospective O.C.T.U. men are eagerly hoping to hitch their wagons to the same star.

Sport.—Bad weather has somewhat hampered our sporting activities. On the football field our team has had varying fortune. But what's in a win or a defeat ? We have enjoyed the games, the friendship of new faces, and we thank the Units we have opposed for their hospitable receptions.

Social Functions.—" Lights " and " heavies " flowed freely in the canteen on Hogmanay—highlight of the Scottish festive season. A concert party and dancing attracted a large crowd of friends. Rumoured that the C.S.M., after his first Hogmanay in Scotland, wants to spend another here.

Christmas fare—turkey, plum pudding, and all the rest, according to tradition—was provided by the ladies of Carlton Hotel Annexe. Dancing followed and before leaving everyone present received a parcel of comforts, cigarettes, and fountain pen. The C.O.'s call for three cheers to the hard-working Scottish Command W.V.S. was responded to nobly.

Our first Company dance has taken place and its success augurs well for the next. Plenty of elbow grease and scrubbing saw the floor of our Drill Hall ship-shape and ideal for the swing stuff. Among the company of 400 were the C.S.O., D.C.S.O., O.C. and all our own officers. A pleasing part of the evening was the presentation to Lady Sybil Grant. Lady Grant has endeared herself to our Company and has shown us many kindnesses in her work as convenor of the Scottish Command W.V.S. She is ably assisted in this office by Mrs. Wheeler, wife of our C.S.O.

Obituary.—It is with deep regret we have to record the death of our Lance Corporal Graham J. (No. 2318833), who died suddenly on 7th December, 1939. He came to us from Catterick Camp shortly after war was declared, when he was called up as a Regular Reservist. Previously, he had served in India with the 1st (Indian) Divisional Signals (Orderly Room) and possessed the Indian General Service Medal. His death took place on the sports fields, where he was playing for the Unit at hockey. The entire Company followed his remains to their last resting place at Comely Bank Cemetery. Many floral tributes were laid on his grave—tokens of his popularity. To his family and relatives we extend our deepest sympathy.

A.A. Signals, Berkshire

Please, Mr. Editor, forgive the absence of notes for last month Our last scribe has now retired—whether resting on his laurels (?) or afflicted with teething troubles we know not. Congratulations on past efforts, Serge ! We only hope that future contributors to THE WIRE will keep up the polished standard you have so ably set.

Command.—Congratulations to the O.C. on his promotion. Must be a great weight off his shoulders !

Recent Acquisitions.—One town-cum-country mansion, h. and c., usual offices, wired for broadcasting.

One mirror, shaving, for the use of. Apply to N.C.O. i/c Company Office.

One N.A.A.F.I.-cum-chapel. Matins and evensong daily. Organ recitals during lunch hour.

One piano, wooden frame, date unknown, probably B.C.

One male voice choir in embryo (very). Auditions can be arranged.

Recent Loss.—Congratulations to Lance Sergeant Buckley on his promotion, and posting as an instructor to would-be cooks. Our loss is others' gain.

Stop-Press.—(1) We have now broadcast twice to the B.E.F. and wonder if they enjoyed our singing as much as we enjoyed doing it.

(2) Tip passed on by important personage—" If you want to know the password, ask the sentry."

(3) We hear that our debonair draughtsman has designed a coat of arms dedicated to a certain pair of N.C.O.s. It consists of crossed lamp-posts surmounted by a half-closed eye on a background of deep purple.

Their colleague on the third floor back has given us the following tip, which we gladly pass on. Should these lance-jacks offer violence to any member of the Company, the correct procedure is to whisper " Milk Bars to you." He guarantees that this will render them as meek as lambs.

SOWOT.

No. 1 Company

In our last notes we were all recovering from Christmas leave ; just now the Unit dance, which was held on 12th March, is a not too distant memory. " M. la Rue " presided very ably and things went with a terrific swing right from the very beginning. Mrs. Somerville very kindly gave away the prizes, which were secured by those who managed to be in the right place at the right time. It was, perhaps, a pity that " spring cleaning in the Army way," which started but certainly did not end with a visit from the sweep, should have been scheduled for the day before and not the day after the dance, when a few additional cobwebs might have been gathered up !

Added to our other excitements there have been some very fierce battles between " Inniscarra " and " Briarwood "—on the football field. Undaunted by the (censored) weather in which we have been indulging lately, some hopefuls are already looking at their cricket bats, so the battle will probably be continued during the summer (*sic*) months.

Messing has been much underlined lately.

We are very glad to welcome many new recruits to the Company. Just now they are indulging in a variety of parades, but we hope that they are already enjoying the glamorous life in the Army.

N.B.—Is it true that oysters are much in favour with the A.T.S. just now ?

A.A. Signals, Nottinghamshire

March.

Commissions.—Since our last notes appeared, R.S.M. Gavey G. and Lance Corporal Harris A. E. have been commissioned Lieutenant and 2nd Lieutenant respectively. The " Gazette " revealed to us that our R.S.M. had three initials (G. A. E. Gavey) and it was rumoured that the "A" has been kept in the background because it stood for "Adolf." Perhaps, however, the initials G. G. had an especial appeal, because the R.S.M. was undisputedly one who liked to get over the ground quickly. The best wishes of the Unit go with Messrs. Gavey and Harris in their new ranks.

Departures.—As indicated in the foregoing paragraph, Lieutenant G. A. E. Gavey and 2nd Lieutenant A. E. Harris were posted away soon after being gazetted, and 2nd Lieutenant F. C. Clarke, who joined us so recently as February last, has also departed.

Promotions.—The commissioning of the R.S.M. meant, of course, a series of promotions. The premier rank went to C.S.M. Taman F. J. and Sergeant Thorn H. F. is his successor. Having celebrated their advancement in the appropriate and approved manner it is, perhaps, superfluous to state here our wishes for their success, but, as the omission of such respects might be misconstrued outside the Unit, we repeat our congratulations and hope they will secure further honours for themselves in the future.

Courses.—Driver Rowbotham N. has now returned from his Course on motor driving and motor maintenance and his success is indeed a credit to the Unit. To receive 96 per cent. marks at the final test secured for him the top place amongst those attending the Course, and must be almost a record if it is not actually so.

Lance Sergeant Nicholas J. F. has been for a Course on anti-gas and secured a Q.2 certificate.

Trade Tests.—Training has proceeded apace and the majority of us have now been trade-tested, thereby securing the monetary recognition of our technical qualifications. Several have been tested again and reclassified Class II. Such personnel are now casting envious eyes at the Class I test and we are hoping that they will soon find ways and means of achieving their ambition. The rivalry which exists is a useful stimulant for training and two Signalmen, who shall be nameless, took advantage of the absence on leave of one of their N.C.O.s to get reclassified in a higher grade. Their pride at having beaten their N.C.O. was great, but they only held that advantage for a couple of days.

Marriages.—Again none to report and Cupid seems to be wasting his time. The married men are thinking that the single men must have blood like water. How we wish we were single again !

H. S.

A.A. Signals, South-East England

Headquarters

It is now six months since this Unit was embodied and everyone is feeling like real old soldiers. We have had a very severe winter but are now looking forward to the spring and the commencement of outdoor activities (but not in the air !).

Congratulations to R.S.M. Shergold G. L. on his appointment to the rank of Lieutenant, and to Signalman Everson J. T. on his appointment to the rank of 2nd Lieutenant, and we wish them every success in their new Units. Also to Foreman-of-Signals Powell G. W. on his promotion to Regimental Sergeant-Major.

Yet further congratulations are due to Company Commander U. F. Hyde, on her appointment as Adjutant to the South Aldershot Group, A.T.S. Whilst we are very proud of her appointment and wish her the very best of luck, we deeply regret losing her.

We do, however, extend a hearty welcome to her successor, Junior Commander Hesketh Prichard, and hope she will have a very happy stay with us.

Dig for Victory! The cultivation of the garden at "The Attery" is in the capable hands of Lieutenant J. W. Middleton-Hyde, so even though our imposing crop of cabbages does not materialise, we are at least guaranteed an ample harvest of fruit and what-not.

Owing to quarantine, the usual Friday night Socials have been discontinued for the time being, but an early resumption is eagerly awaited.

We have had the illuminating experience of firing off a practice on the range, and if the result did not reveal a plethora of marksmen, it certainly had the merit of variety. One member of the Unit demonstrated the way to "plough the fields and scatter" in no uncertain manner.

Some of us are being initiated into the mysteries of electricity and magnetism, under the able tutorship of Sergeant Burchell J. R., and, even if a recent test paper revealed a divergence of opinion on some aspects of the subject, the practical experiments on the apparatus were a great "attraction."

Our D.R.s have shown their proverbial verve and skill in their daily "dicing" and have maintained their service in the none-too-easy road conditions of the past winter very efficiently, even if they have occasionally returned to port with a component or two in an unusual position.

We have all had the opportunity of first-class dental treatment at the Depot Dental Centre, and although not all looked forward to their first visit with relish, we found that it was really not so bad as we had imagined and thereafter we faced the chair with the same philosophic calm that we show when a line goes "dis" or the lights do the same.

We have waged an unceasing war upon the germs that have been floating around this winter: a few minor casualties have been reported, but we have successfully cleared ourselves of the suspicion of harbouring the C.S.M. germ.

The Section exhibits great musical propensities and our hut is regaled by songs, old and new. An *impromptn* band has even appeared to enliven our leisure moments.

No. 1 Company

After spending six months billeted in a typical corner of rural England, No. 1 Company removed to a comparatively palatial encampment six or seven miles away. The villagers appeared, on the whole, to regret our departure. It meant the cessation of a pretty lively round of festivities which we organised in their erstwhile village hall. We had invited them to many of these entertainments; on other occasions they had saved us the trouble by inviting themselves. In fact, the War Office itself, with all its verbose requisitions, could not wholly transform the place into a mess room; it remained obstinately and undeniably a village hall. All our jollifications were presided over by the stained portrait of a bewhiskered and somewhat resentful-looking gentleman who had given the hall to the parishioners, and most of them were witnessed by his more matronly disciples, who had not seen the like of it before, and did not hesitate to say so at some length and in unnecessary detail.

However, in many ways we formed quite a liking for the village. For half a year it was the centre of our existence. Its boundaries were our boundaries, through the incidence of Standing Orders. Its two pubs were practically maintained by us through Standing Orders of a different kind. Its one church welcomed any who could be induced into the fold, and even the line section seemed not entirely beyond redemption after their long sojourn at the Rectory.

At last, events hurried to an anti-climax. Yet another of our officers was to proceed overseas. Our Sergeant-Major left us on receiving a commission; we welcomed in his stead C.S.M. Pitz from No. 2 Company. We said farewell to Sergeant Morgan's young ladies. We had a bit of a "do." Then we left the village.

At the new camp, beautifully equipped for habitation in more peaceful times, we found running water and sanitation, the first signs of our re-entry into civilisation, baths, wardrobes, central heating. Sergeant Kirby's eyes fairly popped out of his head when he saw a real stretch of concrete which could be used for its legitimate purpose without the ignominious knowledge that the parade, after all, was being performed in a children's playground. Moreover, he must have comforted himself with the knowledge that no more would the military cavalcade be marred by such indignities as a barrage of snowballs set up by the village urchins, denied their former right to proceed beyond the railings.

At the time of writing, the new camp is not completely equipped. The electric lighting installation has to receive its final touches, the Institute is not in use owing to lack of lighting and heating. The place seemed at first to be entirely surrounded by mud, but voluntary workers, often toiling long after dusk, have already begun to achieve the semblance of properly laid-out gardens, and here and there already are such optimistic notices protruding from the barren soil as "Keep off the Grass." It is rumoured that our second-in-command has undertaken that when the war is over the Signals crest will be spread under the shadow of the "spider," colourfully worked in pansies.

There has been little time or opportunity so far to develop the social side of our life in this new environment. But we have plans for a house-warming which will not be less enjoyable because it has been delayed. It will not be long before our social activities achieve the same smooth running as our more serious work in these parts.

Small parties of voluntary recruits join us with growing regularity. From what we have seen of them so far they are good, willing lads who will fit in excellently with the community in which they find themselves. Although our mode of living is far more "regimental" and we have a serious and responsible job of work to do, that spirit of happy *camaraderie* which characterised our camps in bygone days still flourishes here. It is good to know that our new friends are ready and willing to keep that spirit alive.

We are looking forward to life at —— (censored).

No. 2 Company

In our peaceful village, life goes on with but little change. The Unit has merged with its rustic surroundings and friendly neighbours in a manner that is most gratifying. Evidence of this is shown by their full support of the Unit's social functions.

Intensive technical and general training of all ranks, particularly recruits, is still being carried out, and when the occasion arises whereby we shall be called upon to justify our position, we shall be ready to prove that the last six months have added to our efficiency.

Our gardening activities are showing great promise, seeds have been sown and turfing has been carried out with good effect. If the results of our endeavour coincide with our other successes, the local gardeners will have to look to their laurels.

The officers are now quartered in the outskirts of the village —much to the jubilation of the Sergeants, who have moved into the vacated premises, and the Corporals, who now occupy the house vacated by the Sergeants. A case of "social uplift."

We should like to take this opportunity of welcoming the new members of the Unit, who we are pleased to have with us. Already they have made their presence felt on the parade ground and in the social life.

Social.—A new departure in entertainment was enjoyed on 2nd March, when the St. Pancras People's Theatre, introduced by 2nd Lieutenant Braby, gave a fine display of acting in the play "Goodness How Sad." It was a splendid performance, thoroughly enjoyed by all, and we are looking forward to 6th April, when members of the same theatre are to give us that well-known comedy "Hay Fever."

On Friday, 8th March, members of the local Toc H challenged the Company's dart team. In a keen match the visitors were defeated by one game, but the conviviality that reigned afterwards must have amply compensated them for this.

On Saturday, 9th March, thanks to the good offices of Mr. Davis, we were entertained by a company of celebrated West End artistes, who gave of their best for over two hours. The compere of the evening was Mr. Ross Parker, the famous composer of, among other well-known songs, that premier patriotic song of the present war, "There'll always be an England." To hear this tune sung by the composer gave it a new significance.

Company talent was well represented in this programme. Signalman Jamieson, a violinist with a really professional touch,

held the audience with his sympathetic rendering of Rimsky Korsakov's " Song of India," Toselli's " Serenata," and the well-known " Lonely Sweetheart."

We must also make special mention of Signalman Edwards, whose jokes received volumes of responsive applause. The surprise item of his repertoire, however, was Pagliacci's " On with the Motley," which proved that he does not depend solely upon wisecracks to " get across."

The A.T.S. were represented in no mean fashion by Miss Glenn, who sang in her fine soprano voice " One Alone " and " Roses of Picardy."

Other artistes in khaki were Signalman Winstanley, who gave a pianoforte solo—Sibelius' " Finlandia "—which, in this time of stress, has a particularly poignant meaning, Signalman London J., with his accomplished accordion playing, and Signalman Agar, who managed to control his usual irrepressible spirits and gave of his very best in " Rose of Tralee."

We are also indebted to Signalman London and Miss Vera Vaughan, the accompanists for the evening.

A.A. Signals, Scotland

Headquarters.

March.

The Briton (Sassenachs, please note—not " Englishmen ") has a habit which appears to intrigue the foreigner; when he treads on one's toes or merely gauges a passer's eye with his umbrella, he says " Sorry "—the *open sesame* to forgiveness for a multitude of sins in this our land of the taken-for-granted. Being firm believers in this convenient, if not elegant, system, we hope that it will suffice to say " Sorry" for our absence from these columns for the past two months. *C'est la guerre!*

The move into requisitioned accommodation which was mentioned in our last notes duly took place, to the satisfaction of all, with the exception, of course, of the relief who happened to be off duty at the time, and consequently had all the work to do. But it didn't stop at that—oh, no. The personnel of No. 1 Company Headquarters were just beginning to realise that they were not permitted to take their homework into the A.T.S. quarters at night when the order came once more to pack up their troubles and trek to a new billet. Despite all this, don't believe 'Appy 'Orace of 'Amburg when he tells you the C.S.M.'s hair has turned white, or that the M.T. Officer is in an advanced state of senility through wondering what happened between the times his transports left the old billet and arrived at the new!

But it is true that the R.S.M., after proclaiming himself worn out, to the accompaniment of quite audible (and laudable) groans, did not seem averse to the idea of shaking a nifty leg at the " Silver Slipper."

R.S.M. Stevenson is leaving us, by the way, just in time to get his name into these notes. We think, personally, that he deliberately tried it, and we couldn't tell him so, could we? Nothing is more certain, however, than that every man in Nos. 1 and 2 Companies is extremely sorry to see him go and wishes him the very best of luck. The R.S.M. himself says that he is quite accustomed to being cheered every time he leaves a Unit—in fact, he declares that's the only time he ever is cheered!

WHY did our Line Maintenance Section break down and cry when the R.S.M. announced his departure.

WHY do our A.T.S. members proclaim so strongly the fact that they dislike Unit Headquarters staff, when, in point of fact, they know at the most only two members of the said U.H.Q.?

And WHAT gives No. 1 Company the impression that control of H.M. Stationery Office has devolved upon the Orderly Room Sergeant?

ACK-ACK.

No. 1 Company

So sorry you have not heard from us lately, but we have been so busy removing from " somewhere here " to " somewhere else here " that we scarcely had time to notify even the authority of our new address. The secret will probably reach Lord Haw-Haw about Christmas and he will then tell you where we are.

Our new billets have their advantages and disadvantages, so what we have lost on the swings—and talking of swing, you should hear our band! We have had a few concerts given by well-disposed citizens of the town, and all very good they were, but when we ran a concert of our very own—a " Discoveries Night " we called it—we found out all sorts of hidden talent. Our second-in-command made an admirable Carroll Levis, and the entries were as many as the Amusements Committee could deal with. And, by the way, very much credit for the success of the evening was due to the Lance Corporal and Signalman on the Committee who were left to carry on, in the absence thruogh illness of the Officer and Sergeant who are the other members.

Our new home has not the fine " Concert Hall " of the last one, so if anyone has a spare hall, just wrap it up and send it on. We can use it.

We came through what we may now refer to as the severe winter more or less unscathed, except for a mild epidemic of 'flu. The attack was fairly hot, but after a few reverses we managed to beat it off and consolidate our position against a return attack. The gargling parades were a feature of our counter-measures, which may also have included other measures, such as half-gills and half-pints.

Since we appeared here last we have lost two of our Unit: Signalman Dalling, who has gone back to his civil job, and Signalman McInnes, now in the R.E. Railway Section. We have also had a number of new recruits, all of whom are settling down and liking the life fine.

Our A.T.S. "Attachments " continue to be as popular as ever, and as to their worth as cooks anyone in the Unit will vouch for that. They are doing their best to live up to the motto of their adopted Corps.

REEKIE.

No. 3 Company

Since our last contribution to these columns, changes have been taking place, not only in personnel, but in location. We regret the departure of 2nd Lieutenant R. D. Fitzgerald from our midst, but we must remember such are the fortunes of war. We are now housed in huts in the same camp as an R.A. Battery, since the end of last war. Since the new year we have been undergoing extensive training, as well as carrying on the various duties allotted to us.

Social.—Notwithstanding the amount of training and duties, time has been found for social activities. On 5th January the children of the men of the Company were entertained to a very happy party in a nearby hall, when toys were distributed to all the little ones. Under the presidency of the P.R.I., a Sports' Committee has been formed with our C.O. as chairman and Corporal Barrett G. as secretary. This committee is active in arranging recreation for the men. We held our first dance in February, and it was such a success that a similar function was held the following month. During the last two months the N.I.E.N.S.A. organised several very successful entertainments. We also ran our own concert, which was much appreciated. On 29th February the men of the R.A. and this Company held a smoking concert in the dining hall, which was such a success that it is hoped to hold a similar function in the very near future.

Sport.—In the sphere of sport we shine in more than one direction. Our table tennis team, with Signalman Watters G. as captain, can beat all comers. In the Military Football League our team is holding its own. Darts, too, has many followers and we anticipate our darts enthusiasts will do well in the recently-formed Darts League.

General.—Holy Writ says it is good to marry early but better not to marry at all. This is sound advice, for economic reasons, but, alas, one of our youngest men has fallen a victim and surrendered his bachelorship. He no longer paddles his own canoe, but we wish him every happiness.

Welcome.—When we first heard the news that Lieutenant J. M. Evans was being posted to us we felt elated, for, being no stranger and due to the fact that Northern Ireland and Scotland

are closely related, he was ensured of a hearty welcome to our shore. We hope that he will be long spared to be with us.

Farewell.—We regret having mentioned in our last notes our prized asset in the person of our beloved C.S.M. Drake P. R. Seemingly the powers-that-be at Headquarters read these notes for they have taken him from us. We congratulate C.S.M. Drake, but we feel his loss, as he fathered all of us. The C.S.M. was a stickler on the parade ground, but he was one big white man. We bid him farewell, but not goodbye, for we know that he will return to the land of his adoption, even if only on leave. A very pleasant function took place in the Sergeants' Mess on 12th March, when the N.C.O.s of the Company presented him with a writing set as a token of their esteem and affection. On the following day the Junior N.C.O.s and men also showed their esteem and affection when they presented him with a wristlet watch suitably engraved.

London Area Signal Company

This is the first lot of chatter from London Area Signal Company to appear in The Wire.

May I start by congratulating Signalman Field on the occasion of his engagement to a very pretty young lady. Jack is one of the old Twenty-five D.R.s late of Atkins Road and the boys, I am sure, will join me in wishing him all the best.

Signalman Farnham A. has been promoted to assist in the Sergeants' Mess. I understand that wedding bells will also ring for him shortly, but that is still a secret so keep it dark boys. Go to it, Arthur !

Lance Corporal Smith F. has just returned after a well earned leave. Every one remarks how well he looks. " Smithy " has been putting in some good work somewhere in London and the boys will welcome him back to the counter once more.

Our old friend the one and only Signalman Power had a nasty accident on the road last week. Riding his motor cycle whilst on duty a motor car came from a side turning and struck his front wheel. At first it was thought that he was more seriously injured, but happily he will be up and about in a few months' time. More power to you, Tommy, and get well quickly.

A concert is now a weekly feature in our huge amusement calendar. Sergeant Wilce started the ball rolling with organising the first one from the D.R.s but, unfortunately, a lot of D.R.s were ill at the time and consequently he had not a very wide selection at his disposal. Still, it was an enjoyable evening even though the attendance was poor.

Sergeant Alexander and his Drivers were next on the list. It was an excellent performance and enjoyed by all. The hall was packed to overflowing and at the conclusion of the concert, amid loud applause, our C.O. made a short speech thanking the artists for the good work done. He remarked that it was a surprise for every one to know that we had a budding Bing Crosby in our midst. He was referring to Signalman Ogilvie, whose songs and impersonations brought down the house.

The next concert was provided by Sergeant Evans who put the Operators through their paces, and still another enjoyable evening was the outcome. What fun these London Area blokes are having !

At the present time the best performance is held by Sergeant Alexander and his Drivers, but I understand that Sergeant Wilce and his dancing D.R.s have a big surprise in hand, so look out, Alex.

Every one here is looking forward to the next two concerts, which will be given by the N.C.O.s and Officers respectively. We feel sure that more excellent talent will be discovered.

Now a few words about our first football match, played at Hampstead. Operators versus H.Q. Section. The game contained plenty of thrills and surprises, especially when Signalman Sturgess, playing for the Operators, got the ball. He streaked from one end of the field to the other, and why not, when he holds the Southern Counties sprint championship. Sergeant Evans also played a good game for the winning side. Sergeant Owen was the outstanding man on the losing side. Dare I mention the result ? Operators 10, H.Q. Section 2. Yes, it WAS football.

Lance Corporal Masters is arranging another match between the D.R.s and the Operators. Those in the know are confident that there will not be a big score. My advice is wait and see. Do not forget that Lance Corporal Masters is P.T. Instructor. Come on, Freddie !

W.J.C.

London Corps Signals

" Somewhere in England."

March.

General.—Looking back this morning at the last notes with which we tried to brighten the pages of The Wire, we find ourselves struck with remorse and pride. The remorse is because it is six months since any news of this Unit has leaked out into these pages. Not being the Ministry of Information, we are not very proud of our silence and can only plead that someone has told us there is a war on " Somewhere in Europe," and that work has come before everything else. And the pride is because we are really thinking of setting up shop in opposition to Old Moore himself. To announce at the beginning of August last that the Unit was in for a period of really strenuous training was a fairly safe bet. But the prophesy has turned out to be a good bit more true than any of us expected then.

Like everybody else we've had big changes in these last few months, No. 1 Company having been the chief victim. Just at first it was a bit of a shock to find so many of the " old hands " (as we call those hoary veterans with nine months' service who came to camp with us—how long ago all that seems !) leaving us for service elsewhere almost before we had learned their Christian names. We gave them all a rousing send-off and felt duly proud that our Unit was allowed to take its full share of the real work which had to be done. But there wasn't much time for worrying about all that. From the very first day of the war we started welcoming the new faces, and now it's the men who joined up on 3rd September who are the veterans. In fact, we expect to find them blossoming out into beards any day now !

Almost every post brings us some news from our ex-members, all of it so cheerful and enthusiastic that we can't help envying them sometimes. Though, of course, we know really that they ought to be pitied for not having the luck to be one of this crowd any more.

The changes and promotions within the Unit have been so many that it would need a whole issue of The Wire to talk about them. If we give congratulations to a few of them, the others will know that they are included in the general good wishes.

First of all then, to the Os.C. of all three Companies, each of whom has taken one more step up the ladder since the war began. There, at any rate, we have been fortunate to have no changes since camp. And congratulations, too, to C.S.M. Joyce, now our R.Q.M.S. ; to C.Q.M.S. Ward, who sits to-day in the C.S.M.'s chair of No. 1 Company—when he isn't lecturing to recruits or helping everyone else to do their jobs ; to C.Q.M.S. Burrows, who has left No. 3 Company to come back to his first love, No. 1 Company, as one of our new Section S.M.s, and has been spending most of his time lately as father, mother and everything else besides to our lineman's Training School ; to Sergeant Hollands, who has become the second of our S.S.M.s ; to Sergeant Frankland, who, having done a fine job of work as Section Sergeant to one of the line sections we have lost, has also put up a crown ; and to Sergeant Potter, who has deserted " Q " to become C.Q.M.S. of No. 1 Company.

In the last few weeks No. 1 Company has said good-bye to both C.S.M. Griffiths and C.Q.M.S. Pettifer. We wish them both the best of luck in their new undertakings.

With all these changes and the work they entail, coming on top of routine work and day after day of intensive training of every kind, we never cease to be amazed that the Commanding Officer and his staff manage to survive at all ! Not only do they come up smiling morning after morning, but they somehow manage to give their support to the less official side of Unit life.

We have had our lighter moments—quite a few of them ; plenty of football, dances, concerts and the like. We can't remember one social event at which the C.O. has not been

present, and when we've seen him on the touchline at our rugger games, those of us who were at camp remember that it was the Colonel who showed our three-quarter line that their fastest run was not much faster than a funeral march.

Our second-in-command (this censorship of names is becoming a darned nuisance !), not content with keeping his eye on everything and everybody within the four square miles of our barrack area, still finds time in the evenings to organise dances and concerts for the Signals Comforts Fund, and to use his well-known persuasion to convince us that we are actually enjoying a privilege in being allowed to pay our threepences to the Benevolent Fund !

Even the Adjutant, whose spectacular horse-riding was once a feature of Wimbledon Common in the bright mornings of peace, has found time to push his way out of a mass of returns and orders and what-not, and turn out in the forward line of the D.R.s' soccer team—thus terrifying his opponents, who had learned that last time the Adjutant turned out it was for Aston Villa.

It's little wonder that, as the Sunday newspaper funsters have it, " the spirit of the troops is excellent." Indeed there cannot often have been a finer and keener set of fellows than those who have come to us through the Army Intake.

We've had our ups and downs in all sorts of ways, but taking it all round we've been too busy learning our job and doing it during these last six months to worry about anything else. And when the time comes in —— (censored) for us to do a bit more, we shall be there (wherever it is).

Sport.—Despite work and more work, there's been no lack of chances to keep fit. No. 1 Company set the ball rolling (pretty literally) with several soccer matches in the early days of the war and many local teams fell victims to Sergeant Sheen and his men. It wasn't long before the C.O. agreed that the whole Unit should be supplied with kit for most of the games that matter and since then we have regularly put soccer, rugger and hockey teams in the field. Some we have won, some we have lost, but all have been good sport, especially our games with the local Police teams, which have led to many personal friendships afterwards in the canteen. And there are quite a few people nowadays who can think of no more amusing way of spending a Saturday afternoon than in watching 2nd Lieutenant Pownall (who, incidentally, has done more than anyone to get sport really well organised in the Unit) demonstrating his famous passing shot to his centre forward from a dignified sitting posture.

Boxing is another sport which has leapt to the fore in the Unit lately, chiefly owing to the R.S.M., who has done marvels with the material in hand. We have just had our first match with another Unit and carried off the honours by a small margin after a very exciting and delightful evening. Our R.S.M. must



THE ORIGINAL STAFF OF 1ST LONDON CORPS SIGNALS, 1939

Back Row (left to right) : Corporal King H. H., Corporal Scott R. E., Sergeant Horwood H., Lance Corporal Wickens W., Signalman Riley G.

Centre Row (left to right) : S.S.M. W.O. III) Stiff H., C.Q.M.S. (F. of S.) Nicholson F.

Front Row (left to right) : S.S.M. W.O. III) Barker R. G. F., Lieutenant-Quartermaster S. W. Dolbear, M.M., Major H. C. B. Rogers (then Adjutant), R.S.M. Davis H. C., C.S.M. Allardyce W.

be congratulated on the way he has brought on our team in a very short time.

Cross-country, too, has many enthusiasts, even if results so far have shown that the enthusiasm is often more than the skill.

But what really matters is that we have managed to keep fit, and to enjoy doing it, too.

Entertainments.—Despite many difficulties (none of our talent ever seems to be available on the day or at the time it is wanted) the Unit has managed to produce a couple of concerts of its own —and surely there's never been a Unit with more pianists to the square inch! And we have had two or three visits from friends outside, as well, for which we are very grateful. And now the Unit dance band will soon be getting into its swing, and there's talk of a broadcast concert. With several hundred men in billets, there's plenty of scope for these activities.

One happy thought by the C.O. gave us, perhaps, the best evening we have had—a tea dance given by the officers to the N.C.O.s and their ladies, at which (for the second time in this war) our second-in-command proved that he is not only a real expert at the Viennese waltz, but can also teach the youngsters a thing or two about the Palais Glide. With so many new promotions, this affair was a fine opportunity for getting to know each other (and each others' wives!)

All three Companies and the Training School have run dances fairly regularly and with great success, as a change from the more serious forms of night operations which our training has demanded.

Welcome.—We extend a welcome to the following Regulars who have recently been posted to this Unit: C.S.M.s White K. E. and Jennison F., S.S.M. Hollands E. C., Sergeant Berriff C., Corporals Baines A. and Parsons V., Lance Corporals Cross C. E., Castle, Beardall T., Bourton A. and Binstead P., and Signalman Allen L.

Odds and Ends.—We just can't miss telling the story of one of our brightest recruits, who came on parade the other morning with only one puttee. The modern C.S.M. must be pretty well trained, for the offender escaped with his life and was merely returned to his billet to search for the missing article. Returning twenty minutes later, still empty-ankled, he was ordered to remove the solitary puttee before going on parade. Solemnly he unwound the tapes and removed his one puttee—to disclose the missing one underneath! (Yes, it really did happen.)

S.S.M. Frankland (who now runs in double harness) hopes that a certain line section with the B.E.F. received its share of the wedding cake.

And then there was the Signalman from the Training School who, on guard for the first time and a bit doubtful as to what he had been told to do on the approach of an armed party, went through the whole of his rifle drill from the trail to the secure—just to be on the safe side!

Certain of our night exercises during the winter may have been a great success from the Unit point of view, but were not so popular with the local population. As one depressed couple complained to a Section officer: "With the whole of this —— heath to play on, why must you choose just this corner?"

Some things might really be arranged better. When a certain charming young lady was thrown from her horse the other afternoon right in the middle of a line section at work, why did she have to choose the feet of a married officer at which to fall?

We Like to Remember.—The entertainment provided for those otherwise unfortunate ones who didn't get away for Christmas.

Sergeant Gurr demonstrating the art of hammer and jumper work with a hammer in each hand.

The party provided by the C.O. for our many gallant canteen ladies.

We prefer to Forget.—2nd Lieutenant Campbell singing "Passing By" at the last Unit concert!

B. S.

Thames and Medway Signals

General.—Time certainly flies, Easter is on us already, and the Section in general is preparing for their leave. The O.C. has granted us all seven days' leave, and this will be spread over a period of four weeks. The Pay Sergeant has had a large-sized headache this last week, working out credits and pay sheets, but no doubt the thought of his own chocolate eggs egged him on.

Arrivals.—We extend a hearty welcome to our latest arrivals, Signalmen Sealey, Rowe and Smith W., and we hope their stay with us will be a very pleasant one.

Things We Want to Know.—Why a recently promoted Lance Corporal has lately developed quite a growl. He says it's throat trouble (that's what he thinks); it's working him in "Caves," you know, back to nature.

Sport.—It looks as if we have got over winter at last (up to the time of writing these notes). It is really surprising how soon one forgets the cold, dull days when the sun shines and it begins to get warmer. Anyway, it turned our attention to the "great outdoors," and the longing for some outdoor recreation prompted Corporal Snelling to select eleven men to represent the Section at football. This at first seemed rather ambitious as the total "possibles" numbered only fourteen. However, a match was arranged with "L" Company, R.E., who sportingly allowed us to replace a couple of men at half-time with a view to trying them out. The result was that we fielded quite a strong team and were the victors by 3—2, and although we are not issuing any challenges to Arsenal—yet, other teams of Signals would do well to watch these columns for a chance to learn a thing or two about the game! But, seriously, we hope to arrange some Inter-Unit matches in the near future. An interesting sidelight on the match was that Lance Corporal Peters and Signalman Rowe were selected by R.E. "spotters" to represent the Depot Battalion in matches first against the R.A.F., which the former won 5—1 (Lance Corporal Peters scored twice), then against Gillingham, who won 4—3, after a hard game (Peters again accounted for one goal).

On 6th March we defeated "G" Company, R.E., by 9—0, so we have good hopes of our team making a name for itself. Our team were resplendent in red and blue, but "Bluebeard" Moon added the patriotic touch with a dash of white. We didn't quite know how to take the crack about him being "Queen of all the Fairies."

The ground was still very hard, despite the recent rain. This we gathered from the remarks of a certain young man who charged a back about ten minutes after that worthy had moved.

Billiards.—Signalman Woodman has been putting in some really good work lately in organising a couple of billiard tournaments. It was well appreciated by the Section and although we cannot produce any budding Lindrums, some really good, close games were witnessed. The difficulty of handicap was well overcome by the promoters, and Signalman Stewart did well in walking off with the first prize. One up for the D.R.s. (I'm one myself, so I'll probably hear more about this.)

Jimmy the One.

Marriage.—Still another member of our Section, not unconnected with these notes, has heard the call of Cupid, and we offer our heartiest congratulations to Despatch Rider Redington J. and his bride-to-be, Miss Lucy Diamond. Best of luck, Jimmy; we all wish we could join in the celebrations on the 16th.

Mallet.

West Country Divisional Signals, Devonshire

Somewhere in England.

March, 1940.

Time marches on, and in step with it our training in all branches proceeds smoothly. We are, indeed, glad to welcome the longer hours of daylight, and consequent extension of hours of training.

Our recent new arrivals are, like their predecessors, settling down well to their new existence, and all of them appear to be well satisfied with their new environment.

It is hoped that the Trade Tests now taking place will show marked increase in the number of traded personnel, thereby rewarding the instructors, in addition to increasing the general efficiency of the Unit.

MERCURY.

No. 1 Company

General.—On going to press we are on the eve of a Trade Test, so that by the time these notes appear it is hoped that the Company pay roll will have considerably increased.

During the last month Individual Training was broken for a fortnight for a period of Company Training. Interspersed with plenty of arms drill and P.A.D. was a 17 mile route march. The Company conveniently reached a pleasant village in time for the lunch break, much to the satisfaction of the local innkeeper. On the return the column wound its way through many a hidden hamlet, where the inhabitants, unaccustomed to the sight of soldiery, stopped at their cottage doors or at their ploughs in the fields to gape and, perhaps, wave as the Company marched by.

During the past month we have lost our Company Commander. He has now gone to see what he can do for another Company. Meanwhile we are very pleased to welcome his successor.

Congratulations to our former Company Commander on being presented with a daughter. Congratulations also to Corporal Clift F. H., on his marriage. We understand several others are contemplating this " fatal " step during the Easter leave !

Sport.—Soccer. Three matches have been played against No. 2 Company during the last month. In the first match No. 1 Company won by 3—1, Lang, Velvin and Kelly scoring for the Company. The second match resulted in a draw with two goals each, those for No. 1 Company being scored by Velvin and Kelly. The replay resulted in a victory for No. 1 Company by 3—2. At half-time the Company was leading 2—0, Velvin, the " penalty king " scoring a well-placed penalty, and Rimes the other goal. In the second half No. 2 Company pressed hard and scored two goals, but just before time, Mitchell H. L., playing at outside left, managed to score, thus turning the tide for the Company.

Boxing.—Several members of the Company took part in the eliminating contest within the Unit. In the middle-weights Mitchell H. L. lost on points to Nosworthy (No. 3 Company). In the welter-weight class, Lang and Humphries (both No. 1 Company) had to fight it out. Up to the last round both fighters seemed fairly equally matched, but Humphries gained the lead in the last round.

Nosworthy later came up against Mitchell G. H. (brother of Mitchell H. L.), Nosworthy proving the stronger and quicker of the two.

Rugger.—Although the Company has lost two valuable members of its team, it still continues to supply several players to the Unit rugby team. Members of the Company who played in the semi-final of the Divisional Cup, when the Unit defeated the 5th S.L.I. by 19—0, were 2nd Lieutenant Crosse, Corporal Banks, Lance Corporal Ife and Signalmen Cork, McDonald and Velvin. The last named contributed eight points to the score with a converted try and a penalty.

Social.—No. 1 Company ran another of their successful dances on Wednesday, 6th March, No. 2 Company kindly providing the music as on previous occasions. The Company Commander and most of the officers of the Company were among those present. Unfortunately, C.S.M. Scott was prevented through illness from being present, but we were glad to have Mrs. Scott there. Sergeant Addelsee acted as M.C.

In addition to this event the Company has been well represented at the various Unit dances and concerts which take place weekly.

Things We Want To Know.—Has any dance taken place within two miles of the billeting area which has not been attended by certain D.R.s ?

ONECOY.

No. 2 Company

Here we are once again " somewhere in Devon," although the " local talent " do not object.

Individual Training is still proceeding and it was broken for a fortnight for Company Training. This was a welcome change from the class-room, as the Company was out of doors as much as possible.

Several short distance schemes were carried out and enjoyed by all who took part as well as much practical experience being obtained.

Quite an influx of " A.C.I." have arrived to swell the strength of the Company, entailing two sittings for all meals, but all seem to have made themselves at home.

The A.C.I. Company invited this Company to an indoor games evening at its billet last month. It was thoroughly enjoyed by all. A return match is being arranged for Tuesday, 12th March, and another enjoyable evening is anticipated.

Most of the Company are looking forward to the coming Trade Board, and are hoping to collect a good number of Trade Ratings, and, of course, extra pay in the near future.

Congratulations to our Sergeant Field on his promotion to C.Q.M.S., but we are also sorry to see him go. He was one of the N.C.O.s who worked hard to make the Company when it was formed last year, and we all wish him the best of luck in his new office and Company.

The weather is now improving (Spring) of course, is here, but why so many weddings ?

Dances and concert parties are still continuing weekly, and seem very popular with the local people as well.

Well, here's to the next time.

TWOCOY.

No. 3 Company

This last month seems to have passed extremely quickly, and consequently there appears to be a greater lack of news than usual. The most important item is our change of O.C. We should like in welcoming him to say that we hope his stay will be a long one. He is also Unit Sports Officer and we may now boast of full programmes of rugby, soccer, and hockey matches.

Nearly every man in the Company during the next few days is going in for a Trade Test and by next issue we hope to be able to say that we have a number of first-class operators. The electricians who have been on a Course in the North have returned having taken their Trade Test.

The following men have been promoted to Lance Corporal : Halse D. G., Lisle, Lock, and Page. May we congratulate them on their first step in the long climb.

The Unit rugger team are in the final of the Divisional Trophy, and we hope to have a number of representatives from our Company in the team. In Inter-Company soccer matches the Company are keeping up their unbeaten record.

The general health of the Company, considering the changeable weather, is remarkably good. There have been one or two cases of sickness, but no epidemic and we hope to escape it now.

— Divisional Signals (East Anglia)

We make our bow to readers of the Corps magazine as an entirely new Unit of somewhat hybrid birth, having been evolved from 2nd East Anglian Divisional Signals in a manner which is much too complicated to enter into details here, even were we allowed to do so.

Somewhere about mid-October of last year our present " second-in-command " was posted to 1st East Anglian Divisional Signals for the purpose of raising No. 1 Company of the present Unit. He was later joined by a " dug-up " R.S.M. and the new Company may be said to have started actual operations by early November. About 150 other ranks from the parent Unit had previously been earmarked for transfer and, with an

influx of approximately 50 other ranks from S.T.C., plus a number of D.R.s who had voluntarily enlisted under the W.O. scheme (Graham Walker's Own), the nucleus of the new Unit was formed. All somewhat involved, perhaps, but there's a war on and its the best we can do for you.

Originally, No. 1 Company was accommodated with 1st East Anglian, but sought fresh fields and pastures new at a disused factory some miles away early in December, with its Officer Commanding, an acting Adjutant, and a Sulbaltern whose general outlook at that time was " Orderly Officer for the duration." What with the severity of the weather and most uncomfortable quarters, life in general at that stage was anything but salubrious, and the Company had a stiffish time for some weeks. Good hardening training, nevertheless.

Additional officers and some M.T. personnel next put in an appearance. An Officer Commanding (no names, no pack drill) was appointed and authority received for the formation of the complete Unit. Our new C.O. should have joined us late in November, but an attack of appendicitis necessitating operation interfered with the arrangements and it was not until early in January that the Unit, by that time considerably increased in numbers, was able to welcome him.

Further transfers and A.C. Intakes soon brought the Unit to such strength that the existing accommodation became inadequate—although warmer—and so, early in February, three separate Companies were formed, No. 1 (D.R.s, D. (I.C.), " M " and L/M.) staying " put," No. 2 (Ops.) and No. 3 (Intakes) being transferred to billets in the town nearby. Some have since returned to the old home, where they are perhaps not so comfortable, but certainly get more movement.

Like all new Units we had our share of troubles regarding stores of all description. It was appreciated by all concerned that there were others with prior claims and that we should have to make the best of it. It is a matter of self-congratulation, therefore, that we managed to muddle along very nicely. Our Q.M. (Lieutenant B. J. T. Harrison) has recently been busy with the powers that be, and we are now getting stores—" personal," domestic " and " technical "—almost daily.

Every member of the Unit is looking forward to Section work, and there is not the slightest doubt that when this comes about we shall forge ahead towards efficiency at a rate of knots. The interest of the Army Class in the work has been most marked, and there is a great deal of voluntary spare-time-training going on all the time. The general spirit is shown by the fact that it is extremely difficult to get volunteers for the so-called soft jobs, such as batmen, office work (!), etc.

Social.—The Unit is fortunate in being stationed in an area where it has met with most cordial hospitality. Local firms have placed their social amenities at the Unit's disposal, and on many occasions residents have issued invitations to members to Sunday dinner, tea, and evening's entertainment. Practically all local clubs have extended honorary membership to the Unit.

A Dance Band is in process of formation, and occasionally practises in the Sergeants' Mess area. It hopes to make its *debut* as a band at a Unit function in the near future, and by some means this fact is being used as a deterrent to minor offences in the outlying Companies.

Sergeants' Mess.—A Mess is not yet actually in being, owing to the present situation of the Unit, but even though somewhat scattered, the Sergeants are staging a Dance and Cabaret next week at the cafeteria of a local manufacturing firm, who have very kindly placed their premises at the Sergeants' disposal. This affair promises to be a roaring success. (A fully licensed bar has been thrown in.)

Sport.—We have a football team in being, and although the weather lately has been a considerable drawback, matches are now being arranged regularly, and so far the Unit has held its own very well. Soon we propose knocking Rotatint of London stone cold, and then the 1st East Anglian will collect it " where the chicken got the axe."

Endeavour is also being made to run an Inter-Company boxing meeting in the near future, and the S.M. has been scouring the county for the loan of a ring. Of this more anon.

Am afraid these somewhat scrappy notes must suffice for this issue. It may be possible to obtain the services of a *pukka* journalist before the next—we hope.

(Nothing wrong with this one ! Carry on.—Ed.)

Lowland Divisional Signals

Rustle of spring ! But as we learnt at school concerning that man Cæsar, " They having been concentrated forces, yet now are still in winter quarters." (Vocab.)

The position differs little from our own, although the weather has not, so far, quite got the idea of this spring business.

Since the last " notes " were concocted, training has continued apace. We have had visits from our Corps Commander, and the Inspector of Signals ; these in quick succession.

We extend a very hearty welcome to our new Quartermaster, who is gradually assuming that worried look befitting his labours. Also would be welcome Captain ——, of the Indian Army, who is with us for a brief stay. We trust that the rigours of the Scottish climate will not be too much for him after the overpowering heat of the Punjab (or is it cooler there than we have been led to believe ?) Rumour has it that Cupid has again been at target practice in the Mess and has " clocked " 2nd Lieutenant —— ; we wish them all happiness and success.

Scottish Command Signal Company paid us a visit recently and gave a demonstration of permanent line construction. This was followed by some very informative lectures. Our football team were also able to demonstrate its invincibility later that day, and has again upheld its reputation by overcoming Ordnance We have to thank the promoters of the Jock's Box for many additions to our sports gear ; these kindnesses are much appreciated.

Personnel continue to come and go on Courses of various natures and the most unlikely souls are heard discussing gudgeon pins and anode bends in a most convincing fashion. Our trade as reported last month has proved useful and illuminating, *vide* "A trunk line is a line for the use of officers of high rank."

Social activities continue with unabated success, the W.O.s and Sergeants' dance being no exception. E.N.S.A. have provided us with yet another concert party, and a number of film shows have taken place.

At the moment of writing most of us are looking forward to our seven days' leave and to those we wish : fine weather, a good time, and plenty of petrol !

Ateltee.

Welsh Divisional Signals

Life in Pembrokeshire is proceeding on an even keel and the boys are rapidly learning the local language, so well in fact, that one, Lance Corporal Self, is shortly to enter into the happy (?) state of holy matrimony with a lady from Saundersfoot, and I am sure that every one will join in wishing him the very best of good luck and happiness.

Training.—Training is progressing favourably, and this Unit recently had the honour of visits from the G.O.C. in C. (Home Forces), the Inspector General, Royal Signals, and our Divisional Commander, all of whom expressed satisfaction with what they saw.

Sport.—In addition to our activities on the soccer and rugby battle fields, we have now raised a team to compete in the Divisional Cross Country Run this month. The course is on home ground, so we are expecting great results from the Signals' team.

A Divisional Boxing Competition has also been held for a cup, kindly presented by a local jeweller. The Signals team fought their way into the semi-final, and we congratulate Signalmen Goddard and Gill on their two fine wins. Congratulations again to Signalman Goddard for his exhibition in the Army v. Wales contest at Cardiff. The Army, unfortunately, only won two fights, of which one was claimed by Signalman Goddard.

Promotions.—Congratulations to Mr. C. H. Griffith (late R.S.M.) on his appointment to Lieutenant Quartermaster, also to W.O. I (R.S.M.) Barnett on attaining that rank.

Scottish Divisional Signals

The scarcity of outstanding features for the past month has rendered it rather difficult to give a portrayal of events of recent weeks. Due to medical and other reasons the activities of the Unit were almost brought to a standstill and, with the exception of a rather important visit, nothing of significance took place.

Visits.—A visit by the Chief Inspector of Signals, who was accompanied by the Chief Signal Officer, Scottish Command, was the most important feature. A tour of inspection was made of all sections in training and, as was anticipated, everyone responded well.

Sport.—In the football sphere, the Unit team has been showing its paces in the recent games played. Although we failed in one of these to even "divide the spoils" the honours were equally shared. The opposing team—local champions—had a hot reception from our boys, but in the end they ran off victorious with a two-goal lead to their credit. The Unit team, however, is to be commended for the manner in which they tackled such "tough" opposition and they are eager to get to grips again, being confident that they can master their victors in the return match which has been arranged. So, we wish them the best of luck!

Although football has played the most prominent part in the "Sportlight," keen interest is displayed in other recreational pastimes, such as handball, rugby and boxing, and the participation in such sports maintains a high standard of physical well-being in the Unit.

Training.—Favourable progress is being made in the technical training of the Unit and the coveted "ratings" are mounting up.

Courses on driving have been established and it can almost be said that there remains only a few who are not able to handle a vehicle with all the skill necessary.

Linemen, Electrician Signals, and Fitter Signals are all under intensive training of a high standard and the linemen especially are going "great guns" receiving first-hand experience through the assistance of the local Post Office authorities.

Sergeants' Mess.—A highly successful dance was held in the Drill Hall by the W.O.s and Sergeants of the Unit and the large number of people who attended had an entertaining evening.

Prizes were given to the holders of "lucky numbers" and a booby prize in the form of a celluloid doll, bearing the title of "The Dumb Blonde," was presented to a Sergeant-Major J——e. The Sergeant-Major's partiality to blondes was, of course, well known!

Northern Ireland District Signal Company

In these good days of early Spring it is, indeed, a luxury to draw the breath of life. Once more from the top deck of our barracks the sea, still cold yet somehow inviting, comes into view. The sun shines from an almost cloudless sky, and across the parade ground, where infantry are at their daily dozen, massed bayonets swim and glitter. Very soon the cricket pitch, the tennis court, and other recreational grounds will be dotted with white clad figures dashing about like Mercury, as if they too had great news to impart.

Command.—We welcome our new C.O., who is now in process of taking over command of the Company. As the Commanding Officer is, of course, the first censor of these notes, and as the change of command is not yet actually effected, we feel that to save them from embarrassment we must refrain from too much laudable comment. However, we must say that we hope our new Commanding Officer will stay with us a long time and that his stay will be a pleasant one, and at the same time we can repeat the compliment to our departing Commanding Officer, for he has been with us a long time, and it has been a good time. Perhaps, in a few days, when one goes and the other takes over, the voice of the Company will be heard.

New Arrivals.—To the new arrivals we have already extended the usual verbal welcome and a few admonishing words on the subject of the degree of moisture in their regimental numbers. These new arrivals are all youngsters, less than 19, some of them look like sweet 17, and in due course we shall chronicle their escapades and dates of their initial contact with razor blades.

Promotions and Appointments.—We heartily congratulate the newly appointed Lance Corporals Fisk and Johnston. Other N.C.O.s, Lance Sergeant Jones, and Corporals Gray and Reece, have been promoted to the ranks quoted, and they, too, have our best wishes for the future. Yet these promotions lose a lot of glamour when considered beside that of Taffy (ex-Signalman) Ellis, who recently left us for a Training Battalion somewhere in Wales, from whence we understand he instantly made a long distance phone call to this Station to tell us that he had been made Corporal on arrival. We further understand on good authority that while this astounding news was being phoned across the water yet another stripe was attached to the eloquent Taffy's sleeve.

Very First Class.—That, to use the popular expression of Signalman Joe Denehy, is how we must describe a dance to which we were invited by the R.A.S.C. the other day. Those who did not go seemed next morning to know far more about the proceedings than those who did go, which is surprising but quite understandable, for these are happy days.

Hockey.—Enthusiasm for hockey supersedes football. That may be due to fine weather or to the well-known fact that many of our hockey fixtures these days are with local companies of the Women's Auxiliary Territorial Service, and some of them can certainly show us a few wrinkles with a hockey stick. Results of these games are invariably the same, and young Signalman McNulty in the forward line continues to get through the opposing defence by sheer force of sex appeal.

Representative Men.—Fourteen lusty Signalmen have volunteered for the B.E.F. They have departed or are on the eve of departure. Their names we shall always remember, Signalmen Maxwell, Hall, McNulty, Richardson, Outhwaite, Martin, Francis, Allsop, Henley, Ivinson, Mulderig, Grieveson, Ray, and Cable. These are the names that to-day make news. These are the representative men of the Company that go to fight the foe. For the past six months they have been the mainspring of life here. We still seem to hear their cheery laughter rocking the barrack stairs. A record of their days here would be an inexhaustible catalogue. All of them were good Signalmen. With the exception of four they were good single-men. No one knows why they should want to leave Ireland, a paradise for stray bachelors.

Who of all those who first came over here in the dark days of last autumn would recognise a score of the new faces that now feed in the mess room. Oh, yes, this is life all right, laughter and tears, work and play, action and reaction, a rum mixture of gaiety and gloom, as one by one and now a dozen of our pals at a time are drawn off to the Western Front. It is not long since we all got together, but today this is a Company of young soldiers too young to fight just yet and older men who did their fighting twenty to twenty-five years ago. Well, war is war, we must not grow sentimental. Yet a constant thought now attends us, that actions and events in progress seem to indicate very soon such a flare up on the Western Front beside which the war in Finland may pale and fade into insignificance. So when we wake sometimes in the dawn and see the lads laying a kit or packing, we cannot help but feel a bit bad. Still, we give them a slap on the back and say it is Hitler's fault.

Cheerio, old pals, cheerio, see you again soon.

THE GLOOMY DEAN.

Advertisements!

THOSE FIRMS WHO ADVERTISE IN THESE PAGES SUPPORT OUR MAGAZINE.
WILL OUR READERS PLEASE SUPPORT THEM IN RETURN?

★

STATIONS ABROAD

Signal Training Centre (India)

Jubbulpore.

29th February, 1940.

With the advent of February the " winter " season has broken and we are beginning to attend to such things as chicks and water cooling arrangements for the hot weather. No longer need we worry about those draughts when taking a bath, and coal becomes a pigeon hole item until the monsoon breaks.

During the month we have welcomed to Jubbulpore two drafts from the United Kingdom, mainly consisting of militia personnel and including a few Reservists. A few familiar faces crop up, we see those whom we shook hands with years ago when they took their departure to civil life. Since the names of the drafts will be of interest to many in other Units, it is proposed to print them all. There may be relatives of these drafts serving in the Corps who may not even be acquainted with their whereabouts. The first draft comprised A/Sergeant Boigel H. G. H., A/Corporals Hulme J. W., and Bennett G. T., Signalmen Ackroyd J. F., Addicott G. E., Adams H., Atherton E. B., Anderson G. B., Bowden J. H., Bryant G. F., Browne W. J., Browne F. E. W., Broome H. L., Billington J., Brewer H. L., Clay R., Campbell G. A., Cawte H. J., Cousens J. J., Crawford W., Cooke R. W., Collins W., Cox R. N., Clement A., Deighton J., Dewell H. C. F., Dejonge D. H., Davies J. W., Dalton J., Eagleton J. P., Ellis D., Farthing R., Fitness R. F. C., Ford H. A., Graham J. L., Goldsmith E. S., Greenslade D. E., Gratton F. G., Goddard C. A., Hickman J., Hopkinson R., Harkin J., Hill H., Hunt S. A. G., Hector J., Hansford R. W., Hedges C. H. M., Husband J. W., Harrison H., Hartley J., Jobling G., Johnson J., Kent R. H., Lindsay A. T., Lievesley (0266), Mallett R. D., Melia I., McIntyre J. A., Martin J. I. C., Morgan G. G., McKerrow J. A., Mark G., Netherwood K. A., Nicholson W. P., Nixon J. A., Mason A., Newton A. J., Owden J. B., Ogden A., Perkins A. J., Pollock R., Phillips G. E., Parham S. W., Parr D., Palmer F., Rivers H., Rowlands F. W., Slaughter D. G., Silcock W., Softon L., Snowden R. E., Sparkes L. G., Sook L., Turner V. C., Watson R. N., Wood S., Wright V. A., Williams A. R., Wright R. W., Wait R. E. S., Watson D., Wagner R. N., Wright A. H., Weaver H. E., Toms G. S., Storer W. J., Temple E. L., and Perkins G. E.

The second draft comprised Sergeant Haxell E., Signalmen Adamson N., Agombar S. G., Ambrose V. G., Belton J., Brandon B. G., Bowen G. F., Bryden G. F., Barksby F., Braik H., Bolam T. E., Burnham A. W., Cooke A. C., Carter R., Copeland C. H., Cheney C. J., Durant D. L., Dean J., Elkington L., Follit H. S., Futter A. J., Fuggle C. E., Fleming A. R., Gray J., Griffin F. B., Gordon F., Green L., Hassan G., Hurt W. E., Hogarth A. T., Harper A. J., Humpheries P. F., Hearn J. E., Innerd B. B., Johns R. E., Jordan E., Johnstone A., Johnson M., Knight F. A., Luke H. F., Low W., Milne J., Moyes G., MacPherson A., Martin J., MacClaren G. S., Mosey K., Mackie J. M., Moore W. S., Price E., Pearce G. H., Pilkington H., Roberts F., Rudkin R. A., Rounce J. B., Rawe G. H., Shingleton D., Stevens T. W., Skinner G., Staples J. E., Studholme R., Smith G. R. E., Snape A., Turnbull G. B., Turner A., Twell R. B., Tarrant A. B., Treddinick J. S., Tivey E., Thorne L. J., Wheatcroft H., Winters G. T., and Wright (0937) N. J., also Corporal Green W. and Lance Corporal Gall M.

Of the first draft five members became casualties *en route ;* one was in hospital at Aden and four at Bombay for a short while. The second draft produced only two casualties who spent a few days in hospital at Bombay. We welcome them to India and hope they find their stations up to expectations. It might be a warm spot but it can be preferred to the icy conditions offered in such places as France.

We also welcomed to the Unit during the month Lance Corporal Milligan W., and Signalman Barker W., from Meerut, Signalmen Peters A. and Allen A., from Rawalpindi, and Corporal Ellis G., Signalmen Fox B., Black R., Baird D., Ashley H., and Graham C., who came from the United Kingdom with an earlier draft and have now been posted to the S.T.C.

C.S.M. Watford R. and Sergeant Washburn S. joined us " on paper " from " A " Corps Signals, Rawalpindi. There was a story, of very authentic origin, that they were coming to Jubbulpore. It was extremely hard to discredit this story. But in view of the fact that they were still going to work at Rawalpindi we were able eventually to belittle this story because it is an absolute impossibility to go from Jubbulpore to Rawalpindi and back in one day.

Promotions.—Our heartiest congratulations are extended to an ex-member of the Unit, Lieutenant and Quartermaster A. A. Taylor, and to Lieutenant (T.M.O.) E. D. Shilton, both of Royal Signals, who recently joined us from Egypt, on attaining commissions as shown. We also have to record and congratulate several members of the Unit this month, on their promotion in the form of a real step up in Royal Signals, an absolute rarity these days. These were R.S.M. Coombes L., C.Q.M.S. Champion W., Sergeants Driver J. and Mohrstadt M., Lance Sergeants Gilkes A., Thom J., and Partridge L., Corporals Hockings N. and Softly R. (the latter being established somewhere in Europe now). We also have to congratulate the following on attaining ranks as stated under the new law. C.S.M. Howard T., W.O. III (S.S.M.) Quinn W., Corporals Munslow J. and Jones R.

Transfers to the Corps.—One to record this month. We welcome to the fold Private Nevay A., transferred from the 2nd K.O.S.B. More could be said but will not be.

The Signals Concert Party.—On the 15th and 16th February we were treated to two evenings entertainment in the form of a revue entitled " Here we are again," presented by the Signals Concert Party. The first night being open to members of the Unit and the second night open to the Station. The Concert Party, under the able direction of Sergeant Spearpoint F., are to be congratulated on their fine efforts in providing such a high standard of entertainment, revealing the fact that many hours of rehearsal had been necessary. It would be extremely difficult to mention any item as being outstanding, since the concert throughout was excellently performed. We might, perhaps, congratulate Miss June Ellerton-Long on a very clever performance and exhibition of dancing. A few photographs have been obtained of different scenes in the revue and it is hoped that the Editor will find sufficient space to publish these especially as they will be of great interest to ex-members of the S.T.C. (I.).

S.T.C. (I.) Athletics.—The annual S.T.C. (I.) athletics were held on 21st, 22nd and 23rd February, and we witnessed some very keen performances. The results were as follows: Team Athletics, 1940 (Fazal Din Cup), 1, " B " Company, 80 points (winners of the Cup) ; 2, " A " Company, 77 points ; 3, " F " Company, 76 points ; 4, " D " Company ; 5, " C " Company, with 33 points. Copeland Cup Relay Race : Winners of the Cup, " B " Company, with " A " Company second. Tug-of-War : Winner of the Cup, " D " Company.

CAVE CANEM.

[Owing to pressure on space a page of photographs has been unavoidably held over to a later issue—ED.]

Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron, Meerut

General.—The A.B.S.S., sometimes referred to as 3 Bar C Signals (somewhere in U.P.), is still very much up and doing, but as, unfortunately, I reported all the " doings " in last month's edition there is very little of special interest to fill up space with now ; however, we haven't been idle—not with District Commander's inspection, tree planting and the usual stable routine to contend with.

The return of Lance Corporal Redhouse from Pachmari was followed by an outbreak of anti-gas training, but with his

departure on a D. and M. Course other means of passing the afternoons had to be adopted ; a certain number of B.O.R.s having scrounged off firing the A.W.T.C. Pamphlet No. 16 (India) (whatever that is), were grouped under the heading of " Casuals " (a rose by any other name would smell . . .), and, at great expense, Sergeant " Yorky " Yates was engaged to instill them with the " Inf." on how to hit " that there target," so that took care of them.

The remainder of the B.O.R.s insisted on digging holes for tree planting so that others, not so expert at animal management, could fill in the post-breakfast period erecting walls around them.

The District Commander seemed pleased with everything he saw when he paid the Squadron a visit on 27th February ; a trifle of whitewash here and there works wonders.

The occasion for much preparation and preliminary inspections nowadays is the forthcoming visit of that gentleman who is so familiar to " Quarter-blokes," D.A.D.O.S. ; from what I hear the interpretation of the mystic letters isn't quite what I have been led to expect. However, we live and learn—live, anyway. Remember lads, all these things are sent to try us.

Arrivals.—From the U.K., *via* Paris, Marseilles and Jubbulpore, Signalmen Jonesa nd Stephens ; a welcome increase in strength, if only from the rations and picquet point of view !

From Jhansi, sundry stout warriors who have been assisting Lucknow District Signals. From Pachmari, Lance Corporal Redhouse, after undergoing an Anti-Gas Course. From Dehra Dun, Signalmen Ashmore and Parker, *en route* for Rawalpindi ; their stay was short, but is worth mentioning, for with their able assistance we managed to rout our neighbours the L.D. Signals. From a D. and M. Course at Ahmednager, Lance Corporal Hounsom ; he has already tried out the gears of at least one one-horse-power " vehicle." Last but not least, " Uncle " from leave ; the master-gripper has been sadly missed, especially at meal times and our Corps history has been allowed to become extremely shaky.

Departures.—Lance Corporal Redhouse to Ahmednager for a Course of D. and M. Signalman Mosley to Poona on a Duff-wallopers' Course.

Leave.—A party of B.O.R.s bussed down to Delhi for the Horse Show and we hear that a good time was had by all—after the Show chiefly, if my informant can be believed ; the Shrinking Violet of the Squadron blossomed out into a dashing man about town they tell me ; never heed, " Bing," 'tis but the price of fame.

" Uncle " left " organisation " in the capable hands of his henchmen (of course our Joe did all the " graft ") and took a well-earned vacation, returning looking extremely well fed.

Our Benj. also crept away quietly for three days, ostensibly to see the Horse Show, but methinks there's more in this than meets the eye.

Congratulations.—To C.S.M. Applegate, our T.S.M., on exchanging his crown for two " pips." Nice going, sir ! C.Q.M.S. Madeley to be A/U/W.O. Class II (C.S.M.) ; A/Sergeant Marsh to be A/U/Sergeant ; Corporals Brennan and Lockey to be A/U/Lance Sergeants ; and Lance Corporals Hounsom and Craggs to be A/U/Corporals. All from 21/2/40 inclusive. In view of the groans already overheard, *re* expenditure for new " tapes," etc., we join them in the hope that the " U " part of all those obliques doesn't remain long ; time will take care of the " A."

Soccer.—B.O.R.s' KNOCK-OUT COMPETITION.—Result : Lost to 84th Battery, R.A., 5—0. The team fought hard but shortage of players due to injuries, etc., plus a spot kick in the first few minutes put us rather at our opponents' mercy and the knock-out came in the first round. If we publish the team ex-Cav. Troopites will see the light ; here it is : Brown ; Sergeant Yates, Peacock ; Waterworth, Corporal Winter, Marshall ; Jones, McBurnie, McDermott, Tuck, Rawlings (R.A. attached).

We hope to do much better in the Hockey Knock-out, which starts very shortly. In a moment of weakness we were sorted out to the tune of 11—0 a while ago, but the less said about that match the better from all points of view. Fielding an almost full team against 84th Battery, recently, we drew, after a snappy game ; so with Corporal Brennan (leave it to Uncle) back in the side we should manage very nicely.

INTER-SECTION FOOTBALL. This kick and rush soccer continues to bring out form (good, bad or indifferent—strike out where not applicable) and we think No. 1 Section now leads No. 2 by a slight margin ; this in itself is a triumph for Yorky and his " home-grown " talent.

Heard on the Ranges.—" I know who's on No. 4 target ; it's Dougal ; you can see it—" dot and carry one " as he moves along the butts."

What We Want to Know.—Who gave the man on the next target a " possible " in the process of piling up an " immense " score for himself ?

That great sticker for facts (?) announcing from Berlin S/W Station has convinced me that Germany will have taken over THE WIRE (and other famous journals) by this time next week, so that this won't get published even if it does get through the Nazi blockade ! So why should I annoy you further with my drivellings ? Thanks, I didn't think you would keep me long in doubt !

And so for the present I leave you. Cheerio, everybody !

BALDY (Chota Signals).

Ceylon Signal Section

March.

Quarterly Return.—Ours being due, THE WIRE's Special Correspondent in Ceylon (Unofficial Emergency Abbreviation, W.S.C. in C.) ambled round in search of NEWS ! Phew, and what a task ! Equipped with the proverbial pad, pencil, and warning notes regarding " tittle-tattle," etc., one has only to walk into the Test Room or similar institutions where some folks wonder what to do next, when all ambitions of compiling at least two full columns drop far below zero. One day we will fill a whole page, but at the present rate it will only be with photographs.

Perhaps we Special Correspondents are too hard hearted, because, instead of visualising our fellow-patriots as " Humans, Masculine, H.M. Forces, for service with," we see them as, at least, three paragraphs with headlines of half-an-inch capitals.

The I.M.T. was tackled first of all, and the greeting he gave was, " Hi, that's my pencil you have there ! " What a fool I was—forgetting he is Scotch ! Undismayed, the O.C. was tackled next. (Bound to get a start here !) Well, you know what these Os.C. are—they are so full of Emergency precautions that they dare not tell you what to do next before you have already done it. However, arriving at the office, the W.S.C. in C., like most other W.S.C.s, fell to good old standby, Part II Orders. Ha ! News from the heavens ! (At least from Records and, after all, what's in a name ?). After singing " We'll get no promotions this side, etc.," Sergeant " Ginger " Whitwell is to be congratulated on attaining that rank. Also mentioned (after singing the same old song) is " Chippy " Woods (now with the Ceylon Defence Force), whose name has been included among the " Sign here " clique on the Corps Roster. Well done, " Chippy " !

Flash ! (Technique, eh ?) News from our other detachment " up top." Had we been in France I could have used the expression " Somewhere in Ceylon," but there you are, even a scoop like that is scotched here. However, in our last notes " Tich " Earl's name was completely forgotten. The W.S.C. in C. is reported to have stated that the letters E.A.R.L. are not on his typewriter, but lacking a well-oiled propaganda machine you cannot tell a tale like that and get away with it. Nevertheless, " Tich " Earl (ex-Boy and ex-Spike) IS one of our gang and the last time we saw him in Colombo he was credited with a grand show, representing the United Services at hockey. Often, we meet many of the Corps " taking the sea air " and wish them a *bon voyage* even after disembarkation. We have also met many of our Colonial Signals. Fine fellows, too ! (Naturally.) If Dixon & Co. (N.Z. Sigs.) see these notes, perhaps they will remember our date still holds good.

Triangular Tournament.—This was staged between teams representing the Sappers, the Gunners and, of course, the Sigs. After some rousing games and a few aching limbs, we went under to the Sappers at the last obstacle—on the ranges. However, we will know better next time.

Agony.—Forming threes ! For particulars regarding same, consult those who were " finished."

Conclusion.—That's all, so cheerio ! SANDY.

Malaya Command Signal Company

Obituary.—We regret to report the death of Mr. (Ex-Signalman) Desmond J. Barratt, in Singapore General Hospital, at 5.15 a.m. on 20th February. "Des.," as he was known to his friends, left Malaya Signal Company when he purchased his discharge in April, 1939, whilst serving with Fort Canning Detachment.

On 8th November, 1938, he, along with Lance Corporal Jones, showed great resource, courage and initiative in capturing a Chinese inhabitant, who, in company with five others, had waylaid and robbed another Chinese of various articles. The act was particularly commendable in view of the fact that the miscreant was armed with a knife which he threatened to use.

The G.O.C. recorded his appreciation of the high courage shown by Lance Corporal Jones and Signalman Barratt on this occasion.

On leaving the Service he became a member of the Straits Settlements Volunteer Signal Company.

He was laid to rest at Bidadari Cemetery on 21st February, and the unit was well represented. A number of individual wreaths were sent, besides those from Malaya Signal Company, W.O.s, N.C.O.s and men of Fort Canning, and the D.R. Section.

The C.S.O. and all officers and men of Malaya Signals wish to express their deepest sympathy to his mother and family on their great loss.

General.—Apologies from Malaya for the non-appearance of notes in the Journal. We had almost given up hope of ever seeing our names again. Luckily, a couple of sheets managed to creep past the barrage of censors, spies, X-ray cameras, etc.

Christmas is over (don't think that will be struck out), so is New Year (nor that), and we hope that these feasts were in every case to everybody's satisfaction. Ours was, very much so. All the lads seemed to be either going native or up the pole. Parent Sami and Camp Singh's Indian rope trick and the one and only British snake charmer were really dare-devil acts.

However, after Christmas comes the hangover and we do not think that anyone was ready for work when the Monday morning whistle went.

Good old Mr. Records. Even in these times of stress he does not forget his children in far-flung outposts of Empire. And so congratulations to the Warrant Officers who were granted emergency commissions and also to the officer who was so recently promoted a long time ago. Sergeant Tim Healey has added a crown to his sleeve, Lance Sergeant John Sharpe was rather astounded when his third came through, while Lance Corporals Penman and Newsham are now Corporals. Carry on, chaps. Tim has promised me a hurricane, but that is nothing to what Busty Newsham is going to do. He doesn't know yet what he is in for. Tut, tut, your Singapore memory, lad! Lance Sergeant Hollingshead also found his place in the sun. He drew out an A/C.Q.M.S. Put me down for one of your books, Bert.

Lance Corporal Camp, our lengthy i/c fitters' shop, sat for and passed his A1 test. Nice work, Lofty.

Envious murmurs of congratulation are made at the lucky fellows whose families have arrived in the colony. One good thing, their arrival put a stop to grip No. 1. "Had any mail yet? I can't understand what's happened." "Have the quarters been allotted yet?" "Heard about the boat? Sails tomorrow." Etc., etc.

Heartiest congratulations to the Unit hockey team on winning the Command Small Units Hockey Competition. Newspaper reports will be found in the sports notes. Before the final match commenced the C.O. said a few words to the team and very ably summed up the thoughts of the Unit as a whole. He said that no matter what we did in the match, win, lose or draw, he was proud of the team and admired its spirit. We hope to be able to enclose a photograph.

The operators-cum-linemen are now powers to reckon with in their maintenance areas. The standard of darts and cribbage has improved immensely. Our pukka Linemen's Course is completed and the chaps are now on post-graduate training. Maybe there will be some good news for them next month.

We extend the hand of welcome to all the personnel who have arrived. They understand that they will be here for the duration, so we can but hope that their stay will be just as long as they wish.

To Willy Maddison and Corporal Ambury, who have left the Unit to attend a Foreman-of-Signals Course, we say "Good luck." Others who have recently left Malaya also have our best wishes for a very happy stay in their new Units.

We have just completed our annual musketry and the Unit on an average did well. Corporal Albert Penman has, up to date, made the highest score and so wins the C.O.'s prize.

Preparations for the G.O.C.'s inspection are well under way. Our I.P.C. is gradually losing his hair—and his stores. Of course the result of the inspection is in no way doubtful, but we just like to make sure.

Personalities in the News.—Lance Sergeant Ticky Norton, initial "GEE." As he is now Vice-President, he dispenses with the blue shirt and turned-up collar.

Signalman Snatch Slavin. We cannot sort out whether he has started attending school 'cos his "lurv" is true or so as he will be able to write the ransom note after the snatch has been completed.

Signalman Decoy O'Mara wears the blue shirt, complete with collar turned up, in order to lure Snatch's victim to her doom.

Lance Corporal Hum-ouro-us Dinneen, alias Red. Foremost among this famous athlete's feats will be his hop, skip and jump. Five foot and still going.

Come up and see us sometime. Cheerio, folks!

TOMMIE.

SPORTS NOTES

Hockey.—The Unit brought its hockey season to a successful conclusion by winning the Command Small Units Competition. The Gunners (7th Mountain Battery) had high hopes of the double, having won the Command Large Units just previously. They went on the field to meet the Malaya Signals with great confidence and had every reason, having previously beaten some fine teams on their way to the final.

The game was a contrast in styles, the Gunners relying on long passes and speed, whilst the Signals favoured the short passing game. The Gunners should have led in the first few minutes. A quick breakaway saw the centre-forward with practically an open goal but he failed. The Signals attacked strongly and Parker had hard lines, his shot going just wide. Channan Singh played a sound game at back and broke up many dangerous raids. Captain White of the Gunners worked very hard to make openings, but he was too well watched, especially by Clayton, to be effective. Thompson (Signals) tried to open accounts with a flick, but the attempt was smothered by Channan Singh. The interval came with the Signals attacking strongly. On the run of the play they should have led.

On resumption the Signals dictated the play and an excellent run by Ross on the wing should have resulted in a goal. Their efforts were, however, rewarded a little later, when an infringement by one of the Gunners' defenders gave the Signals a short corner. Thompson stopped the ball from the hit and Ross banged it home. Play then became defensive, Clayton, Lieutenant Price and Penman doing some really fine work. Mohamed Sadig nearly equalised when his shot went over the bar. The Signals then went further ahead when Clayton cleared and the ball was picked up by Thompson, who passed to Parker, who pushed it forward to Twiddy to score with an excellent shot that gave the goalie no chance. In the closing stages the Gunners tried hard to reduce the lead, but the Signals defence were always on the alert, Lieutenant Price and Clayton playing brilliantly.

The Signals fully deserved their success on the evening's play; their combination was better than that of the Gunners. Undoubtedly the better team won. In winning the Cup the Signals brought their season to a successful conclusion.

The foregoing report was from the "Straits Times."

In this tournament the record was as follows: Played 7, won 6, drawn 1; goals for 12, against 1. And all these games were played on grounds other than our own.

The record throughout the season was: Played 45, won 33, lost 6, drawn 6; goals: for 150, against 46. Once again, team, "Well done!"

This year hockey will be played right through until next season.

Football.—The big ball game is once more with us. The Unit has entered a team in the S.A.F.A. League 2A, and two teams in the Command Small Units. There is a good array of talent and the hope is expressed that we will go far in both competitions. The first game in the former league was played against the Naval Police and was drawn, 2—2. The team is finding its feet and with more practice should do well.

Our second team is also out for blood. It has already played and defeated the Ordnance 5—2, whilst our Asiatics are keeping up the old tradition by beating the R.I.A.S.C. M.T. Drivers 2—0.

Cricket.—Apart from practice matches there has been only one game played. This we lost to the Ordnance by two wickets. However, the talent is there and maybe the team will be able to put us on the map.

So, Tando, this is the small Unit that you left. We don't need to shout too much now—it's done for us.

TOMMIE.

Fort Canning Detachment

General.—Fort Canning is very quiet these days; work is plentiful, and so is pleasure. This month we have not had our usual dance, and most of our spare time has been spent in the games room. The reason for this sudden quietness is that the majority have got over that famous lure of the East, and have settled down to make the best of things. 1940 is now well on its way, and 1939 seems to be a forgotten thing; we all seem to have a more serious outlook on things in general.

Our famous "Gripper" has left us for Penang, and that is why things may seem quieter than usual; the tales about his duck farms, etc., are still clearly imprinted in our minds. We warn Penang that he stands alone at the top of the list, undefeated

There are quite a few new faces amongst the other ranks in the Fort, and all are trying their best to make themselves at home. Quite a few jokes have originated for these newcomers, but they take them with a pinch of salt and a smile, although they are partly gasping for breath when the "Gripper Signals" get hold of them. As you all know, "Gripper Signals" although not mentioned in Tradesmen's Rates of Pay, is a trade in which all Signals are expert.

It has been said that young soldiers Bellis and Howland have had these men choking, when telling about their exploits in India, the Rhine (1915) and other places on the globe.

According to our papers here, it states that Hitler brings Singapore into his peace terms, but the Skipper, Bosun Burgess, Engineer Pleavin and Gunner Devenport went into conference, and we decided to scuttle, as it couldn't be done.

Sport.—Football has started with a swing, but not for Canning. We have only won three games out of seven so far, but as the season goes on we hope to show what we really can do.

Congratulations.—To C.Q.M.S. Hollingshead on his promotion to that rank. This was celebrated by the slaughter of a small pig on the Jurong Road, whilst travelling at 30 m.p.h. As this certain animal has a close resemblance to our dear Adolph, it was put down as "justifiable homicide."

These Things Do Happen.—Who was the Militiaman who told the Inspecting N.C.O. on rifle inspection, when half a pull-through was found in his barrel, that he didn't know it was there?

What certain Signalman of our detachment, when given a map measuring meter, took it down to the Signal Office to have it checked with the chronometer, and came back with the reply that it was 215¾ yards fast? (South of the Border is a clue.)

Also, who was the other brilliant master mind who said this instrument was a watch with a glass-cutter on it?

Calling Alexandra Line Store.—Things we would like to know: What brilliant member of your Department saw a ship out on the horizontal, and when corrected said it was imperial to him?

Jews' Mail.—Maxie Colman, Aldershot Command Signal Company. "What about a line? Mac."

Bomber. "Taff still in Singapore." (Typewriters don't spell properly in this place.)

Wiggy. "Hope you received letter. Pennerth of chips and a fish, with or without. Me."

GEE KAY ESS.

Corps News—Officers

Extracts from "The London Gazette"

[War Office, 2/1/40]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS, ETC.:

The undermentioned to be Lieutenants:
- Lieutenant George Gordon Cochran (101630), late Reserve of Officers, 30/11/39.
- Captain James Reginald Stanser, M.C. (103927), late T.F., 1/12/39.

The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants:
- William Roland Tatem Barnes (63428), 11/12/39.
- Thomas Dan Briden (107016), 11/12/39.
- Donald Howard Brehaut (104836), 11/12/39.
- George Kenneth Hudson (111015), 11/12/39.
- Thomas Arthur Jones (103116), 11/12/39.
- Trevor Gordon Pain (103094), 11/12/39.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

GENERAL LIST:

Major R. Postill (41010) from General List (Tonbridge School Contingent Junior Division O.T.C.) to be Captain, 2/1/40.

[War Office, 5/1/40]

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS.
- Major F. Grundy, M.C. (66197) having attained the age limit of liability to recall, ceases to belong to the Reserve of Officers, 27/12/39.
- Major R. H. Macdonald, O.B.E. (1792) ceases to belong to the Reserve of Officers on account of ill-health, 6/1/40.
- Lieutenant T. Varcoe, D.C.M. (11994) (from R.A.) to be Lieutenant and to retain his present seniority, 11/12/39.

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS, ETC.:

The undermentioned W.O.s, R.Signals, to be Lieutenants, 29/11/39:
- C.Q.M.S. (Acting R.S.M.) Thomas Alfred Waight (105547).
- Sergeant (Acting C.S.M.) Roy Radcliffe McCormick (105548) substituted for the notification in the supplement to the "Gazette" of 28/11/39).

The undermentioned W.O.s, R.Signals, to be Lieutenants, 6/1/40:
- A/R.Q.M.S. James Henry Ellis (113027).
- A/C.S.M. Laurence Cecil Udell (113028).

The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants:
- Rodney Kenneth Hayward (106951), 17/11/39.
- Denzil Ashley St. John Hollis (104954), 1/12/39.
- Alan Conningham Boyd (108735), 5/12/39.
- Leslie Clifford Hughes (104000), 11/12/39.
- Nicholas Johnson Robinson (104347), 11/12/39.
- Robert Stuart Jardine (111208), 18/12/39.
- Arthur Laurence Phillips (111444), 18/12/39.

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS.

2nd Lieutenant H. I. Durkin (93907) resigns his commission 6/1/40.

[War Office, 9/1/40]

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Lieutenant H. A. Smith (46760) (from Royal Northumberland Fusiliers) to be Lieutenant and to retain his present seniority, 7/12/39.

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS, ETC.:

R.Q.M.S. Eric Harold Frampton (112172) to be Lieutenant (Quartermaster), 28/11/39.

The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants:
- Malcolm Smith (108565), 5/10/39.
- Robert Desmond Fitzgerald (102269), 8/10/39.
- Harold Starvell Ball Meakin (106665), 12/10/39.
- Victor Ernest Bailey (36379) late Lieutenant, R.Signals (T.A.), 9/11/39.
- Patrick Alan Dickson (108390), 30/11/39.
- John Edward William Watt (110571), 10/12/39.
- Robert Laurie Carstairs (111483), 14/12/39.
- George Leslie Morrow (111212), 15/12/39.

Territorial Army—Royal Signals.
General List:
Captain C. F. Kirby (33040) from General List (Christs Hospital Contingent Junior Division O.T.C.) to be Captain, 10/12/39.

Territorial Army Reserve of Officers—Royal Signals.
General List:
The date of appointment of Captain C. G. Marks (26252) is 7th December, 1939, and not as notified in the "Gazette" of the 8th December, 1939.

[War Office, 12/1/40]

Regular Army—Royal Signals.
2nd Lieutenant H. J. Thompson to be Lieutenant, 1/8/38.

Territorial Army Reserve of Officers—Royal Signals.
General List:
Lieutenant G. R. Firth (80772) resigns his commission and retains his rank, 13/1/40.

[War Office, 16/1/40]

Regular Army Reserve of Officers—Royal Signals.
Lieutenant J. C. Rixon (36049) to resign his commission, 13/1/40.

Regular Army—Royal Signals.
Emergency Commissions, etc.:
The undermentioned from R.Signals to be Lieutenants, 17/1/40:
T/W.O. Cl. I Thomas Paterson (113055).
Q.M.S. Albert White (113051).
C.S.M. William George Pronger (113047).
C.Q.M.S. Cyril Edwarde Buck (113054).
C.Q.M.S. Robert George Edward Taplin (113295).
W.O. Cl. III Andrew Mackinson Woolhouse (113052).
W.O. Cl. III Dennis Ashby Macdonnell (113048).
T/W.O. Cl. III Edgar William Greenwood (113053).
Sergeant Trevor Beardmore (113284).
Sergeant Francis William Mulholland (113283).

[War Office, 19/1/40]

Regular Army—Royal Signals.
Major H. J. Wiseman is placed on the h.p. list on account of ill-health, 18/1/40.

Emergency Commissions, etc.:
Captain John Arthur Watson-Bourne (111229) (late R.A.F.), to be Lieutenant, 1/1/40.
The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants:
Dan Henry Smith (35698) late Lieutenant Supplementary Reserve of Officers, 13/12/39.
Roland Newton Burton (111012), 18/12/39.
Lewis John Douglas Davies (111013), 18/12/39.
Harold Edward Elmes (112128), 29/12/39.
Henry James Bayliss (112417), 1/1/40.
Kenneth Burnard Lake (35604), 2/1/40.
Edward John Crimmin Spencer (111590), 2/1/40.

Territorial Army—Royal Signals.
Lieutenant-Colonel and Brevet-Colonel H. McLaren, D.S.O., M.C., T.D. (25452) T.A. Reserve of Officers Regimental List (R.Signals) to be Honorary Colonel, 20/1/40.

General List:
2nd Lieutenant D. B. McNeill (70836) from General List (University College Southampton Contingent Senior Division O.T.C.) to be 2nd Lieutenant, 2/10/39.

Territorial Army Reserve of Officers—Royal Signals.
General List:
Captain C. F. Booth (32198) from Active List (R.Signals) to be Captain, 5/1/40.

[War Office, 23/1/40]

Regular Army—Royal Signals.
Emergency Commissions, etc.:
The undermentioned (R.Signals) to be Lieutenants, 24/1/40:
W.O. Cl. II William Warren (117003).
W.O. Cl. III Archie Dunn (117004).
Sergeant Bertram William Beale (117005).
Sergeant Frank Henry Crawford (117006).
The undermentioned (R.Signals) to be 2nd Lieutenants, 24/1/40:
Lance Corporal Dennis Roberts (117007).
The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants, 2/1/40:
Lieutenant Harold Leslie Wermig (111920) late T.A.
2nd Lieutenant Duncan Mintoft (112088) late R.Signals.

Territorial Army—Royal Signals.
General List:
2nd Lieutenant C. V. Smith (78200) to have seniority, 31/4/37.

Territorial Army Reserve of Officers—Royal Signals.
General List:
The date of transfer of 2nd Lieutenant G. M. V. Hoare (62084) is 2/12/39 and not as notified in the "Gazette" of 22/11/39.

[War Office, 26/1/40]

His Majesty The King is graciously pleased to approve the promotion of Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, C.I., G.C.V.O., G.B.E., Colonel-in-Chief Royal Corps of Signals and The Royal Scots (Royal Regiment); Controller, Auxiliary Territorial Service; Commandant-in-Chief, The British Red Cross Society; to be Chief Controller, Auxiliary Territorial Service.

Regular Army—Royal Signals.
Emergency Commissions, etc.:
The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants, 27/1/40:
R.S.M. George Leslie Shergold (113815).
C.S.M. George Arthur Low (113817).
W.O. Cl. III Ivor Marchant (113816).
The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants, 27/1/40:
W.O. Cl. II Henry Ezra John Price (113820) R.Signals, T.A.
C.Q.M.S. Charles William Scott (113818) R.Signals, T.A.
Signalman John Trevor Everson (113819) R.Signals, T.A.

Territorial Army—Royal Signals.
2nd Lieutenant L. L. Goodman (88035) relinquishes his commission on account of ill-health, 27/1/40.

[War Office, 30/1/40]

Regular Army—Royal Signals.
Captain D. R. Paterson, A.M.I.E.E., to be Major, 31/1/40.
The undermentioned Lieutenants to be Captains, 28/1/40:
M. A. Charlton.
G. D. B. McKean.
T. T. S. Cooke.
H. C. Daniel.
T. J. F. Fuller.
D. A. Pringle.
B. J. Walker.
The undermentioned 2nd Lieutenants to be Lieutenants, 28/1/40:
A. Stg. Prynne.
J. Sheepshanks.
E. D. Halton.
P. T. S. Brown.
R. F. B. Power.
A. J. Deane-Drummond.
T. R. Warburg.

Regular Army—Royal Signals.
Emergency Commissions, etc.:
The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants:
Henry Vassalls Stranger-Ford (111978), 11/12/39.
Albert William Middleton Anderson-Parfett (111935), 2/1/40.
Frederick Hugh Danger (111926), 2/1/40.
Robert Frederick Daniell (112845), 6/1/40.
Arthur Reginald Dark (112844), 6/1/40.
Arthur Alldritt Kriegel (112134), 6/1/40.
Signalman George Murray Denton (115501) from R.A., 31/1/40.

Territorial Army—Royal Signals.
Captain C. R. Wombwell (15102) Reserve of Officers, relinquishes his T.A. commission as Captain and Adjutant, 21/12/39.
Lieutenant-Colonel E. R. Moore (41831) reverts to the rank of Major at his own request, 1/2/40.

[War Office, 2/2/40]

Regular Army—Royal Signals.
The undermentioned Lieutenant-Colonels on completion of tenure of service as Regimental Lieutenant-Colonels, remain on full pay (supernumerary):
H. D. Beadon, M.C., 20/11/39.
D. A. Brown, M.C., 20/11/39.
F. S. Straight, M.C., 20/11/39.
M. F. M. Parkes, M.C., 13/1/40.
T. B. Graveley, O.B.E., 22/1/40.

The undermentioned Majors to be Lieutenant-Colonels :
R. L. M. Rosenberg, 20/11/39.
Major and Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel C. R. H. Firth, A.M.I.E.E., 20/11/39.
W. C. V. Galwey, M.C., 20/11/39.
H. M. Sylvester, M.C., 20/11/39.
V. J. E. Westropp, 13/1/40.
R. G. L. Giblin, 22/1/40.

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS, ETC. :
2nd Lieutenant E. R. Duce (105425) from R. War. R., to be 2nd Lieutenant, 3/2/40.

TERRITORIAL ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS.
GENERAL LIST :
Captain W. A. C. Adams (16860) from T.A. Reserve of Officers Regimental List (Artists Rifles) to be Captain, 24/1/40.

[War Office, 6/2/40]

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS.
2nd Lieutenant T. M. Logan, I.S.O., M.M. (45745) from General List (Misc.), to be 2nd Lieutenant, 27/11/39.

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS, ETC. :
Francis Joseph Wall (31706) late Lieutenant, R.Signals, to be Lieutenant, 25/9/39.
R.S.M. Bertram James Thomas Harrison (115567) to be Lieutenant (Quartermaster), 22/1/40.
Captain Bertram James Leslie Hall, M.B.E. (101885) late R.E., T.A., to be 2nd Lieutenant, 31/10/39. (Substituted for the notification in the supplement to the "Gazette" of 19/12/39.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
The King has been graciously pleased to confer the Efficiency Decoration upon the undermentioned officers under the terms of the Royal Warrant dated 23/9/30 :
Honorary Colonel Gerald Joseph Underwood (Brevet-Colonel (T.A. Reserve of Officers)).
Lieutenant-Colonel Eward Antrobus James.

TERRITORIAL ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS.
GENERAL LIST :
Lieutenant-Colonel F. White, A.M.I.C.E. (37524) from Active List, to be Lieutenant-Colonel, 30/12/39.

[War Office, 9/2/40]

REGULAR ARMY.
The undermentioned to be Colonel :
A. L. Harris, M.C. (late R.Signals), 25/11/39, with seniority, 1/10/38.

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
Major B. D. Willoughby retires on an Indian Pension, 9/2/40.

[War Office, 13/2/40]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS, ETC. :
Lieutenant Ernest Fiddaman, M.C. (80720), late General List, to be Lieutenant, 2/1/40.
Walter Stanworth, M.C. (27712), late Lieutenant R.C. Sigs. (T.F.), to be Lieutenant, 23/1/40.
The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants :
Raymond Lawson (111018), 18/12/39.
William Hammond (111206), 1/1/40.
Thomas Nichols Denton (114062), 10/1/40.
William Pounder (115057), 11/1/40.
Percy William Quick (114548), 15/1/40.
Lieutenant Alexander Hay (115813), late R.E., 18/1/40.
William John Chalk (116489), 20/1/40.
William Henry Grigg, D.C.M., M.M. (114676), 20/1/40.
Alfred Donald McIntosh (51466) late Lieutenant Supplementary Reserve of Officers, 22/1/40.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
Major D. B. Murray (64216) relinquishes his commission on account of ill-health, 14/2/40.
2nd Lieutenant C. V. Smith (78200) to have seniority, 1/4/37, and not as notified in the "Gazette," 23/1/40.

TERRITORIAL ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS.
GENERAL LIST :
Major B. S. Taylor, T.D. (32908) from T.A. Reserve of Officers (R.E.) to be Major, 20/1/40.

[War Office, 16/2/40]

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
Lieutenant-Colonel and Brevet-Colonel G. J. Underwood, T.D. (2372) relinquishes the appointment of Honorary Colonel, 17/2/40.

TERRITORIAL ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS.
GENERAL LIST :
Lieutenant-Colonel E. R. Sutton (32554) reverts to the rank of Captain at his own request, 17/2/40.
Lieutenant W. M. Davies (30464) from Active List, R.Signals, to be Lieutenant, 19/1/40.

REGIMENTAL LIST :
Captain R. C. Hutton (35068) relinquishes his commission on account of ill-health and retains his rank with permission to wear the prescribed uniform, 17/2/40.

DIARY OF EVENTS IN THE WAR

(*Continued from page* 108)

MARCH 1ST.—Britain announces decision to stop German exports of coal to Italy. Mr. Sumner Welles arrives in Berlin.

MARCH 2ND.—Russians reach outskirts of Viipuri. R.A.F. fly over Western Germany as far as Berlin.

MARCH 3RD.—Five German machines brought down on Western front. S.S. "Domala" bombed by German aircraft in Channel with heavy loss among Indian passengers.

MARCH 5TH.—Issue of first British long term War Loan for £300,000,000 at 3 per cent. announced. Five Italian ships carrying German coal from Rotterdam stopped and sent to British contraband control base. Germans raid post on Western front and capture first British prisoners of the war.

MARCH 6TH.—News received from New York that new Cunard liner "Queen Elizabeth" has safely crossed Atlantic. Decision announced in Australia to recruit new division for overseas service. Russian attacks across ice-bound Bay of Viipuri continue without success.

MARCH 7TH.—Peace negotiations opened between Finland and Soviet Russia, Sweden and Germany acting as intermediaries. Mr. Sumner Welles arrives in Paris. German bomber shot down off East coast.

MARCH 8TH.—R.A.F. machines fly over Germany and Poland as far as Posen. Bombing raids carried out on enemy warships near Borkum and Sylt. Another German bomber brought down off north coast of Scotland. Announcement made that protection against German magnetic mine has now been provided for bulk of British shipping. Italian steamer bombed by enemy aircraft in North Sea.

MARCH 9TH.—Mr. Sumner Welles arrives in England.

MARCH 10TH.—Negotiations between Britain and Italy about seizure of Italian vessels carrying German coal successfully concluded. Ribbentrop visits Rome.

MARCH 11TH.—Statement made by Mr. Chamberlain that armed help for Finland would be sent if asked for. Ribbentrop leaves Rome after seeing the Pope and Mussolini.

MARCH 13TH.—Peace treaty signed between Russia and Finland, ceding to Russia larger areas of Finnish territory than she had asked for before the commencement of war. British Parliament passes war credit vote of £700,000,000. Lists for War Loan of £300,000,000 at 3 per cent. closed on being over-subscribed. Mr. Sumner Welles leaves London for Rome.

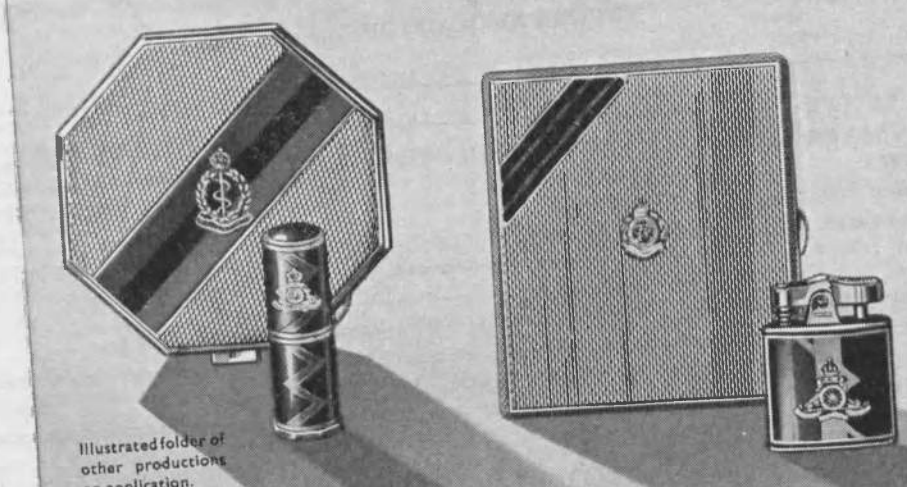
MARCH 15TH.—Rumania withdraws ban on Nazi-sympathising Iron Guard and amesties its imprisoned members on promise of allegiance to regime. Britain announces call-up of men aged 25 and 26 during April.

MARCH 16TH.—Mr. Sumner Welles arrives in Rome and sees Mussolini and the King of Italy.



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VOL. XXI.—No. 243 MAY, 1940 PRICE—SIXPENCE

Editorial Notes

Unit Correspondents.—In reply to numerous observations from correspondents serving overseas regarding the "locality" and "correct designation" of their present formations, as described in the Corps magazine, we again draw attention to SECURITY REGULATIONS which forbid the publication of any information calculated to lead to identification by unauthorised persons.

The precise wording of our instructions on this matter is as follows:

"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."

It is considered that the various Unit headings now in use should be quite sufficient for all bona-fide readers of the magazine to identify the source of each contribution published and if, as is often the case, we are not able to describe any particular Unit in fuller detail it is solely because we should be committing an infringement of the regulations by so doing.

In this therefore, 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 our many Unit correspondents, who have rendered such valuable assistance in the past, there is every reason to hope that we shall succeed in that objective.

Royal Signals Comforts Fund.—We have been asked to announce that, with a view to augmenting their funds, the Royal Signals Comforts Committee have opened shop premises for the reception and sale of GIFTS at 75, Hammersmith Road, Kensington, London, W.14 (opposite Olympia).

Committee members will be in attendance from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily and all gift articles suitable for re-sale will be gratefully appreciated.

Births.—VULLIAMY—On 24th January, 1940, at 3, Rawlinson Road, Catterick Camp, Yorks., to Rosamund (*nee* Farrell Palliser), wife of Captain E. L. L. Vulliamy, Royal Signals—a daughter. (4th Indian Divisional Signals, please copy.)

Situations Wanted.—Wife of ex-N.C.O. requires situation in any general capacity with officer's family. Age 37, no children. Thoroughly domesticated, with some experience as Children's Nurse. For further particulars, please apply to The General Secretary, Signals Association, 95, Belgrave Road, London, S.W.1.

Our Contemporaries.—We acknowledge with many thanks the receipt of the following publications :

The Borderers Chronicle.
Ca Ira.
The Globe and Laurel.
The Gunner.
The Indian Army Ordnance Gazette.
The London Scottish Regimental Gazette.
The Royal Army Ordnance Corps Gazette
The Sapper.
The Snapper.
The St. George's Gazette.
The Tank.

EDITOR.

Signals Association and Ex-Service Old Comrades Branch Notes

Birmingham and District Branch.—On Saturday, 16th March, the Branch held its annual general meeting, preceded by a small reunion dinner, at the Australian Bar, Bromsgrove Street, Birmingham.

Fifty-five members attended the dinner, which was an excellent one both in quality and quantity and was served up piping hot ! As one member put it, " Very nice, very tasty, very sweet ! " By each member's plate was a bottle of beer or mineral water, presented by our chairman, Colonel J. W. Danielsen, D.S.O., T.D., D.L., who presided throughout the evening.

The toasts of " H.M. the King," and " The Princess Royal " were given by the chairman, and "Absent Comrades " by Mr. J. Carnall.

About a dozen more members rolled up after the dinner, just in time for the general meeting, the principal business of which was to pass the balance sheet for 1939, and to confirm the present committee and officers in their positions for the duration ! This being happily accomplished, after it had been disclosed that the branch finances were in a satisfactory state, the chairman read a letter of congratulations and good wishes from the General Secretary of the Signals Association.

A letter was also read from the Hon. Secretary of the Branch, Major Harry Bartlett, in which he expressed his great regret at not being able to be with us, owing to military duties " Somewhere in England," and thanking the branch for the silver salver recently presented to him as a mark of our appreciation of the good work he did for us when we were at Cateswell House.

During the evening vocal items were contributed by Messrs. Steve Whitty, Harry Poole, and J. Carnall ; and our pianist, Harry Taylor, told us about " Marksman Sam "

A very interesting " extra " was the showing of a film taken and edited by Arthur Hicks on the occasion of the branch's visit to Mons Barracks, Aldershot, for the big Signals Reunion in 1939. What memories it revived ! The motor-cyclists, the Old Comrades' race, the church parade—they were all there, and various " close-ups "—all very clear—and an excellent achievement by Comrade Arthur. Thanks a lot, Arthur, for the time and trouble you must have taken in working out the captions and piecing the film together in such a series of fine sequences.

Another little side-line which helped to pass the evening, was the sale by numbered tickets of two pewter tankards—one with Royal Corps of Signals crest (which went to Reg. Aaron) and the other with Royal Engineers crest (which went to W. Clifford).

It is only fitting to conclude by placing on record the thanks of our members to our Chairman, Colonel Danielson, for having taken up the joint office of Chairman and Treasurer of the branch for the duration of hostilities. We are indeed fortunate in having his co-operation in the efforts being made to keep the branch flag flying during this difficult period. We hope he will be with us for many years to come, when this second " war for freedom " will have passed into history and the bright lights of peace shine once again.

The committee hope to arrange at least one local outing during the summer months, but more of this anon.

JULIUS.

For
" GAZETTE NEWS—OFFICERS "
See page 162

Benevolent Fund Notes

The Administrator gratefully acknowledges receipt of the following :

BENEVOLENT FUND (GENERAL)

CASH SUBSCRIPTIONS from :

Mr. C. Greive.

GIFT OF CLOTHING from :

Lady Bowman Manifold.

BENEVOLENT FUND (No. 2 A/C 1940)

CASH SUBSCRIPTIONS from :

P.R.I., 1st Army Signals.
Trustees of Miss Elsie MacKenzie's Trust
Other Rank personnel, No. 3 Company, 18th Divisional Signals.
Other Rank personnel, 2nd Operators' Training Battalion, 2nd S.T.C.

BANKER'S ORDER SUBSCRIPTIONS from :

2nd Lieutenant W. F. Warburton.
Captain C. M. Galbraith.
2nd Lieutenant M. C. Ackernley.
Major J. W. P. Chalmers.
Major C. L. Wicks.
Captain C. W. Andrews.
2nd Lieutenant G. K. Hudson.
2nd Lieutenant F. Winter.
2nd Lieutenant E. J. Kennedy.
2nd Lieutenant R. S. Dorward.
2nd Lieutenant C. R. Dickenson.
2nd Lieutenant A. L. Donaldson.
2nd Lieutenant D. R. Saben.
Major G. D. Adamson.
Captain A. C. Layzell.
Lieutenant-Colonel C. A. Oliver, M.C.
Major H. J. F. White
Captain P. W. Malins.
2nd Lieutenant A. F. Pownall.
Captain W. R. Muirhead.
Lieutenant D. W. Roy
Captain The Hon. R. E. Denison-Pender.
2nd Lieutenant J. F. Timings.
Major W. J. L. Cornelius.
2nd Lieutenant J. M. Jones.
2nd Lieutenant D. G. Heilbron.
Captain J. E. Young.
Colonel C. W. Fladgate.
2nd Lieutenant D. M. Forsyth.
Lieutenant J. de D. Yule.
2nd Lieutenant J. MacLeod.
Captain J. G. Hopkins.
Lieutenant D. R. Horsfield.
2nd Lieutenant A. K. Bowden.
Captain W. M. Lindley.
2nd Lieutenant R. W. C. Reeves.
Lieutenant H. W. G. Cooper.
2nd Lieutenant K. W. Bennett.
Major G. M. Welsford.
Captain E. W. Smith Masters.
2nd Lieutenant A. H. Nash.
Captain T. H. Dalton.
2nd Lieutenant H. Smither.
2nd Lieutenant W. H. Grigg, D.C.M., M.M.
2nd Lieutenant R. K. Bryden.
Lieutenant (Quartermaster) J. S. Mitchell.
Lieutenant (T.M.O.) F. Jennison.
Lieutenant (T.M.O.) W. Prior.
Lieutenant S. Lambert.
Major S. J. Fielder.
Major A. S. Hall.
Captain J. P. A. Meldrum.
Captain T. V. Barber.
Captain H. Napper.
Captain D. H. Simpson.
Captain G. Gourlay.

Lieutenant (T.M.O.) F. Nash.
Lieutenant (T.M.O.) C. B. Minns.
Lieutenant (Quartermaster) G. W. Harris.
2nd Lieutenant R. Bruce.
2nd Lieutenant F. E. A. Day.
2nd Lieutenant V. Claydon.
2nd Lieutenant D. W. S. Witt.

APPEALS dealt with :

1	Wife of Signalman, Gibraltar	Grant £6 0 0
2	Signalman, Catterick	Grant £2 0 0
3	Wife of Signalman, B.E.F.	Grant £1 0 0
4	Ex-Signalman, Suffolk	Grant £2 0 0
5	Wife of Signalman, B.E.F.	Grant £2 0 0

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

Royal Signals Comforts Fund

RECEIPTS (Continued).

	£	s.	d.
Mrs. Ozanne (Proceeds of White Elephant Sale) ..	30	0	0
Mrs. Doyle (Proceeds of Bridge Tournament)	8	0	0
— Divisional Signals	4	0	0
Colonel P. R. Bald	2	0	0
Mrs. Jack		10	0
A. J. Tressidder (Proceeds of Police Concert)	17	1	9
E. W. Townsend, Esq., Royal Signals	1	0	0
R.E. and R.S. W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess, Colombo, Ceylon	2	5	0
Long Distance Comforts Fund		10	0
Major H. R. V. Cooke (quarterly)	2	10	0
Mrs. French		14	6
Mrs. A. Ross	3	0	0
Lieutenant-Colonel T. H. L. Spaight	1	1	0
Waziristan District Signals	1	18	10
Colonel H. I. Allen	2	2	0
— Divisional Signals, B.E.F.	Frs. 570		
Scottish Command Signal Company (Collection at Dance)	2	17	6½
Signalman A. B. Green		5	0
Royal Signals Mess, Aldershot	14	6	3
Kohat District Signals	2	5	0
Brigadier R. Chenevix-Trench (quarterly)		15	0
Staff of Records and Pay Office, Royal Signals (monthly)	12	0	0
W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess, Egypt Command Signals	5	0	0
Birmingham Branch Signals Association	1	2	0
Mr. W. Butler (monthly)		6	6

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS TO 25TH MARCH, 1940.

RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.
From H.R.H. The Princess Royal	50	0	0
,, Proceeds of Entertainments	115	7	3
,, Unit Subscriptions	266	18	11
,, Personal Subscriptions	291	13	7
	£723	19	9

Balance at Bank on 25/3/40, £218 5s. 4d.

EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d.
Wool	423	19	3
Woollen Garments and Turkish Towelling	9	14	2
Razor Blades	4	15	0
Cork Soles	14	17	0
Packing	4	15	1½
Printing, Stationery and Collecting Boxes	15	5	4
Games	5	12	2
Postage and Carriage	20	5	2½
Sundries—Bank Charges, Office Expenses	6	11	2
Balance Cr.	218	5	4
	£723	19	9

The above is a statement of the accounts of the Comforts Fund from its inauguration in November up to the end of the March quarter. The rather large bank balance is accounted for by the fact that wool and other " comforts " were on order amounting to at least half the balance shown in the statement.

The Fund has in store up to date some 3,000 woollen garments. These are being done up in 50 lb. parcels, well packed with moth preventive, ready for instant despatch whenever they are needed. It cannot be too strongly emphasised that in order to build up a sufficiently large store to meet the anticipated needs of the next winter, it will be necessary for all knitters to continue their kind efforts with undiminished vigour throughout the summer.

The Committee much appreciates visits from all supporters of the Fund to the Depot at 95, Belgrave Road, and will be particularly glad to welcome any representatives of Units, both at home and abroad, who can give them any helpful advice as to the " comforts " that are most needed. Office hours are from 10.30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m., except Saturdays.

A successful dance was organised by the London Entertainments Committee of the Royal Signals Comforts Fund on 5th April at the Empress Rooms. The crowds were so large that the floor space was somewhat limited, but the Comforts Fund is hoping for correspondingly large profits. Brigadier G. G. Rawson, O.B.E., M.C., kindly spoke a few words on the aims and work of the Fund. The music was provided by the Band of the 2nd Middlesex Yeomanry by the courtesy of Lieutenant-Colonel P. Doyle. Raffle tickets found many buyers and a Boomps-a-Daisy dancing competition was won by Miss Tute and partner. A fortune teller provided a great attraction, as did also the side-shows under the able supervision of members of the 5th (London) Corps Signals. Corporal Cumberlege gave a very intriguing display of conjuring tricks which was one of the final items of a most enjoyable evening.

A letter has been received from the Long Distance Comforts Fund of the London Telecommunications Region, from which the following is an extract :

" You will be interested to know that up to 19th March the Long Distance Comforts Fund has collected £335 15s. 0d. and forwarded 730 parcels to our colleagues serving with H.M. Forces."

A large number of these colleagues are, we understand, serving in the Royal Corps of Signals, which should make this extract of interest to the readers of THE WIRE.

I SLEPT ON BOOTS

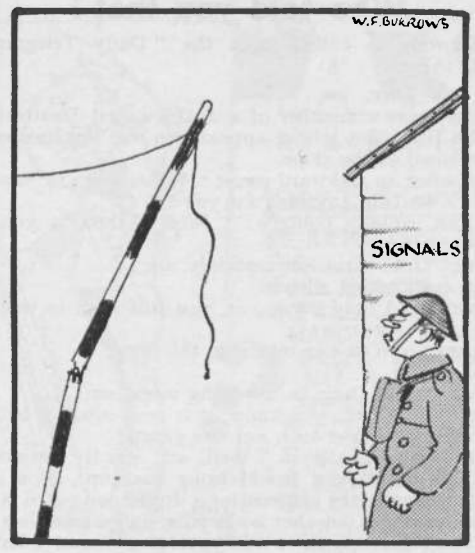


Then I still slept on Boots because all my comrades borrowed it

- Splendid on manœuvres and in camp
- Khaki material
- Ideal for all on service
- Up or down in a few seconds
- Deflated about the size of handkerchief, 15" × 10"
- Send now, stocks cannot be replenished — Price 4'3
- Offered by ex-W.O. who knows its worth — Postage - 3d.

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OBSTINATE ARTIST



(With acknowledgments to the "Daily Sketch")

THE LAST OF HIS LINE
was what we asked the artist to illustrate and
this is what he did

Diary of Events in the War

MARCH 17TH TO APRIL 12TH.

MARCH 17TH.—German air attack on Scapa Flow, in which one British warship was slightly damaged, seven naval casualties were caused and one enemy machine was shot down. One civilian was killed and seven injured—the first British civil casualties of the war.

MARCH 18TH.—Hitler and Mussolini meet on the German-Italian frontier at the Brenner Pass.

MARCH 19TH.—The Prime Minister explains and justifies in Parliament the British attitude and policy with regard to aid for Finland. R.A.F. raid German seaplane base at Sylt, the attack lasting for six hours and causing extensive damage at the cost of one British machine.

MARCH 20TH.—Enemy aeroplanes attack a convoy but cause only slight damage to two neutral ships. Resignation of M. Deladier's Government owing to French dissatisfaction with failure to give effective help to Finland. German patrols ambushed by Lancashire Fusiliers on Western Front.

MARCH 21ST.—M. Reynaud forms new Government in France. "Queen Mary" and "Mauretania" leave New York for secret destination.

MARCH 22ND.—German ship "Heddernheim" sunk by British submarine off Danish coast after crew had been given time to escape. New French Government obtains vote of confidence in Chamber by a small majority.

MARCH 24TH.—Another German ship, carrying iron ore from Sweden, sunk off Danish coast. Hungarian Prime Minister, Count Teleki, sees Mussolini in Rome.

MARCH 25TH.—Norway protests to British Government against alleged violation of her territorial waters by British warships.

MARCH 26TH.—B.E.F. takes over from the French a new section of the Allied front in France.

MARCH 27TH.—R.A.F. machines on Western front bring down seven enemy aircraft, and themselves lose one. R.A.F. also sink German patrol vessel in North Sea. General election in Canada ends in return of existing Liberal Government with increased majority.

MARCH 28TH.—Allied Supreme War Council Meeting in London affirms that Britain and France will not negotiate separate treaties of peace with Germany or any joint treaty save after previous mutual agreement on terms, and that after the end of the war they will maintain community of action

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in cause of general security. British ambassadors in Italy and in Balkan countries recalled to London for consultation. Two enemy aeroplanes shot down over North Sea; two R.A.F. machines lost on reconnaissance over North-West Germany and one brought down while crossing Dutch territory in error.

MAACH 29TH.—Molotov, in speech before Soviet Supreme Council, attacks Allies, but reaffirms Russian intention to remain neutral in war.

MARCH 30TH.—Germans admit loss of three aircraft, one in North Sea and two on Western front.

MARCH 31ST.—Air fight on Western front, in which six R.A.F. fighters defeated eighteen enemy machines, shooting down one.

APRIL 2ND.—Another air action on Western front, three of newest type of enemy Messerschmitt fighters out of nine being brought down.

APRIL 3RD.—Reconstruction of British Cabinet announced. Changes in Service ministries include retirement of Lord Chatfield on abolition of post of Minister for Co-ordination of Defence, promotion of Mr. Churchill to be Chairman of Committee of Service Ministers, and replacement of Sir Kingsley Wood by Sir Samuel Hoare as Air Minister. One enemy aeroplane brought down off North-East coast by one of our fighters, which also crashed—the first British machine to be lost in our coastal waters since the war began, though fifty enemy machines have been brought down. Four enemy fighters shot down on Western front.

APRIL 4TH.—British flying boat over North Sea accounts for two out of six of latest type of enemy bombers which attacked it.

APRIL 5TH.—R.A.F. raid Wilhelmshaven and bomb enemy warships there.

APRIL 6TH.—Dutch Government issue decree controlling re-export of goods to Germany. 315,000 men of 25-age group register for military service.

APRIL 7TH.—Allied vessels lay three minefields in Norwegian territorial waters to stop German use of these waters from iron ore traffic from Narvik. Three German troop transports sunk by British submarines south of Norway.

APRIL 9TH.—Germans invade Denmark and Norway. Denmark, unable to resist overwhelming force brought to bear on her by land, sea and air, makes no defence and agrees to German occupation under protest. Germans land at many points in Norway, but meet with stiff resistance and suffer losses of ships and aeroplanes. Oslo surrenders, and Norwegian Government moves north into interior of country. Allied Supreme War Council meets and decides to offer Norway full aid by land, sea and air.

APRIL 10TH.—Germans established themselves at Oslo, Bergen, Stavanger, Trondhjem and Narvik in Norway, and compleme occupation of Denmark. Considerable losses inflicted by Allied warships and aircraft on troop transports and other shipping crossing Kattegat to Norway. Five British destroyers enter Narvik Bay, sinking one German destroyer, damaging three more, and sinking seven enemy transport and supply ships. Two British destroyers sunk and two more damaged. Norwegian coastal batteries sink German battleship "Gneisenau" and cruiser "Blucher," and cruiser "Karlsruhe" torpedoed and sunk.

APRIL 11TH.—German losses now officially stated to have amounted to one battleship, four cruisers, and a number of destroyers and submarines. Duel between H.M.S. "Renown" and battleship "Scharnhorst," aided by cruiser "Hipper," ends in retreat of latter, after suffering heavy damage. British losses amount to four destroyers only. R.A.F. bring down nineteen enemy machines as against loss of six of their own. Seven enemy aircraft brought down in abortive raid on Scapa Flow.

APRIL 12TH.—German advance north and east from Oslo slowed up by stiffening Norwegian resistance. Continued naval and air activity results in further German shipping losses and damage to their air bases in Norway, six of their aircraft being destroyed and others damaged. R.A.F. lose eight machines. During recent operations two large new minefields laid by Allies covering whole area from west coast of Norway south of Bergen to Dutch territorial waters, whole of sea area between Norway, Denmark and Sweden and all North German Baltic coast as far east as Memel.

Who told you that!

The following is culled from the "Daily Telegraph" of 4th April, 1940:

PLAYING FOR TIME.

The sentry was a member of a distinguished Territorial A.A. Unit. The Brigadier, whose appearance was unexpected, eyed him as he stood at the slope.

SENTRY, after an awkward pause: "You seem to want something, sir. Can I do anything for you?"

BRIGADIER, equally politely: "Well, I thought you might, er-er-present arms."

SENTRY: "Of course, sir, certainly, sir."

Another constrained silence.

SENTRY: "If I may say so, sir, you still seem to want something."

BRIGADIER: "You can return to the slope."

Silence.

SENTRY: "Will there be anything more, sir?"

BRIGADIER: "Well, you know, it is er-er-usual, I believe, on these occasions, to er-er-turn out the guard."

SENTRY (confidentially): "Well, sir, strictly between ourselves, I was afraid you would bring that up. You see, the corporal has gone to the canteen for a drink, one guard is writing to his bank manager, another is sleeping, and a third has swollen feet and has taken his shoes and puttees off—and I have been playing for time."

L'Entente Cordiale

Excellent relations are being maintained between the Signals personnel of the French and British Armies. On 26th April the Chef des Transmissions (equivalent of C.S.O.) of a French Corps invited a number of officers of a neighbouring British Corps Signals to take a tour of inspection of the French equipment. This tour was followed by a luncheon party, more reminiscent of a Lord Mayor's Banquet than a field mess meal. Printed herewith is the menu, designed by one of the French Signal Officers, who is an amateur caricaturist of considerable merit. The walls of the French Mess were decorated with his work, amongst which was a pastel in colour of one of the British C.S.O.s who is familiarly known by the name frequently given to the waitresses of a famous catering establishment. There were pencil sketches of many other Signal officers.



"As You Were!"

RUMINATIONS AND REMINISCENCES AT RANDOM

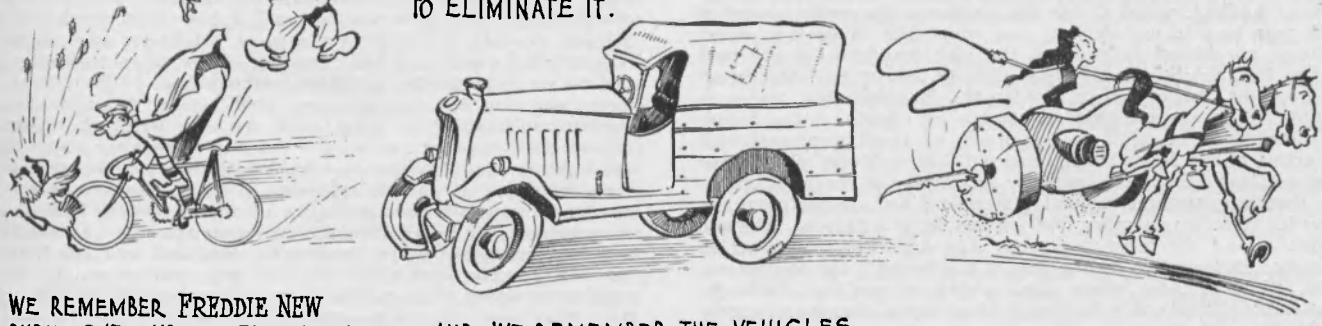


1920 Fashion Plate

WE REMEMBER THE SIGNALS' OLD STYLE FULL MARCHING ORDER SO CALLED BECAUSE MARCHING IN ANY ORDER THUS SHACKLED WAS A PRACTICAL IMPOSSIBILITY. DESIGNED BY A CHINESE CONTORTIONIST IN A CONGESTED AREA IT WAS POPULARLY BELIEVED THAT IT HAD BEEN PURPOSELY EVOLVED TO RESTRICT BREATHING. THIS WAS WRONG. IT WAS PURPOSELY EVOLVED TO ELIMINATE IT.



WE REMEMBER THAT HATS PROVIDED GREAT VARIETY IN THE EARLY DAYS OF THE CORPS. THERE WAS THE "RIGIDLY REGIMENTAL", THE "STREAM-LINED" AND THE "COMPROMISE". THE LAST-NAMED SCUTTLED ITSELF.



WE REMEMBER FREDDIE NEW BURNING 'EM UP OUT FAIRWARP WAY



AND WE REMEMBER THE VEHICLES OF PIONEER DAYS. THESE WERE A CONSIDERABLE IMPROVEMENT ON BOADICEAS CHARIOT (ONE OF THE EARLIEST MODELS OF A MECHANISED ARMY). THE SPECIFICATION OMITTING AXLE HUB KNIVES AND INCORPORATING A GREATER ELEMENT OF CHANCE.



WE RELUCTANTLY REMEMBER THE STAFF RIDE AT ALDERSHOT (A.D.1923) AN EQUESTRIAN TABLEAU OF STRIKING CHARM BUT NEGLIGIBLE SKILL.

AND WE REMEMBER (HOW CAN WE EVER FORGET!) C.Q.M.S. A. GADSBY. "A.G" OF 'Q" WAS AS MUCH AN INSTITUTION AS HIS INITIALS ARE SUGGESTIVE OF AN INTER-DEPARTMENTAL SPELLING BEE.

ON ONE FESTIVE AND IMPERISHABLE OCCASION HIS PROFESSIONAL OBSERVATION TO A VERY YOUNG LADY STUNNED A LARGE AND FASHIONABLE GATHERING.

The Finnish War

By MAJOR E. W. SHEPPARD.

The Finnish War is now past history, but its full consequences still dwell in the womb of the future. The brave struggle of that gallant and undaunted little folk against the huge Russian colossus has won the unstinted admiration of the whole world; but though the world admired, it could not or would not aid, and the result of so unequal a contest was, therefore, inevitable. Russia paid a high price for her victory—how high this generation will probably never know exactly. Up to the end of January, with six weeks of heavy and continuous fighting still to come, her losses in war material alone totalled over 300 aeroplanes, 550 tanks, 200 guns, 300 machine guns and 650 motor vehicles of various types, and we should probably not be far out in increasing these figures by anything from a quarter to a third, to arrive at the full tale. As for the casualties, the official Soviet claim that they were less than those of the Finns, which were given as 60,000 all told, need not be considered as even plausible; they probably totalled somewhere between a quarter and a third of a million, and the proportion of dead to wounded and prisoners must have been high. Many of the wounded fell victims to the rigours of the climate and the inadequacy of the Russian Medical Services, and the ubiquitous political commissar with ever-ready revolver on the watch for deserters or shirkers helped to keep in the ranks many of the Russian soldiers whose courage or sense of duty might otherwise have been unequal to the heavy demands placed upon them by this gruelling and murderous campaign.

At such a price, then, Russia won her victory. Yet the prime cause of her success was not the valour and determination of her soldiery, which it was the fashion in the earlier stages of the war to rate unduly low, but which the Finns themselves always considered fully up to the high standards of the past when the moujik was the most difficult soldier to defeat in all Europe, as Charles XII of Sweden and Napoleon had reason to know. Nor was the main cause the excellence of the Soviet Generalship and Staff work, much as these improved with practice and a fuller realisation of the magnitude of the task before them. Even the immense superiority of the Red Armies in numbers, armaments, and material of war, might not have availed to achieve victory, but for two decisive factors; the one positive and the other negative. The first was the threat of German intervention on the side of the Soviet; the second was the failure of those whose vital interest it was that Finland's resistance should not be broken to afford her adequate and timely help.

As for the first, little need be said. When Russia, having induced the Finns to sit down to a conference table and talk peace, presented them with a series of demands even more onerous than those, the rejection of which in December last had led to war, Germany made it known that in case of their non-acceptance, she herself would intervene on the side of Russia with all the resources in her power. Finland's position, already, by reason of the thinness of her Army's ranks, the exhaustion of her soldiery, and the paucity of her resources, so critical as to be nigh desperate, was thus rendered hopeless and she had no resources left but to bow to the inevitable. Thus, Germany, whose proud boast it was for years that she had helped to set up and maintain Finland as a bulwark against the inroad of the Bolshevik plague into Scandinavia, united once more in an unholy alliance with Bolshevism to cast that bulwark down, just as she had done in the case of Poland. Her purpose in so doing was, of course, a nakedly selfish one—to put an end to any further expenditure of Russia's resources for war, which she herself so sorely needs in order to counteract the ever-tightening grip of the Allied blockade. So she raised her dagger for a stab in the back; the gesture was effective, and once more Russia and Germany, the two assassins of smaller peoples, were able to shake hands over the body of yet another fallen champion of freedom and independence.

That champion might be fighting yet, however, had not his friends been as slow and timid in supporting him as his foes were swift and unscrupulous in combining to strike him down. These friends were, it is only right to realise, placed in a cruel dilemma; they had the choice between an unheroic and shortsighted policy of refusing any aid to the brave little people fighting their own battle alone, or involving themselves too in the all too probable ruin of that people. They chose the former course, and that choice must surely have been all the more unwelcome and humiliating because it meant not only themselves refusing to aid her, but cutting off from her the aid that others were ready and willing to furnish. Britain and France, at grips as they were in a death struggle with Germany, were yet prepared to brave the hostility of Russia, too, and give Finland effective help with troops, aircraft, arms and munitions. But none of these could reach her save by way of Norway and Sweden, and those countries refused to permit such passage, as, unless they were prepared boldly to abandon their neutrality, they were bound to do. For the Allies to employ force would not only have immensely enhanced the already formidable difficulties of getting help to Finland in time and adequate quantity, but would have cut from under their feet the whole moral ground on which they have taken their stand to fight this war. It would have been an unthinkable line of action, and there is no reason to suppose that it was ever seriously considered. Other countries, standing outside the great war now raging, and not usually chary of vocal denunciation of both Hitlerism and Bolshevism, or of gratuitous, if well meant, advice to those engaged in fighting both these pests with weapons more formidable and costly than words, did not even try to render Finland effective aid, though they still reserved to themselves the right to reproach the Allies for trying and failing to do so. So the doom of brave little Finland was accomplished.

What the future holds for her, who can say? Robbed of wide strips of her territory, with those formidable defences which took so heavy a toll of her assassin's assailants now in hostile hands, her army decimated, many of her towns and villages in blackened ruins, her finances overburdened, and with thousands of her once peaceful and happy people homeless exiles, her situation is a cruel and perilous one. Will the fate of Czecho-Slovakia be hers in the end, and is she doomed to fall helpless beneath the heel of her great neighbour and subsist only as a helot province, her memories of past happiness serving but to embitter further a future without hope? Or will she have won, by her stubbornness and valour, freedom from further molestation, at least until the day when the Allied victory shall have set up the new order in Europe for which we are fighting, and free people can breathe once more without constant dread of wanton aggression? None can say as yet; but for those who believe, as do we all, that a people's greatness is measured, not by the breadth of its territory or the wealth of its resources, but by its qualities of mind and soul, the Finns have fully established their claim to that true greatness, the memory of which outlasts the glory of empires and the fame of them that have great possessions.

Germany in Wartime

By MAJOR E. W. SHEPPARD

Nothing is more difficult in time of war than to form a true and consistent picture of the real state of affairs behind the enemy's battle front. Some evidence is available from neutrals and other sources, but much of it is contradictory and necessarily incomplete, while the impressions of casual and transitory visitors are bound to be somewhat superficial. Nevertheless, from what evidence we have, certain broad facts can safely be deduced. The sketch that follows is only a digest of such evidence—not by any means the whole truth, but, perhaps, the truth in broad outline.

On one or two points all the evidence agrees. The present war has nowhere been hailed in the same fiery spirit of patriotic enthusiasm almost universally evident in 1914. Then the conflict was to be a swift and glorious crusade; all classes believed they were going to fight for the honour and safety of the German Fatherland, that their mighty army and navy were invincible, and that the war was one of righteous self-defence, in which the God of Battles would be on their side. To-day there is little or nothing of that enthusiastic spirit. Many of the people are old enough to remember the horrors and the outcome of that last war upon which they entered with such high hopes and in such high fettle, and they fear that this time will be but a repetition of it. Others besides the old and middle-aged feel that this war was not wanted or expected by their leaders, that it has taken place against their calculations, that it represents the first failure in a long course of cheap and complete triumphs, and that it may not be the last. The sudden volte face as regards Soviet Russia,

about whom a few months ago these same leaders, now hand in glove with her, could find nothing too bad to say, has puzzled and outraged many who once took the Nazi preaching of the anti-Bolshevik crusade at its face value. The spirit in which Germany has entered into this war may fairly be defined as in general one of bewildered resignation.

At the same time, one must not assume from this that the country is not ready or willing to fight the war at full stretch, or to endure the heavy sacrifices all Germans realise it will entail. The people are patient, disciplined, and loyal. Most of them, whille inclined to grumble at whatever irks or displeases them, have neither the wish nor the energy to cause serious trouble to those in authority. They have a natural reverence for authority in any and every form, and a touching belief in its superior knowledge and superior ability. They have a modest distrust of themselves and a full—indeed, an excessive—realisation of the strength and splendour of mass beliefs and mass movements. They like being told what to do, and prefer to be saved the trouble and puzzlement of thinking and acting for themselves by organisation, regimentation, codes and orders. On the other hand they also delight, themselves under authority, in exercising authority and in organising and regimenting, each in their own small sphere, the lives of others. To be a cog of some sort in a mighty State machine is as near as generalisation can get to the average German's political ideal. If the driver of the machine drives it in to war, the cogs will do their little part, obediently and mechanically as long as the machine holds together and the fuel lasts out. If we are counting on the cogs stopping the machine, or blowing it up, of themselves, we are certainly indulging in false hopes. The machine will most probably be wrecked in due course, not by spontaneous internal combustion, but by sledge hammer blows from without, combined with excessive strain from within, and that will not happen to-morrow, nor for some time to come, so far as can be foreseen.

As regards conditions of life in Germany, there is shortage of much that we should regard as essential, but that shortage is not solely due to absolute lack of supplies but to errors or impossibility of distribution by reason of the indifferent state of the railways, the dearth of motor vehicles and fuel available for civil needs, and the close organisation of rationing and preservation of present stocks so as to eke them out as long as possible. A long and deliberate course of training in existing on short commons has inured the always poor and frugal Germans to life under these Spartan conditions. How far this policy may have defeated its own ends is arguable ; its effect on the physique and on the power of moral endurance and resistance of the people may in the long run prove almost the opposite of what its devisers intended. On the other hand, no doubt it was, and perhaps it still is, hoped by the Nazi authorities that the period of strain would be a short one only, and that a quick and complete victory, or the opening up of new sources of supply from Soviet Russia or elsewhere would ease the pressure before it could become excessive. It may be concluded under this head that the conditions of life in Germany to-day are uncomfortable, unhappy, and demoralising, but that their effects are likely to be of long rather than short range. The people and their rulers are buying present material strength for war at the cost of slow moral and physical decline and of the peril of collapse at a future date still remote, but inexorably approaching.

As for the prestige of Hitler and his regime, it is difficult to say exactly how it now stands. There is discontent, of course, and in many quarters Nazism enjoys acquiescence rather than enthusiastic support ; but particularly for the younger generation of Germans, Hitler is still an idolised hero, the undisputed leader, irreplaceable and infallible. For these German lads and maidens his word is law, and his will is to be obeyed without hesitation or misgiving and at all costs. Only a patent and overwhelming failure is likely to shake his hold on their minds and hearts. With Hitler is bound up the regime he has established, a regime which satisfies many of the natural, if somewhat naive and callous, cravings of youth the world over—a cause, a hero, uniforms, bands, displays, a little brief authority and self importance. Youth in Nazi Germany is on top of the world, no matter to it, for the time being at least, that it is following an unworthy ideal and a false god, it follows blindly and gladly. Pity it is that before we can destroy the creed and discredit the god, so many of the devoted young worshippers must perforce pay the supreme penalty, fitter reward for crime than for folly and blindness.

So long as the Nazis have the youth of the country on their side, they can, perhaps, afford to neglect the sentiments of

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disillusion, dissatisfaction, and doubt that prevail among the older elements of the people. These, however little enthusiasm they may feel for the regime, see no alternative to it, and are equally doubtful as to the possibility of overthrowing it without exposing the country they love and venerate to defeat in the war and relapse into a chaos of Bolshevism even more repugnant to them. For many a patriotic German, whatever his age and political views may be, Hitler with his Nazis stands for Germany still. His overthrow in time of war is, in their view, neither possible nor desirable. Moreover the iron hand of the Gestapo and the Storm Trooper, the ear of the Government spy and the secret informer, are omnipresent to detect and nip in the bud any open manifestation of discontent or rebellion, however slight. The penalties for such a crime are swift, secret, and fearsome. Small wonder that few among a people never remarkable for political courage or independence dare to risk them. These penalties, too, strike not only at the guilty party but at his innocent kinsfolk, which, in a race where family ties and affection are so strongly developed, is a formidable added deterrent. All honour to the few who, in the name of human dignity and freedom, have ventured to brave the terror, and let us not judge too harshly these, no doubt many, who, secretly sympathising with these heroes and martyrs, have not found strength and courage to follow their hard example.

We have no space here to estimate the exact military value of the German army, but it appears from all accounts that, in common with the other two fighting services and the bulk of the Nazi party, especially the younger elements, it is confident of ultimate victory and hopeful that it will be swift and complete. How far this is wishful thinking, how far it is based on a reasoned estimate of the military position, and how far it is due to a belief expressed by Hitler in his recent speech, " Germany will be ruined if she loses the war, therefore she must and will win," every one can decide for himself. There is no doubt that the incessant and vehement propaganda barrage to which the German people have been subjected ever since the outbreak of war has convinced many—probably the majority of them, almost against their saner knowledge and belief—that they are the innocent victims of intolerable unprovoked aggression by foes who hate and envy them and are bent on their destruction that they have so far not only held their own but have struck serious, if not mortal blows in return ; and that Hitler and his advisers have already laid infallible plans for completing the work so well begun and securing a decisive victory and a German triumph. It will be interesting to see what happens when these pleasing but baseless illusions are blown to the winds by the hard logic of events.

Summing up the whole matter, we may say that Germany, by no means ill prepared materially for a brief and brilliantly victorious war, is in decidedly less good condition, materially as well as morally, to take the strain of a long and tense struggle. But it must not be assumed from this that she is likely to save us the trouble of winning the war by collapsing from within by reason of her own internal stresses and tensions. Decline or morale, it must be remembered, is a consequence, not a cause, of defeat, and it will be essential for us to exploit to the full measure of our ability the undoubted weaknesses of our proud and formidable foe, if we are to deserve and obtain the ultimate victory. This will certainly be no easy, and perhaps no brief, task, but if we do not make the mistakes of underestimating it or failing to put our best efforts into it, our success is not merely possible but assured.

B.E.F. NOTES

With G.H.Q. of the B.E.F.

After an unpardonable absence from these columns, yours truly re-appears. It has always been difficult to find a beginning for these notes of mine (at least, some people call them notes), so I hope this preamble will provide the necessary introduction.

The winter having, more or less, got behind us in the same way as Satan is often told to do, everybody wears a smile, looking forward to a pleasant summer in this country. During the past few weeks our weather has been quite reasonable and we have had some slight compensation for the ordeals we had to suffer during December and January.

Going through what little news there is in a kind of haphazard way, the first item is to announce the arrival of some new clerks from the R.A.S.C. to our department. There is a reasonable selection of names, so here they are: Privates Sleep, Raggett and Bailey. (No competition has been opened for choosing the nick-name to be given to the first-named.)

From other stations of our own Corps we welcome Corporal Ettenfield H. V. and Signalman Allen from the S.T.C. (Did somebody say they have never heard of it ?) Corporal Ettenfield will be remembered by some people as a rugger fiend, having played often for the Training Battalion in the dim and distant days of peace-time. Signalman Allen is a volunteer who enlisted in November last year. We hope their stay with us will be quite pleasant.

We understand that Signalman Dixon G. H., an S.T.C. soldier until war broke out, has now left G.H.Q., but I do not know his new Unit.

A report has reached me of a certain W/T Section who have held up the great traditions of the Corps in a really fine way. On arrival in France they were billeted for the first few months in a French village which was in an area devoid of English troops. They settled down quite rapidly and were soon liked by all the villagers. The time came, however, when they had to move to another place and the Sergeant-Major was given a testimonial by the Mayor's Secretary to give to the Mayor of the new village. The letter praised the wonderful behaviour of the Section during their stay. I have since received a private letter from one of the villagers whom I knew quite well and she gives this report of the Section concerned: "The village is now sad and we miss the Signals so much." Hats off to that Section and may they make themselves equally as popular in their new surroundings, wherever they are.

We will now introduce you to some of the personalities whom we have met out here with the B.E.F. This is a feature which we hope to include quite regularly in our notes. Those mentioned this month are Operators, with the exception of one, and are all Reservists.

First on the list is Signalman Viney E., and if you look on Page (v) of a 1939 Corps Diary you will read the following boxing record against his name: Army Champion, 1925; Amateur Champion of England, 1925; European Champion Runner-up, 1925. He started his service in the old Maresfield days as a boy and served later in Bulford. He tells us that since being here he has met some of the famous Carpentier family. This should make him feel quite at home. Viney is now helping younger would-be boxers in his Section.

The spotlight turns on to Signalman Sadler, D., and Peach F., two operators who, we understand, are very rarely apart, so why should we keep their names apart. Sadler served in the Maresfield days and in 1926 commenced about two and a half years in Jubbulpore. Prior to serving in the Army he was in the Mercantile Marine. Peach spent a great deal of his service with the "D" Troop of several years ago in Aldershot.

My last personality in this issue is a Lineman, but at present he is ensuring that the men of his Section are getting the best of meals. His name is Lynch and known to all his friends (which includes the whole Section) as Jack. Although I cannot tell you much about where he spent his service, we can assure you that the meals he gives his Section are the finest in the B.E.F. (Having tasted them from time to time, you can take that as being the opinion of his Section.).

Look out for more names next month.

Now for a rather amusing story which proves that you never know who you are going to meet in the Army these days.

One of our officers was having his hair cut by a Lance Corporal of a nearby Unit. During the course of the conversation, the type that one usually finds in a barber's shop, the officer remarked "Do you know, in the last war I had a barber in my Section who was an attendant in an asylum in civilian life ?"

"That is my job in life, sir," replied the Lance Corporal. (Imagine the shock the officer got.)

Here is another one, and is quite true, like the one above, which, unfortunately, is rather late in the year in reaching us. A small section out in the blue got rather friendly with some French troops nearby and at Christmas time they were invited to a whist drive, at which the first prize was a couple of pigs. The Section carried off the pigs as a well-earned trophy, and to-day the pigs travel round France with the Section as mascots. We did hear that the two pigs have turned into several.

The writer was in a village some time ago and the small body of Signals who occupied it were billeted in several empty houses throughout the village. They had given names to the houses and here is a selection of them: "Blackett Towers" (called after the N.C.O. residing there), "Whitehall 1212," "Admiralty House," and the Company office was known as "The War Office." Who said the B.E.F. Signals lacked versatility.

Well, gentlemen, you can continue to drink that glass of McEwan and Youngers, these notes having run their length. (Did we hear a sigh of relief from the Censor ?)

Cheerio till the next time.

ACK PIP BEER.

London Corps Signals, B.E.F.

31st March.

The day dawned and looked very dull. We all thought of that day, exactly six months previously, when we docked in France, to tackle the unknown.

Now it is Sunday, 31st March, 1940, and No. 2 Company are holding their "Blitzrig." No! It is nothing to do with secret weapons, it is just the Company Commander's name for No. 2 Company Sports Meeting.

Mid-day, and a few of the Sergeants are studying the weather over glasses of brune, blonde, and, of course, vin rouge. Yes, the sun will shine on the righteous (if any). After a very hasty meal (I doubt if some of the competitors ate at all), most of the Unit strolled, rolled or rode to the Municipale Stade, or better known to you English folk as the Statium. One thing seemed to me to be all wrong. The Stade (there we go, getting all French again) was some distance from most billets, and if you know France at all, you know that every road has many cafes —well, I ask you.

The C.S.M. of No. 2 Company graciously consented to give several W.O.s and Sergeants a "lift" to the scene of battle in his Company Headquarter lorry. Of course, the passengers had to make way for several crates of "whollop," etc., which made up the stock of the Sergeants' temporary Mess.

The officers, not to be outrun, had a large marquee erected for use as a Mess. I need not say who was the first officer to visit the "temporary structure," but our old friend the O.C. Transport was not far behind.

Besides these two Messes, the Salvation Army kindly helped the other ranks by opening their mobile snack bar, and their efforts were by no means wasted.

On the invitations sent out to W.O.s and Sergeants outside the Company it stated : " Dress : Best Battle Dress." One very thin and small Sergeant rolled up in Service dress, plus web belt. C.Q.M.S. Cheesley, from No. 1 Company, who is well known for his wit, said to the Service-attired Sergeant, " Hullo, sonny ! Have you lost the rest of the Cadet Corps ? "

Talking of dress, one of the Officers' Mess waiters attended this well-known " Blitzrig " wearing blues ! Well, I mean to say, it's War they tell us ; not that I object to the blues—but he was also shod with " local purchased " suede shoes !

Well, the events were run in very fine style, and I must say that all the lads put their backs into the job of being better than the next man. Besides the usual straight races, there were several comical events, such as the dog race (more about that later), bicycle race, and veterans' race.

The results were as follows :

100 YARDS.—1, Lance Corporal Smith A. ; 2, Sergeant Wildey ; 3, Corporal Smith J. R.

220 YARDS.—1, Lance Corporal Smith A. ; 2, Signalman Barton.

440 YARDS.—1, Corporal Cohen ; 2, Signalman Beecham.

880 YARDS.—1, Signalman Sparrow ; 2, Corporal Cohen.

ONE MILE.—1, Signalman Sparrow ; 2, Signalman Reed.

OFFICERS' RACE.—O.C., No. 6 Wireless Section.

VETERANS' 50 YARDS (four runners).—1, Lieutenant Quartermaster ; 2, O.C., No. 1 Company ; 3, C.S.M. Allardyce ; 4, R.Q.M.S. Jack Watt (retired after ? yards).

LONG JUMP.—1, Signalman Bull ; 2, Sergeant Brown T. D.

HIGH JUMP.—1, Signalman Saunders.

PUTTING THE WEIGHT.—1, Signalman Lea.

OBSTACLE RACE.—1, Signalman Lake.

Bicycle Race.—1, Signalman Walmsley.

INTER-SECTION RELAY RACE.—1, No. 6 Wireless Section.

TUG-OF-WAR.—1, No. 6 Don R. Section.

DOG RACE.—1, " Hitler."

A word or two on the different events. No. 6 D.R. Section, besides beating all other Sections of No. 2 Company in the tug-of-war, beat a crack team from an infantry regiment. We must congratulate Sergeant Wilks on the way he has trained the lads whom he has had as a Section for so short a time. We are sure that they had been training on more than Vichy water.

The relay race was run with great enthusiasm. It is a great shame that the lads do not run out of the cafes at that speed at 21.30 hours daily !

Now about the dog race. Many Sections and individuals brought their dogs along, but when the call came for the " line up " so many of the hounds were missing that there were only five runners ! Our Colonel has obtained a dog, and has named him " Hitler." We won't remark here on the prowess of the beast, but we did not know it could run so well.

On the word " Go ! " the dogs (or, rather, some of them) leapt forward and tore off at a break-neck speed, with " Hitler " in the lead. Halfway down the course, " Hitler " got up to some of his tricks, and rushed to one side in search of a girl friend, or something, but just at the critical moment he spotted a better " bit of goods " near the winning post. Well, he deserved all he got, because he did that last lap better than even Mick the Miller could have done it.

During the interval C.Q.M.S. Nicholson and 16 D.R.s gave us a wonderful display of trick riding. Nick, our Foreman-of-Signals, had worked very hard in training those lads, and here we think is the best place that we can say to him " Thanks, Nick," both for training the boys, and for giving us a heart attack when you went over the blazing jump.

The C.S.O. kindly presented the prizes to those who had won the respective events. To the winning Section he said he was very pleased to see that although in the Wireless Section they did a lot of sitting, about their jobs, they had also kept fit.

Well, folks, you do not know what you missed by being away from that happy " Blitzrig." But we will let you into a secret. We think that before very long this Unit will hold a Sports Day. So look out for notes, and we know that when you read our short piece of news in the WIRE each month, you will wish even more that you had been lucky enough to be posted to the cream of the Signal Service—that's us ! The Second (First London) Corps Signals.

Cheerio for now, chums. Yours as ever.

SEARG'ILL.

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.

2nd (———) Corps Signals, B.E.F.

It is high time, now that this Unit is becoming one of the veterans of the B.E.F., that THE WIRE should print its name correctly. So a senior officer, fired by the beautiful series of pictures of various members of the Unit which has recently appeared in that periodical, has ventured to write the name out. There is, of course, an infinite number of variations—you would never believe the queer documents that arrive in the Orderly Room under pseudonyms. Of course, the Staff have now got used to our name, after a period during which they were somewhat dazed. (*See* Editorial Notes.—ED.)

No. 1 Company has now come out of the ditches into which the frost and ice forced so many vehicles, and rushes about upon its lawful occasions with a sprightly air gaily waving coils of "quad." No. 1 Company has also entered hotly for the Cookery Stakes and its new cookhouse is a dream—fir poles and corrugated iron. Architecture by Sergeant Kennedy it is understood. Very rustic.

No. 2 Company has had some excellent sports. A dog race (for pets) was won by Hitler, the C.O.'s countrybred; the only competitor to keep his eye on his job. The prize was a bone—a luscious one—done up with ribbons. There is only one other matter which receives his undivided attention!

There was also an ankle competition, in which O.C., No. 2 Company, chose the winner, after exercising his usual sound judgment.

The Sports Cup was won on the aggregate by No. 6 W/T Section, which at once filled the cup and emptied it several times. The C.S.O. was present and gave away the prizes, an act which was much appreciated.

A curious feature was that two marquees appeared for tea, etc. There was a good deal of discussion as to the site on which these had last been seen and it was felt that they had an English look.

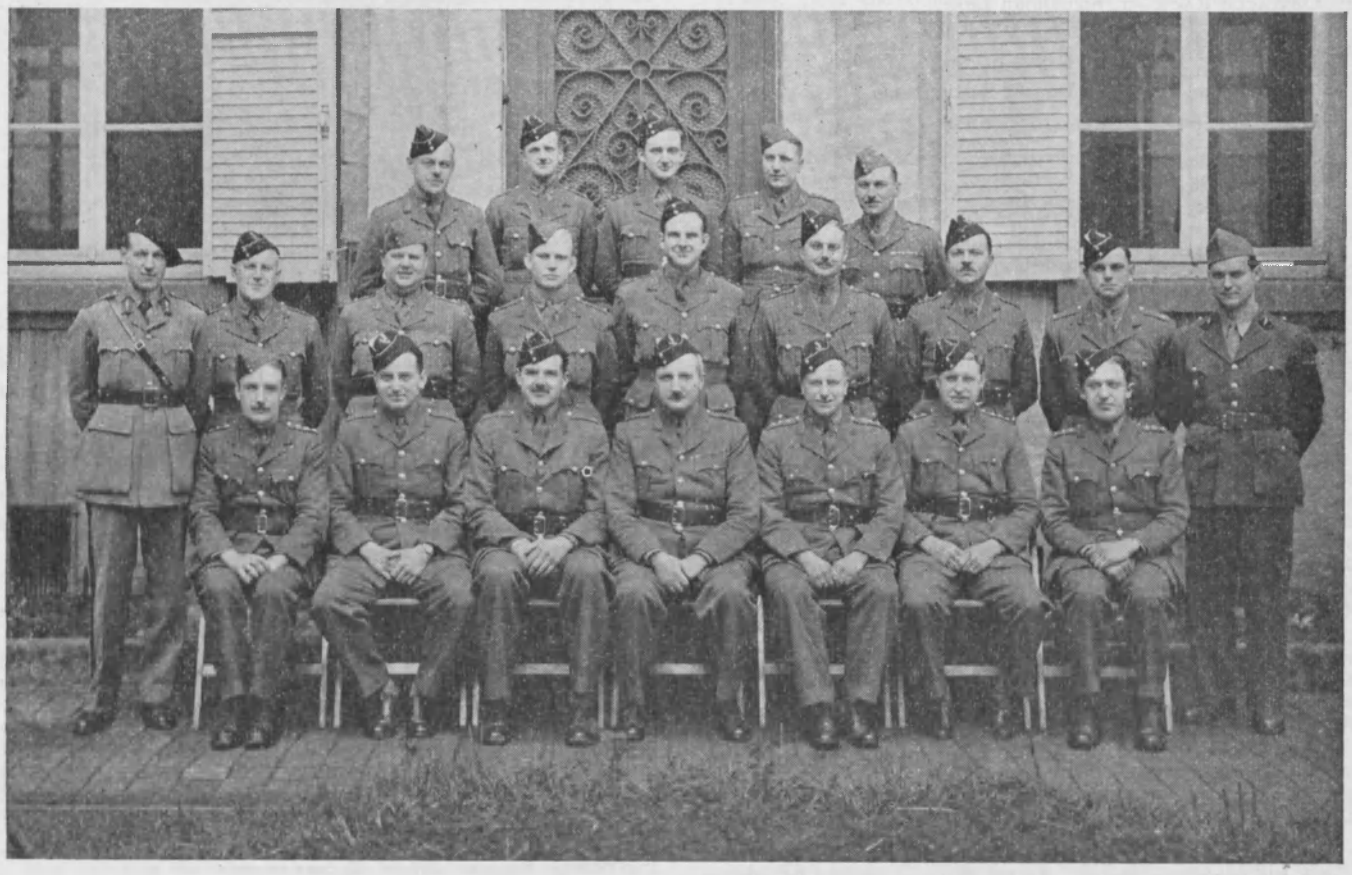
No. 3 Company lives, of course, its own life, presided over by its own laird. It is whispered that, owing to a vacancy which has occurred, he may shortly be elevated in rank.

A special mention should be made of the T.M. Section. They are, of course, really international and serve everybody. What they can't do with old petrol tins, the staple material for all military purposes, from mending someone's wireless set to making a blood tray for the Q.M. stores, or a night lantern, is nobody's business.

The W.O.s and N.C.O.s flourish. Some put on weight. Others stay the same. But none lose it, which is satisfactory.

The officers would wish to be remembered to all their old friends who read these notes.

"SOMEWHERE IN FRANCE"



The Officers of the Nth Divisional Signals

Plain Tales (B.E.F.)

Overture.—Skating on the C.S.O.'s pool was abandoned weeks ago and we are now turning our attention to the cultivation of such flora as may be induced to thrive in this interesting country. Non-skid chains arrived on a beautiful sunny day, just as we were putting our scarves and pullovers away until next winter.

Without mentioning names, we may say that the Officers' Mess suffered a "Major" catastrophe when one of its most useful members "petered" out. A base affair we believe.

But, of course, you will want to know what we have been doing and so forth. Well, we arrived at Wheresit when we got there and stayed a night or two unpacking and disturbing some of the stores that the Quartermaster had hanging round his neck. Stores that arrived in several large trucks the night before we sailed!

Advice to Units in doubt about anything at all: Bring it with you.

Secret History.—Eventually we arrived Somewhere, a place we had often wondered about. Unless something special happens it is officially rumoured that we shall stay almost right up to the hour of our departure. This information must not be taken forward of E.F.I. Headquarters. Training goes on and on and the troops may now be referred to as soldiers with one or two exceptions who will probably be —— but we can't tell you that. Several optimists are actually talking about leave, though what anyone wants to go home for is beyond us. Fancy paying one and tuppence for cigarettes. Glad to say that we have the same C.O. and senior officers. Practically all the other officers remain and most of the old N.C.O.s. "Bill" Langham tottered out when the clarion call sounded and can still smile about it. He staggers out of the Adjutant's office on Sunday afternoons with three cubic yards of correspondence and says, "I've got a half-day when I've cleared this!" He must cope with it fairly well because last Easter Sunday at 1530 hours he was doing his best to wreck a rattle at a football match.

Literary Circle.—We invited Sections of the Divisional Signals to contribute something to the WIRE, but although there are some quite intelligent people about, "C" Section was the only answer to our prayer. We forgot to tell them that the names of officers cannot be published. A small but efficient body commanded by a flower who is, however, no pansy. They are well settled with their new formation and are rapidly acquiring new border accents. Even Wigan Jimmy says "Ye Ken." Signalmen Mott, Bond and Leigh have joined them and Signalman Carpenter has gone in dock for what they hope is only a short visit. Signalman Crompton J. places his foot on the first rung of the golden ladder and becomes L oblique C. "B" Corps, India, to note. Nobby loves fast and furious; in case you are interested and the Gander on the Green loves the Sarge. With which cryptic remark the writer subscribes himself "A.G." Thanking him.

The Home Front.—We are glad to note that the Birmingham Branch, O.C.A., is still flourishing and that Mr. Joe Carroll is just as active as ever. Every now and then we come across a stamped envelope that Joe sent us just before we left home. We go all red and ashamed and lock it up again quickly, because we think we ought to have answered his letter long ago. However, we still think of the old boys and as we roll at a steady 20 m.p.h. we think of Alf. Wilby, George Clay, Bill Realf, Alf. Walker and the others still foot slogging. Our "Bill" read about Bill Realf having, on numerous occasions, to walk five miles home. He said, "Oh, yeah," the significance of which we leave you to judge yourselves.

Our very good wishes to the Branch. We have noted the rendez-vous and when the much-rumoured leave materialises you may expect to see representatives from Somewhere in France.

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Admiral Swallows Surplus Fullerphone.—"Fall out the Officers!"

Colonel Ukann Larfe, N.B.G. (and bar) climbed down the short ladder at the back of his horse and sent it scampering back to the stables with a friendly swipe.

Actually there were no officers to fall out as the Colonel only had two people on his staff. One was Driver (I.C.) Fogworthy (whom you probably don't remember) and the other 2nd Lieutenant Faceache. The latter was Orderly Officer and was therefore not to be found. The fact that Mademoiselle Colette was also nowhere around set the Colonel thinking. He hadn't been a Colonel very long so he could still think quite clearly.

"Fogworthy," he yelled.

The long suffering ex-butler, who was standing right beside the Colonel, sprang to attention and saluted smartly with both hands. Having been in the last war, he was never quite certain whether it was the right or left hand salute these days, and always played for safety.

"Where is Mr. Faceache, Fogworthy?"

"Dunno, sir."

"Where is the Hooker?"

"Dunno, sir."

"Er ———. Where is Mlle Colette?"

"Couldn't say, sir."

"What time is lunch?"

"No idea, sir."

"Now, Fogworthy, did I, or did I not, take away your stripes last month?"

"I think you did, sir," replied Fogworthy, glancing round at his arms to make sure.

"Well, you can have 'em back. Get it put in orders at once."

"Yes, sir." The elated Fogworthy stepped back smartly and fell over a petrol tin.

The Colonel walked away muttering to himself. "I'll have him dipped again next month."

Moral. Even corrugated iron has its ups and downs.

Division Concert Party Crack.—Tell the C.O. I'll be with him in 15 seconds. Explain that I'm smoking an "issue."

BARLEUX.

HOME STATIONS

Yorkshire I.

1st Operators' Training Battalion

No. 2 Company

Leave seems to have been the most important topic of conversation during the last month, ranging from Easter leave, given after much deliberation to the chosen few, to the week's leave to be granted to successful Group " E " candidates and to those who complete B.III training. We understand that this Group " E " leave is causing not a little concern to the Keyboard Squads, whose month's " holiday " at the G.P.O. has for long been the envy of the Wireless and Line Squads of the Unit. But " fair's fair in love and war," and we can expect a temporary but considerable reduction in the strength of our Company as a result of the Trade Tests expected in the new few weeks.

A certain amount of amazement and amusement has been caused by the mysterious activities of our small but exclusive (?) squad of Battalion O.C.T.U. candidates, and we understand that their excursions into Higher Mathematics and E. &. M. have caused not a little distraction from the proper study of Vol. 5 by the rest of the Company, and no small entertainment to the N.C.O. who lectures thereon. (" D'ye ge' tha' noo ? ") 'Nuff said.

Scandal.—1. It is rumoured that after the duties of the last week, certain Junior N.C.O.s are seriously considering the adoption of lion taming as a spare-time relaxation.

2. It is understood that, as a result of his efforts, our self-appointed " major domo " was enabled to enter the matrimonial state at Easter. We offer him our congratulations, both on his marriage and his industry, but would be glad to hear the reasons for the curtailment of his business activities.

3 (*a*). The famous " Dead End Kids " of No. 9 Squad will soon be leaving us, and it is rumoured that, on the evening following their departure, three N.C.O.s (no names no laundry) are commencing an all-night celebration.

(*b*) Lance Corporal " Gunner " Arnold, the Intelligence Chief in these parts, can produce no definite information regarding this matter and is rather annoyed at the lack of news in general. We are told that " Gunner " even sleeps with one ear open. That well-known comedian, Lord Haw-Haw, would be out of the picture if only " Gunner " and Lance Corporal " Free-for-all " Grattan could crash in on the same wave-length.

Things We Want to Know.—Who disrupted the organisation of the Company by proceeding on leave with the key to the order board on his person ?

Who is the Junior N.C.O. who, on giving the name of a certain northern city (far from his home) as his destination for Easter leave, was asked " Didn't you go there on the Teleprinter Course ? "

Incidentally, we understand that quite a few keyboard operators are known to spend frequent week-ends at former seats of learning. We wonder why !

Did a certain W.O. celebrate St. Patrick's night—or did he ?

Agony Column.—" Tink, Yowza calling. How about a line ? Pip."

" *Salaams* all at Wana. What about a line, Cass ? Bondy."

Sport.—The Company is proud of its representatives in the Unit rugby team. We contend, with ample proof, that our men are the backbone of the team, not only for their scoring powers but for their defence as well. It is something for one Company to provide half the team, and our joy is only marred by the thought that we must necessarily lose them in the near future. Our condolences to Signalmen Leeper and Shand, who unfortunately were injured " in action," and we hope they will soon have completely recovered.

The Company soccer team is as strong as ever it was, and it is now strengtnened by the addition of another professional—Signalman Adams of the " Spurs "—and by some good amateurs, too. We hope to show the other Companies how and why when more Inter-Company games are arranged.

The boxers have been idle in a sense just recently, having had no visits to the " blood tub." They are, however, keeping in trim and will be able to give a good account of themselves when it comes to " hand-to-hand " combat.

We are now looking forward to the summer, and hope to be able to find a Len Hutton or Larwood among the lads. Indidentally, we are wondering if the Depot Battalion are really needing Len Hutton, as we understand he is doing great work as a P.T. Instructor—just the man for the proposed early-morning P.T. No aspersions on our nine gallant N.C.O.s who have volunteered as instructors.

No. 3 Company

Introduction.—We're regular contributors, and this heading, therefore, is actually superfluous. So here is the next paragraph.

Arrivals and Departures.—Continue as of yore. There's a welcome on the mat for the former, and our best wishes accompany the latter to their various destinations.

Voices of Spring.—

There's a mighty rush in the garden now,
Borders to dig and lawns to trim ;
And those who wield a hoe or spade,
Can dodge a cross-country run or " gym."

Yes, gardening is in full swing. Never shall it be murmured that No. 3 Company have lagged behind. We don't know quite what to grow yet, but the fertile earth of each bungalow garden is receiving its annual turn-over. It is denied in official circles (the Office) that Mr. Middleton has been consulted *re* the choice of crops, but a usually well-informed source of information says that the C.Q.M.S. is all for bulbs—electric. Questioned, the storeman denied all knowledge of this, but asserted that a statement may be expected at the end of the quarter. Meanwhile, Corporal Gillott has forestalled us all by actually setting his seeds and things. May the wire-worm keep far from his carrots.

Things We Shall Never Know.—Who broke the Junior N.C.O.'s fruit machine, and why can't we see the numbers now ?

Fashion Notes.—A great sensation has been caused in certain circles here by the advent of a too-too ravishing design in gents natty suitings. The model in question is a sort of cross between " canvas " and " battle dress," and as it does not come under the heading of " period," it has the advantage that it will not " date." The cadre, however, are not wearing this new creation. We don't follow fashions, we " sets 'em."

Radio Ravings.—Greetings, readers all. This is your old friend, Lord Bore-Bore, from somewhere in Germany, calling. Awfully afraid I cannot give you all the nonsense that I'd like to, but your Mr. Churchill hasn't a " censor " humour. However, let me thank various illustrated papers which did such beautiful pictures of the " Ark Royal " print. As all my fans know, I have most anxious been about this so-splendid ship. Mein Lieber Fuehrer is still gnashing his " ersatz " teeth with rage. Ach !

We hear (per radio) that a horse is an animal with a mind of its own. Old " C " Company-ites will verify this. Who hasn't " picked a chip " ?

Cleanliness before Duty.—The S.S.M. who preferred a bath to an audit. Contra. Bath General Account.

Things We Would Like to Know.—What is a transporting Company ?

What happens when there are failures in such Companies ? Or does the correspondent speak from personal experience of conveyance in perambulator transport.

Employment—Vacant.—There is a vacancy here for a Statistics Expert. Someone who can make two look like " one."

Texts of messages are sometimes very colourful these days. Apparently a word contains a world of meaning.

WILKIE.

No. 4 Company

At long last spring has arrived and red noses, cold feet and the necessity for greatcoats and two pairs of socks are a thing of the past—we hope—although permanent residents in this part of the world still insist that " we ain't seen nothin' yet " and that the alleged summers peculiar to this latitude can be worse than the appalling and catastrophic winters.

Dull, dismal and frigid lecture rooms, and W/T schemes on which one's toes nearly drop off, are not conducive to the assimilation of the knowledge necessary to qualify for Group E and BI11 ratings, and it is more than likely that many a good man and true has failed these acid tests because of his inability to cope with the vagaries of this unsalubrious and brain-paralysing climate.

However, now that the days are milder, longer and brighter, and pleasanter lecture rooms in the new Militia block are available, great things are expected of No. 4 Company, and it is anticipated that squads will soon be passing out 100 per cent. Proof of this is already forthcoming ; No. 15 Squad, the first of the keyboard operators, was recently given three working days notice to take their BI11 test, five weeks before it was actually due or expected, and it is to their, and their instructor's, everlasting credit that they passed out with only one failure—they are all to be congratulated.

Congratulations to Lance Sergeant Spence on his qualifying so well in the Foreman-of-Signals Course, and to Corporal Parris on his recent well-deserved promotion. We are sorry that we are losing the first-named N.C.O., who is being posted away, but prophesy a brilliant future for him.

Mr. Shrimpton, our technical training officer and brilliant composer, has recently surpassed himself, and the latest child of his brain, which we are thinking of naming " The Symphony of the Mountain Lights," is guaranteed to teach anyone, even Haw-Haw, lamp reading in four home lessons—with such intellect at our disposal, why should we worry ?

Now that the eternal snow has eventually been eradicated, excavated and eliminated from the sports fields, our sports (so called) afternoons may perhaps be utilised for the purpose for which we once thought they were intended, instead of for fatigues gardening and extra training. No. 4 Company has its share of budding and eager athletes and, in addition to those men already playing for the various teams, it is hoped that much more undiscovered talent will be unearthed and that the Company will take the " head of the river " as far as athletics are concerned. *En passant* we anticipate that they will take the lead in other directions before many more morse codes are digested.

But enough for this month. More sensational items can be promised for the next issue—things which, for the present, must remain labelled " secret and confidential."

THD 9.4.40.

W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess

Having been duly appointed " Scribus " for THE WIRE, here is my first effort.

Owing to the very severe snows, the past months have been rather quiet ; the chief event was our inaugural dinner in February, when the whole Mess, with our C.O. and officers as guests, spent an enjoyable night. R.S.M. Gibbings F., back at last from a long spell of sickness, presided. Speeches were cut to a minimum. The R.S.M. proposed the toast to our C.O., to which the C.O. suitably replied. R.Q.M.S. Bennett F. W. proposed " Our Guests," to which the P.R.I. replied. All were sorry that it was our last night with our second-in-command, who was leaving to take up another appointment overseas. All members wish him the best of health and luck. During the dinner the Corps Band played a selection of light music. The concert which followed the dinner was contributed to by Mrs.



Moody, C.S.M. Crowley, A.P.T.S., Lieutenant (T.M.O.), C.Q.M.S. Melmore, Sergeant Boulton and items by the Corps Band.

The social side has been restricted by the weather. However, a home and away games tournament, a sing-song with the R.A., proved very successful.

Our fortnightly Sunday evening dances are getting so popular that we shall soon have to have " house full " put outside by the commissionaire.

Hiking appears to be the favourite pastime of members, young and old, but have not yet found out why they select the early hours of the morning for this. Is it worth it ?

There having been such a lot of promotions and appointments we offer our congratulations to all concerned. We also wish the best of luck to those who have left us.

Things We Want to Know.—Why does a certain W.O. like the song " Oh, sweet mystery of life, at last I've found you " ? Is there any connection with N.A.A.F.I. sausages or a romance at R—— ?

Why did the S.S.M. get the " wind up " when his favourite in the chorus at the Hippodrome did an acrobatic dance ?

Why is a certain Sergeant leaving hockey rules in the " summer " ?

Will the Red Shadow eventually turn the Sergeant " Grey " ?

Why is it necessary for a member of the P.A.D. Staff to take measurements of a lady's back, or was it only a " blind " ?

Since writing these notes we have had to say good-bye to our popular Commanding Officer. All wish him the best of health and luck in his new command. We offer a hearty welcome to his successor.

GESTAPO.

Boys Training Company

Genera'.—The month started in fine style with a complete disappearance of snow (which for so long has been our lot to face). This is replaced by intermittent spells of sunshine and rain. Spring, as usual, gives rise to the usual athletic spirit amongst us. " —— " is now being used every evening for this purpose and ex-Boys may rest assured that if any fixtures are forthcoming, the Company will have its share of victories. Our new sports programme has been published, and it is with great interest that the Boys note the many periods of P.T.

On 22nd March we were visited by No. 1 Line Company, whom we had challenged to an Indoor Sports Competition. This consisted of darts, table tennis and billiards. It was surprising to see the men beaten at darts by 4 games to 2, but they retaliated by winning the table tennis by 4 games to 1 ; the playing in this branch of the game was a joy to watch. By this time the score stood at 6 games to 5 in No. 1 Line Company's favour, and with one accord the spectators surged towards the billiards table to see what the outcome of this competition would be. After some superb playing by both sides, the game ended with a draw—two games to each Company. No. 1 Line Company thus became the winners by one point. It is hoped that the return match will be as thrilling. We were lucky to receive Easter leave as usual this year, in the face of present circumstances. Many of the Boys proceeded on leave and, according to report, a good time was had by all. Another important event was the First Class Examination. We wish all who sat for this examination the best of luck.

Appointments.—The following appointments have been made recently, and we wish the recipients success : Lance Corporal Boys Phillips and Rabjohns to be Corporal Boys ; Boys Perkins, King J. and Kneebone R. to be Lance Corporal Boys.

Jews' Mail.—To Max Roberta, Sarafand Signals. " It's a long time since March, '38. From 5862."

To Hamish. " No news is good news—what ? From H.I."

Things We Would Like to Know.—When the " Students " are getting their caps and gowns.

Which operator, when asked for a test of the D Mk. V, replied, " Wet the fingers and place them across the line terminals ; press the key and a buzz should be heard in both ears " ?

RABJACK.

SPORTS NOTES

Football.—On 15th March we played No. 4 M.T. Company in the semi-final of the Training Battalion Knock-out Cup. The result was a win for this Company by 5—1. The two inside forwards, A. Smith and J. Stewart, held the forward line together, and they were backed up by a good defence. In this game the Boys were far superior and deserved their big victory.

The final of the Cup, after a few postponements, was played on 30th March. Losing the toss for the first time, in these series, the Boys' Company kicked towards the pavilion. The play in the first half was confined mainly to mid-field. Occasionally break-aways by both sets of forwards resulted in harassing movements for the defences. At half-time the score was 0—0, with the advantage now with the Boys. Ten minutes after the restart a movement was started by A. Smith, which ended in a corner. The corner kick, taken by Mullin, curved in towards the goal and the goal-keeper rushed out, misjudged the ball, and a back tried to clear with an overhead kick, but the referee awarded a goal. The last goal was scored by A. Smith, who, from just outside the penalty area, put in a shot well wide of the goalkeeper's hand. The game was very fast and there was some very good football. The winning team was : Lance Corporal Boy Kneebone R. ; Boy Rowe, Boy Martin ; Boy Barton, Lance Corporal Murray A., Lance Corporal Boy Forsyth ; Lance Corporal Boy D'Hooghe, Lance Corporal Stewart, Boy Ward, Lance Corporal Smith A., Lance Corporal Boy Mullin.

A return match was played on 6th April with St. Cuthbert's (Juniors). Owing to injury and absence, our strongest team was not available. Linington came in at centre-forward and Ward moved to inside left for Smith. Cox played on the right wing, D'Hooghe playing inside right in place of Stewart. The game started very fast and it was only stout defensive work that held the St. Cuthbert's forwards. Forsyth was very prominent in his constructive work. He sent a pass to D'Hooghe, who, swinging a forward pass down the wing to Mullen, the latter opened the Boys' account with a low shot. The visitors now set to work to recover themselves and the ball was soon in the opposite half. From a centre by their right wing, the inside left headed the ball high in the air. Our goalkeeper misjudged his distance, jumped too late, and the ball rolled into the net to equalise. The play was now all in the Boys' Company half for the next ten minutes. Kneebone, in saving a very hard shot, was unlucky to punch it to the opposing right wing, who immediately returned the ball into the net to put St. Cuthbert's in front.

Soon after the restart the Boys' Company equalised through a goal by D'Hooghe from a pass by the left wing. St. Cuthbert's were now hard pressed and Cox and Ward were unlucky with shots that hit the crossbar. Our opponents' left wing now came to the fore and attacks were very frequent down that side of the field. Rowe was injured and could not stop them effectively, and one centre was put in by the opposing centre forward. The Boys' Company then fought back to bring the scores level with a penalty, converted by Murray. The play then switched to the other end, where the inside left of St. Cuthbert's put in a long shot which found the net well out of the goalkeeper's reach. This put St. Cuthbert's in the lead with 4 goals to 3. The final whistle blew shortly afterwards with the Boys' Company trying hard to equalise.

SIX-A-SIDE.—A Battalion Six-a-Side Competition was arranged on Good Friday and the Boys' Company entered one team. They turned out to be victors by 18 points—0 ; 19 points—0 ; and 22 points—0. The team played splendidly and deserved their easy victory. The team was : Lance Corporal Boy Kneebone R., Boy Martin, Lance Corporal Murray A., Lance Corporal Boy Forsyth, Lance Corporal Smith A., and Boy Ward.

Rugby.—The Training Battalion rugby team played the Anti-Tank Regiment on 1st April and were unlucky to lose. This Company was represented by Sergeant Atkin, Lance Corporal Smith A., Lance Corporal Boy Forsyth, and Boy Lees.

The second team also played the Depot Battalion and won, 10 points to 3. The wind caused the play to be kept on one side of the field or perhaps the score would have been greater. The Boys who played in the match were : Lance Corporal Boy Kite, Boys Harrison, Graveling, Lees and Knight R.

SEVEN-A-SIDE.—A seven-a-side competition was played between the Signals Battalion. Each Battalion supplied an

"A" and " B " team. The "A" team reached the semi-final but were knocked out by Operators' "A" team by 15 points to 0. Boy Lees played in this team and did well.

The " B " team was composed of all Boys and they were: Boy Martin, Lance Corporal Boy Brodie, Boy Graveling, Lance Corporal Boy Forsyth, Lance Corporal Boy Kite, Boy Harrison and Boy Knight R. The first team they met they defeated by 8 points to nil. The second game and the semi-final was played a few days later against Holding Battalion, and our team again won, by 15 points to nil. Lance Corporal Boy Brodie and Lance Corporal Boy Forsyth were the chief scorers in this game. The final of this competition was played against Operators' "A" team, who won by 11 points to nil. The opposition in this game was very strong, because the Operators had an ex-Oxford Blue and two county players in their team. We wish to thank the team for its fine show in this competition and hope it will have better luck next time.

Hockey.—A game of hockey was played between the Junior Workshops and Junior Operators. The Operators won by 7—3. The Senior Workshops are now waiting for revenge.

The Company hockey team played a return match against the R.A.F. on 27th March (away). The ground was rather rough but two quick goals were scored by our forwards. The R.A.F. equalised about fifteen minutes later. The Boys' Company then took the lead through Perkins, but once again it was equalised. The winning goal was scored about five minutes from the end by A. Smith. Thus the Boys' Company have defeated the R.A.F. for the second time.

Cricket.—Cricket this year has started early, owing to the arrival of Sergeant Len Hutton, who is offering his expert knowledge to us each week.

Athletics.—These are also under way with a well-known athletic instructor.

P. E. D.

S.T.C. Wales

2nd Operators Training Battalion

Administrative Wing.—Enlarging on our previous reports of personnel of the " Wing," we have under the spotlight this month two Orderly Room Clerk N.C.O.s, Sergeant Thomas L. J. and Corporal Deane B. H., who help to make the Battalion successfully " tick " over (a little soft music, maestro, please). " Thomo,' one remembers, graduated in his early innocent youth from Maresfield way back in '24 and was let loose in the 1st Divisional Signals when he joined the ranks. He has since acquired fame at two other stations, and over the border in Wales. (Finish with a terrific crescendo, now, maestro.)

" Dixie," his right-hand man, a Birmingham " Terrier," with his poker face and natural aptitude for secret documents and courts martial (ask other clerks), is a good bloke to have around.

Since the entry of H.Q. into the horticultural world, it is a common sight to see either one or the other leering at hard-working Company clerks with a bunch of returns marked " Urgent " in one hand, and a really heart-rending bunch of myosotis in the other; and are the clerks glad that " Tara " does not cultivate raspberries ?

An imposing Section Leader, known colloquially as " Jimmy " of the 1st Glamour Company, and on the Pay and Mess Roll as Section Leader Whitehouse, is rapidly building up a reputation that varies inversely as her service in H.M. Forces sheds lustre on the Orderly Room whilst acting as stenographer to the Commanding Officer, " clam " number three to the Orderly Room Staff and " whipper-in " of the Battalion A.T.S. clerical staff.

An array of talent for the S.T.C. Easter Sports was forwarded to the Sports Officer: Lance Corporal Smith E. R. for the high jump; Lance Corporal Smith E. R. for the long jump; and finally Lance Corporal Smith E. R. for putting the shot. However, cutting out the wisecracks, " Stinker " collared two firsts, a thirst, and a second, failing by an inch in the high jump to Lance Corporal Holmes of General Trades Battalion. Some classy and exciting jumping was witnessed before the winner cleared five feet six inches. " Stinker's " winning putt in the " Shot " contest was very creditable, considering that he had only commenced training on ping-pong balls a week or so before the event. The Sports Committee had great difficulty in restraining him from wearing the " Shot " as a watch-chain charm, and after convincing him that the long jump simply was not done with a sixteen-pound weight in his pocket, his leap of eighteen feet and a half inch was all that was required to carry off the event. We shall never know whether he was inspired by the presence of members of the A.T.S. or whether the wind got under the soles of his " number tens." Later on he was found by the Press massaging his throat in the " Local," and declared in the subsequent interview that he was shortly leaving to take up film work. This idea was, no doubt, inspired by the quality of the throat massage.

After coaxing some of our oldest inhabitants from their bath chairs and feeding them on raw meat for a while, enough players were got together to play No. 1 Company at soccer. It was a good game from the winners' point of view; the final score of 9—0 in the " Wing's " favour was only due to the fact that No. 1 Company turned out a scratch team. Of course, the Admin. team didn't think that they are good, but what is their opinion against millions of others ?

Promotions.—Nothing " Substantive " yet.

Departures.—Lance Corporal Barnes C. W. to Depot Battalion and Signalman Ford R. to General Trades Battalion. You lucky Battalions.

Arrivals.—Nothing to report, so this heading is as good as any to welcome a really " new " arrival: Signalman E. and Mrs. Hudson's son, who arrived last week.

Agony.—It has been forbidden to publish any more details of a certain popular N.C.O.'s forthcoming marriage (under the threat of " Signalsam's " neck bring broken), so any information that has been gleaned from previous notes about Sergeant Evans S. and his " intended " should, for the sake of this journal be treated as " Secret."

SIGNALSAM.

No. 5 Company

Five Company has to be absolutely truthful. Very little to report to you this month.

C.Q.M.S. Shorrock, who joined us so recently, has departed and in doing so gained more promotion.

May we, in conclusion, hope the products of our training will read these notes and may we wish them the very best of luck in their new surroundings.

2nd Depot Battalion

The usual correspondent being on a Senior N.C.O.'s Course at 1st S.T.C., I have been requested to deputise for him. I trust that you won't think too badly of me after reading these notes.

The weather has improved immensely and training is now in full swing, much to the regret of certain Squad Commanders, who have to wend their way to the range in the evening. The lighter nights are also causing a lot of inconvenience to our Group " E " lovers, who had so far succeeded in hiding their light under a bushel (or " black-out "). Several of the P.T. Staff are limping slightly these days, owing, it is suggested, to their having to go further afield than the " Sandunes " or " Clipper."

Promotions.—We congratulate that very energetic and popular officer, our Adjutant, on his recent promotion.

Congratulations also to R.Q.M.S. Gregory on his promotion to R.S.M., and to Corporal Blanshard on his elevation to Lance Sergeant.

Hatched, Matched, and Dispatched.—So far we can only claim to have entries for the first of these columns. To Corporal and Mrs. Reed a daughter, at Croydon, on 23/3/40.

Tours.—There are rumours of week-end camps—fun and game,, etc.—to take place in the near future. Does one have camp fire sing-songs in the " black-out " ?

Organised walks are the order of the day on Sundays and some stalwarts from "A" Company ventured forth on the first one, since when they have been hibernating.

Things the Censor Ought to Know.—That some Sergeants CAN'T go to the concerts now.

Who was the A/C.S.M. who was 21 this week ?

Can " Speedy " really play tennis, or is it just sex appeal ?

What We Want to Know.—Who replies " Orderly Cook " when stopped by the sentry in the early hours of the morning.

Did " Sandy ' really go to Paris.

GRIGGLE.

Yorkshire 3

3rd Operators Training Battalion

Imagine the feelings of a happy family when father casually remarks " I'm going to divorce your mother next week and marry again." The impending transfer of our Commanding Officer caused despondency and alarm, though it is hoped that he will sometimes be drawn to revisit this neighbourhood by the attractions which it is known to hold for him. We refer more particularly to the fruit machine in the Officers' Mess.

However, now that our emotions have had time to adapt themselves to the idea of change, our *lar* once more wears a floral wreath.

These notes are, of necessity, devoted to the recreational side of our activities, but it must not be supposed that the latter predominate. In fact, if the rest of the new army is as keen on training as our share of it is, Hitler will need all the stocks of aspirin that he used to export, and a good deal more.

Sport.—Battalion sport has improved considerably in the last month. We now have a fairly active rugger team, our latest acquisition being Signalman Sweatman, who played for Birkenhead Park in pre-war days. The cross-country team ran against the Depot Battalion, whom we beat by a narrow margin of four points. The Battalion hockey team are still very successful ; they beat Whitby West End by a considerable margin in their last game. We are all expecting great things from the cricket team, which is to start practice at the nets shortly.

Entertainments.—The Easter period peaked the spring gaiety. Dances, cabarets, E.N.S.A. concerts, revues by well-known amateur societies, and a London dance band almost surfeited this Centre. Many visitors added to the khaki-clad crowds which enjoyed the many amusements provided, both indoor and outdoor. The weather was bright and exhilarating. Altogether, to most, Easter was a very happy time.

The big event of the month was a Cinderella Dance, organised by the Entertainments Officers of the S.T.C. as a compliment to and for the benefit of the members of the A.T.S. The financial result exceeded expectations. The dance was held in the largest ballroom and a combined dance band of selected instrumentalists from all the troops here was enthusiastically received. We modestly claim our band to be the equal of any dance band in the North of England ; perhaps this is a high standard, but, as we do in work, we set a high standard in play.

For a time our usual Sunday evening socials were suspended, for various reasons, but we are holding another shortly, for which new talent has been found. Amongst the fine type of manly recruits we are training there is a wealth of musical and dramatic talent, so we have formed a Dramatic Society. More of this will be heard soon.

"A" Company Depot Battalion

It is with regret that we open this month with news of the departure of our energetic Sports and Entertainments Officer, We wish him all the best of luck in his new duties.

Training is going on in the same way—this is enlightened with the coming of some respectable weather, causing an amount of spring feeling amongst the lads, not to mention those responsible for the cleanliness of our billets. This is the time when we are glad to be out of use in our homes, but at the same time wishing they were up here with us to do their stuff and to save us the job of getting on our knees and doing our own spring cleaning.

We offer our congratulations to Sergeant Bott and Corporal Wright on their venture into the marriage arena (as if one war isn't sufficient).

And to our C.S.M., who has at last fallen for the attractions of a spot of leave.

Sergeant Kennedy has had the distinction of being the first N.C.O. to be selected for a Drill Course. If he moves as fast as that as he moves his squads, there will be nothing to hold him.

SEXTON.

"C" Company Depot Battalion

General.—The exigency of time does not permit these notes to be lengthy, so we must procrastinate till the next issue. Suffice to say that we hope to contribute regularly in future. Life here is pleasant, being one glorious round of dances, " flicks," fish and chips, etc., added to which our abodes are made as comfortable as possible, and old faces are the same, though waistlines have altered.

Training is in full swing and, in common with other Units, our size has grown considerably since the commencement of hostilities. Already a number of recruits have left us for " Somewhere."

Postings.—As even " walls have ears " these days, so we are told, it is not policy to give details, but to all of those who have felt the fold, we wish them the very best of luck in their new environment.

Howler.—Fitter explaining to Driver why the brake shoe was worn more on one side than the other. " The side showing most wear is operated by the footbrake and the other by the handbrake."

ACK-EDDY.

A.A. Signals, Nottinghamshire

Removal.—During the last month we have had a mighty upheaval. Our goods and chattels have been packed and we have been moved on. This is the third time that the Unit Orderly Room has been involved in a removal, and the staff employed therein are wondering whether such an experience will qualify them for employment with Messrs. Pickfords when the war is over.

In our new place of residence No. 1 Company Headquarters has joined Unit Headquarters and the various messes have been combined. The building is a mansion situated in its own spacious grounds. Formerly the abode of a titled owner, it has been vacant for some years, but its appearance has now been made more or less ship-shape by some hard work. It woe betides anyone to " earn " a fatigue as there is always plenty of cleaning, etc., to be done. The oak floor in the hall shone with special brilliance after the Company Orderly Room clerks had had the misfortune to be late on parade.

Apparently the new Unit Orderly Room had previously been a bedroom, and the silvery white wallpaper suggests that the Orderly Room might be called " the Room of Purity," a description which may not, of course, be altogether apt.

Commissions, Appointments and Promotions.—There are no commissions to announce this month, but we extend our congratulations to Corporal Collins W. H., appointed Lance Sergeant ; Lance Corporal Walsh M., promoted Corporal ; and Signalman Fitzgerald S. X., appointed Lance Corporal. Only three promotions in a month, but we are hoping for more satisfactory results in the future.

Discharge.—We are sorry to report the discharge on medical grounds of Signalman Pratt G. A., and it is hoped that he will soon be able to find suitable employment in civil life.

Courses.—Signalmen Askew A. and Gordon D. W. have proceeded on an Instrument Mechanic Course and we know that they will take full advantage of the training afforded them.

Sports.—It is hoped that it will be possible to arrange one, or perhaps two, tennis courts on the extensive lawns within the grounds of our new abode. It is desired to run a cricket team this year and it is hoped that the weather and the exigencies of the Service will be kind to us.

Entertainment.—On 12th April No. 2 Company organised a social effort, which proved to be very popular. The cabaret

"A.A. SIGNALS, SOUTH-EAST ENGLAND"

SOME IMPRESSIONS—By SIGNALMAN L. T. BOWYER



NEVERTHELESS, WE STILL THINK WE'RE BEAUTIFUL

show provided by some of the boisterous element was extremely entertaining.

On 19th April a successful All Ranks Dance was organised by Headquarters and No. 1 Company for the purpose of swelling the Divisional Welfare Fund. The dance went with a real good swing and it was agreed by everyone that the effort had been a marvellous success. Midnight descended upon us far too soon. Amongst the distinguished visitors were the Marquis of Titchfield, Lord Lieutenant of the County, the Lord Mayor and Sheriff of the City, Lord Trent, Major-General M. F. Grove-White, D.S.O., O.B.E., and Air Vice-Marshal T. L. Leigh-Mallory, D.S.O. It is anticipated that the size of the cheque will exceed the expectations of Mrs. Grove-White, Hon. Secretary of the Welfare Fund.

Marriages.—Spring is in the air, and the following have succumbed to the knock-out blow from Cupid: 25th March, Signalman Holt B. to Edna May Cox; 4th April, Signalman Dearling T. B. to Lorna Marian Joyce Mills; 20th April, Sergeant Orton F. R. to Kathleen Mary Treece.

Medals.—Sergeant Orton F. R. qualified for and has been awarded the General Service Medal with clasp " Palestine."

General.—The Adjutant has assumed the appointment of "A/U/Mr. Middleton," and the kitchen garden is now beginning to take shape. We are convinced that if the Adjutant is as successful in identifying the foodstuffs produced as he is at classifying the weeds dug up, there will be some gastronomical efforts this summer.

An amusing incident occurred in the Sergeants' Mess which is worth reporting. The members were relaxing in the ante-room after a good meal and the music of the wireless was conducive to general drowsiness. The Company Sergeant Major's head commenced to nod. The musical director at the B.B.C. must have felt sympathetic, because the strains of " Sleep on, Beloved " were suddenly wafted through the ether, but the loud cheer which greeted the tune awakened the C.S.M. and the B.B.C. effort was thus wasted.

A casual glance at any list of names may often prove amusing, but it is not known whether a list displayed on a certain bedroom door was arranged purposely or whether it was just a coincidence. The names were Bull, Goat, Pigden and Wormall.

On the first day after removal to our new quarters a Post Office telephone engineer had been fixing the telephone. On his way out the C.Q.M.S. mistook him for the new recruit who had reported that day and the poor fellow was nearly in uniform before he could explain his identity.

H. S.

A.A. Signals, South-East England

Headquarters

We have not many items of news to record, but there are, perhaps, a few which have fallen within our sphere. We have all experienced a very thorough medical examination and have been classified in our various medical groups. This examination certainly aroused a great deal of interest, particularly our individual performances in climbing on to and dismounting from the " chair." We hear dark rumours that we are to be inoculated against divers diseases in the not too distant future, so it will be a case of " Mind my arm."

We have had the initial meeting of our Sports Committee, under the able chairmanship of Lieutenant J. W. Hyde. The meeting revealed a strong swimming contingent and to Lance Corporal Young H. A. was delegated the task of taking the necessary initial steps to bring a swimming and water polo section into being. We are also to have a hand ball league and we are to be initiated into its mysteries by two of the officers. Other topics which came under review were cricket and table tennis, and investigations are being made in those directions. We are indebted to our hosts, the R.A.F., for their generous offer of facilities for playing and for coaching. The tennis season has already opened and several members of the Unit have sallied forth to do battle. There is a certain difficulty in hitting the ball into the desired direction and elevation, and the racquet frames appear to be as well made as ever. But these things are usually in evidence at the beginning of a season and we look forward to a marked improvement in form with every confidence.

There have been great events at the "Attery." Firstly, we understand that vast quantities of excellent vegetable produce may be expected in due season, as the garden has been liberally sown with seeds. Secondly, we welcome the inauguration of the Social Committee. Senior Leader Smith, representing the A.T.S., and Sergeant Burchell, representing the men, will, we feel sure, raise the standard of the ever-popular Friday evenings to an even higher plane. Indeed, the artistic posters upon our notice board assure us that this result has already been achieved.

We feel that we cannot close these notes without commenting upon the number of extremely cutting trouser creases to be observed, together with a very pleased expression on the face of the wearer. Yes, some of us have been able to exchange our well-worn garments for things of beauty, but previous experience leads us to doubt whether they will last long enough to be a joy for ever.

No. 1 Company

We are now comfortably settled in our new camp. All the essential installations are completed. The last remaining workmen are constructing a formidable wire fence around the boundaries. We are nicely " dug-in," as they say.

Our " house-warming " was the outstanding social event of the month. The village lassies attended in force and there was something like a pilgrimage from a neighbouring town. The dance was enjoyable, though crowded; there was no sanctuary in the bar. Latterly, a few couples discovered unorthodox sitting-out places, which ingenuity relieved the discomfort of those who wanted to dance.

A moderate charge was made for admission, the proceeds being devoted to the garden fund. As a result, our horticulturists now possess many garden tools and a lot of optimism.

A small party, including three officers and the C.S.M., attended from No. 2 Company. Several of the gunners also came along and the O.C., in a brief speech, gave them a special welcome.

We have been visited by a number of amateur concert parties in this vicinity and have now decided to have a crack at this kind of thing ourselves. Corporal Bingham, one of the old Splinters, scrutinises the squad very closely nowadays before he marches them away. He is " talent-spotting."

Our newly-formed soccer team is one of our proudest possessions. After losing two good games against the local railwaymen, they have really got into their stride. They beat an R.A. team 6—1, visited No. 2 Company and beat them 3—2, then returned and beat the R.A. again. Several uesful players have been found among the recruits. The team has been invited to compete in a local cup competition.

Now they are talking about forming a rugger side.

A party from the Sergeants' Mess recently attended the wedding of Sergeant Leedham. It is understood that, next to the bride, they attracted more attention than anybody else in church. They returned to camp, supremely happy and smothered with confetti. Sergeant Leedham, who was also present, returned a few days later.

But life here is not all weddings and football matches. Trade Tests are in the wind, and daily lectures occupy many of the intervals between our normal work. A very comprehensive curriculum has been adopted.

In all our activities—Signals work, studies and our fun and games—we can claim with truth that we are now " hard at it."

A.A. Signals, Scotland

Headquarters.

Our news column this month appears to be monopolised by arrivals and departures within and without the Unit. Lieutenant J. M. Evans has returned from No. 3 Company, who are being presented, in exchange, with 2nd Lieutenant W. Gardiner from No. 1 Company. 2nd Lieutenant A. A. Wilson, who has been with us for only a few months, has departed for " Somewhere in England," and 2nd Lieutenant E. E. Bailey now fills a place in No. 2 Company's billet. C.S.M. Drake,

No. 3 Company, has stepped up to A/R.S.M., and is rapidly becoming acquainted (to put it mildly) with No. 1 Company.

Here is stop press news! Last evening, and quite a bit of this morning, too, were spent by all ranks of Headquarters and No. 1 Company at the second Company dance of the year. A last-minute rush for tickets harassed the Committee and filled the hall quite early in the evening. To revert to stereo—a good time was had by all. (Perhaps we should except a certain not-too-tall Driver (I.C.) who shot half-way across the floor in a prone position during an eightsome reel, helped on his way by the lusty efforts of his rather lofty A.T.S. partner!)

ACK-ACK.

No. 1 Company

We are now in the throes of the "Grow More Food Campaign." With some five acres at our disposal, we intend to become self-supporting—or nearly. Won't the R.A.S.C. and the N.A.A.F.I. be annoyed when we offer to sell them some succulent vegs. We'll be able to get our own back then.

The "season" with us is now drawing to a close and we heard someone mention cricket the other day. A concert and a dance made a fitting finale to a long, cold winter in which concerts and dances have been as beacons to weary travellers.

On 2nd April the Commanding Officer and the officers of the Unit gave a sherry-party-cum-dance, when we were honoured by the presence of the Divisional Commander and other high officers of the Staff. Organised chiefly by our Adjutant, the affair was voted a great success and the dancing was of the most enjoyable, despite the fact that most of us were "revelling in the joys of vaccination." We must hand it to our D.R.s' dance band for their lively music. Our Colonel also deserves a pat on the back for his gallant performances on the dance floor despite the effects of a fall in a slippery garage a day or two earlier. As tough as any of the youngsters, he is!

In the midst of all this social activity, however, we still contrive to run the various Signal offices, etc., of the Division, with great acceptance; but provided the war hasn't taken any new turn by the summer, we should have an estate worth visiting. We hear that some of the officers are keen to do some digging for victory and we are eager to see them set about it. Perhaps if the story got around that a previous owner of "our house" left £300,000 and that some of it might be in the garden, we'd have no lack of enthusiastic gardeners.

We've had a few new recruits come our way lately and they are shaping very well. We have also got a new R.S.M. who looks and sounds as if he'd soon lick them all into shape. He used to be in the King's Company of the Grenadier Guards, whoever they may be, but we are hopeful of his early acquisition of full "Signals" status.

To go back to that £300,000—wish we could! If we find any of it, we'll buy pipes and drums and become really Scottish. The trouble would then start in earnest—would the tartan be MacGregor or Dunbar?

YOUNG REEKIE.

No. 3 Company

At the time of writing, the personnel of No. 3 Company are on or have just enjoyed seven days' privilege leave. The training still proceeds and the results of the last Teleprinter Course ware highly satisfactory.

On St. Patrick's Day (17th March) there was a shramrock distribution. The men of a neighbouring Battery also participated and the shamrock was distributed by the wives of officers of the Battery. Afterwards we paraded to St. Mark's Parish Church, headed by the Battery Pipe Band.

Easter was a time of quietude, when we were given four days off work and training. No leave was given, so we had to make as merry a time as possible, and judging by the vocal and other efforts that rent the air, we succeeded. Darts and ping-pong also proved very popular, and on Easter Monday we had a whist drive in the Signal Hut, the winner being Lance Corporal Houston A. J. The booby prize was won by Signalman Quirey. Our second smoking concert was held on Thursday, 28th March, and we were honoured by the presence of the A.T.S. personnel in the Camp.

Still another Signalman has deserted the state of bachelordom. He is Signalman Getty D., and we wish him every happiness in his new state.

We all heartily congratulate our new C.S.M. From the formation of the Company, C.Q.M.S. Wheeler F. J. proved himself a man and a signaller to the fingertips. His successor as C.Q.M.S. is Sergeant Maitland T., whom we also congratulate.

AMBRO.

The First (London) Ack Ack's

A big event in the history of the Unit was the official opening on 16th March of the Officers' Mess at H.Q. To mark this important occasion, a celebration dinner was given by the Hon. Colonel, Sir William Prescott, Bart., C.B.E., J.P.; many distinguished guests being present.

The company included Field-Marshal Lord Milne, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O., LL.D.; Major-General Sir Cecil Pereira, K.C.B., C.M.G., Major-General F. L. M. Crossman, D.S.O., M.C.; Lieutenant-Colonel G. C. Wickins, C.B.E., T.D., Lieutenant-Colonel Morley Peel, M.B.E., T.D., Lieutenant-Colonel A. Hemsley, M.B.E., T.D.; Majors Croucher, Moore, Beaver, Chadwick, Square, and Miers; Captains Gibbs, Blair, Haynes, Whittles, McMillan, Simpson, Killeen, and Mitchell; Lieutenants Lassman, Wailer, and Lieutenant (Quartermaster) Hall; 2nd Lieutenants Winstanley, Brockbank, Griffiths (now A/Captain), Cooke, Humphries, Bruce, Hinde, Lyons, Ripley and Prescott; Professor E. N. da C. Andrade; the Rev. Bryan S. W. Green; and Messrs. Ebbut, Watts and Freestone.

A very enjoyable meal was provided under the direction of the Hon. Mess Secretary, Captain J. K. Haynes, who was warmly congratulated on the success of his efforts.

After the toast of "The King," and a toast to the Colonel-in-Chief (H.R.H. The Princess Royal), Major-General Crossman proposed the health of the 1st Anti-Aircraft Divisional Signals; he prophesied a successful career for the Unit both in war and in peace.

Replying, Sir William Prescott welcomed the very distinguished guests, and expressed his satisfaction that after much difficulty the building of the new Headquarters was nearing completion. He welcomed especially those officers who were formerly concerned with the destiny of the Unit, namely, Colonel Wickins and Colonel Peel.

Sir William said that the campaigners of the last war found this new war one of a very different type. "Moreover, the Dominions and Colonies," he continued, "have come to our aid in far greater numbers than they did twenty-six years ago. The fine and brave people of Turkey are with us. Command of the sea is ours. The trades unions and the Labour Party are rendering magnificent service. What a source of comfort it is to look upon this united country of ours."

"We look to the younger officers in this struggle," concluded the Hon. Colonel. "We know that they will not fail to keep up the honour and the traditions of the Corps to which they and I have the honour to belong."

Proposing the health of the guests, Colonel Hemsley began humorously by saying that it had amused him to observe in the reference books that on the day that he was born, Field-Marshal Lord Milne was made a Captain in charge of a Company. "This," he remarked, "makes me feel a very young man."

Colonel Hemsley expressed great pleasure on seeing Colonel Wickins at this important meeting, because he liked to regard him as "the father of the Unit." With considerable foresight he had visualised the needs of London's defences, and caused the Unit to grow from a small band of enthusiasts to what was, at the end of his period of command, the biggest Signals Unit in the British Army.

Replies to the toast were given by Field-Marshal Lord Milne, Major-General Pereira, Colonel Wickins and Professor Andrade.

In a stirring speech, burning with the fire of past campaigns, Lord Milne exhorted young officers to concentrate on the Army as a career. He stressed the need for them to prepare for a long, stern struggle, and not to assume that this would be a short war and that they were about to return to civil life. "Peace

is looked upon as the normal life," he said, " but the normal life is war. We are for ever struggling."

His lordship referred to Major-General Pereira and himself as " has beens," and said, " I envy you, gentlemen. Don't let the country go about moping. You are going to make this your very lives until you get the peace that is lasting."

" I have the greatest admiration for the Corps to which you belong," he continued. " You are the nerves of the Army. London is looking to you to defend it in its hour of danger. I know that you will not fail."

Lord Milne mentioned that he was associated with the first Territorial Signals Unit to be sent to France in the last war and that he was amazed at its efficiency. " I wish you, as an old soldier," he concluded, amid applause, " the best of good fortune and all good wishes."

Major-General Pereira congratulated the architect, Mr. Watts, on a fine piece of work. Speaking of the Unit, he said, " I know that when the time for action comes, you will deliver the goods."

Colonel Wickins urged the need to fight for the continuation of civilisation in order to avoid a gradual return to savagery. Next, he outlined the growth and ultimate division of the original 1st A.A. Divisional Signals, T.A., under his command. " It makes me very happy," he concluded, " to feel that I can come among you, not merely as an old C.O., but as a friend."

In a racy speech, Professor Andrade, the famous scientist, spoke of some of the more amazing and comic inventions that had come to him for consideration. He instanced the case of the man who said that he had invented a box with a telephone at one end ; all the user had to do was to speak his letter at one end, and it came out neatly typewritten and punctuated at the other. The Professor was duly impressed and enquired on what system the box worked. "Ah, Professor, that's where you come in," was the reply ; " its the system I want you to produce for me."

During dinner, musical selections, including the Regimental March, " Begone, Dull Care," were played by a Unit Orchestra led by Sergeant Baker E. F., the players being Corporal Manley, Lance Corporal Pope, Signalmen French and Chapman, and Volunteer Craster K.

Other Unit social occasions are somewhat overshadowed by the foregoing, but several are of interest. On 19th March the Westminster Bank Dramatic Society and Concert Party entertained members of the Unit with a clever two-hour show. A feature of the performance was a short but very witty play entitled " World Without Men."

The fortnightly concerts in the Brompton Dugout continue to grow more and more popular and a good deal of unsuspected talent is being unearthed.

During Easter, Bach's St. Matthew Passion was given in Holy Trinity Church, Brompton, by the London Philharmonic Orchestra, well-known soloists, and choirs, under the conductorship of Mr. Frank Woodhouse, F.R.C.O., the church organist. A point of special interest to the Unit was the presence among the basses of our Commanding Officer.

Several members of the Unit and attached A.T.S. had the good fortune to be present at E.N.S.A.'s big concert, arranged by Sir Seymour Hicks and Mr. Basil Dean, at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane. It was a grand occasion, at which it was a rare privilege to be a guest, and one which will be remembered if only for the intense spirit of comradeship that seemed to fill the entire theatre from floor to ceiling.

Needless to say, military matters have by no means been overlooked during recent weeks, and the general efficiency of the Unit has displayed marked developments in many directions. It is worth recording that in the rifle drill competitions, the Sections that secured first and second places were seperated by only one fifth of a point.

HAVE YOU JOINED THE SIGNALS ASSOCIATION ?

Home Counties Signals (2nd Edition)

This is an era of comings and goings, and we have in no sense been exempt. " Inky " Udell, who has quickly installed himself in the affection of the troops, has fled with his "Army."

John Baker walks around looking portentious and goes into a huddle with C.S.M. Donaghy, whose eyes are fixed on other horizons. We shall miss them and many others of the Southgate days when industry acquired " extra-territorial " status. May they prosper ! Meanwhile we have been glad to welcome old faces—some on leave and casting a sidelong glance towards the " Corner Shop of Reminiscence "—such as C.S.M. Woodman and others of the 1st Edition.

A great debt is owed to local society, who have established a Social Centre, where good fun is to be had in plenty.

We have heard of a cook of a detached section, who complained that the troops would not eat the contents of his stock pot ! No prizes are offered for the " solution."

(Training Report.—There is nothing further to communicate.)

Thames and Medway Signals

General.—The monthly appearance of THE WIRE on the barrack-room table can be taken as a milestone of time. As each month slips by we get to wondering what the next one will bring. The business of " whipping " the Section into shape has been carried out swiftly and smoothly by the N.C.O.s and what regulars were with us at the outbreak of war. Unfortunately we are gradually losing these men one by one, and the day is not far distant when our strength will be composed entirely of " recruits." But so well have they done their job that we are all confidently ready for anything " that man " may think he has in store for us.

Departures.—Our most recent loss was that of Section Sergeant Manning. His posting to the " Nth Division was received with no mean measure of regret, but in wishing him bon voyage the Section extends to him their heartiest appreciation of his good service to us all during his stay with us as Senior Sergeant, and the best of luck with his new Company.

We are also sorry to lose Signalman Harbord to Company Headquarters, but hope this will prove to be the first step towards the realising of his ambitions.

Arrivals.—There has been a couple of " comings " to counteract the " goings," however, and we take this opportunity of welcoming Signalmen Holmes and Sexton and hope they like their stay with us as much as we enjoy their company.

Sport.—There has not been much activity in this respect since our last notes, owing to part of the team being on leave on one or other of the four weeks, but we would like to take this opportunity of showing our appreciation to the Eaton Manor Football



THAMES AND MEDWAY SIGNALS F.C.

Sigmn. Moon, E., Plane, C., Pankhurst, D., Redington, J., Rowe, C., Orton, W., Hall, C., Skippen, H., L/Cpl. Peters, C., Sigmn. Scott, L. Vincent, G.

Club, of Hackney, London, for their kind and sporting gesture in presenting our team with a complete set of football jerseys in the Regimental colours. Many thanks, lads! May they bring us many victories in the field.

Agonies.—After four months of absence it is rumoured that "Don"—the Don R.s' bike—will shortly be fit for the road again. "Mind my bike!" (by permission of J.W.). He says he's got corns on his knees through doing room-orderlies. He'll get 'em somewhere else now—from riding—if he stops in the saddle long enough!

Then there's old George "Any Two"; local darts champ. He's just returned, after being billeted at the "Red Lion"; and by the look of him he hasn't been suffering from night starvation either. But being graded B2 by the M.O. hasn't disheartened him. In fact he's made up with it. (He insists on a B2 hammer nowadays for plugging. Toffee variety.)

JIMMIE THE ONE.

West Country Divisional Signals, Devonshire

We extend a very hearty welcome to our new Commanding Officer, and hope his stay will be a long and pleasant one. To our late C.O. we say *au revoir* and thank him for all he did for us.

The Trade Tests which were taking place when our last notes were written produced very good results, and we have practically doubled our previous numbers.

Training in all branches continues to produce the desired results.

We are extremely pleased at the way in which our new arrivals settle down, and get on with their respective jobs.

MERCURY.

No. 1 Company

Training.—Individual training finished at the end of March, since when training has been by Companies. In the Trade Tests held at the end of I.T. a good supply of No. 1 Company men made higher groups. "BIII's" are now quite a common sight, and "Group E.'s" can be seen at every street corner. Even "BII's," an almost unknown quantity in T.A. days, are no great rarity to-day. Incidentally, several of the recently-joined A.C.I. have shown the older hands what can be achieved in a few months.

Since I.T. ceased a number of men have gone on Operators' Courses. The D.R.s have quite come into their own, with their additional machines. The spring weather has seen them speeding across the countryside, hunting out elusive map references in incredibly narrow lanes. "M" Section, of course, still continue at their secret and mysterious labours within the inner recesses of their workshops.

Recently an influx of A.C.I. has been drafted to us, and are settling down well.

Change of Command.—The Company, in common with the rest of the Unit, has to say farewell to the C.O., who will be greatly missed, having been with the Unit for many years. At the same time we are very pleased to welcome our new Commanding Officer, and hope that his time of command will be a very happy and successful one.

Sport.—The main event of the month has been, of course, the final of the Divisional Rugby Cup. Unfortunately the hopes of the Unit were not realised, and the team lost to the Devons, after a very gallant fight, by 4 points to 10. No. 1 Company provided seven men for the team: Corporal Banks, Signalmen McDonald, Cork, Sutton E. and Windell in the pack, and Lance Corporal Ife and Signalman Velvin in the three-quarter line.

ONECOY.

No. 2 Company

With the month of April the weather has improved, and spring is here at last. Most of the Company have had their second week's leave, also the A.C.I. a special four days for Easter.

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The original strength of the Company has been almost doubled with the formation of three additional Sections. These Sections are comprised of A.C.I. recently called up for service, and although only just past the recruit stage are showing great promise.

Company Training is now proceeding along the same lines as Individual Training, and we have also a complete Section training a few miles away in a country mansion.

Congratulations to all other ranks on qualifying in the respective trade groups at the recent Trade Testing Board. With all this extra pay and spring here—well, lots of things can happen.

Entertainment.—The weekly dances and concert parties are still as popular as ever, as well as a sing-song now and again. Life is certainly made brighter. We were unfortunate to lose our Company Dance Band owing to postings and courses, but another is in the course of preparation, and will soon be making itself heard.

TWOCOY.

No. 3 Company

Since the last edition of THE WIRE many changes have taken place. We have had a great number of personnel transferred to us from another Company and have also lost a lot of our pals who were with us at the outbreak of war. While sorry to lose them we wish them the best of luck in their new Unit.

Some members of the Company have gone on Courses; from what we have heard, they are having a good time and also obtaining a good speed in their operating. I'm sure our O.C. is pleased to hear that!

Now that winter is over and summer is drawing closer, our thoughts are naturally turning to cricket. We have some good players in the Company and we hope they will do well. While on the subject of sport, it is with deep regret that we have to say that the Unit rugby team lost in the final of the Divisional Rugby Trophy match. It was a grand game and the two sides were fairly evenly matched, but, unfortunately, we finished second best.

THREECOY.

— Divisional Signals (East Anglia)

General.—We are afraid that we rather missed the boat with our last notes, and that the news was a little stale when it did appear. Also, owing to the exigencies of the Service, these notes must, perforce, cover a long period. Still, there may be some who have " rumbled " who we are, and will be a little interested.

Well, we are still " put " at the place which was described so definitely in the last notes, but there are strong rumours that a move is imminent, and, as is usual these days, the locality must not be divulged. A move, however, would be all to the good, and the general wish seems to be " the sooner the better."

Training goes on apace, and the difficulties experienced in this respect by the arrivals of Intakes and Recruits are being easily smoothed out by the system in vogue. A rather surprising number of " voluntary enlistments " have come along about this period.

Social.—A variety concert was given to all ranks by the local Town Police on 29th March. A convenient hall was placed at their disposal, by the kindness of the directors of a well-known firm, and the members of the Force certainly put on a splendid show, capping it by the provision of refreshments. On this occasion we had the very great pleasure of the company of our Commanding Officer, with several other officers of the Unit. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evening, and the hospitality shown to all ranks was appreciated to the full.

Sergeants' Mess.—The dance and cabaret mentioned in our last notes was a " bumper," and special credit must be given to S.S.M. Dawes for his efforts. A fine attendance, both civil and military, with the presence of many officers. The Unit Dance Band made its debut, and certainly may be said to have well justified its existence. It is proposed to stage another of these functions, arranged by the same Committee (2), in the immediate future, and we have some regret that it will probably be a farewell affair.

L'Envoi.—We should much like to give many more particulars of the Unit, e.g., the Officers. Who we are, and where, and why. Perhaps later we shall be allowed to do so. Some of the names mentioned in these notes will be familiar. Others that may be : R.Q.M.S. Birchall, C.S.M. Phillips, Sergeants (O.R.) Fouracre (Charzi), Smalley and Tagg, and Lance Corporal Dejong.

As stated earlier, we are probably moving elsewhere very shortly. We have not been too well circumstanced, especially in view of the weather conditions of the past winter, but we must, we think, admit that the discomforts have been more than offset by our happy relations with the friends we have made in the district. We can only hope that we shall be as fortunate in our new surroundings.

SPORTS NOTES

Football.—We are sorry to say the prophecies of the last notes were not entirely fulfilled. We certianly managed a victory over the " Rotatints " to the tune of 2—1, but the E.A. Signals again proved superior, and won a hard game by the only goal scored. It must be admitted that it was the excellent performance of our goalie, Signalman Perkins, that saved us from a much more severe defeat.

On 20th March we met the local Town Police. At first glance it appeared that we were " for it," if only by reason of length and breadth, but when it became known that two " pros." and a " semi " were included in the team we felt sure of it. To add to our troubles, we lost the toss (as usual ; why doesn't Corporal Crooks use a double-headed penny ?) and had to face a half-gale of wind. In spite of this we managed to score the first goal within ten seconds of the " off." And we had very hard 'uck in not piling on another one or two in the next ten minutes. The Police, however, mainly depending on their professional wing, shortly evened up things, and more so, and at half-time the score stood at 4—1 in their favour. Fifteen minutes after the re-start the Unit team came right on top of their form, and piled on a further three goals. The game ended in a 4—4 draw, but we all



Divisional Signals (East Anglia) Football Team

think that with another five minutes to go we should have "brought home the bacon." All worked hard, our goalie again putting up a splendid show.

On Good Friday the E.A. Signals again entertained us. The less said of this afiair the better. We came away with a 3—1 defeat. Some necessary changes had to be made in the team, due to leave, etc., but there is no doubt that the E.A.s are a very hot lot, and thoroughly deserved their win.

We met Sangamo-Weston on 13th April. A fairly strong team, representative of a firm that may be said to have adopted the Unit since its arrival in the district. A 2—2 draw was a satisfactory and gratifying result. (Our previous meeting was 3—2 in our favour.)

(It is a matter of regret that the Unit attendance at football is so small. The efforts of C.Q.M.S. Simpson, off and on the field, and of Corporal Crooks and his merry men deserve much more appreciation. What about it? Perhaps the photograph will remind you that we have a team.)

Boxing.—The Inter-Company Meeting was a great success, but as it was more or less a try-out, it would hardly be fair to publish results. There has not been time to select the strongest Company representatives, and it was difficult to get down to anything like evenly balanced weights. The meeting served, nevertheless, in giving the Unit Boxing Officer (Lieutenant L. J. Anderson) a fair idea of the talent he would be able to call upon for the needle match with East Anglian Divisional Signals. This affair was held on 10th April, and was really a splendid show. The E.A.s turned out all their star turns, and came along full of confidence. Results were as follows:

FLYWEIGHT. Signalman Axelrod beat Lance Corporal Reed (E.A.).

FEATHER-WEIGHT.—Signalman Lewis (E.A.) beat Signalman Fryer. Signalman Fryer beat Signalman Anderson (E.A.).

WELTER-WEIGHT. Lance Corporal Hughes beat Signalman Simmons (E.A.). Signalman Summerskill (E.A.) beat Lance Corporal Worby. Signalman Butter (E.A.) beat Signalman Vacha. Signalman Poole beat Signalman Marlow (E.A.). Signalman Fox (E.A.) beat Signalman Francis.

MIDDLE-WEIGHT. Signalman Dulea (E.A.) beat Signalman Lipman. Signalman Morris beat Signalman Fuller (E.A.). Signalman Riches (E.A.) beat Corporal Beattie.

HEAVY-WEIGHT. Lance Sergeant Griffiths beat Lance Corporal Buckingham (E.A.).

Result—a draw. (Which was as it should be.)

SPECIAL CONTEST. Sergeant Herberts beat Flight Sergeant Jones, R.A.F. A really good fight. The R.A.F. man was strong and clever, and could hit with power. Herberts won't forget that "sockdollaper" in the second round for quite a time. Superior generalship won the fight for him, however,

To fill up the evening, four Inter-Company contests were arranged: Barnes beat St. Clair; Heritage beat Edmonston; Sergeant Tagg beat Lance Corporal Cooke; McGuigan beat Koren.

The names of the officials may be familiar to some. Referee: Major J. McConville, M.C. M.C.: 2nd Lieutenant W. Murphy. Judges: Lieutenant-Colonel J. Lilley. R.S.M. A. E. Kenyon.

It is with regret we announce that, owing to unforeseen circumstances, the return meeting has been postponed indefinitely

A. T. N.

Northern Ireland District Signal Company

This month, when we began to write the notes, we thought we had not much to say for ourselves. We had only to screw up our faces, and think awhile, however, when actions and events arose, and we feel they may as well be set down here in orderly sequence for the benefit of future pensioners of our Royal Corps and posterity.

Good-bye to Pink.—Signalmen Pink, Dobell, Robinson, Valentine and Brooks have left us for another Unit somewhere in England. From the letters they write we learn there is no place like home, but when we read between the lines it seems that what we get so easy in Northern Ireland is much harder to acquire across the water.

Good-bye to Bert.—Signalman Mayne has also left us for a Unit not far from his domestic hearth; he's a good fellow, so should do well. As a Supplementary Reservist he joined us at the recommencement of the Great War. By his strong characteristics, adaptability and industry, he very early distinguished himself here, first in the Signal Office, then as a big voice on the men's messing committee, and finally in the Orderly Room, where his previous experience in the Post Office and long acquaintance with a ready reckoner enabled him, when called upon, to do the duties of Pay Clerk. Bert served in the last war and has served well in this. His popular expression, "early to bed and early to rise," sometimes caused a minor duel in the barrack room, but, on the whole, he was well liked and we wish him luck. His hobbies were of a collective character—a passion for date stamps, blue pencils, blue patrols, books and birds, and he was never before so happy as on that night when he put up his second good conduct stripe and bobbed down the avenue with the regimental mail tucked underneath his arm.

Jonah and the Wail.—Sergeant Jones is a domesticated man amd his common maxim is "Dig for Victory." To that end Sergeant Jones has long agitated for a plot of ground whereon to speed the plough and heave the spade. His first allotment, in rear of some quarters occupied by the Women's Auxiliary Territorial Service proved to be of such virgin soil that Sergeant Jones was incontinently chased away and the ground confiscated by the ladies. For a short while Jonah had a wail and sat up at the window of the top deck of the barrack block watching, with clenched teeth, the newly-turned earth slowly returning to its previous unkempt state, but sure as the sunshine follows the rain, another day dawned on which Sergeant Jones was awarded another allotment, outside the barracks, but it will do just as well, he says, as he rolls downstairs with a chuckle.

Medical Classification.—The Unit has been examined, tapped and tested. We have been medically classified in categories, and do we feel good? For with just one or two exceptions, we are all A1, which means we can see to shoot or drive, can undergo severe strain without defects of locomotion, with only minor remediable disabilities, and the locality in which we may normally be employed is any area in the theatre of war.

Goon Harbour.—That is what they will call this place when our particular bit of history is written. This is a depot for goons. They are coming over weekly now, in clusters, as Signalman Joe Denehy would say, very smartly; these new lads, fresh from England, are very first class, all clad in battle dress, the 1940 glamour suit. Well, of course, they are welcome here. Those who wear the Signals badge must know it is the symbol of speed and adroitness. The ambitious Signalman of to-day should know that, just as over here his personality allows him to cross all thresholds, so very soon, perhaps, will he be required to display the same dash when crossing enemy frontiers.

Conclusion.—No one who has been stationed here in Northern Ireland can deny that he has been lucky. From a perusal of these notes it might seem that we have not much to do, but let us repeat that there is work here and plenty of it, but the obscuring veil of censorship must hang over the details of the technicalities. What makes the life attractive these days is the lifting of the black-out with the lengthening of the hours of sunshine. It is good to be alive, and though Hitler may attempt to alter the map of Europe he cannot alter the weather. At the moment of writing, he and his riotous time-destroying crew have embarked upon a further stage of aggression in Norway. We know not yet whether a British Expeditionary Force will be despatched to right the wrong, but we do know that the British and Allied armies cannot be far short of that momentous hour when our accumulated forces shall strike the decisive blow and put an end to wanton aggression, blood lust and crazy murder. When that time comes, we may well say what Rupert Brooke said twenty-five years ago:

"Now God be thanked who has matched us in His hour,
And caught us by the hand and wakened us from sleeping."

The issue before us is clear. It is life or death or something worse—serfdom and bondage. We, in the Royal Corps of Signals, the eyes, ears, and swift feet of communication, may well congratulate ourselves on the opportunities for distinction that must attend us with the first encompassing forward roll of the freedom-saving powers of democracy.

THE GLOOMY DEAN.

STATIONS ABROAD

Signal Training Centre (India)

Jubbulpore.

Gas !—With an officer and Corporal Hockings recently returned from the Chemical Warfare Course at Pachmarhi, "A" Company has, naturally, become gas conscious, which, we suppose, is as good as air-mindedness anyway. The outcome is that the early morning is made hideous by cries of " Gas ! " and Corporal Hocking's raucous bark as he endeavours to inspire into his class the confidence that he himself feels in the anti-gas measures now in use.

This, and the Brigadier's inspection, have been this month's high-spots. We believe that the Brigadier was pleased with what he saw, and have no qualms.

Apart from these things Jubbulpore has been as a quiet and peaceful backwater untouched by war, except when the Local Alarm Scheme came into action recently. The fight then was to discover who was detailed for this duty and to find the necessary kit and equipment.

Also returned from a course (whether for the common weal or otherwise has yet to be discovered) was Corporal Keighley. He had been at Ambala studying the higher forms of physical training and is now looking disgustingly fit and vigorous.

Comings.—Arrivals and departures have been many. Three large bundles of Militiamen, too numerous to greet by name, have come and since been posted, leaving behind a handful for further training and some for employment in the S.T.C. (I.). We sincerely hope that they will quickly qualify at their various trades. (So do they, we believe.)

Welcome to the S.T.C. are C.S.M. Gardner J. and family, C.Q.M.S. Clarke and family, Sergeants Beard C. and family, Bull, Robson, Best and family, Corporal Stead, Lance Corporal Hanson, Signalmen Till, Cooper, Cook and O'Brien, and Privates Frost and Richardson, attached on probation from their Regiments.

Goings.—After their comparatively long sojourn in Jubbulpore we regretfully say farewell to R.S.M. Coombes L., W.O. III Quinn and family, W.O. III Armstrong and family, Sergeants Patching and Clayton and their families, Lance Sergeant Macey, Corporals Thomas, Hockings and Young, Signalmen O'Connor, Hare, Dalton and Morgan. All to I.S.C. Units and we wish them luck in their new spheres. To those who have departed for unknown destinations—Sergeant Chambers, Signalmen Baird, Allen, Banks, Holland and Barker—happy hunting.

The Ladder.—More firmly grasping elusive batons are: Sergeants Wilson and McCunnin G., Lance Sergeants Davis, Duggen, Warhurst and Ellis (the last-mentioned, however, beat a hasty retreat), Corporals Williams and MacGregor, Lance Corporals Levett and Knight, and U/Lance Corporals Milligan and Hanson. Heartiest congratulations to these.

Sergeants' Mess.—This Mecca is intensely silent. Questioned, they might answer " We're busy," but from a superficial glance at their activities they seem anything but busy, and to be having an immensely good time. Their go-ahead entertainments committee had planned a hectic month and it would appear that the programme is being closely adhered to.

Corporals' Room.—To this small and happy band postings and transfers create hard-to-fill gaps. The new ones come along refreshing the scene with a change of outlook. All have our best wishes for happiness here, there and everywhere.

The monthly dance, February's top note, was an unqualified success. Well attended by all ranks and many civilians, and with its popular novelty numbers—" Gentlemen in Paris " and " The Chalk Thrower "—to add zest, it was a great tribute to the indefatigable Entertainments Committee.

Now, however, the Committee are a little distrait. The forthcoming dance is to be stupendous, magnificent, unparalleled —all-talking, all-singing, all-dancing. They intend leaving no avenue unexplored, no stone unturned towards this end—but *entre nous*, we are wondering HOW.

Good Friday's Games Tournament against the Sergeants' Mess was a hard-fought battle, almost resulting in a draw until they put Lance Sergeant Partridge against Lance Corporal Knight on the billiards table to fight it out " tooth and cue." This was the cue the latter had been waiting for. He won !

The Young Idea.—The Militia outlook is typified in " Young Bert Comes to India." This imperturbable young man, yanked by scruff of neck and seat of pants from familiar surroundings, to be put down in a distant and sometimes very strange land, has to find his own salvation. He seems neither amazed nor overawed, and simply gets ahead with the job, albeit a little regretfully at having to be sidetracked whilst his friends and possibly brothers are having no end of a fling in Warope.

We thank " Young George " for this snappy contribution.

" Young Bert Comes to India."—St. John Cooper, daily paper cartoonist, will soon have to re-dress his well-known hero if many more Militiamen go East.

" Young Bert " doesn't wear battledress, battle bowler, web equipment, gas mask, etc., any more. The thick khaki "goon skin " that so effectively kept out the cold blasts in Yorkshire and North Wales has been discarded. He now parades with bare, rapidly browing knees and forearms and wonders what he'll do when it get REALLY warm in Jubbulpore, Kohat, Quetta, Rawalpindi, Waziristan, or wherever he is.

Some of the Things He Misses Most—(1) Unlimited supply of ice-cold water; (2) village pubs; (3) N.A.A.F.I. waitresses and W.A.T.S.; (4) E.N.S.A. shows; (5) Parcel post.

His Impressions—

1. Geographical.—Next to curry, the chief product of India is Onions. He has 'em baked, boiled, toasted, fried or in the raw, once, twice and sometimes three times a day. He loves 'em.

2. Physical.—S.T.C. (I.) and Corps scrum-half Hockings took one of the Militia drafts for a before-breakfast run around the golf course. And were they bunkered !

3. Suicidal.—" Young Bert " nearly died of fright on his first morning in India when he awoke to find a " cut-throat " razor dangerously close to his Adam's apple. He now takes what's coming with equanimity; even pays four annas for the privilege . . . of being shaved.

4. Oral.—Urdu teacher in heliotrope coat and trousers, bicycle clips attached, makes his black beard tremble with a thunderous " achchhi bat."

5. Sartorial.—Church parade in breeches, puttees and spurs. No horse, so he carries a rifle to complete the picture.

6. Medical.—Mosquitoes are ideal domestic pets. They sing him to sleep and show their affections by kissing him goodnight. Resultant itch ensures his hearing Reveille's bugle.

7. Ceremonial.—Natives are always celebrating something or other. They delight in letting off fireworks and thumping tom-toms when " Young Bert " wants to sleep and dream " my darlin' luv of thay."

8. Chemical.—Newly discovered salad dressing—Pot. permang. solution. He now washes his bananas, oranges, tomatoes, etc., in this pleasant-to-taste fluid.

8. Whimsical.—Mid-tiffin fire drill leads to that unusual phenomenon—cold curry. Indigestion was " Young Bert's " only reward for dropping knife and fork and dashing at the " double " with a ladder on his shoulder and a hose tucked underneath his arm. But he put the fire out before his cha got cold as well.

" Young George."

Tailpiece.—We likened Jubbulpore unto a backwater. Indeed, it will be shortly—with a vengeance. For last minute intelligence has it that we are about to evolve an Angling Club. Bright idea, forsooth, but isn't there already enough gripping ?

" Eye-Witness."

S.T.C. (INDIA) CONCERT PARTY


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1. "The Buskers" (*left to right*) : Mrs. H. Wilson, Adkins, J., Hunt, F., Spearpoint, F.,Walke, J., MacGregor, A., Young, S., Hayes, L.
2. "The Bathroom Door," Spearpoint, F., Whatton, R., Mrs. H. Wilson, Mrs. F. Spearpoint, Miss D. M. Lincoln, Greig, T.
3. "The Toy Shop," Mrs. Spearpoint, Mrs. Adkins, Miss Lincoln, Miss June Ellerton-Long, Mrs. Paton, Mrs. Dawson, Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. Adams.
4. "The Toy Shop," Miss June Ellerton-Long as the Fairy.
5. "The Young Apollo," Tant, A. H., as Apollo with McCunnin, P. J., as his Manager.
6. "The Remnants," Greig, T. (as the Sergeant Major), Adkins, J., McCunnin, P. J., Bartlett, P., Tant, A. H.
7. "Versatile Entertainers," Hayes, L., Young, S., McGregor, A., Walke, J., and Miss D. M. Lincoln.



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SPORTS NOTES

Athletics.—After a hotly-contested championship against the I.A.O.C. Training Centre, our Indian athletic team have carried away the Jubbulpore Area Cup for the first time in many years, winning by 2 points only.

Hockey.—"A" Company, Signal Training Battalion, twice met " B " Company of the Nagpur Rifles, A.F. (I.) in the Jubbulpore Inter-Company Tournament ; the first game ended in a draw and the second in a win for Nagrif (1—0). A very high standard of play, some of the finest seen in Jubbulpore, was maintained throughout both games and Nagrif well deserved their hardly won victory.

Meeting 2nd K.O.S.B. in the semi-final of the Area Inter-Unit Tournament, "A" Company defeated them 3—1, but in the final of this tournament lost to the I.A.O.C., 2—5. Here again very fine hockey was played and great keenness was shown throughout the tournament.

Golf.—In the Handicap Challenge match, Mr. Polley beat Conductor Tuck, I.A.O.C., 7—5.

Football.—Local football scarcely warrants a mention in this month's news. There have been only the usual " friendlies " and Inter-Company matches. There was, however, the Signalmen's defeat of the Corporals (4—1), which left nothing to be desired.

Tennis.—In the Annual Open Singles for Sergeants' Mess members, Conductor Thwaites carried the day with Sergeant Mohrstadt runner-up. This was an excellent match. Conductor Thwaites had just that turn of speed to enable him to beat his opponent.

Sergeant Mohrstadt and C.S.M. (Lieutenant) Gudgeon came to the fore in the Open Doubles, winning the match, with Conductor Thwaites and Sergeant Wilson as runners-up.

In the match Officers *versus* Sergeants, the latter were the victors. The Sergeants' team was : Sergeants Mullins and Chidgey, C.Q.M.S. Nicholls and Sergeant Connaughton, Sergeant Mohrstadt and C.S.M. Gudgeon.

1st Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop (India)

General.—In spite of the fact that no news of our troop has reached England for several months, we can assure you that we are still pursuing the normal tenor of our ways.

Since our last notes appeared, several changes have taken place. We are now 68 per cent. Indianised and if we had no infantry attached, members of the Unit would be going to England and talking of the scarcity of white men in India.

In view of these changes, we ask readers of these columns to take a lenient view of our laxity and forgive us once more.

The war has not affected us much at Risalpur, except for a drastic rise in prices. Old shirts, etc., are being called upon for " just one more month " before renewal.

Recently we had a prospective N.C.O.s' Course and we are sure that at least three men have benefited by the instruction received.

Arrivals.—We extend a hearty welcome to C.S.M. Brown and family, Farrier Staff Sergeant Marshall and family, Sergeant Macdonald, Lance Sergeant Dakin, Corporals O'Brien and Crouch and Lance Corporal Neves, and hope that their stay with us will be just as long as they wish it to be. During the last few months we have received dozens of I.O.R.s, but somehow or other they all seem to have disappeared, at least the number on stable parade has not increased.

Departures.—Too numerous to mention in detail as 50 per cent. of the B.O.R.s went to different parts of the world. We wish them the best of luck in their new stations.

Promotions and Appointments.—The Troop tenders hearty congratulations to Lieutenants Fairman and Riando on receiving their commissions. Congratulations also to Sergeants Macdonald and Paling, Corporals Gully and Egerton, Lance Corporals Neves, Wright and Gobey on attaining their respective ranks.

Births.—The Troop tender their hearty congratulations to Captain and Mrs. R. A. Conner on the arrival of a daughter.

Inspections.—These are now in full swing. So far we have negotiated three hurdles in this respect, namely the C.S.O., Brigade Commander and the Signal Officer-in-Chief.

Risalpur White City.—Of late we have taken up dog racing. At least, some of us have taken to money losing, but we do see life even in Risalpur. Sergeant Strong's dog " Rex " did well in winning a cup in the all-comers race. We are thinking of purchasing a troop greyhound to win all the cups. The Commanding Officer, resplendent in full hunting kit, was Chief Starter and did his job in professional style. Great consternation was felt amongst the dogs when the hare " flew through the air with the greatest of ease " at a height of about ten feet. This was rectified by the addition of weights later on.

Trade Boards.—Headaches have now ceased, and congratulations are tendered to Signalmen Blow and Stephenson on attaining their respective ratings. All the attached B.O.R.s were successful in attaining their BIII ratings as operators.

Hunting.—Several of our B.O.R.s, by kind permission of the C.O., have hunted regularly with his hounds, and some excellent sport was had by all. We are sorry that the season has closed. Some exciting mornings were witnessed and to judge from the number of times the Third Whip fell in the mud, amusing too. We should also mention the enterprising lad who left a jackal's mask and paws in a fire bucket for three days. Phew ! ; but that's a long story.

Horses.—Great relief was felt among the horses and men alike, when the annual training march in December was cancelled owing to an outbreak of a very long-named disease among the horses of a neighbouring Unit.

At the Peshawar Point to Point races only two British teams were entered. The race was won by us quite comfortably, gaining first three places. Signalman Lester on No. 40 was first, Signalman Erskine was second on No. 74 and Corporal Gully third on No. 25.

MALTA SIGNAL COMPANY WEDDIN







1. Corporal and Mrs. Luscombe 2. Leaving the Church
3. After the ceremony, being towed by the Hockey Team

At the Peshawar Hunter Trials we managed to take away one prize. This was won by Signalman Danfer on No. 76 in the B.O.R.s' event.

At the Nowshera Horse Show Signalman Baz Khan won 4th prize in the Open Handy Hunter.

At the Risalpur Point to Point, owing to the paucity of B.O.R. entries, races for troops were confined to I.O.R.s. Competing against some of the best horses in the Brigade, we had a very good ride, and finished second, third and fourth, thereby capturing the Team Trophy.

I BAR "C."

Malta Signal Company

Valletta.

General.—The shortage of notes in last month's WIRE has forcibly brought home to us our slackness in this respect. This lapse, we hope, will not occur again and with a new scribe we hasten to make amends.

Training.—Just a few remarks on this subject in case readers may think that we spend all our time on pleasure bent. Signals main occupation here remains the same as ex-members of the Unit may remember, namely, line maintenance, though perhaps on a much larger scale than heretofore. Several schemes have been concluded with satisfactory results; we are not giving more details than that as we know we cannot hope to compete with some of you.

Congratulations.—To Corporal Luscombe on his marriage to Miss Mary Mifsud on 4th February, at Sarria Church, Floriana. The event was well attended, also the reception, which was held at the Savoy Hotel, where a good time was had by all. A clock and a canteen of cutlery were presented by Nos. 1 and 3 Sections respectively. Photographs of the happy couple will be found elsewhere.

Jews' Mail.—To Wise (599), somewhere abroad. "What about a line? Allan (756)."

SPORTS NOTES

Skating.—Readers may remember that last September a notice appeared in this journal to the effect that Signalman Sharratt had broken the Non-Stop Skating Record for Malta. At that time we were promised that he would do even greater things; this promise has been redeemed with more success than we anticipated at the time.

Signalman Sharratt broke the World Amateur Non-Stop Skating Record by skating for 40 hours 23 minutes. This took place at the Cafe Riche from 17th March, 1940.

A Shield to commemorate the event is to be presented on 5th April, where the skating took place.

Thanks are due to Signalmen Walton and Millar, who kept the champion company, in reliefs, day and night.

Hockey.—Three games *versus* R.A.M.C. resulted in two won by 4—0 and one lost 1—4.

Three scratch games against R.A. all ended in draws of 1—1

TAV.

East African Signals

Introduction.—At last a scribe has been appointed to crash our way into the Corps Magazine and record the type of thing that occurs in our corner of the Empire—not, of course, that we need to write about ourselves but " What would you ? "

General.—Not so long ago we held what we are pleased to refer to as manœuvres with the local lads. As often happens to those who get foolhardy ideas, however, it started to rain and, being " dry weather soldiers " we quite naturally postponed them until the rain left off. We are told that it sometimes rains in Palestine and results in mud. Here you will observe it temporarily demoralizes the army.

Rumours had it that we MIGHT by chance get an increase of pay and, on the strength of that rumour, certain N.C.O.s and men proceeded to get married. They are now wondering how they can get un-married. One optimist hopes to get some money back on the ring—if he can get the ring.

Route marches are becoming popular and we are told it is to keep us in training. What for ? Running ?

Some time ago a local native applied for a job and was sorely puzzled for an appropriate answer when asked " if he had been in the country long " and " Could he speak his own language."

Arrivals.—We extend the heartiest of welcomes to our new Chief Signal Officer and trust that his stay with us will be a long and happy one.

Departures.—We recently bade *au revoir* to our late C.S.O. and wish him the best of good fortune in his new surroundings. With the exodus of Corporal Thorne H., our crack centre-half, the football team nearly came unstuck, but the remaining players and " Swede " have recovered from the shock and are doing nicely again, thank you.

Sport.—Talking of football reminds me to mention hockey, in which sphere we are excelling ourselves—when we get time to play, of course. Our successes have been varied and some of the local lads are beginning to wish they were less local and more international.

Things We Hear.—Scene : a telephone exchange. A call. The operator's hurried movements with plugs and hand set. A bawling into " the receiver." A strained expression as he listens " at the microphone." More frantic juggling with the keys followed by a plaintive voice complaining, " Sergeant, I can hear them, but they can't hear me ! "

A certain N.C.O. received a " Most Immediate " message, marked it " Most P." and passed it on—Humph !

Things We Want to Know.—Why are push-cum-motor cycles becoming so popular and what is the significance in the word " Rickshaw " ?

LEST WE FORGET.

We've opened up our wireless sets,
Down in this sunny clime ;
The men who work them are " old sweats,"
Sent from Palestine.

We've taken our position, Hst !
To keep away the foe ;
We are, of course, experienced,
As Palestinians know.

I sense strange mutterings as I write,
From comrades o'er the Bay ;
Just who we are, and what our right,
To use THE WIRE this way.

If truth were told, be told it shall,
Some far and distant day,
We are the old " Originals "
Of many an Arab fray.

So read and mark and learn, you Rips,
Take warning whilst you may ;
There's many a grave for Grippers gripped,
By better men than they.

Obituary.—It is with the deepest regret that we announce the death of Signalman Mylward J., who met with a motor accident on 5th February, 1940, receiving injuries which proved fatal. He had been with this Unit since it was formed, and was very popular with all who came into contact with him. Our deepest sympathy is extended to all his relatives in their sad bereavement.

SUGREF.

Corps News—Officers

Extracts from "The London Gazette"

[War Office, 23/2/40]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Lieutenant-Colonel J. W. Bailey, M.C., is dismissed the Service by sentence of a General Court Martial, 20/12/39.

The promotions of the undermentioned Lieutenant-Colonels is antidated as shown below :

V. J. E. Westropp, 29/12/39.
R. G. L. Giblin, 13/1/40.

The undermentioned Majors to be Lieutenant-Colonels, 22/1/40 :

J. R. Patten, M.C.
E. L. Farnall.

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS :

Sergeant Arthur Leonard Winter (111740) to be Lieutenant (Quartermaster), 27/12/39.

TERRITORIAL ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS.

GENERAL LIST :

Lieutenant-Colonel F. E. A. Manning, M.C., T.D., B.SC. (ENG.), A.M.I.MECH.E., M.I.E.E. (31857), from Active List (Royal Signals), to be Lieutenant-Colonel, 7/9/39.

[War Office, 27/2/40]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

COMMANDS AND STAFF :

The undermentioned appointment has been made :

Major-General H. C. B. Wemyss, D.S.O., M.C., from a Div. to be Deputy Adjutant-General, 19/2/40.

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS

Captain G. G. Glanville, M.C. (11431) to be Brevet-Major, 1/9/39.

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS :

2nd Lieutenant Arthur Laurence Phillips (111444) to be Lieutenant (T.M.O.), 18/12/39. (Substituted for the notification in the " Gazette " of 5/1/40.)

[War Office, 1/3/40]

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Captain G. Briggs (110127) (from D.G.) to be Captain and to retain his present seniority, 8/2/40.

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS :
Captain Ralph Sheldon, Lord Sandhurst, O.B.E. (119777), late R.E., to be Lieutenant, 4/11/39.
The undermentioned to be Lieutenants (Quartermaster) :
T/R.S.M. Cuthbert Harold Griffith (120973), 1/11/39.
R.S.M. Dennis Patrick Wright (120973), 14/2/40.
R.S.M. Frederick Horsted New (122376), 19/2/40.
R.Q.M.S. Neil Nicholson (122377) to be Lieutenant (T.M.O.), 19/2/40.
Acting Sergeant William Albert Guest (105857) to be 2nd Lieutenant, 13/12/39. (Substituted for the natification in the " Gazette " of 12/12/39.)
The undermentioned to be Lieutenants :
Captain Frank Robert Wardsworth Jameson, D.S.O., M.C. (110658), late R.E., 21/12/39.
A/R.S.M. Henry Deyermond (121898), 2/3/40.
A/R.S.M. Geoffrey Alfred Edward Gavey (121899), 2/3/40.
The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants :
Lieutenant Cyril Franklin Barrow, M.C. (115888), late R.E. (Sigs.), 20/1/40.
William Reid Clark (115809), 23/1/40.
Frank Ernest Watkins (118055), late Lieutenant, T.A., 31/1/40.
Alfred Johnson Randall (118044), 1/2/40.
Leonard Wootten (116149), 1/2/40.
Frank Bernard Jay (118019), 3/2/40.
Will Bettison (118606), 7/2/40.
Leonard James Anderson (118381), 9/2/40.
Thomas Evans (118802), 9/2/40.
Lance Corporal Alban Edward Harris (121900), Royal Signals (T.A.), 2/3/40.

[War Office, 5/3/40]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS :
The personal number of 2nd Lieutenant M. G. Ridley-Martin (63551) is as now described and not as notified in the " Gazette " of 3/11/39.

[War Office, 8/3/40]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS :
Lieutenant (Quartermaster) J. W. Wylie (64909), Royal Signals (T.A.), to be Lieutenant, 1/3/40.
Section S.M. Edwin Adams (123012) to be Lieutenant (Quartermaster), 1/3/40.
R.S.M. George Patrick Murray (122834) to be Lieutenant (T.M.O.), 26/2/40.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
GENERAL LIST :
2nd Lieutenant P. Leech (94026), from Active List, Royal Signals, to be 2nd Lieutenant, 10/2/40.

[War Office, 12/3/40]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS :
The notification regarding Lieutenant (Quartermaster) J. W. Wylie (64909), Royal Signals (T.A.), in the Supplement to the " Gazette " of 8/3/40 is cancelled.
The undermentioned to be Lieutenants :
Captain Sir Christopher Norman Musgrave, BT., B.A., A.M.I.C.E. (98814), late R.E., 1/10/39.
Charles Conrad Deane (108490), late Captain, R.E. (T.F.R.), 22/11/39.
Captain Henry Edmund Theodoric Vale, M.A. (119591), late R.E. (Signals), 19/3/40.
The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants :
Francis Christopher Clarke (118177), 1/2/40.
William Lewis Swancott (118818), 5/2/40.
Alick Cook (120041), 13/2/40.
Arthur Henry Nash (118345), 18/2/40.
2nd Lieutenant Leonard Charles Holton (120007), late R.E., 19/2/40.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
Colonel L. J. Worthington, T.D. (7587), to be Honorary Colonel, 18/2/40.

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Lieutenant-Colonel E. R. Moore (41831), at his own request, reverts to the rank of Major, 20/1/40. (Substituted for the notification in the " Gazette " of 30/1/40.)
Lieutenant (Quartermaster) J. W. Wylie (64909) to be Lieutenant, 1/3/40, and relinquishes the appointment of Quarter-Master.

[War Office, 15/3/40]

REGULAR ARMY, ROYAL SIGNALS.
EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS :
Ralph Reinhardt-Rutland (111939) to be 2nd Lieutenant, 14/12/39.
Gunner Jack Sydney Clement Hester (124307), R.A. (T.A.), to be 2nd Lieutenant, 16/3/40.
The personal number of Lieutenant (Quartermaster) Cuthbert Harold Griffith (122213) is as now stated and not as notified in the " Gazette " of 1/3/40.

[War Office, 19/3/40]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS :
John Charles Bowman-Vaughan (25461), late Lieutenant, U.L.I.A., to be Lieutenant, 25/2/40.
Captain Joseph Oswald Coxon (120288), late R.E., to be Lieutenant, 27/2/40.
R.S.M. Robert Goyne Davies (123727) to be Lieutenant (Quartermaster), 13/1/40.
The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants :
2nd Lieutenant Dudley John Edgcome Richards (119028), late Forresters, 19/2/40.
Arthur Everest Falkus, B.SC. (ENG.), A.M.I.E.E. (120247), 24/2/40.
Leonard James King (118020), 29/2/40.

[War Office, 26/3/40]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
Lieutenant-Colonel G. P. Pavey, M.B.E., is placed on the half-pay list on account of ill-health, 25/3/40.
Major A. J. Hannah retires on retired pay, 25/3/40.

Major W. H. G. Rogers, A.M.I.E.E., to be Lieutenant-Colonel, 25/3/40.

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS :
Signalman John William Baker (124397) to be 2nd Lieutenant, 27/3/40.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
GENERAL LIST :
Lieutenant V. K. Chew (70505), from General List (O.T.C.), to be Lieutenant, 1/3/40.

[War Office, 29/3/40]

REGULAR ARMY.
The undermentioned Lieutenant-Colonels to be Colonels :
(Acting Brigadier) W. R. C. Penney, D.S.O., O.B.E., M.C., late Royal Signals, 18/11/39, with seniority 1/7/37.
(Acting Colonel) R. T. O. Cary, M.B.E., late Royal Signals, 22/2/40, with seniority 15/5/39.

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS :
The undermentioned to be Lieutenants :
Major Ernest Walter Brudenell Gill, O.B.E. (24319), late T.A., 14/12/39.
Captain Frank Arthur Sclater, O.B.E., M.C., M.A., B.A. (123162), late R.E. (Signals), 12/2/40.
Captain Walter Marcus Beresford, M.C. (60871), late R.A.R.O., 28/2/40.
The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants :
Ian Maclean (115052), late Lieutenant, Can. F., 9/1/40.
Alexander Allison Wilson (116207), 1/2/40.
Roderick Kenneth Bryden (120245), 22/2/40.
Harold John Webb (119827), 24/2/40.
Charles Dixon William Brown (120285), 1/3/40.
James Joseph Butterly (120656), 1/3/40.
Cecil Green (120295), 1/3/40.
Thomas Dixon Smith (120814), 1/3/40.
2nd Lieutenant Donald John Donovan (122937), late R.E., 3/3/40.
Robert Donovan Farrant (120293), 4/3/40.
Henry Houghtun Garner (122939), 4/3/40.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
Lieutenant (Quartermaster) J. McVittie (63433) relinquishes his commission on account of ill-health, 30/3/40.

[War Office, 2/4/40]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS :
W.O. Class I (F-of-S) Alfred Russell Walker (125468) to be Lieutenant (I.P.C.), 16/3/40.
The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants :
John Cave Rogerson (123745), 5/2/40.
Horace Dudley Collins-Free (122249), 29/2/40.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
Colonel T. W. Vigers, O.B.E., M.C., T.D. (37611), ret. T.A., Hon. Colonel, London Corps Signals, to be Hon. Colonel, 3/4/40.

TERRITORIAL ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS.
GENERAL LIST :
Lieutenant R. C. K. Baron (66924), from Active List, Royal Signals, to be Lieutenant, 6/1/40.

[War Office, 5/4/40]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
Lieutenant D. N. Deakin to be Captain, 28/1/40 (with pay and allowances of Lieutenant from 28/1/40 to 1/8/40, inclusive).

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS :
Edward Boyce Baker (123130) to be Lieutenant, 1/3/40.
Ernest Henry Snuggs (120317) to be Lieutenant, 1/3/40.

[War Office, 9/4/40]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS :
The notification regarding W.O. Class II Albert Alexander Taylor (117766) in the " Gazette " of 20/2/40 is cancelled.
Leonard James Anderson (118381) to be Lieutenant (T.M.O.), 9/2/40. (Substituted for the notification in the " Gazette " of 1/3/40.)
Henry James Byrne (12001), late Lieutenant, K.D.G., to be Lieutenant, 1/3/40.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
Major The Rt. Hon. Oliver Frederick George Stanley, M.C., P.C., M.P. (125219), late T.A., to be Hon. Colonel, 24/2/40.
GENERAL LIST :
Lieutenant E. Knowles (37381), from General List (Portsmouth Grammar School Contgt., Jun. Div., O.T.C.), to be Lieutenant, 26/2/40, with seniority 19/2/30.

[War Office, 12/4/40]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS :
The notification regarding Captain and Brevet-Major B. J. M. Bebb (103519) in the " Gazette " of 6/11/39 is cancelled.
Herbert Lawrence Collingbourne (36126), late Lieutenant, R.A.R.O. (Royal Signals), to be Lieutenant, 9/12/39.
2nd Lieutenant William Ainsworth Smith (121901), from R.A.O.C., to be Lieutenant (Quartermaster), 13/3/40.
R.S.M. James Edward Foley (127119) to be Lieutenant (Quartermaster), 31/3/40.
The undermentioned to be Lieutenants, 13/4/40 :
A/W.O. Class II Edward Jack Tidey (126045).
A/W.O. Class II Sydney John Murphy (126046).
A/Q.M.S. Henry William Philpott (126038).
Sergeant George James McLean (126039).
A/Sergeant Henry Bellringer (126048).
A/Sergeant William Millett (126047).

[War Office, 16/4/40]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS :
Captain John Henry King (93687), late R.E., to be Lieutenant, 28/11/39.
Captain Leonard Blackburn Bulkley (93057), late General List, to be Lieutenant, 26/3/40.
Norman Prescott Thorold Holmes (108235) to be 2nd Lieutenant, 4/12/39.
Signalman Richard Arnold Luard Pears (112775) to be 2nd Lieutenant, 17/4/40.

[War Office, 19/4/40]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
Lieutenant (Quartermaster) A. R. Manley to be Captain (Quartermaster), 1/4/40.

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS :
2nd Lieutenant A. Hay (115813) relinquishes his commission, 20/4/40.
Superintending Clerk Stanley Charles Dunningham (125952) to be Lieutenant (Quartermaster), 3/4/40.
R.S.M. Walter Richard Barnett (127400) to be Lieutenant (T.M.O.), 3/4/40.
George Willibert Higlett, M.C. (125092), late Lieutenant, T.F.R. (Oxford and Bucks. L.I.), to be Lieutenant, 26/3/40.
John Francis Bishop (125762) to be 2nd Lieutenant, 26/3/40.
Frederick John Palmer (125722) to be 2nd Lieutenant, 26/3/40.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
Colonel W. T. Dodd, D.S.O., T.D., late T.A., relinquishes the appointment of Hon. Colonel on completion of tenure, 23/2/40.

Advertisements!

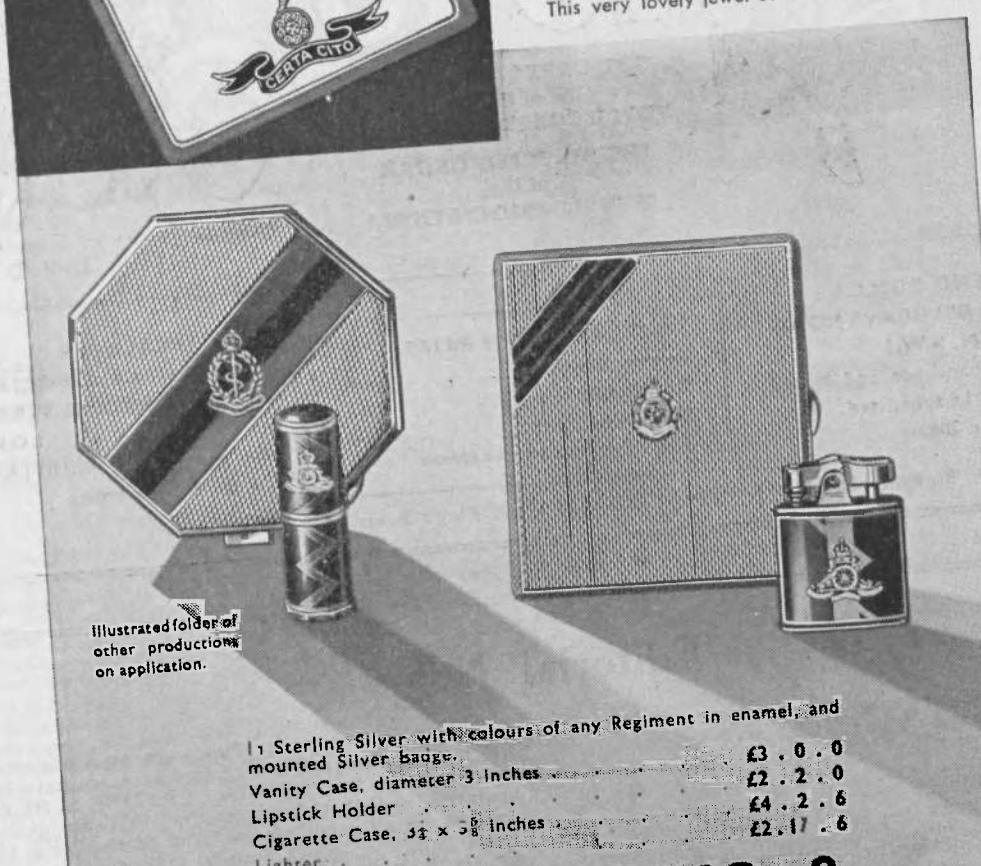
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VOL. XXI.—No. 244 JUNE, 1940 PRICE—SIXPENCE

Editorial Notes

Felicitations.—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.

Harewood House, Leeds,
25th April, 1940.

Colonel Commandant,
Royal Signals, War Office.

The Princess Royal desires me to express her sincere thanks to all ranks of the Royal Corps of Signals for the telegram of birthday greetings which she received from you this morning and which are greatly appreciated by Her Royal Highness.

Royal Signals Comforts Fund.—In amplification of the notes which appear on page 168 of this issue, we have been asked to announce that the HOSPITAL VISITING SCHEME is now in operation and that arrangements are being made as fast as possible for all wounded casualties of the Corps to be visited. Small parcels of books, games, magazines, sweets, etc., have already been despatched by the Fund to all wounded whose names have been notified to us to date.

The following extracts from letters received show that such gifts are appreciated :

" Many thanks for the pleasant surprise in the form of books and draught board received yesterday. Since I am as yet confined to bed with my injuries these will prove of inexpressible value, and lessen to some extent the tedium of hospital life. . . .

" Signalman ———
——— Hospital."

" I went to see Signalman ——— this afternoon and he was ever so pleased, particularly as all his people are in Glasgow. Practically the first thing he told me was how delighted he was to receive THE WIRE, and remarked : ' Really, I have only been here since Monday and they have sent this. I do think the Comforts Fund looks after us chaps well and I have written to thank them.'

A visitor to ——— Hospital."

The following very kind offer has been received from Mrs. Parker, 3, Woodstock Road, St. Albans, Herts. : " If relatives come to visit wounded men in Hill End Hospital, St. Albans, and cannot get home at night, she is willing to put up two on alternate week-ends and give them tea and breakfast. They may also take their invalid there to tea with them."

Notice.—**We have been asked to notify our readers that a Ukelele, in first-class condition, has been presented to the Comforts Fund for disposal Applications to the Hon. Secretary, Royal Signals Comforts Fund, 95, Belgrave Road, London, S.W.1, from anyone competent to handle and care for a really good instrument are invited. When writing, please state number, rank, name and unit.**

Situation Vacant.—The wife of a Royal Signals officer stationed in London would be glad to hear of any wife or daughter of a serving soldier in the Corps who would be glad of employment in household duties during the next few months. Full particulars on application to Mrs. Graveley, 18, Grove Way, Esher, Surrey.

Late News.—The following announcement has been culled from the daily Press of Friday, 31st May :

" The Military Medal is awarded to seven Other Ranks of the Royal Tank Regiment and one of the Royal Corps of Signals. Signalman Gregory A. is decorated for devotion to duty and coolness during heavy bombing and shelling attacks. While acting as operator on a radio truck he remained at his post and was unperturbed even by the most furious onslaughts from the air and on the ground."

EDITOR.

Benevolent Fund Notes

The Administrator gratefully acknowledges receipt of the following :

Benevolent Fund (General)

CASH SUBSCRIPTIONS from :
Signalman W. H. Greene.
1st London Divisional Signals (part proceeds of concert).

Benevolent Fund (No. 2 A/C 1940)

CASH SUBSCRIPTIONS from :
4,822 Other Rank contributors for March as per consolidated list and covering remittance received from Regimental Paymaster.
Other Rank personnel, 1st S.T.C.
Officers, 2nd S.T.C.
P.R.I., 2nd S.T.C.
Other Rank personnel, 2nd S.T.C.
Other Rank personnel, Malta Signals.
Other Rank personnel, London Area Signal Company.
Other Rank personnel, 1st Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop.

BANKERS ORDER SUBSCRIPTIONS from :
Captain B. Minor.
Lieutenant G. Perry.
Captain R. M. A. Jones.
Captain S. P. Wright.
2nd Lieutenant G. H. Gray.
Lieutenant-Colonel F. A. Manley.
Major W. L. Beck.
2nd Lieutenant R. M. Dawson.
Captain C. Nettleship.
2nd Lieutenant E. P. Piers.
Lieutenant A. H. Campbell.
2nd Lieutenant R. S. P. Butler.
Major C. C. Fairweather.
Captain S. Robinson.
2nd Lieutenat J. W. Garbutt.
2nd Lieutenant W. Bowman.
2nd Lieutenant K. Robson.
Lieutenant W. A. R. Howie.
2nd Lieutenant J. M. Hewett.
Lieutenant E. T. Parkes.
Captain H. M. Kirkaldy.



Royal Signals Comforts Fund Shop Premises
(See Notes on page 168)

Lieutenant-Colonel T. T. J. Sheffield.
Major R. M. Percival.
Lieutenant (Quartermaster) A. E. Bawden.
2nd Lieutenant T. W. Norrish.
Lieutenant W. J. Morris.
Major R. F. Holwill.
Lieutenant (T.M.O.) J. W. Adcock.
Lieutenant H. E. Shrimpton.
Lieutenant A. M. Stonebanks.
Captain T. B. Ferriday.
Lieutenant J. D. Rankin.
Captain E. R. Sutton.
Captain W. E. H. Lang.
2nd Lieutenant F. J. Behets.
Colonel T. W. Vigers, O.B.E., M.C., T.D.
Lieutenant (Quartermaster) N. A. Norcross.
Lieutenant W. R. H. Tingey.
Lieutenant R. S. Wight.
2nd Lieutenant N. P. Gates.
Colonel L. G. Phillips, M.C.
Major V. C. Holland.
Lieutenant F. F. West.
Major J. E. S. Walford, M.B.E.
Captain J. Lothian.
Lieutenant J. H. Russel.
Lieutenant W. H. Oliver.
2nd Lieutenant W. J. G. Barnett.

APPEALS dealt with :

1	Driver, N. Wales	Grant	£3	0	0
2	Ex-Signalman, Nottingham	Grant	£3	0	0
3	Ex-Signalman, Kent	Grant	£1	5	0
4	Mother of Signalman, B.E.F.	Grant	£5	0	0
5	Ex-Signalman, London	Grant	£1	10	0
6	Wife of Signalman, B.E.F.	Grant	£5	0	0
7	Mother of Signalman, India	Grant	£5	0	0

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

Royal Signals Comforts Fund

With reference to L. H. Drake's excellent cartooon appearing in this issue the Committee of the Comforts Fund would like to emphasise once more the urgency of storing and caring for woollen comforts both by Units and individuals throughout the summer months. With the present shortage of wool and the obviously increasing difficulty of maintaining funds, it is felt that the problem of supplying sufficient woollen garments next winter will be very acute, and in order to mitigate this, every possible effort should be made to save all garments issued last winter that are still in good repair.

The shop opened by Mrs. G. D. Ozanne at 75, Hammersmith Road, W.14, on 1st May, is making very satisfactory progress. At this shop Mrs. Ozanne is prepared to sell anything and everything that is sent to her and all the profits are devoted to the Comforts Fund. Please send anything saleable to Mrs. G. D. Ozanne, 18, Trevor Place, S.W.7.

On 18th May the Committee was "At Home" at the Depot to Organisers of the Working Parties who have supported the Fund in the past season. The arrangements for storing and packing and various other sides of the work were shown and afterwards the party was entertained to tea at Dolphin Square, by kind invitation of Miss Clementi Smith.

It is felt that perhaps it has not been quite realised that the activities of the Comforts Fund are not confined to woollen garments and winter comforts. Since the warmer weather began the Fund has been despatching parcels of socks, books, magazines and games, which, it is understood, have been much appreciated. Requests from O.C. of Units and Sections (particularly those in isolated places) both at home and abroad requiring such parcels will be welcomed, and in order that they may be complied with as quickly as possible, will all friends please send their spare books and magazines to 95, Belgrave Road.

Arrangements have been made to start a scheme for visiting wounded personnel of the Corps in hospital as and when it is required.

Will anyone who is living near a military hospital and who is willing to be a visitor be so kind as to send their name to the Hon. Secretary, Royal Signals Comforts Fund, 95, Belgrave Road, S.W.1.

EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS RECEIVED.

"——— Signals, B.E.F. 15/4/40.

"It is most kind of you to remember the Unit in this way and in expressing our thanks, I should be grateful if you would extend them to the other helpers who have assisted in providing such a divers and acceptable collection of articles."

"——— Section, An Outpost of Empire. 10/4/40.

"Thank you for the parcel of books which has just arrived. The men here live under extremely trying conditions in a station where they have no outside amusements whatsoever, and any kind of reading matter is exceedingly welcome."

"——— Signals, B.E.F. 1/5/40.

"The parcel containing 40 pairs of socks, books, magazines and playing cards has now been received. All the contents are in excellent condition and will be distributed throughout the Unit. I can only repeat my sincere thanks to you and your Committee for this gift and all the hard work that must be involved."

"——— Signals, B.E.F. 12/5/40.

"The men are all very grateful to the Comforts Fund, particularly as this was the first Unit parcel of any kind that they have received whilst overseas. The magazines and books were particularly appreciated as we were very short of reading matter. I trust that you will convey our thanks to other members of the Committee and, as far as possible, to those who have contributed."

RECEIPTS (CONTINUED).

	£	s.	d.
P.R.I., —— Divisional Signals and Command Signals	10	10	0
—— Army Signals	15	0	0
Electrical Association for Women		15	0
Western (I.) District Signals, Quetta	16	10	0
Officers' Mess, —— Divisional Signals (quarterly)	2	19	0
Inspection Dept., Engineer and Signals Stores (4th contribution)	4	0	0
Mrs. A. H. French	2	0	0
Kohat District Signals, India (monthly)	1	16	9
Mrs. C. Jack (3rd contribution)		10	0
Malta Signal Company (4th contribution)	6	13	6
D.C.S.O.—O.C. Signal Company, Southern Command; and Commandant, Army Signal School, Poona, India	2	2	0
Colonel L. G. Phillips	5	0	0
—— Divisional Signals, B.E.F.	650 francs		
Miss Banham		5	0
Captain H. C. Daniel	25 rupees		
"A" Corps Signals, India	72 rupees 10 annas		
1st Indian Divisional Signals	19 rupees 2 annas		
Mrs. G. G. Rawson (for prizes for Bridge Tournament)	2	0	0
The Lady Mary Naylor (for prizes for Bridge Tournament)	1	0	0
—— Area Signal Section	3	10	0
No. 3 Company, —— Corps Signals	1	16	11½
Royal Signals Officers' Mess, Aldershot	2	12	0
Staff of Royal Signals Records and Pay Office (monthly)	6	0	0
Mr. W. Butler (monthly)		6	6

Gracie Fields Challenge Cup

The widespread interest which is being evinced in all branches of the Services in the All-Britain Individual Darts Championship, which is being promoted on behalf of St. Dunstan's War Fund, and for which Miss Gracie Fields has presented a handsome challenge trophy, is indicated by the large number of enquiries being received for entry forms and information.

Darts undoubtedly is a popular form of relaxation after a heavy day's work and contains just that competitive element of skill so attractive to the Service man at any time. This is apparent from the spontaneity with which contests are arranged in the N.A.A.F.I. canteen or the Regimental "Rec" or the Ward room.

In response to the many enquiries for information regarding the "Gracie Fields" Championship Trophy, it may be stated that the qualifying round should consist of teams of 32 players (entrance fee 6d.), or, if 16 players only can be mustered, at one shilling per player. The winner then passes into the next round and so on to the final. The winner of each qualifying round will receive a prize and the winner of the final will be recognised the National Champion by the National Darts Association.

Although some eliminating rounds have been played there is still time to apply for entry forms to the Appeals Organiser, St. Dunstan's, Inner Circle, Regent's Park, N.W.1.

I SLEPT ON BOOTS



Then I still slept on Boots because all my comrades borrowed it

- Splendid on manœuvres and in camp
- Khaki material
- Ideal for all on service
- Up or down in a few seconds
- Deflated about the size of handkerchief, 15" × 10"
- Send now, stocks cannot be replenished — Price **4'3**
- Offered by ex-W.O. who knows its worth — Postage - 3d.

KENOSHA AGENCIES, COWPLAIN, PORTSMOUTH

ROYAL SIGNALS COMFORTS FUND



Now that the weather is (censored) and the may fly is getting busy the customary practice of CLOUTS, CASTING OF, prompts our advising judicious care in the matter of "COMFORTS"—TAKE CARE OF YOUR WOOLLEN MITTENS, SCARVES, **PULL**-OVERS AND WHAT-NOT, AND REMEMBER THAT QUITE A LOT OF (BLUE-PENCILLED) WEATHER HAS YET TO BE EXPERIENCED ! For further information on the subject see Royal Signals Comforts Fund Notes on opposite page.

ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS — CORPS FUND

The Editor,

THE WIRE.

Reference Minute 4 of the minutes of the 27th Meeting of the Committee held on 27th May, 1938.

The statements of accounts of the following funds for the year ended 31st March, 1940, are forwarded for publication:

BAND FUND.
GENERAL PURPOSES FUND.
(incorporated in the Corps Funds Main Account.)

F. A. HEYMANN.
Brigadier, Commandant,
1st Signal Training Centre.

BALANCE SHEET as at 31st MARCH, 1940

(With comparative figures for the previous year).

LIABILITIES	Year Ended: 31/3/39 £ s. d.	31/3/40 £ s. d.
SUBSCRIPTIONS NOT YET DISTRIBUTED:		
Received	340 7 9	381 7 10
Owing (Contra)	22 7 1	47 5 8
GENERAL PURPOSES FUND	21 19 9	24 11 5
SUNDRY CREDITORS:		
Subscriptions Overpaid	14 0 10	10 0 9
Headquarters' Mess	10 1	8 1
Audit Fee	—	5 5 0
	£399 5 6	£468 18 9

ASSETS.	Year Ended: 31/3/39 £ s. d.	31/3/40 £ s. d.
CASH AT BANK	376 18 5	417 1 8
SUNDRY DEBTORS:		
Subscriptions Unpaid	22 7 1	47 5 8
Headquarters' Mess	—	4 11 5
	£399 5 6	£468 18 9

We have audited the above Balance Sheet dated 31st March, 1940. In our opinion such Balance Sheet correctly sets forth the position of affairs as at 31st March, 1940, according to the information and explanations given to us, and as shown by the books.

15 and 16, High Row,
Darlington.
22nd April, 1940.

CHIPCHASE, WOOD & CO.,
Chartered Accountants.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS for the year ended 31st MARCH, 1940

(With comparative figures for the previous year).

GENERAL PURPOSES FUND

	Year Ended: 31/3/39 £ s. d.	31/3/40 £ s. d.
To Subscriptions: Employment Bureau for Retired Officers	10 0 0	—
R.E. Corps Committee for Mons Memorial Fund	3 0 0	—
Royal United Services Institution—Uniform Committee	10 0	—
,, Presentation Swords	8 12 0	75 12 4
,, Clerk—Secretary Corps Committee	10 0 0	10 0 0
,, Wreaths	—	5 8 0
,, Salary, Postages and Cheque Book	20 9 4	19 5 5
,, Audit Fee	—	5 5 0
,, Credit Balance to end c/f.	21 19 9	24 11 5
	£74 11 1	£140 2 2

	Year Ended: 31/3/39 £ s. d.	31/3/40 £ s. d.
By Credit Balance to commence, b/f	4 2 7	21 19 9
,, Subscriptions received	67 8 6	118 2 5
,, Refund—Secretary, Corps Committee	3 0 0	—
	£74 11 1	£140 2 2

SUBSCRIPTIONS ACCOUNT.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To Payments to Separate Funds	1,361 8 9	1,410 7 7
,, Balance undistributed to end, for—		
Band Fund	147 4 0	162 19 0
Officers' Games Club	110 8 0	122 4 3
Officers' Dinner Club	9 3 10	10 3 8
Signals Association	27 11 11	30 11 1
Benevolent Fund	46 0 0	55 9 10
	£1,701 16 6	£1,791 15 5

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
By Balance undistributed to begin	328 2 3	340 7 9
,, Cash Received for—		
Band Fund	604 12 7	629 19 6
Officers' Games Club	445 2 4	472 9 5
Officers' Dinner Club	36 8 7	29 7 5
Signals Association	106 14 4	118 2 7
Benevolent Fund	180 16 5	201 8 9
	£1,701 16 6	£1,791 15 5

ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS — BAND FUND

BALANCE SHEET as at 31st MARCH, 1940

(With comparative figures as at 31st March, 1939).

LIABILITIES	Year Ended: 31/3/39 £ s. d.	31/3/40 £ s. d.
SUNDRY CREDITORS	28 18 8	62 14 5
CAPITAL ACCOUNT	1,722 1 4½	1,909 1 11
	£1,751 0 0½	£1,971 16 4

ASSETS.	Year Ended: 31/3/39 £ s. d.	31/3/40 £ s. d.
CASH AT BANK		
Current Account	247 6 5	228 3 2
Deposit Account	452 10 5	459 6 3
Cheque in Hand	——	90 0 0
PETTY CASH IN HAND	1 10 7½	1 15 0
SUNDRY DEBTORS	178 14 0	258 2 0
STOCKS—Gramophone Records and Boxes	16 6 11	16 3 5
PROPERTY	854 11 8	918 6 6
	£1,751 0 0½	£1,971 16 4

We have audited the above Balance Sheet dated 31st March 1940, with the Books, Accounts and Vouchers. In our opinion such Balance Sheet correctly sets forth the position of affairs as at 31st March, 1940, according to the information and explanations given to us, and as shown by the books.

15 and 16, High Row,
Darlington.
22nd April, 1940.

CHIPCHASE, WOOD & Co.,
Chartered Accountants.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS for the year ended 31st MARCH, 1940

(With comparative figures for the previous year).

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT.

	Year Ended 31/3/39 £ s. d.	31/3/40 £ s. d.
To GENERAL FUND:		
Repairs, Maintenance and Uniforms	55 0 9	93 9 9
Music	80 19 9	69 14 11
Sundry Expenses	43 4 6½	35 18 3½
,, PAY:		
Bandmaster	227 11 0	100 0 0
Bandsmen	156 13 0	146 8 0
,, ENGAGEMENTS:		
Bandmaster	182 17 4	103 17 5
Bandsmen	587 5 5	445 14 5
Expenses	483 1 7	270 19 7
,, ANNUAL DEPRECIATION	72 13 10	92 7 8
,, INITIAL DEPRECIATION of New Property	305 3 5	——
,, BALANCE:		
Being Excess of Income over Expenditure	——	187 0 6½
	£2,194 10 7½	£1,545 10 7

	Year Ended 31/3/39 £ s. d.	31/3/40 £ s. d.
By ENGAGEMENTS	1,386 0 6	853 1 0
,, SUBSCRIPTIONS	663 1 3	685 12 3
,, BANK INTEREST:		
Deposit Account	9 11 7	6 15 10
,, PROFIT ON GRAMOPHONE RECORDS	2 9	1 6
,, BALANCE:		
Being Excess of Expenditure over Income	135 14 6½	——
	£2,194 10 7½	£1,545 10 7

CAPITAL ACCOUNT

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To Loss on Sale of Old Instruments	100 4 11	——
,, Gratuity, Mr. Ricketts	150 0 0	——
,, Debit Balance from Income and Expenditure Account	135 14 6½	——
,, Balance to end, c/f.	1,722 1 4½	1,909 1 11
	£2,108 0 10	£1,909 1 11

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
By Balance to commence, b/f	2,093 16 1	1,722 1 4½
,, Special Discount on New Instruments	14 4 9	——
,, Credit Balance from Income and Expenditure Account	——	187 0 6½
	£2,108 0 10	1,909 1 11



Lt.-Q M R "Snowy" Marshall
Somewhere "Out East"

The New Army

It is perhaps hardly yet realised by many Britons what a startling and even revolutionary change in the nation's life was inaugurated by the passing of the Compulsory Military Service Act a year ago. It was a change which had been long and ardently advocated in certain quarters for many years, but which had generally been regarded as so alien to all our ideas of personal liberty and all our historic tradition as to be beyond the bounds of practical politics. Yet when the time came, it took place almost without a dissentient voice, and that although the Government's method of passing it into law—at very short notice and without that adequate consultation with the political and industrial leaders of organised Labour, which considerations of wisdom and tact would have demanded in circumstances of less urgency than those then prevailing—must certainly have given strength to the forces of opposition. Yet there was no criticism of the necessity, and little of the opportunity, of the measure; all classes were fully convinced that the crisis called for the utmost national effort, and that compulsory service for all was the only fair and efficient basis on which such an effort could be organised.

Those of us who are old enough to remember the wastefulness, the injustice, the inefficiency, and the delays that attended the construction of the national war machine twenty-five years ago, must be favourably impressed with the far different state of things to-day. In the autumn of 1914 the flower of Britain's youth, physically, mentally and morally the pick of their generation, flocked with patriotic ardour to the colours. Few realised what a stern ordeal awaited them; fewer still realised how ill prepared they and the country were to meet it. Not that such a realisation would for a moment have deterred them, but it might have saved them much disillusion and disappointment. Perhaps much of what a great writer so aptly termed the "disenchantment" of the later years of the World War and the earlier years of the subsequent peace might have been less widespread and embittered had we indulged ourselves in less vivid self-deception in those first months of hostilities.

Things are, or seem to a spectator from outside the ranks of the army, very different to-day. There seems a more general appreciation of the grimness and vastness of the task ahead of us; less tendency to be content with the merely good in place of the very best in the way of weapons, methods, training and morale; a more stern devotion to an unpleasant but necessary mission rather than any eager zest for the largely imaginary glory and grandeur of war. Determination rather than enthusiasm is the prevailing note in the army of to-day; there is less sign of "the valour like light straw on flame, fierce but fading fire" and more of the spirit of Cromwell's russet-coated captain "who knows what he fights for and loves what he knows." That is the right spirit, surely, in which to confront the continuous strain and the periodic terrors of modern war—not nobler nor worthier, but saner and more formidable, than that in which we, the fathers of this young soldiery of to-day, in our time went forth to fight.

The New Army of 1914 made, or perhaps it would be truer to say evolved itself, from a mountainous tangle of shortages, incoherencies, and difficulties. The New Army of 1940 is being made on a well-thought-out and highly efficient plan. Training, speeded up to the fullest possible extent compatible with efficiency, is systematic, comprehensive, and thorough; the recruit is first well grounded in the elements of his job, then passed on through a course of individual training at a steady but rapid tempo. Sub-unit and unit training follow in due order, with collective training as the peak of all; and then, and only then, will come—as for many units it has already come—the culmination and purpose of the whole, the introduction to war, itself its own best school and the acid test of all that had gone before. Not only is the system of training better; the men who work the system and the tools of the trade are, on the whole, better, too. There have, of course, been local and temporary shortages of both; but there has been no sign of that general and prolonged paralysis that befell us last time, when for weeks we had hordes of willing and splendid soldiers to be and nothing wherewith to fashion them into soldiers. The tragedy of so much keenness and vigour running to waste because there were no uniforms, no arms, no camps, no instructors, no training appliances, and no means or system by which these crippling deficiencies could be made good—that at least has not been repeated. Silence and unobtrusiveness is the hall-mark of modern mechanical efficiency, and so quietly is the army at work to-day in turning its mass of human material into trained and equipped soldiers that the nation hardly realises that the process is going on so rapidly and so smoothly. One reads of difficulties; one hears of anomalies; one knows of hardships; but they are few and trifling compared with those cheerfully and perforce undergone by the young soldiers of twenty-five years ago, though the publicity given to them has inevitably and rightly been far wider. The soldier of the modern New Army is doubtless quite as prepared as his father to take them as an ordinary part of the day's work, and as to some extent inevitable when a peace-loving nation has hurriedly to gird up its loins for war.

Even numerically the rate of expansion of the Army in the first period of this war compares very favourably with that of the last. In the last five months of 1914 enlistments numbered just over a million, and for the whole of 1915 less than a million and a quarter. Up to date in this war six age groups have been called up, each of about a fifth of a million strong. The total of enlistments this time, therefore, is already approaching that for the first year and a half of the last war, and should soon surpass it. The process of training this human raw material—material of finer temper and quality even than its predecessors of the last generation, splendid as that was—is being undertaken under far more favourable conditions, with equal zeal, and with greater knowledge and realisation of the task to be faced and of its difficulties. The New Army of 1940, resolved to rival and even to surpass the achievements of its glorious ancestry, is rapidly and determinedly fitting itself to cope with problems more complex and formidable than any that they had to face. In its ability to confront and ultimately to solve them we can fully share its own self-confidence, for it has already gone far to profit by its forefathers' errors.

The Norwegian Campaign

(ANON.)

The great battle now raging in France and Belgium as these lines are being written has somewhat overshadowed the operations in Norway, which only a few weeks ago riveted the attention of the whole world. Nevertheless, the Germans' attack on this small, thinly-peopled and completely inoffensive country was an event of great moment, politically, strategically, and tactically. Now that the campaign has, for the time being, at any rate, come to a definite pause with the completion of their conquest of the southern part of the country, it is a suitable moment for reviewing the episode from these various aspects.

From the political point of view Hitler's decision to make the unprovoked assault on Norway and Denmark, which had obviously long been projected, and prepared for with that mixture of cynicism, ruthlessness, and thoroughness which we have by now learned to expect from Nazi Germany, finally completed the process of revolting the conscience of the whole civilised world, which has been steadily going on since the brutal seizure of Czecho-Slovakia. If there was any lingering doubt left anywhere as to the nature of Nazism's methods and aims, it has by this been swept away. The moral weight of world opinion is now, wherever it can freely express itself, wholly against Germany, and this is no light factor in the war, slow though its influence may be to make itself felt. It may well appear to the future historians of the Great War of 1939 that this attack on Norway was indeed one of those foolish barterings of showy short-term gains for more serious ultimate disadvantages, by which German policy in the past has so often distinguished itself. Yet we must not be blind to the reality and far-reaching effects of the immediate gain ; and from the political point of view Germany will not fail, and in fact has not failed, to emphasise for the benefit of the remaining small neutrals the power and suddenness with which she can enforce compliance with her will. The fate of Denmark and Norway, which the Allies vainly tried to help, will constantly be held up before them *ad nauseam* for an example and a warning. However, the lesson may perhaps not everywhere have quite the effect intended, now that it has been made clear how little better is the fate of unresisting Denmark than to that of defiant Norway.

The campaign, too, had a political consequence in this country, unexpected by Hitler and possibly unwelcome, in bringing about the fall of Mr. Chamberlain's Government, which for months past had been slowly but surely losing the confidence of our people. The new union of all parties under a Prime Minister who of all our Statesmen had long been the most feared and hated by our enemies, will certainly lead to the war being waged with a new energy and vision, and with the firm confidence in victory and in our leaders, which we shall all need to the full before long.

The strategical aspects of the campaign, to which we must now turn, are, of course, manifold, and we have space only to deal briefly with the most important. Hitler undoubtedly hoped to secure possession of Norway, either with no more resistance than was or could be offered by Denmark, or, if not, in the same swift and complete manner in which Poland was dealt with. Had he done so, the strategic and economic gains would have been cheap and considerable ; Norway's air bases and potential submarine nests, situated within striking distance of our Fleet's war anchorages and our sea route to northern Europe, as well as her economic resources, natural and manufactured, were from Germany's point of view highly desirable. But should Norway decide to resist, she could not do so effectively or for long without aid, which the Allies would be bound by honour and interest to try to render her. That, too, would, it was reckoned, turn at least to the short-term strategic advantages of Germany ; and that in two ways. Allied aid could come only by sea and the Germans believed that if once the Allied warships and troop transports came within range of their air arm, they could either be beaten off altogether or subjected to crippling losses. Serious damage inflicted on our naval power would loosen the stranglehold of our blockade and might even render possible the ultimate invasion of Britain, which is known to be one of Hitler's most cherished designs.

In this respect at least the outcome of the Norwegian operations must have been from the German point of view disappointing. The losses inflicted on the British and French Navies, despite incessant aerial attack whenever opportunity offered, were confined to a few light craft only ; while the German Fleet, which had exposed itself not only to air but also to sea and underwater attack as well, suffered so severely as to cripple it for further service for some time to come. From the purely maritime standpoint, it may be said, therefore, that the result of the operations around the coasts of Norway was to fortify rather than decrease the existing naval preponderance on the Allied side. On the other hand, it was also made clear that seapower, in these days of the air arm, finds itself subjected to certain definite limitations whenever it comes within range of this potent new weapon. It was the power of Germany's air force over the narrow waters dividing southern Norway from Denmark that confined the Allied attack against her transports and supply ships to the operation of submarines and small surface flotillas, as the possible loss of heavy ships was too great to risk in the general war situation. Even these submarines and light craft, though they suffered little actual loss, found their activities much hampered by hostile aircraft. to which, for geographical reasons, the Royal Air Force and the Fleet Air Arm could provide only a partial counter. On the whole it may be said that though the balance of profit and loss on the purely naval side was tilted even more heavily than before in the Allies' favour by the Norwegian operations, the effect of that superiority on the campaign, perhaps inevitable in all the circumstances, was too limited to be decisive.

From the point of view of the strategy of the war as a whole, the Germans' stroke at Scandinavia, as was suspected in many quarters at the time, and as subsequent events have amply proved, was conceived primarily as a diversion on a large scale. It was hoped to attract and pin down there an amount of Allied force, naval, military and aerial, which would thus be withdrawn from the decisive theatre in the west, where the main blow of the war was shortly to be delivered. The Allies would thus be confronted with the dilemma of leaving Norway in the lurch altogether, or of sending forces they could ill spare, and facing the possibility of a yet larger and more perilous commitment to come. Here, again, the results were not quite as expected. From the first the Allies refused to lose sight of the issue in the main theatre, or to weaken their forces there, even to save Norway. An attempt was made by a bold use of such troops and air forces as could be spared for the purpose to stiffen the Norwegians' resistance sufficiently to enable them to dispute the Germans' possession of the southern part of the country. When it became clear, not only that this attempt had proved abortive, but that to persist in it might involve the complete destruction of the force engaged, it was abandoned. The troops, both Allied and Norwegian, were skilfully withdrawn, and our efforts were concentrated on holding the northern and central parts of Norway, out of effective range of the hostile air force, which had proved so potent a weapon during the fighting around Trondheim. The attack on the isolated German detachment on Narvik may well have been carried through to success by the time these lines appear in print ; in any case, the campaign in Norway is still being kept alive, and the enemy's force there, so far from having fulfilled the primary role of a detachment by dividing and holding fast a hostile force larger than itself, is considerably more numerous than our own, and will find the task of extending its hold of the barren and rugged remaining portion of Norway no easy one. It is, in fact, not the Allies but the Germans who now find themselves saddled with an uncomfortable and uncertain commitment in Scandinavia.

From the tactical point of view, it is impossible not to pay tribute to the ingenuity and thoroughness of the German plan of campaign in Norway, or to the determination and enterprise with which it was carried out. The treachery, both internal and external, which provided the master key for its success, naturally excites our disgust ; but if it be considered legitimate, as the Germans have always in fact considered it, to use any and every means to attain one's ends in war, the plan of attack was excellent, and its execution no less so. We may, and no doubt shall, learn much from the enemy's methods here—both how to defeat them and how to imitate what is admirable in them. Our foe is no doubt cruel, treacherous, and wicked ; but he is also formidable, competent and bold. The Norwegian campaign, though it will certainly contribute in the long run to his undoing, has shown him at his best from a purely technical point of view and at his evil worst from that of morality and honour. It is just because he uses his excellent weapons with such admirable ability and yet to such vile ends that there can be no future worth while for our world to-day until they are struck from his hands.

Diary of Events in the War

APRIL 13TH TO MAY 11TH.

By E. W. S.

1940

APRIL 13TH.—British squadron attacks Narvik, sinking all remaining German ships in harbour, including seven destroyers, and driving enemy from newly-erected coastal batteries. On land Norwegian resistance continues to stiffen. Allied air activity continues uninterrupted and intense.

APRIL 14TH.—British naval attack at Narvik completely successful. Seven German destroyers sunk with no loss of British forces.

APRIL 15TH.—British forces land at three points in Norway: in the north near Narvik, at Namsos, north-east of Trondheim, and at Andalsnes, south-west of Trondheim. Two German transports sunk by British submarines.

APRIL 16TH.—R.A.F. deliver successful attacks on Stavanger and other aerodromes in Norway now in German hands. Proclamation issued ordering registration of 27-year-old men on 25th May.

APRIL 17TH.—Stavanger aerodrome bombarded from sea and Trondheim aerodrome and seaplane base bombed by R.A.F.

APRIL 18TH.—British troops from Andalsnes reinforce Norwegian forces fighting north-west of Oslo. R.A.F. raids on German air bases in Norway continue day and night.

APRIL 19TH.—First contact between German and British troops north-east of Trondheim. Dutch Government proclaims state of siege in Holland.

APRIL 20TH.—French troops land in Norway. More submarine successes against German transports and supply ships.

APRIL 21ST.—German air raids on British base at Namsos cause damage but no casualties.

APRIL 22ND.—British advance on Trondheim from Namsos and Andalsnes continues. R.A.F. raid German air bases at Stavangar in Norway and Aalborg in Denmark.

APRIL 23RD.—German counter-attack assisted by German warships in Trondheim Fjord checks British advance guard on Namsos–Trondheim road. Renewed German air attacks on Namsos. R.A.F. continue raids on German air bases in Norway and Denmark.

APRIL 25TH.—Allied naval forces once more take heavy toll of German troop and supply ships crossing from Denmark to Norway.

APRIL 26TH.—Heavy fighting reported south of Dombas on Oslo–Andalsnes road. Allied operations rendered difficult by German air superiority.

APRIL 27TH.—Germans continue to make slow and costly progress towards Dombas.

APRIL 28TH.—German attack south of Dombas repulsed with loss.

APRIL 29TH.—Three more German supply ships sunk, making a total of 38 in course of Norwegian operations.

APRIL 30TH.—Allies retire to new positions in Dombas area. R.A.F. deliver new series of heavy attacks on German air bases in Norway and Denmark. Orders issued, closing Mediterranean to Allied shipping. Two British submarines, "Tarpin" and "Starlet," now much overdue and believed lost.

MAY 1ST.—Germans occupy Dombas and effect junction between their forces at Trondheim and those advancing north from Oslo area. New R.A.F. attack on German air bases in Norway and Denmark. German bomber crashes at Clacton-on-Sea, causing large number of civilian casualties.

MAY 2ND.—Withdrawal of Allied troops from Andalsnes effected without loss, despite heavy air attacks by enemy.

MAY 3RD.—Allied troops safely withdrawn from Namsos. German counter-attack at Narvik without success. R.A.F. Fleet Air Arm continue raids on German air bases in Norway with good results. Strong Allied fleet arrives at Alexandria.

MAY 4TH.—Allied troops withdrawn from Norway safely landed in Britain.

MAY 5TH.—Three Allied destroyers reported sunk while escorting troopships home from Norway.

MAY 7TH.—Debate in Parliament on Norwegian campaign.

MAY 8TH.—Vote following debate on Norway results in much-reduced Government majority. Military precautions in Holland intensified. United States battle fleet, on manœuvres in Western Pacific, ordered to remain at Hawaii.

MAY 9TH.—Proclamation issued extending liability for military service to men between ages of 28 and 36. Two enemy aircraft shot down off north-east coast.

MAY 10TH.—Germans attack Holland and Belgium, crossing frontiers of both countries in force and dropping parachute troops at many towns, harbours, and aerodromes. Intensive air raids on Dutch, Belgian and French towns of military importance. Belgian and Dutch Governments appeal to Allies for help, which is promised, and British and French troops move at once to support of Dutch and Belgian forces. R.A.F. deliver intensive attacks on German parachute troops and troop-carrying aeroplanes, and on enemy mechanised and marching columns, and inflict heavy losses on enemy men and machines. British Government resigns; Mr. Churchill entrusted with task of forming new Government.

MAY 11TH.—German air attacks on Holland and and Belgium and France continue. R.A.F. activity intense, with good results. All German parachutists landed yesterday mopped up, but others continue to be dropped at many points. German troops advance in north-east Holland, force line of Yssel at Arnheim, and approach Roermond, Maastricht, and the outer defences of Liege. Luxemburg occupied and Germans approach French frontier in Ardennes.

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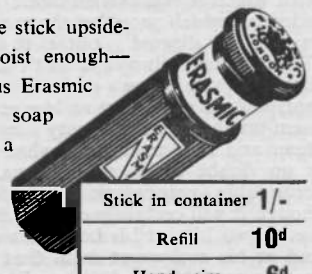


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B.E.F. NOTES

No. 1 H.Q. Signals, B.E.F.

Once again the scribe asks for apologies, having missed one month's notes.

We have been very active in the sport line, as was forecasted in our last issue of notes. The Unit soccer team has now been built and to date out of eleven encounters we have only lost twice, the R.A.S.C. being the victors both times.

We played the local French Town 2nd eleven team on 28th April, and we ran out winners by 3—2.

Now with weather conditions favourable, we are anticipating really good stuff in the athletic line—and the Adjutant means to find out the talent for the discus and javelin, he, having very kindly brought those items of sports gear back with him on his return from leave in the U.K.

We noticed a boxing ring rigged up for a while at No. 51 Line Section's billet, but owing to various moves which have scattered our Sections a bit, this has been discarded, but will, no doubt, be re-erected whenever we get concentrated again. We hardly thought that Willie Kinniburgh was an ex-bruiser, but the scribe gathers that he made a few of the younger lads nip during some sparring bouts. Corporal McKinnon, who was a notable boxer away back in Indian days, has been doing a bit of training, which bodes good for our future ventures in the fistic world, and Signalman McIntyre certainly has plenty of pluck, which, coupled with a bit more ringcraft, will make him a really good boxer. The scribe hopes to be able to report more activities in this sphere when things get really under way.

We must mention that since our last notes we have had the Gay Gordons attached to us for a month, and have very pleasant memories of our association. The folk at home need not worry as long as we have such stalwarts, because, judging by their performances while with us, they could almost dig their way to victory, let alone fight. We hope that we shall once again meet before this show ends.

The E.F.I. are carrying on the good work of providing the lads with entertainment, and we have been treated to really good shows; incidentally, we note that the first tier is always pretty well occupied by weel kent faces. The R.A.F. Band gave us a real treat on 4th May. We enjoyed Victoria Hopper's fine singing, particularly her duets with Thorpe Bates. There's no doubt about it, soldiering out here at the moment is not over-strenuous.

It is very pleasant in the region of the "Heid Yins" these days, what with the nightingales singing at night, and the sound of the pibroch on guest nights.

The Commissariat's domain is pretty sacred these days, and we note with interest that a lawn is coming into being. We wonder if we shall soon become confronted with "anti-noise" slogans, because at 06.30 hours one observes the lads treading cat-like when passing beneath the archway!

We extend a hand of welcome to the new Operating Section who joined us a month ago, and hope that they will have a happy time with us.

We hear that every time a certain Operating Section N.C.O. goes on leave he carries his saucepan with him. Our referee suggests that this is in order to enable him to drum up on the journey!

Plain Tales (B.E.F.)

Nights of Gladness.—But for the B.B.C. it would never have happened. Why someone doesn't tell them when leave for the B.E.F. is suspended is a mystery.

Uncle Alf: "Someone does tell them."

Me: "Well, perhaps they don't believe it."

All the people who had expected to go to Railhead that night sat round the hired radio and wondered when leave would be resumed. It was raining gently and persistently. Suddenly the programme changed. Joe Smells and his Six Hell's Bells burst on the much misused air.

"There's a boy coming home on leave" sang a bloke with a voice like hot sweet treacle. "There's a boy coming home on leave." "Tra la la Boop Skiddles Bom doo there's a boy coming home on leave!"

"What's that called?" asked Max.

"Trees," suggested Phil.

"Ten days of heaven," dribbled treacle voice.

Old Bob, who wasn't noted for patience, picked the set up and heaved it through the open window.

Uncle Alf.: "The open window?"

Me: "Sorry; the window was shut."

There is a lot more to this story as you can imagine. What with a two thousand franc wireless set bouncing in the yard and a square yard of glass cascading in pursuit, not to mention madame's voluble views on the demolition work, the thing has possibilities for a story-teller. But me—I am better on the drums than telling stories. Anyway, if the B.B.C. would just use a little whatsit at these critical moments such goings on would never appear in print.

Do not miss next month's thriller, "Trapped in The Black Cat."

□▪▪□

More Notes.—Someone was trying to explain that leave was a much over-rated business and hardly worth the trouble, but he didn't sound very convincing. Maybe we will accept the ten days when it is offered, anyway.

Sections continue to ignore our offer to include their notes in the WIRE. The censorship appears to gag them, even the ex-reporters. They haven't mastered the art of writing about nothing at all.

Everyone looks very fit and the vehicles are clean and smart. The late winter is just a nasty memory now that the sun has contrived to pierce the clouds. Rhubarb is now ready in the Q.M.'s garden and Signalman 'Arris has a new suit of overalls. The year marches on.

Order your Spunyarn and Bobbins early.

□▪▪□

Our Hero Unmasked.—Colonel Ukann Larfe, X.Y.Z. (and bar) drank his tea and pulled on a sock with a smothered oath. He always smothered his oaths. His foot went through the bottom of the sock and he cried quietly into one of his Chinese vases.

Ringing the bell with a well-manicured thumb, he searched feverishly through the pages of his notebook for a suitable string of "muttered curses."

Lance Corporal Fogworthy (whom you probably don't remember) appeared as if by magic and stood to attention with his arm resting respectfully on the mantelpiece.

"Fogworthy," said the Colonel quietly and with restraint, "Have we any clean socks?"

"Yes, sir," replied the ex-butler, pressing out his butt-end on the polished table. "We have seventy-eight pairs, and one odd one from a maiden lady at Little Stench."

"Well, get me a pair that haven't been dipped in acid, fool."

"I'm afraid they've all been dipped, sir. It was Lieutenant Faceache's idea. He said that after a time you could pull them right up to meet your short pants.

"Tell Mr. Faceache that I'll see him at nine o'clock."

"Not if he sees you first, sir!"

"What?"

"I said a lot of pipes are burst!"

"Don't be a fool, Fogworthy."

"No, sir, I forgot to tell you that Mrs. Larfe is downstairs in the lounge looking at your pin-up pictures."

Colonel Ukann Larfe turned deadly pale and collapsed heavily on to his Louis the whatname four-poster. Hermione Larfe kicked the door open with a shapely if somewhat outsize foot.

"So this is the Siegfried Line, is it?"

"No darling. This is ——"

A medium-sized square of damp turf took him neatly under the nostrils, which is distinctly annoying because we shall have to wait until next month to find out where he is.

□▪▪□

Next month: How Ukann paid his Mess bill.

BARLEUX.

HOME STATIONS

Yorkshire I.

1st Operators' Training Battalion

No. 1 Company

General.—Life is going on, more or less the same, more more than less I think, because the conditions are excellent and the spirit is good. Backed up by the Unit dance, which again, of course, was a great success and well supported by the " gigolos," all we see on the faces of the men is that " see you next Tuesday " look. The Unit has decided to run a dance every other Tuesday, and it is a welcome break.

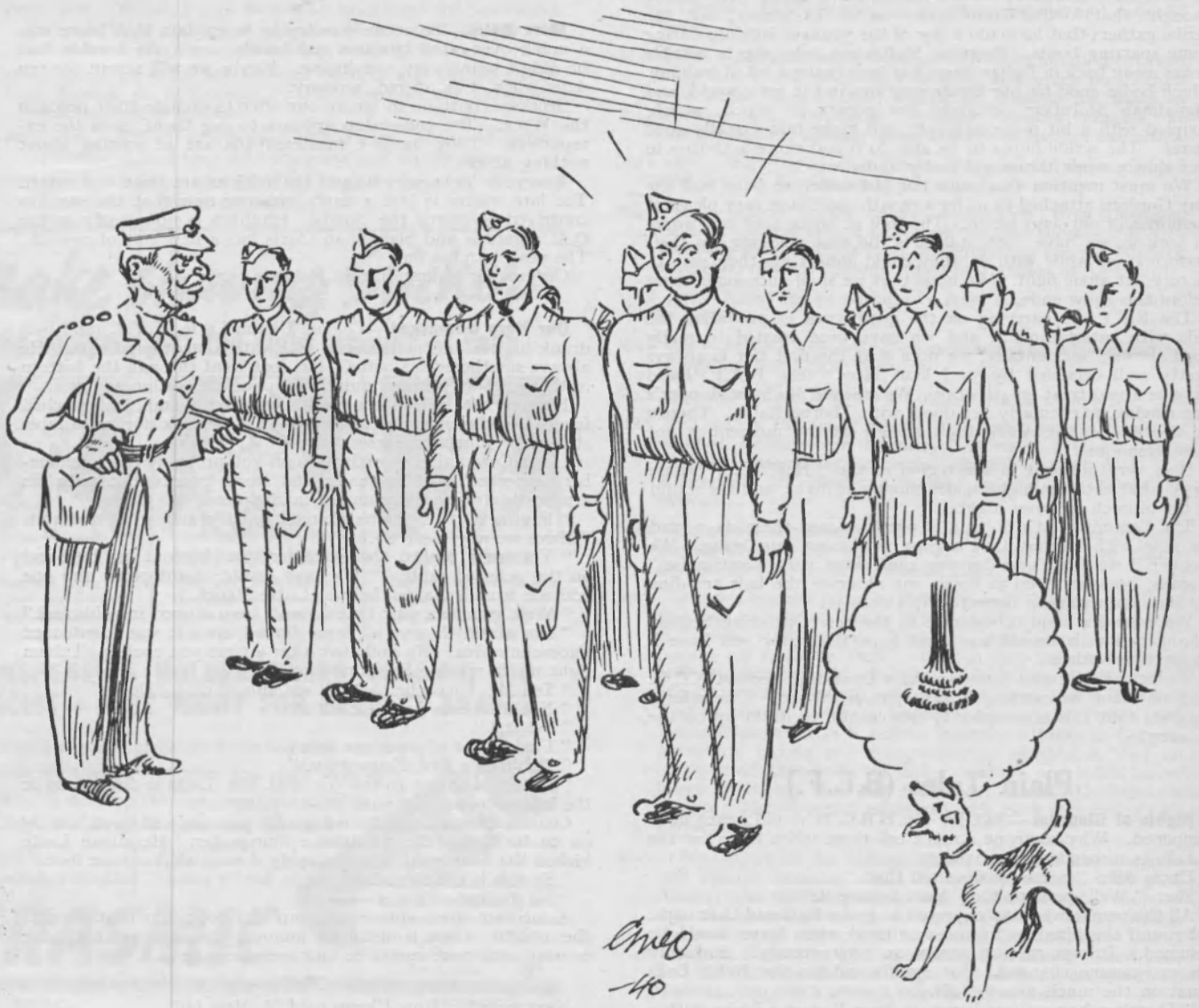
On Thursday the Unit concert party again excelled themselves, and gave us a marvellous performance, in fact it was so good we are almost afraid the B.B.C. gets to hear about it. There is to be a repeat performance, because half the Unit was turned away, and provided " Frankenstein " doesn't get posted, we expect another full house. We would like to see the concert party provide us more regularly with their smashing shows, if possible.

Sport.—We had a very good rugby team and were doing very well in the Command Knock-out Competition, when, unfortunately, three of our best players sustained injuries, and we were knocked out by the 152nd O.C.T.U.

Hockey was our next competition and after a very good game against the 123rd O.C.T.U. we were knocked out in the semi-final.

At football we reached the final and played the Holding Battalion. This is the second time we have met them. The last time was in the final of the Command Knock-out Competition and they beat us 4—2 on a replay. After a very scrappy game we lost by the odd goal, and although we got a penalty awarded five minutes before full time, Signalman Smith put it over the bar with gusto.

We are now looking forward to the cricket season, which will be starting very soon. We haven't any idea what our team is going to be, but we should be able to turn out a very good side.





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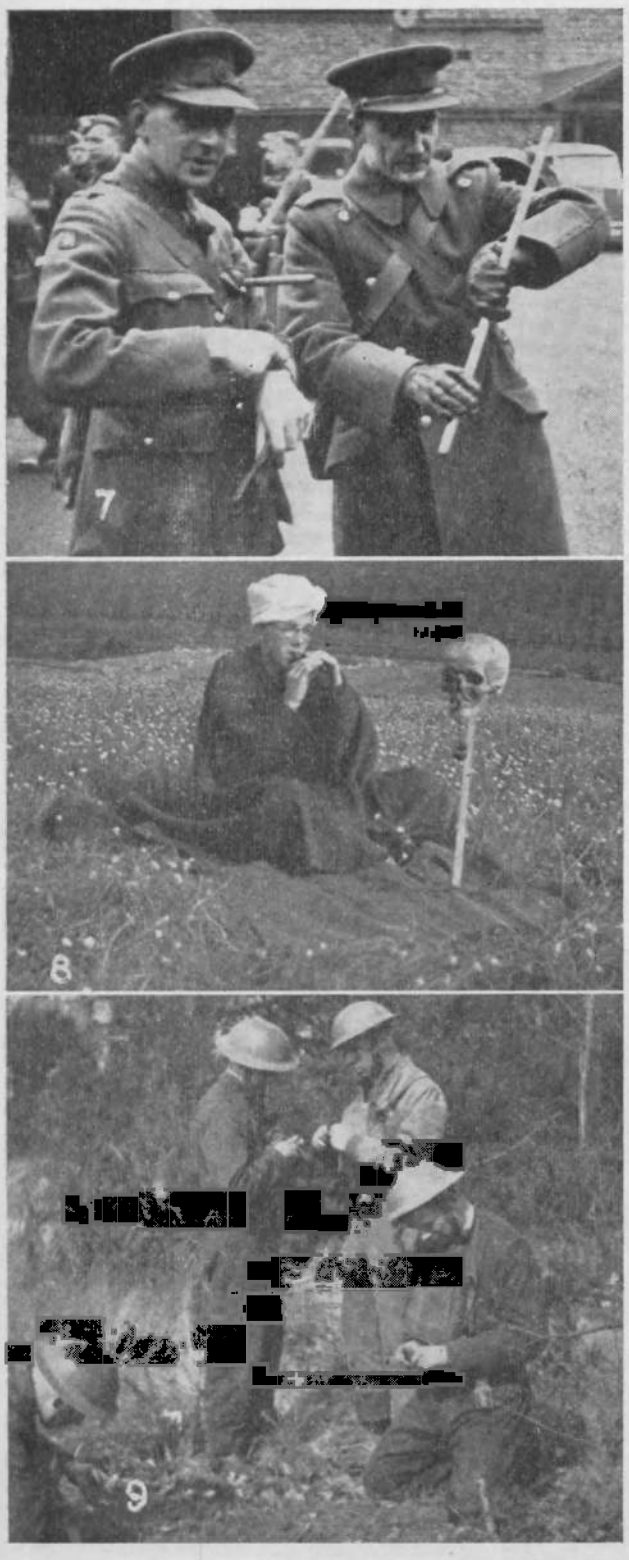








1. The C.O. listens-in
2. O.C. Section shows the C.O. the Signal Office
3. Signal Section Training
4. N.C.O.s before the C.O.'s Final Inspection
5. O.C. Section putting equipment in order for C.O's. Final Inspection
6. Parading for the Inspection



7. Mathematical Precision
8. Signalman Earp Serenades the Section Mascot
9. Line Repairs

Training.—Congratulations to Lance Sergeant Williams for continuing the high standard previously set. Once again a 100 per cent. squad is added to the list.

Promotions and Appointments.—Congratulations to A/Sergeant Hatton A. W. on his recent promotion. There are a lot of worried looks and sweating brows to be seen these days, and for the life of me I can't think why. Perhaps I should have this in the " Births " column.

Howlers.—A ground indicator is an instrument for picking up earth currents.

Sketches.—An artist's impression of " Life in the Army."

Agony.—This will be my last contribution to the WIRE for No. 1 Company. I have been degraded. Ah, me !

EIDROEG.

No. 2 Company

The coming of spring and the real start of the war are the events of the last four weeks. Norway and Holland have seen an invasion, a lightning campaign, and very nearly a finale—and Belgium is well into the second stage.

But—war or peace, barbarism or civilisation—the seasons roll along. The whole countryside is green now, and there are flowers in gardens, fields, and in the hedgerows.

The migrant birds came with a rush. The first willow warble was heard on 20th April ; two days later, a pair of swallows appeared at mid-day—and the air was thick with them before tea.

Wireless schemes over dales and moors had become real picnics. Hot tea at mid-day had ceased to be a luxury, and the lukewarm stuff we had to be glad of in winter would have been passed on to certain scroungaceous dogs and ponies that we know, in the hamlets amongst the hills. When leave was stopped we were pegged in barracks, and on parade with live " ammo." from starry eve to sleepy down. (Oh, for " cha " at a quarter to four ack monkey—specially when the cooks oversleep !)

Besides the men lost to No. 1 Company, we had to say farewell to Civilian Instructor Sumner, who did his share in the production of notes for the WIRE, flower-borders for our barracks, and tests for our trainees. Lance Corporal Harrison has gone to 1st Holding Battalion, where many of his proteges still hang out. Two of his proteges (Taylor C. G. and Robinson R.), accompanied by Beech, McKenna, Askew and Tate, have gone Bolshy—I mean they have joined the " Ogpu " on " Doctors' Knob."

(Incidentally, O.C.T.U.s, when are you going to take an interest in the Corps Magazine, and let us have some news ?)

To all of these old friends we wish the best of good luck.

Agony.—DO let us hear from you—boys with the old " TWO " tie ! Address it " No. 2 Company." It shall go round.

Sergeants' Mess.

Socially everything goes along very quietly, owing to war conditions one is barred from travelling far afield. Our fortnightly Dance is well patronised.

Promotions.—We have pleasure in offering congratulations to C.S.M. Murphy C. and S.S.M. Pink R. F. on their commissions, and are very sorry to lose them. In addition we congratulate C.S.M. Stevens S. A., S.S.M. Wagner F., C.Q.M.S. Burrell H., Sergeants Hatton A., Gully H. and Lilley F. on their promotions to ranks named, and congratulate and welcome to the Mess Lance Sergeants Hall A., Philpson L., Watson H. and Muirhead A. G.

Departures.—We wish Sergeant Sheppard P. and Lance Sergeant Spence R. the best of luck in their new Units.

Since our last notes we have had a new C.O. appointed, and we give him a hearty welcome and trust that his tenure of command will be all that he would desire. I am sure that all members of the Mess will give him their loyal support.

Things We Want to Know.—When is the C.S.M. going to add the book " Romance on the Cobbles of R—— " to the library ?

Does he know that the sequel, "Aftermath," is practically ready for publication ?

Why was Freddie past A.1 ? Was it because of so much b—— in the Mess ?

Why has the Red Shadow changed to spots ? Is it camouflage ?

Did the S.S.M. enjoy his one day's leave ?

LEATHERNECK.

Boys Training Company

Dear Readers,—Since A. Jay made his exit a Boy's Club meeting decided that the Secretary should make the Company's contribution to the WIRE. Here is my first effort, and thank you A. Jay for your brilliant journalism in the past.

In the last month or so, Corporal Boy Phillips, Lance Corporal Boy Smith K., Boys Newstead, Barton, Donnelly, Allen and Ward have become "Smokers in the Corridor." We greatly miss the G.B.A. Shuffle and disappearing tricks performed by Tex in S. Room 5. By the time these notes go to press many of these Signalmen will have been posted. Best of luck to you all. The Company congratulates Lance Corporal Jordan and Corporal Boy Rabjohns on their promotion, also the following Boys on completing the First Class Certificate of Education : Lance Corporal Boy Royle, Boys Sinclair J. C., Stevens, Clowson, Durrant, Selmes, Mole and Weatherley. Many other Boys gained subjects towards the Certificate and should be successful at the next examination. Some bright spark (no doubt an Operator) composed the following true life poem :

IT MAKES YOU THINK.

You may talk of electricity and its magnetic powers,
  You may cram your stagnant brain up to the brink ;
You may talk of inert cells for hours and hours and hours,
  But the rotund Corporal Hakesley only says : "It makes you think."

When tracing out a circuit that we do not understand,
  Our patient friend concludes we've got a kink ;
Though there are some who can appreciate and reel them all off hand,
  Yet the jovial Corporal Hakesley only says : It makes you think."

There are voltmeters and galvo's and other funny things,
  There are metals such as copper, lead and zinc ;
When working with some instruments or a bell that never rings,
  Then the fed-up Corporal Hakesley says : "It makes you think."

This may be somewhat silly, but it whiles away the time,
  And now I cannot find another link ;
As I try to find a word or so to make another rhyme,
  Still the jovial Corporal Hakesley burbles : "Makes you think."

The Company First-Aid Squad had their first outdoor exercise recently. Boys acting as casualties lay in the vicinity of Venus' Pinnacle (?) and the squad, then in four groups, went out to tend and carry home the "victims." In spite of some unfortunate person having a bandage put round his jaws to keep a "fractured" thigh intact, the first-aiders displayed fervent enthusiasm and efficiency. Keep it up, Aortas !

Early one morning the Boys in a certain Barrack Room awoke to find the Company cat had presented someone with five kittens. Phew ! Corporal Horstead ought to get to work and give someone the inspiration to write five more laments.

Lately Richard Patella has been seen smoking a pipe. No one knows what pungent concoction smoulders within that Woolworth bowl, but now that the cost of tobacco has increased it is rumoured that he believes in eliminating waste.

The weekly cinema shows continue and lately we have seen some first-class shows. Our cinema operators now wear blues when performing behind the projector. At this rate we will soon have a commissionaire at the door, and the Boys will attend in Mess dress (but it would be much better if we could wear R.T kit).

The marriage took place on 4th May of Sergeant Atkin and Sub-Leader Iris Buckley, A.T.S. Everyone wishes them a happy and prosperous future, and may all their troubles be little ones.

On 11th May a dance was held in the Dining Room (bia jove). Richard Patella kindly consented to act as M.C. and to distribute the prizes. It was a great success and even the usual wallflowers found partners to glide (or rather gangle) round the floor when



1st (H) BATTALION
Winners of the McEwan Cup, 1939-1940

a certain " hot tune " rent the air (even if it was a spot dance). Our thanks go to Corporal Hakesley and Corporal Boy Rabjohns on their organisation and perhaps we may have many more dances in the future. Even the longer evenings cannot damp the Boys' enthusiasm (especially when N.A.A.F.I. chits are mentioned).

Jews' Mail.—To Stan. R. 31 from Bro. H.1. " How about a line ? "

To P. J. Keane, from Dick. " Would like to hear from you."

To Jack, Palestine, from Sonner. " It's about time you wrote."

To Grainger, from 66 Mac. " Has the new postage hit you ? "

T.W.B. from the B.T.C. " Best wishes from all."

Things We Want to Know.—Who was the big man who was pulled up for wearing his gas-mask in a " bolsh " fashion ?

Why doesn't Rollo come on pay parades ?

We welcome Driver Nash to this Company and hope his stay will be a happy one.

This is all for now, as you can probably see. Hoping you will be able to put up with next month's effort as well as this.

Yours for the asking,

BUSH

SPORTS NOTES

Hockey.—In the last month hockey has been the primary sport of the Company. The Company turned out their strongest team to play the Holding Battalion on the Hospital Hard Ground. The game was one of great skill and speed and it was only the fitness of the Boys that won them the game in the end. The final result was 3—1 in favour of this Company. In a return game the Boys again proved themselves victors. The play was very fast and the combination of the Boys' team seemed to puzzle the opposition. Lance Corporal Smith A. put up a fine show at centre-forward, scoring three goals. The Holding Battalion did not penetrate the Boys' defence, so the final score was 3—0.

A game against the School was played on the Hospital Hard Ground. A goal by the School set the Boys' team on the defensive for the first quarter of an hour, but gradually the play worked its way into the Schools' half. After short passing down the right wing, the ball was centred for Lance Corporal Smith A. to score from close range. The next goal came in the same way, but it was Lance Corporal Boy Brodie who put the finishing touch to a brilliant movement by flicking the ball past the oncoming goalkeeper. The next goal was also scored by Brodie. After half-time the School attacked strongly and with the Boys' defence appealing for a foul, the centre-forward scored an easy goal, which was allowed. This burst did not last long as the Boys replied with goals by Lance Corporal Smith A. and Lance Corporal Boy D'Hooghe before the final whistle blew with the score 5—2.

A game against the Depot ended in a draw, 3—3. The scorers for this Company were Lance Corporal Smith A. (2) and Lance Corporal Boy Brodie (1). The play was even throughout, with each side playing their utmost. In the second round of the Garrison Cup the Training Battalion beat the R.A. by 3—1. Lance Corporal Boys Forsyth, Brodie and Perkins were playing for this Company.

The semi-final was played against the Signals Cadets, who won by 3—1 in a very hard game. This Company was represented by C.Q.M.S. Warman, Lance Corporal Smith A. and Lance Corporal Boys Forsyth and Rowe.

Rugby.—The Training Battalion called upon Sergeant Atkin, Lance Corporal Boy Kite, Boys Martin, Lees, Knight R. and Graveling to play for them against the Anti-Tank Regiment. The score was 6—6, after a very hard game.

The Depot Battalion played the Training Battalion on 27th May. The Boys' Company sent rather a lot of players to the match. They were : Sergeant Atkin, Lance Corporals Smith A. and Stewart, Lance Corporal Boy Kite, Boys Martin, Lees and Graveling.

Association Football.—Lance Corporals Smith A. and Murray, Lance Corporal Boy Kneebone and Boy Martin played for the

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Training Battalion against the Depot. The score was 4—0 in favour of the Training Battalion and it was largely the play of the Boys' representatives that brought about the result.

A team of "five and under" played against a combined Garrison and District Schools' team on the Garrison ground. The score was 2—0 for the Boys' Company. The goals were scored by Boys Edgerton and Earl. This game showed that we still have some talent to come in the following years.

Athletics.—Most of the Boys interested in athletics have gone into training and the result of their efforts will be published in next month's WIRE.

P. E. D. H.

Yorkshire 3

3rd Operators Training Battalion

The gravity of the present military situation as these notes are being written is fully appreciated by us all, yet even in the darkest hours it is the pious privilege of British troops the world over to jest, laugh and enjoy whatever healthy entertainment offers. Lengthening summer days, with the rays of the westering sun sparkling on the waters of the ocean herald an urgent call for the open spaces, the moors, dales and cliff tops. The black-out confines of the ballroom hold no great attraction whilst the sun shines, no matter how alluring may be the seductive strains of a well-rehearsed band; consequently, attendances at our functions have not been so great as during the grey days of winter. But the enthusiasm of many dancers, their eyes sparkling, and faces flushed by healthy exercise, has not waned. There is now more room to enjoy the niceties of the terpsichorean art—to add those extra nimble steps, and twirls, facile glides and chassees which so please the ardent indulger.

Our full band of instrumentalists consists of a brilliant pianist and leader (who also sings), four saxophonists and clarionet players, a trumpeter, double bass, and drummer—all very fine musicians.

The W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess engaged them again for their monthly dance. A pleasing feature of this welcome function was the great number of officers in attendance, accompanied by their ladies, all of whom thoroughly enjoyed the occasion. Several A.T.S. officers and other ranks, as well as many wives and friends of the W.O.s and Sergeants were present. Dancing, let it be softly whispered, continued enthusiastically into the wee small hours.

An ambitious effort in another direction will be the production of that amusing farce "Rookery Nook" by the Operators and A.T.S. Dramatic Society. Several members, who are prominent in the theatrical world, are giving their services, and judging by rehearsals, the entertainment should be thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. It was the intention to give performances for three nights, but for various reasons this was found impracticable, so two performances on one evening have been arranged. Five members of the A.T.S. are playing, namely, Senior Leader Woodcock, Section Leader Warner, Volunteers Elliston, Atkinson and Wright M. There are also understudies, a wardrobe mistress, etc., whilst others help in other ways. The O.T.B. have four players and the Depot one. Incidental music will be played by our band, which on this occasion is turned into a theatre orchestra. It is hoped to give a full report of the production in the next issue. Posters, advertising, scene-painting—the whole production—will be carried out entirely by soldiers and A.T.S. for the troops.

Recently the Royal Operators' Dance Band, as it is known on occasions, paid a visit to the Holding Battalion to play at their dance, the original band having folded up their blankets and silently stolen away to a sterner field of service.

Signals believe in hard play and harder, more efficient work for producing health from happy entertainment, and we hope that those who proceed elsewhere will carry away pleasant memories of happy recreational hours.

Depot Battalion

Though life in the Depot has recently become slightly more complicated by vitally necessary if not pleasant regulations (for instance, some of the sleepy eyes in the Mess at breakfast time can't altogether be accounted for by hilarity of the the night before!) one has no qualms about saying that everything is in great shape in this part of the country.

There have been a number of changes in personnel and to those who have left we wish the very best of luck; not forgetting to welcome those new faces in our midst.

Concerts and dances at the local "Spa," organised both by E.N.S.A. and the Battalion itself, have been a great success and the Unit Dance Band has been playing its part nobly. In fact, we have it on the authority of several of the shieks whose faces are well-known at these affairs, that their playing is of the highest order.

There was a great show recently at Depot H.Q., a "Hidden Talent" competition, very excellently arranged by 2nd Lieutenant H——, the Entertainments Officer. Community singing put everybody in good mood and the show itself, which produced talent from the most unexpected quarters, was undoubtedly the best of its kind yet held here. And C.S.M. "Bill" Pack simply must get his script from Jack Warner before the next show; we're dying to hear him perform.

In conclusion, the "'umble bloke wot compiles these notes for the Depot" would like to know what happened to "A" Company this month; in fact, what happens to most people who have promised contributions on or about the 10th of the month. They all seem to vanish from human ken. These monthly contributions provide the best means of keeping in touch with old friends, so do, please, keep them going. All such matter should reach the P.R.I. by the 10th. Thanks!

T. J. T.

"B" Company Depot Battalion

With Dame Rumour dropping hints of development within the Battalion on a scale vaster than heretofore, it seems not impossible that the following list of promotions and appointments will be materially affected within a very short time. For the time being, however, congratulations to Sergeant Willis A., Lance Sergeant Murray B. W., Corporals Reynolds T., Paterson D. S., Wintrip R., Trout T. J. and Hall P. E. A., Lance Corporals Corrigan W. and Davison J. A., on their promotions and appointments to the above ranks.

New arrivals from other regiments, now taking their places on the square, are helping to swell the cadre's ranks. They include Lance Corporals Phillips M. and Ripley F. from the 4th/7th Dragoon Guards, and "Bill" Corrigan, abovementioned, who hails from the Scots Guards.

Corporal Taylor J. has, alas, left for the 3rd Holding Battalion. Only comment: we knew something was going to happen sometime! At the time of writing Sergeant Shipley is on a Drill and Duties Course at the 2nd S.T.C., and if Lance Corporal Stockley doesn't return to the Company office a fully-fledged fireman, it'll only be for want of a helmet.

The "goons" still provide the humour, too. Approached by the Orderly Officer, a W.O. II, one night after black-out, a blissfully unconscious recruit answered: "Me? Oh, I'm on this ruddy black-out picquet. What are you doin' chum?"

Postscript. C.S.M. "Bill" Clevett had departed to take up R.Q. duties. Our hope: that his successor may be as genial a personality.

T. J. T.

"C" Company Depot Battalion

General.—Another contribution from this Company is due to help us keep our place in the sun or, rather, in the pages of the WIRE. Intakes and outputs are continuing regularly and the training of Drivers (I.C.) and D.R.s is proceeding with more or less gratifying results. Everyone seems to be taking an interest in the Company and several congratulatory "chits" have come our way recently. Good work, lads! Keep it up!

Promotions and Appointments.—Congratulations are extended to the following on their recent step up the ladder: Lance Sergeants Hayes and Powell S., Corporal Sloan, Lance Corporals Woodhouse (" Pop "), Almey, Lloyd, Knowles, Dickenson, Andrews and Morrison. May they never be found with a dirty billet!

Courses.—Driver Underhill has attended an M.T. Course in London, returning full of knowledge and an excellent report. Lance Corporal Langdon has been away on an N.C.O.s' Course and again brought laurels to the Company.

Sport.—We are a sporting crowd in the Company these days and not so long ago there was a battle royal on the soccer field with the professionals of Admin. Wing. Though we lost by two goals it was a highly interesting game and we didn't do so badly, considering " our Paddy " was on leave. Cheer up, " C." It was tough going with the wind and the referee playing for the others.

Tailpiece.—On a certain Saturday recently a member of the Company was " awarded " seven days C.B. Having a date that same night he made anxious enquiries as to the possibility of commencing the C.B. at reveille on the Monday. Sorry to say the lady *may* have been kept waiting.

FEN.

Eastern Command Signal Company

Our apologies for not appearing in last month's WIRE. There is no excuse beyond the fact that our scribe had been on leave and was otherwise employed.

We have sent three further candidates for commissions to the O.C.T.U., and we wish them every success during their long and strenuous course.

Several N.C.O.s have left us to become Instructors to new Units, and in saying good-bye to them, we feel sure that they will perform their duties in a capable and efficient manner. Others have left us for various parts of the world, and to them we say good luck and a safe return.

We welcome Lieutenant Robinson, 2nd Lieutenants Gomm and Parker, who have recently joined us, and we have said good-bye to 2nd Lieutenant Jones, who, before leaving, " took unto himself a wife."

At the time of writing, 2nd Lieutenant Eagle, who has been with us since the commencement of the war, is under orders to proceed to another Unit, and in saying farewell to him, we also add a word of thanks for all that he did for our comfort and welfare when conditions at these Headquarters were not up to their present standard.

The 1st London Motor Company (F.A.N.Y. Drivers), attached to these Headquarters and the Hospital, expressed a wish some time ago to give a dance, and as they were not attached to any " Male Unit," they asked the Command Signal Company to join in, and, needless to say, we were only too pleased.

A committee consisting of Mrs. Winterbottom, Miss Lister Kaye and Miss Baden Powell representing the F.A.N.Y.s and an officer and Sergeant Rasmussen representing the Command Signal Company, arranged, on 23rd April, at the Red Lion Hotel, quite the most popular dance of the season. We were honoured by the attendance of several Staff Officers from H.Q., as well as officers from other Units and a large contingent of F.A.N.Y.s from their own H.Q., and to them we say " thank you for your attendance."

Another event of the day was the fact that Mrs. Winterbottom, who, for the past few months, has been " Sergeant" in charge of the F.A.N.Y.s, was promoted to commissioned rank, and all ranks of this Company offer their congratulations.

Some of our " teleprincesses " have been promoted to " Corporal," others to " Sergeant." We are glad to hear of this, as these girls, as well as others who have not been promoted, have rendered us a most willing and efficient service in the teleprinter room under conditions which, at times, have been very difficult and trying.

We hope that the entry into the " Sergeants' Mess " was celebrated according to ancient custom, but we have our doubts as one " Sergeant," instead of attending a local dance which



offered every facility, preferred to desert her companions and go off like, and possibly with a piece of " fluff," to an entertainment in London, whilst the other commenced seven days' sick leave on the day her promotion was announced. Possibly the " capacity " of the latter was the deciding factor.

The Budget caused some comments, but here again, the female population seem to get off rather lightly. If cosmetics, such as face powder, had been taxed, the cleaning of blue uniform might, for some people, be a little easier.

Things We Want to Know.—Where can one get hot buttered toast and honey for tea, to whom is the invitation extended, and how often ?

Who left a handkerchief in the back of a certain car ? Anyhow, as it was not found in the front, the driver can not be blamed this time.

Who was the officer who drank the Orderly's tea in the Signal Office during the night ?

Why is the " West Somerset Free Press " so popular in the Hospital, and who delivers it weekly ?

What is the attraction about Sunday duty, and for those on duty which is the most enjoyable, a trip to Hounslow at lunch time or an invitation to tea at a certain place in Barracks which only only receives visitors on a Sunday ?

Why is the training on SHE 2000 rather popular, and who indulged in the most " call snatching " ? Perhaps the journeys to London and the pleasant change from khaki to " fancy dress " were the guiding factors.

A.A. Signals, South-East England

Headquarters

We have not many items of general interest to report during the past month. The inoculations have taken place, and continue to do so, with the addition of vaccination as an encore. The effects have not been so bad and every member of the Unit has been able to carry on with only a small temporary inconvenience.

We continue to show ourselves to be worthy sons of the soil by our efforts at Vine Lane with spade and fork, to say nothing of the lawn mower. There are already signs that the earlier planting is beginning to bear fruit.

The ever-popular Friday evenings at the "Attery " continue with unabated zeal and the gallant efforts of the Social Committee have produced some really good shows, for which we are extremely grateful. They also revealed quite a wealth of local talent.

The cricket season has opened and the Divisional Cricket Club has had its baptism of fire. Faced with a total of 98 they found that the lack of practice was a bit too much to overcome, but the innings was distinguished by the batting of Signalman Jones J. B., who made a dashing 41 not out, out of a total of 75. We hope for many more such innings in future.

Tennis continues to be an attraction and we have arranged a match against the R.A.F. in the near future. We are beginning to discover how to keep the balls within the confines of the court now.

There is one thing that has been puzzling us for some time ; that is, the significance of the perambulator that is parked at the bottom of a certain garden. Is this a case of intelligent anticipation ?

No. 1 Company

Two things have chanced to disturb the even tenor of our way during the past month. Of prime importance was the Cup. It happened just as we were settling down to poetic contemplation of the glories of Spring. The magic of the reawakening countryside was upon us when there burst into our dreams this rude intrusion of Saturday afternoon urbanity.

It happened this way. Close at hand are several football clubs of exceptional merit, judged by all applicable standards. Once a year they meet in something approaching mortal combat for the Cup. They told us about it, and Sergeant Kirby, the George Allison of the Unit, took it very seriously. We entered the competition and reached the semi-final.

We did not win the Cup. But the encounter which put us out of the running is worthy of record. Our opponents included " crack " players from clubs all over the county. They never intended that we should carry off the prize.

The Signals were defeated 4—2, after extra time. The match was played at a terrific pace throughout and even ardent Arsenal " fans " swore they had never seen anything like it. The cheering was tumultuous and there was an occasion, late in the second half, when it was feared that even the O.C. might so far forget himself as to throw his hat in the air.

The civilians led 2—0 at half-time, an unfair reflection on the run of the play, which had favoured neither side more than the other. Then the Signals went all out. There came one goal, then another. The game gathered pace and fury as the end approached but we held them to a draw when the whistle went for " time." The Signals had given all they had and extra time was just a little more than they could manage.

It was a brave show against a superior team. Among our players who deserve special credit were Signalman Waterhouse, who was crippled after five monutes' play but stayed the course brilliantly ; Signalman Hammond, who did many clever things besides subtly retaliating for the aforementioned assault ; Signalman Wilson J. L., who gave a dazzling display on the left wing and Signalman Green scarcely less proficient on the right ; Signalman Luxton, a dependable defender, who also survived a gruelling test with distinction.

The second momentous happening of the month was the acquisition of a billiard table. This has brought a new interest to the drab lives of many of our comrades and has revealed quite a wealth of unsuspected talent.

The hope is cherished that we shall form a cricket team well up to county standard. The only difficult we can foresee at present concerns the pitch, for our home ground adds excitement to the game at the cost of accuracy.

We are still welcoming new-comers to the Unit with pleasing regularity. Whenever any exceptional male artistes appear in the concert parties which visit us, we enlist them almost on the spot. That is how Signalman Calkin came to be absorbed into the establishment, and we have not yet had occasion to regret it except perhaps at reveille, when his ukelele and his swing songs assume a revolting cheerfulness.

Many of these new faces have been welcomed by us on the football field and by the village maidens on the dance floor.

It would be " dangerous talk " to give the more substantial reasons of the C.S.M. for welcoming these latest additions to our ranks. But the fact is that the Company will be ready to utilise their services in a very practical way as soon as they have received adequate training.

In the literal sense, too, everything in the garden is lovely and your correspondent is inspired by the view from the Orderly Room window of a magnificent array of young lettuces, which, at a later stage will be backed by a fascinating border of runner beans. The gardeners will soon be reaping the rewards of their labours and lesser mortals will no longer begrudge the money they have spent on dance tickets to support the Garden Fund.

No. 2 Company

The past month has been one of marked activity and there has been a generous allowance of play, intermingled with the sterner demands of work. We of No. 2 Company have seen a further influx of new arrivals and have shared in the labour which goes with the erection of sleeping quarters and the extension of the air raid shelter. The sylvan beauty and natural camouflage afforded by the trees and shrubberies of our country retreat have been sadly affected by these activities, although the more noble trees have happily been left unmolested.

A pleasing feature of life here has been the privilege of being lulled to sleep by the notes of a nightingale calling to its mate far across the valley.

A.A. SIGNALS, SOUTH-EAST ENGLAND

MORE IMPRESSIONS BY SIGNALMAN L. T. BOWYER



Amongst the man-made entertainment, the Recruits Concert has been outstanding. It revealed a galaxy of talent within the ranks of the new-comers, and provided a bright and breezy show which will be long remembered.

Our friends of Toc H have been well to the fore in proving their worth as benefactors to the troops. Not only must we thank them for their doughty opposition at darts, but they provided a first-rate revue and orchestra in the show entitled "Over the Top," given recently. Highlights of this sparkling entertainment were a snappy interpretation of the famous "Can-Can" and the spirited singing and dancing of the attractive chorus.

Our Company magazine, "The Ridges Revue," is going from strength to strength, and the second issue is voted an even greater success than was the initial number.

The results of our gardening labours are beginning to show and we hope that in a short space of time our productive efforts in that direction will provide the self-sufficiency that is our aim.

A.A. Signals, Scotland

Headquarters.

We must apologise for the absence of notes from our Companies this month; we think they can genuinely claim to be really on active service now. In the last few days, which usually find the scribes scribbling lustily in order to get up-to-date news into print, we have been in the throes of recruit training, while a number of the earlier recruits are striving towards the "Group —, Class —" stage. The high-light of the month was our first Unit Dance, which, if all-round enjoyment be any criterion, totally eclipsed any other previously held in the Unit. We were most happy to welcome a number of representatives from No. 2 Company, who, for gaiety, if nothing else, almost carried the evening. It was no small honour to have the presence there of the Divisional Commander and a few of his Staff, while our own officers supported us very well. Lance Corporal Westbury F. and the No. 1 Company Dance Band are to be congratulated on their fine performance at the "mike," and the Company was not in the least dismayed upon the entrance of the lovely young ladies who provided the novelty items (in fact, we rather think most of the gentlemen present were quite sorry to see them go!). We hope the Editor will find a space for one of the photographs taken during the evening.

Partings are becoming the order (posting variety) of the day. Sergeant (late C.Q.M.S.) Anderson J. I. has gone to a field unit in the Corps, and within a few days we shall have said good-bye to another few of our N.C.O.s. They are Lance Sergeants Milne J., Weir J. C., Kirkland J., Corporals Ross J. D. and Fingland S. J. G., Lance Corporals Wilson R. P. and Clarke W. H. The sudden exodus of so many N.C.O.s has given rise to much expectancy in the promotion stakes, and a number of well-known faces are positively shining with hope. A new face is welcomed into the brotherhood of No. 1 Company's Line Maintenance Section—that of Lance Sergeant Myles G. C., who comes to us from the B.E.F.

We have delayed the forwarding of these notes in order to give the Companies a chance to enter the "stop press" column, but they seem *still* to have a war on their hands. Perhaps it's just as well—we should just have had to re-write these notes if they had succeeded!

ACK-ACK.

A.A. SIGNALS, SCOTLAND



A Happy Group at the Unit Dance

The First (London) Ack Ack's

The events chronicled in these notes are necessarily a little dated, but, in the main, they will serve to show that we have managed to find time for some of the lighter things of life in these anxious and dark days. In fact, because we all strive to relieve the tension, we can say with some satisfaction that our spirits, our chins and our tails are well up and we are quite ready to face whatever trials may come along.

Brompton Dugout Welcomes the Queen.—On the occasion of the Queen's visit to Holy Trinity Church for the marriage of Miss Nancy Bowes-Lyon, her cousin, to Mr. Lance Robinson, R.A.F. V.R., Her Majesty spared some time to tour the Brompton Dugout. The Queen, who was attended by Lady Halifax, was evidently greatly impressed by the comfort and the facilities provided for the troops and said how important it was for this aspect of the welfare of men and women on active service not to be neglected.

Mrs. Robson, Mrs. Newman and other leading organisers of the Dugout were presented to the Queen by the Rev. Bryan S. W. Green, Unit Chaplain. Her Majesty conversed informally with several members of the Unit and the writer must be only one of many who has a pleasant memory of the royal poise and friendly charm.

Dugout Concerts.—Under the leadership of Mrs. Robson and Mrs. Fisher, assisted by Lance Corporal Lomas, several of the popular Tuesday evening concerts have taken place. Apart from the assistance of civilian artistes, talent is plentiful, and some capable performances have been given by Signalman Woodward, a new-comer with a fine baritone voice, Volunteer Maudling, soprano, and Signalmen French and Bowles and Lance Corporal Lomas in four-handed piano syncopation, with snappy drums accompaniment. A feature of the concert on 21st May was an " I Want to be an Actor " sketch entitled " The Old Farm," in which Miss M. M. Hemelryk, A.T.S. Commandant, as the heroine, Signalman Elworthy as the hero, C.S.M. Blood as the heroine's father (" a doddering old man ! "), and Signalman Cheese as the villain, were persuaded by Lance Corporal Lomas to give sparkling impromptu performances. This burlesque melodrama was repeated in an informal concert recently in the Men's Canteen, with Volunteer Gossage, Signalman Hemmings, the C.O. himself, and 2nd Lieutenant Lyons, whose performances also reached a high standard of amusement.

A.T.S. Throw a Party.—The A.T.S. opened the doors of their main billet on 3rd May, when several members of the Unit were their guests at a very jolly party. After some amusing games, Senior Leader Muriel Allott entertained in her usual breezy style at the piano, and Volunteer Judy Parker produced what she described as " red-hot drama straight from the horse's mouth " in the form of a sketch entitled " Piecrust Inn."

Wedding.—The close bonds of friendship which already exist between our attached A.T.S. and men of this Unit were brought even nearer on 25th May, when Volunteer Gwendoline Woodrow and Signalman John Worley, of the I/M's section, were married at Kensington Register Office. We wish them luck.

Sport.—Advantage has been taken of the spacious floor in the new drill hall, now nearing completion, to lay out a badminton court. Encouraged by Lieutenant (Quartermaster) Hall, officers, N.C.O.s and men have been indulging in vigorous games and play is building up to a high standard.

Early in April the Quintin Boat Club, which is attached to the Regent Street Polytechnic Institute, kindly offered their facilities to some members of this Unit. Several crews, organised by Captain Mitchell and Lance Corporal Gibbon, have had enjoyable afternoons on the water. Unfortunately, this activity has had to be curtailed for the time being.

" The Ack Ack Mercury."—The last issue of our Unit magazine appeared in February. For a publication that started life as a monthly, this is not a happy state of affairs, but at last it has been possible to compile another issue, which will make its appearance, it is hoped, during the next week or two. Many enquiries for the next number have come not only from Unit members, but also from men and women in other branches of the Services.

Lance Corporal Meadway Passes On.—With considerable regret and with the deepest sympathy for his family, we have to record the passing, early this year, of Lance Corporal Meadway, a well-liked man, who had done his full share of service for this country. He had completed some years as a soldier, and he had also served for some time in the Royal Navy in the submarine service. Lance Corporal Meadway was buried with full military honours at Orpington Parish Church, the C.O., the second-in-command, 2nd Lieutenants Lyons and Winstanley, and R.S.M. Moore being present. Twelve of our recruits, under Corporal Livermore, formed the escort to give the last salute, while Corporal Manley sounded the " Last Post." The pall bearers were six Signalmen and six members of the L.P.T.B., of which Meadway was an employee. " Old Bill," the veteran motor bus of 1914-1918 fame, was driven in the cortege. The ceremony was an impressive and moving one, and a fitting tribute to the memory of a good man and a good soldier.

E. G. L.

London Area Signal Company

My apologies for not submitting any notes for last month's issue, but I promise it will not happen again, as I understand the boys here are looking forward very much to each month's copy of THE WIRE.

The increased cost of postage for our notes from —— will make no difference.

Congratulations to S.S.M. Singleton on his recent marriage. Everyone here wishes him and his wife the best of luck, many years of peace and no war, at any rate between themselves. She has taken on a job ruling a Sergeant-Major.

A pleasant surprise was announced in orders last week : the appointments to A/Lance Corporal of Signalmen Barnes, Farnham and Blake.

It was a great shock to everyone at headquarters and outstations to learn of Corporal Forsyth's accident last month ; it was probably a greater shock to him. Although on the danger list for some time he has happily recovered and now is enjoying (subject to Corporal Soutter) a well-earned rest. Harry is very popular and is one of the youngest N.C.O.s in the Unit. He will be unable to attend to the petrol account for some time.

Our weekly concerts are still giving us plenty of amusement and the officers surprised us with their capabilities. A short sketch entitled " The D.R.'s Homecoming," was greatly appreciated. The Adjutant took the part of a D.R.'s mother (a role he performs so well for all of us daily) and the C.O. her son. It is still a mystery how the C.O. managed to hide so many supposedly stolen parts of a motor cycle on his person, but practice makes perfect, and he has been in the Army longer than most of us. Roars of laughter greeted the Adjutant when he asked his son who that fellow C.B. was he was always writing home about.

A play in three acts, entitled "After October," was presented by the Mandeville Players. Everyone was very grateful to the actors and actresses, and the play was very much appreciated.

Another pleasant surprise came when a local resident offered the use of his tennis court to the Unit. The linemen look most handsome in white. Cricket is starting again (" There'll always be an England ") and a match is taking place on Saturday.

Advertisements !

THOSE FIRMS WHO ADVERTISE IN THESE PAGES SUPPORT OUR MAGAZINE.
WILL OUR READERS PLEASE SUPPORT THEM IN RETURN ?

★

Lance Corporal Masters is arranging fixtures and would like to hear from any clubs or regiments with vacant dates.

We must mention the result of a football match between the D.R.s and the Operators. The D.R.s were considerably faster than the Operators and won 7—3.

We hear Lance Corporal Sutton, one of the old originals, and always very prominent when the Unit leaves for one of its periodical strolls round the park, is leaving us shortly. He will be missed by all of us.

L.A.S.C.

W.O.s and Senior N.C.O.s' Mess

A seasoning of either trouble or joy, or both, warms and welds together the members of any family. The London Area Signal Company have just experienced a movement towards gaiety, instigated entirely by the Commanding Officer, which, while causing an appreciable amount of care and trouble in the initial stages has succeeded to a most unexpected degree in bringing closer together the numerous sections of this busy and scattered Unit.

The principle has been that every section—D.R.s, Drivers, Operators, Linemen, Headquarters, Officers' and Sergeants' Messes, etc., must all give a complete concert programme. Intervals of one week only came between the events and all preparations, organisation and performance rested entirely with the section concerned.

The climax was reached with the final concert given by the officers of the Unit, and with some five or six officers only, very jovially and most broadmindedly led by the Padre, who permitted himself (quite misleadingly) to be styled the Rev. " Simple " Semple, they gave an amazingly mixed performance.

Outside readers will not be too interested in details of the Adjutant's Fan Dance, nor of the return of the C.O.'s D.R. (full of spare parts) to his old mother, on leave, but all interested in Army life will be glad to hear of this still further example of the enthusiasm and hard work of a human commanding officer. His gay and hard-working example has brought a closer camaradie and understanding among hundreds of men who otherwise might lose morale in an often monotonous and very lonely job.

W.O.S.N.M.

Thames and Medway Signals

General.—The days here are certainly busy ones just now and a series of lectures, drills and recreational training has been arranged for us. These have been welcomed by the Section as an antidote to the tedious off-duty hours. We are benefiting both physically and technically by our efforts.

Social Activities.—With summer almost upon us and the cricket season in the offing, our thoughts turned to funds for sports gear, etc. A general meeting of the entire section was called and a committee elected with Lance Sergeant Snelling as chairman. The remainder consisted of a representative member of each barrack room. A proposal to organise a dance in aid of the funds was carried unanimously, with the result that a most enjoyable and successful evening—both financially and socially—ensued. The highlight of the evening was a certain Signalman's grand performance of the " Megilley Glide."

Football.—There was quite a large gate at our two most recent matches, with " L " and " Z " Companies, R.E., respectively. The game with " L " Company resulted in a win by 4—2 for our opponents and as each player has ascertained, it was a thoroughly enjoyable game and clearly a case of " the best team won." The match with " Z " Company, however, was more of a ding-dong battle, but provided good sport. The result was a 6—4 win for Signals.

Congratulations.—To the following on their promotions and appointments: Lance Sergeant Megilley W. to A/Sergeant, Corporal Snelling W. to A/Lance Sergeant, Lance Corporal Gray S. to A/Corporal, U/Lance Corporal Peters C. to A/Lance Corporal, Signalman Souter F. to U/Lance Corporal.

Departures.—We were sorry to lose Signalmen Thompson and Longman, but the Section joins me in wishing them the best of luck at their new station. We also hope the following, who are on loan to other Units, will soon be with us again: Lance Corporal Sherriff, Signalmen Hooker, Glover, Orton, Woodman, Hall and Scott.

Welcome.—To two new-comers to our Section, Signalmen Knight and Weeks, and a special one to Lance Corporal Taylor and Signalman Garrett who have returned to us after an absence of four months.

Things We Want to Know.—Which Signalman did a half of his eight-mile route march on a bus?

Film Titles Illustrated.—" They gave him a gun," featuring J. H. H.; " Each dawn I die," featuring W. S.; " I am a fugitive," featuring L. S.; " Wuthering Heights," featuring F. S.

JIMMIE THE ONE.

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

Signal Training Centre (India)

Jubbulpore.

21st May.

Climatic.—Uncertain, squally weather has hovered spectre-like over the month's activities from the S.T.C.'s Handy Hunter to the Corporals' Dance. Whilst causing many qualms amongst incidental committees, the threat of rain did not materialise, although better it had done ; there might then have been relief from the imminence of suffocation. Old hands aver that this is one of Jubbulpore's less exacting summers. Those not so well acquainted with the local brand of heat do not concur—they think it a clammy, sticky hell.

The overhanging pall, however, has not clogged the wheels of progress. There has been the social round, brighter than ever, the customary uprush of ideas, the institution of an N.C.O.s' weekly drill parade, much sport (not of the recordable variety, but good games), and a revival of that murderous, exhausting pastime—five-a-side hockey. Hardly a game, but keenly supported by those wanting a " sweat " and to improve their bigger game.

The Shikar Club has been out most week-ends, with varying success. The month's average has, I think, been low.

A new sporting activity—the Angling Club (the obvious variation of this title is considered bad form) is suffering birth pangs. Applications for membership are trickling in and a very sound organisation is anticipated. Angling is an individualistic occupation and at first sight the aims of a club are not easily appreciable, since the benefits to be derived from collective fishing are dubious. The principal advantages are the provision of transport to far distant streams and the employment of shikaris for baiting the waters. Later comes the pooling of tackle and, it is to be hoped, ideas. The ultimate aims of such an organisation should be social. The fishermen get together for a little communal back-scratching and boasting, although, unlike the traditional angling notion, there is very little of the " so big " attitude in the S.T.C. (I.).

Comings and Goings.—These have been remarkably sparse. To us we welcome Lance Corporal Dixon-Browne and wave sad farewells to Corporal Stead, Lance Corporal Hawkins, Signalmen Kinge and Turnbull.

The Third Fitter's Course held in the S.T.C. (I.) for Signals personnel from other Units is ended and the members have returned to their units, all having up-graded from D.R. II to E.S. III, with the exception of Signalmen White and Wilkinson, who, unfortunately, went into hospital. It is hoped that these will qualify on the next course, assembling here on 1st June.

"A" Company changes have been very slight. Signalman Harris has gone to the Wireless Station, whilst Signalman Bateman has returned to Company duty from there. Signalman Cook is now the Company's professional poisoner.

Bouquets.—To five Sergeants—Collett, Welsby, Powell, Richardson and Wilson H.—who qualified after a two months' Course of Instruction in M.T. Driving in the S.T. School. Their long experience with the pen doubtless enabled them to handle gear-levers with just the right touch.

To four Signalman—Linford, Hudson, Grant and Taylor S.—who have just attained the staggering altitude represented by I.M. III.

Sandwich.—This is the new model Army, forsooth. Here are Reservists and Militiamen—two extremes if ever there were—with a few unfortunate Regulars pressed in between, whose job it seems is to reconcile the two.

The Militiaman, typified in " Young Bert," is offset by " Old Stager," another sort of dug-out from easier modes of life, who has come back to exhibit his scars and lick his wounds again publicly. He is no stranger to India, or military ways. Thus he becomes comparative and dogmatic. " Now, when I joined up . . . " prefaces most statements. Here is no honour and glory ; only dissatisfaction at the unexpected turn of events. On the strength of a few years' service—what is eight years or so ?—he expects careful consideration and preferential treatment. He thinks he should be in France or Norway. Braggadoccio ! Were he there he'd say, " Send me to India ; it is I who should have the soft job. I've done my time."

" Young Bert " would sooner be West, but his motive is higher, though no less foolhardy. He has been called upon to serve his country. He is proud to do so, but he would prefer that it were more spectacular. Drilling and grilling quietly in India is not to his taste. He hasn't the wider view. Maybe he will have later.

Meanwhile, the Regular, pressed in between these two opposing forces, has to hear the complaints of both sides. If he opens his mouth they say he shouldn't have joined. What a life !

" ' Young Bert ' Comes to India—II."—" If you don't want to be swindled when you go overseas," said the Old Soldier, " you'd better learn the native language." It was valuable advice, given over a couple of pints of old-and-mild in one of the many Richmond " Lions." So when " Young Bert " came to reside under the cloistered archways of Jubbulpore Cantonment there was one unshakable resolution in his mind—to learn Urdu at the first opportunity.

" Hope history won't be repeated," said " Y.B." as we braved the full blast of the early afternoon sun to trudge down to the Institute. " When I was somewhere in Yorkshire I bought a ' Simple Guide to French Conversation,' and a week later was put on the India draft ! "

We passed the dhobi ghat, where our shirts were being slapped against concrete slabs with a bare minimum of respect for their integrity, left the road and crunched down the drive to the B.O.R.s' Institute, Coffee Shop and Corporals' Corner. Mosquito-proof swing doors slammed behind us and we made ourselves comfortable in armchairs on the cool verandah. The Quarter Guard bell was struck twice. " Y.B." was soon snoring rudely. Nor was sleep far from me when down the drive came—was it a vision or a waking dream ?—a symphony in lilac. Bouncing and lurching wildly, two slow-punctured tyres flattening themselves on the sand, a bicycle ; and perched in the saddle, Wild West fashion, as if he expected the infernal contraption to bolt at any moment, the MUNSHI. Topi crushed on his head, chin strap bisecting his black beard, spectacles accentuating fiery eyes and a lilac ensemble that Schubert would have swooned to see. The vision was completed by a pair of rubber bands gripping the trousers tight round the ankles.

I shook " Y.B." into semi-consciousness. The fierce aspect of the new-comer did the rest. But appearances are deceptive. When the munshi spoke his voice had a soothing silveriness that pleased and, as the lesson progressed, his " Thik "s and "Achchhi bat "s, repeated at regular intervals of five seconds, became an ever-present encouragement to us struggling students.

" Salam, sahibs," he began. " Weech ees Oorrdoo for Good afternoon, gentlemen, ees eet not ? "

We agreed.

" You know already certain Oorrdoo words ; for eenstance, pani, roti, chae, jaldi, jao, ees eet not ? "

We nodded.

With memories of a " Simple Guide to French Conversation," with its verbs ending in -er, -re, -oir, etc., with exceptions by the score, " Y.B." was delighted to learn that " een Oorrdoo oll vairbs end een -na and the eempairateeve ees formed by adding -o to the root, ees eet not ? "

In less time than it takes to tell the munshi had us making the most hideous noises.

" Now," says the munshi, peeping at " Y.B." over the rims of his gleaming specs., " What ees the Oorrdoo for ' Bring me some water queekly ' ? "

" Y.B." saw the light. " Some pani, jaldi ! " He almost shouted the words in his enthusiasm.



" Thik." hissed the munshi. " But where ees the vairb . . . the eempairateeve ? "

" Y.B." was dumb.

" You do not know the vairb ' to bring ' ? Eeet ees lana. And the eempairateeve ? Eet ees lao. Now, the whole sentence, please."

" Y.B.'s " face beamed enlightenment. " Lao pani jaldi."

"Aha, but the order of the words ! Een Oorrdoo we say the vairb last. So. Pani jaldi lao, ees eet not ? "

So the lesson went on, " Y.B." becoming more fascinated and over-awed with every Achchha that escaped the munshi's thick lips.

A new chapter in " Y.B.'s " life story was opened that sunny afternoon in March, 1940. He's now as keen as rai (" Y.B.'s " phrase) about his new love ; even spent three chips on a text-book. Yes, three chips—48 annas—192 pice, which, being translated into the language of a two-bob-a-day militiaman, means two hundred and forty Woodbines !

The adjective that Kipling was so fond of mentioning in his stories fills all the blanks in " Y.B.' " limited but ever-expanding vocabulary. I heard him addressing the dhobi just now. The tirade was something like this : " Dhobi walla ! Kaham the (blue-pencilled) buttons off hamara (blue-pencilled) shirt hain ? If (blue-pencilled) buttons on (blue-pencilled) shirt to-morrow nahin hain, daftar ko you (blue-pencilled) jao ! " The dhobi blushed a deep Cherry Blossom and sighed, " Okay, sir."

" YOUNG GEORGE."

Western (India) District Signals

May.

Although changes are reputed to be very few in Quetta we have had quite a few since last going to press. We have said good-bye to our Commanding Officer, who left us to take up a higher appointment and to control our destinies in a different sphere. We wish him God-speed and every success. Our efforts to provide comforts for the B.E.F. are still going on apace in the form of Jumble Sales, Whist Drives and other forms of entertainment. I have also noticed large packages containing " goodness knows what " and other woollen articles being despatched to somewhere in France and gather that the ladies' needles are still being kept busy in that line. I hope that the aforesaid articles are being put to good use by at least some of the old-timers from Quetta.

Promotions and appointments still continue to be rather sparse, but to those who have " gone up " since our last literary efforts we wish all the best and ultimately the Field-Marshal's baton. From current rumours we gather that at some time at some future date we are going to be sent somewhere, at least some of us, even if it is in the year 1955, as one bright stalwart was heard to remark. Hanna Lake, is I expect, to be brought into use as a practice place for embarkation, to enable us to get ready for this wonderful boat that is to carry us to this mythical place.

The Militia are still being strained (I beg your pardon, but the " s " slipped in there and I haven't a rubber nearby) in the rudiments of drill and musketry, to say nothing of those elusive dots and dashes that they are still trying to catch before they are lost and gone before.

So much for despatches, now for " Hatches." On 17th April, 1940, Corporal Robinson decided to hurry the formation of a local group of Boy Scouts and was the proud father of a son. He and Mrs. Robinson are duly congratulated as well as Lance Sergeant Sharvell, who also became the father of a son in May, 1940. This long run of male babies was broken by C.Q.M.S. Barber and Mrs. Barber, who decided to be different and became the proud possessors of a daughter at the B.M.H., Quetta, on 17th May, 1940. It's time that somebody started to change something around the place. It was getting quite monotonous to hear that so-and-so had a son.

What about " Matches " did someone say ? Well, I don't quite know but I heard someone telling somebody else that our Education Instructor was contemplating the very serious step of matrimony and also that a certain other body was contemplating helping the Q.M. to get rid of stock. Of course it is only rumour, but by the time these notes are in print the happy couples will be on their honeymoons (or should it be honeymoon) and we wish them all the best of luck and happiness.

For the benefit of those " who are with us " there is some dark and rather mysterious work going on. Maybe its sabotage, but someone is putting rather a lot of stones and sand and stuff on what we were wont to call the Veterinary Inspection parade ground. Of course it is still a deadly secret, but *they say* that we are getting some more bungalows. AND garages ; yes, you foot sloggers, we are going to be mechanised ; yes, we are going to be taken for a ride every time we have a scheme. What did you say, Steve ? Three years too late ! Anyway, supposing you did blister. What of it ?

Tennis is in full swing and the Sergeants' Mess have been told to get in a lot of practice in order that the B.O.R.s' tennis club may condescend to give them a match or two if they are up to standard. Of course by the time these notes appear in print, they may have beaten us by a few games or so, but the results will not be published in that case. I shall forget 'em, see ?

Cricket has also started and the familiar sound of willow meeting leather can be heard (that is if one cares to go all the way down to the Racecourse to hear it).

A hockey tournament is in full swing, but the results are not yet known as the first round is in the process of either being won, lost, drawn, or cancelled. You never know, do you ! STOP.—The results have just come in and I must congratulate the team' on winning by two clear goals. Well, I will stop " blethering ' and sign myself

RONKAY.

Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron, Meerut

General.—Our regular scribe, having swapped his table and chair of this Unit for an I.B. Section in the Lucknow District Signals, it has now fallen to my lot to try and keep the Corps informed of all the tit-bits, etc., which assist in keeping the proverbial goolie rolling.

Arrivals.—Lieutenant J. D. Fairman from Risalpur, C.Q.M.S. Brooke J. from Kohat; Corporal Booth from D.I. Khan; Corporal Redhouse from D. and M. Course, Ahmednagar; Signalman Dodd from W.E.S., Cherat; Signalman Lewis from Fitter/Signals Course, Jubbulpore; Signalman Mosley from Cooks' Course, Poona (what for?). The above are all well bedded-in by now and we believe they prefer Squadronite to Troopite, although there is still an allotted place for each on the picquet-line should the occasion arise.

Departures.—The C.S.O.'s staff to their usual summer haunt, to acquire another ring round their necks. Anderson and Hughes please note. Signalman (Judd) Moysey to W.E.S., Cherat.

Promotions.—Too numerous to mention. Then, again, some wives do read the WIRE and it may entail the breaking up of our "Rummy School."

Sport.—The football team have come into their own again, having beaten their old rivals, the Gunners.

The hockey team are all potential Dyan Chands; they even wear their hockey boots for P.T. We still retain one player of note, who tells all and sundry that he actually played against Dyan Chand way back in February, '22. Some people call him Yorkey.

Games.—Manager of the Military Dairy Farm please note.

The net ball team gave the District Signals a severe walloping, to say the least. They emerged the joyous victors, having won by 6—1. They love to take their vests off, but are not quite sure whether the NET should be worn over the hair or the ball.

Tennis.—The Squadron Tennis Tournament was held last week. Signalman Tuck got rather bored waiting for the novices to file away; he eventually played Sergeant Yates in the final and won by 3 sets to 2, after a very hard-fought match.

Nuts and Bolts.—Yes, there are still a few here and there, although numerous Kay Dons have been tinkering about with the M.T. of late. Pride of place must go to a rather brown-looking long fellow, who told the M.T. Instructor that there were two shafts in a gear box, namely, the driving shaft and the cam shaft.

Secondly, we have a little game here which appears to be catching on. It is the tossing-up of bad rupees; a man's whole future may depend on his ability to toss correctly. By the way, ex-Boys, your service from leaving school to attaining the age of manhood does not count in this competition.

Another bright long-fellow, on hearing a "loose-wallah" outside his quarter, turned the volume on to "full," thus driving off the intending thief.

Who was the lucky toff who advanced to Mayfair and said, "Figger-Nai the 200 Bucks."

Congratulations.—To the "Gloomy Dean," Belfast. Keep it up. Your notes are always interesting to Ex-N.I.D.S. Perhaps other regular Units will follow suit someday.

Agony.—To Sladin, Malaya. "I see that you are still mixing with cads. Cocker, Meerut."

To Spike, B.E.F. "I suppose you are crashing mademoiselles in lieu of bullock carts. 'Gen,' Meerut."

To Adolf Hardwicke, Malta. "Still sweating in India. Mien Liepe, Meerut."

That must be all for this month, folks. Excuse my first attempt and remember that "England expects."

A. A. C.

Malta Signal Company

Valletta.

General.—It is a poor correspondent who has to fall back on the weather as his main topic, but so little seems to happen here in Malta that we are forced to drag in anything as potential material for notes.

Since our last contribution the days have become really summery, with the resultant re-appearance of sunburnt features. Swimming has attracted a great many followers and the water polo ball has been in evidence a good deal. Well, some people seem to find time for it.

Training.—Several operators have been tested for higher ratings, but the results are not to hand. We will include these in the next issue.

Knowing how much the Mediterranean has entered news topics of late it is not surprising that Malta has begun another stage of preparedness—complete with practice "black-outs," which are not quite so common here as they are in other places. Manning exercises also have been undergone, in which Signals played their usual important role. In this respect the Line Section have been and still are very busy indeed.

Congratulations.—To Signalman Ford W. H., on his marriage to Miss Maria Emma Azzopardi at St. John's Co-Cathedral, Valletta, on 15th April. We wish them every happiness.

Apology.—Through an oversight on the scribe's part, the fact that the C.S.O. had relinquished the duty of O.C. Company, which has been taken over by an officer well known and popular in Malta, was not mentioned in last month's WIRE.

Therefore, as our regrets at losing the former in this sphere and our good wishes to the latter on assuming command of the Company were not expressed then, we do so now.

Sport.—Nothing very startling in this direction as most of us have been employed on work of far greater importance. However, here are the results of four games played:

HOCKEY.

No. 3 Section v. H.Q., R.A.F.	Lost	0—2

FOOTBALL.

Company v. H.Q., R.A.F.	Lost	3—4
Company v. A.T., R.A.	Won	5—3
Company v. H.Q., R.A.F.	Won	2—1

And that, I'm afraid, is spitcher for the present.

TAV.

Hong Kong Signal Company

Hello, folks! Hong Kong calling!

Forgive the delay, but we ran out of ink and have been saving this past year in order to purchase another bottle. Yeah?

We follow the home news with the greatest of interest and are pleased to see our Corps to the fore. No, I don't play golf!

What's all this "Viking" stuff we read so much about in the papers these days? Is it the lure of the sea or wanderlust?

Having raked the Unit with a fine comb (imported, Woolworth's), we came to the conclusion that it's the sea. In the past and recently, R.A.S.C. boating parties have had large attendances. And for further evidence of the blood running through our veins, we have discovered members of the Unit sailing a 14-ft. dinghy! Nice work.

Accompanying these notes will be found a few snaps which you may find interesting. Still referring to ships, the "Chinks" have a word for them—junk or bunk, we call them punk.

Old "sweats" will probably recall the old Command Headquarters in "A" and "B" Blocks. The Unit has moved there. The ground between the buildings has been raised and a tennis court marked out. A canteen, billiard and reading rooms have also been built north of, and running parallel with, "A" Block. Beside the old Seaforth's canteen a magnificent Garrison swimming bath has been installed (see snap). The deep blue of the water, together with the grass banks and a fountain at one end, is a sight worth seeing. Yes, the Unit has changed somewhat and I daresay many chaps would like to be back.



OFFICERS

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Levity Column.—Query of the month : " Do Chinese potatoes have slant eyes ? "

Then there was the German racing motorist who referred to Hitler as "A snake on de glass—a vind screen viper."

Love Thwarted.—

Me hate he. Me hate he,
Me wish he were die ;
Him tell I,
Him love I,
But damn he, him lie.

Flash.—Rumour has it that there's a war on somewhere !

Call of the Yidd.—Taff, 4107. " R U dead.or sumfink ? Jamie." 2323159 Haughton G. " How about a line ? 2323240 Paddy Frazer."

George Stowers. " I'm still here, y'know. Ticky."

Phillips, Quetta. " They don't ration stamps. Taff Lewis."

Finis.—That's all, folks.

KONGITE.

Sergeants' Mess

April this year opened with a typical English atmosphere—" RAIN "—here in Hong Kong ; nevertheless, as the month progressed a change for the better set in, giving us the weather we look for. You know the kind—singing under the shower, and so on.

General.—The advent of fine weather seems to have been the signal for great activity in the Unit generally. The " Chain Gang " have been busily engaged. Laying, re-laying and re-directing cable routes, tearing up the Island generally ; in fact, it's a toss up between ourselves and the R.E.s, who hold the distinction for " the changing face of Hong Kong." The I.B. Section, on the other hand, have been busy visiting old map references on the Island and mainland, two renowned spots being " The Dairy Farm " and the " Hunter's Arms," both good headquarters from their point of view, no doubt. But there, time being so short, we must generalise by saying, " Everyone is hard at it " in their own particular field.

Awards.—To various members of " Jewish extraction," the Palestine G.S. Medal for ? You've heard the old, old stories ; anyway, if not, our G.I. will oblige. Ref. above, should same be " BROACHED," the nutriment remains in abeyance until confirmation received.

Month's Funny Story.—This comes from none other than the Durzi, who, on seeing a saxophone for the first time, asked where such a " hooka " could be purchased. The idea that it might be used as a hubble-bubble is certainly well worth remembering by those in possession. " R.I.P."

Entertainments.—We regret to inform you that a heavy loss was sustained by the Sergeants Mess in a recent action (games tournament) against the W.O.s and Staff Sergeants of the R.A.O.C., who, after a furiously contested battle, won by four points. Needless to relate, a thoroughly enjoyable evening was had by all present. The return match is yet to be played off. Meanwhile, our " tactics expert " is working out the new plan of attack. Our next victims earmarked will be the officers of the Unit, when arrangements have been completed ; at the moment, no official date has been fixed—more anon, anyway.

Things We Want to Know.—Why Quartermasters prefer O.P.s brand cigarettes to the normal Player or Craven A.

If the title of " Keeper of the Keys " is officially recognised in any other Line Section.

A painless method of extermination for budding Mozarts, with long hair and bowler hats.

If Sergeant Page can really play chess.

Jews' Mail.—" Nangi " Dunville, Jubbulpore Cant. "A line welcome. The Doctor."

Flanagan Henshall R., somewhere in England—as above.

George Fields.—Sweedy.—Tom Sayers.

Finale.—So back to work. Cheerio, chaps !

N'HOBBY.

Speaking of the " Moving Finger " having written reminds me that events for the month of March have yet to be recorded. So, with all due apologies, here goes.

General.—Looking back over the past month, we find very little news of interest really worth recording. Such news as one would normally write cannot be mentioned (thanks to the censor). Nevertheless, the Unit as a whole is still surviving the rigours of the climate. " Not very difficult," having seen the latest Overseas " Daily Mirror." (Wise guy.)

The latest item of interest was the arrival of eleven Militiamen, who are now working on our " Chain Gang " and happily settled in the " School." The hand of friendship having been duly extended, we hope their stay will be a pleasant one.

Promotions.—Congratulations to the following : Sergeant Green E., Lance Sergeants Bundy and McCarthy. (The usual wet weather prevailed, more so when the No. 1 Boy asked several members to have a " Commotion " pint on Sergeant Green.

Marriages.—" Nil returns " to date, although we never look down ; in fact, one chappie climbs to a great height on Wednesday and Saturday evenings. To what ends ? Well, who knows ? More later.

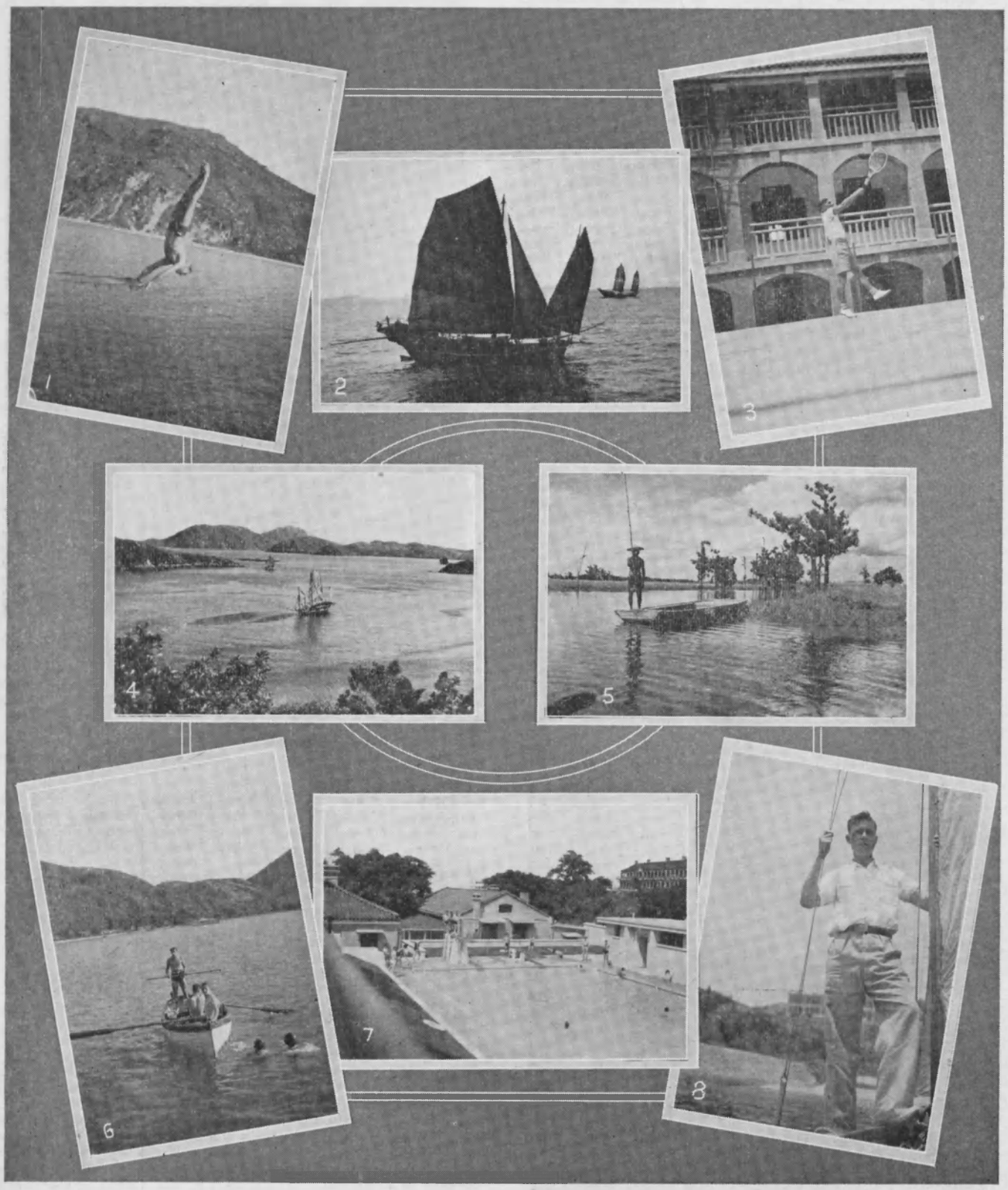
Things We Want to Know.—(a) Whether " Cheddar Cheeseman " still resides in No. 1, The Birdcage Walk, Landikotal ; secondly, if the honorary title of Khassadar has been bestowed upon him by the Malik of Datta Khel. (b) If the lights of Jamrud are still to be seen from the roof of Khyber Barracks.

Decorations.—" Saundry Medals " of Jewish origin bestowed upon members of that sect. (Thereby hangs a tale.)

Finale.—Sorry we have no more to chronicle, but there's a war on. So cheerio, everybody !

N'HOBBY.

HONG KONG SIGNAL COMPANY



1. A Perfect Poise.
2. Junks.
3. Future Perry in Action
4. More Junks.
5. Sampan (small junks.)
6. On a boating outing.
7. Garrison Swimming Bath.
8. First mate of the dinghy.

East African Signals

General.—It is not my intention to write of momentous happenings or even deeds of valour in case others not as yet fortunate enough to be with us should suffer pangs of jealousy.

If one may judge from the number of applications received (by proxy) from members wishing to join us it would appear entirely unnecessary for the Section to be given any publicity at all, even in THE WIRE.

We, that is the Section and myself, were recently subjected to one of the stiffest ordeals as yet endured by any participating in the present struggle. It was nothing more nor less than the imminent re-appearance of " Busty Curry Cox " as N.C.O. i/c messing. Fortunately, the calamity was averted by a certain N.C.O. volunteering for the job, and he, we are told, had the unmitigated gall to try out the theories of his new book on us—" Learn to cook in 16 lessons." Why is best known to himself, but we hear that he is shortly getting married.

In my last WIRE notes I made some disparaging references to a certain Signalman's alleged destruction of leopards, lions, and what-not. I believe I actually expressed some doubt as to the authenticity of his claims in this respect. The accompanying photographs, however, tend to allay suspicions—except ours—We still think he may have bought 'em.

Flash.—Five minutes ago a most appalling crash was heard, followed by a terrific rending of timbers. Dashing outside, we discovered that a large wooden shelter for equally large wooden boxes had collapsed in ruins and was nothing but a mass of firewood only fit for the cookhouse.

" Earthquake ? " No ! " Air raid ? " No, certainly not ! Nothing but rain, dear reader, rain as it only rains in darkest Africa. (I got that " darkest " bit by looking out of the window.)





Arrivals.—The heartiest of welcomes to Lance Corporal Glover S. on joining the Section. He certainly worked hard to get here and, having at last achieved his object, we hope his stay with us will be an enjoyable one.

Congratulations.—To Lance Sergeant Callan on dropping the Lance, to C.Q.M.S. Wilson on dropping the " C " and picking up an " R."

Sport.—We have decided that publishing nothing else but rugby results is apt to create an entirely wrong impression of ourselves, and as there are only two more to chronicle, one of which we won, here are some football results for a change :

v. E.A.A.S.C. Base Units ..	Won	3—0	(Friendly)
v. Royal Air Force	Won	1—0	(Friendly)
v. E.A.A.S.C., Langati	Won	2—1	(Friendly)
v. E.A.A.S.C. Base Units ..	Draw	1—1	(League)

Queries.—Can anyone tell us how the latest machine gun works. We hear that the results of its efforts are disastrous.

Language Problems.—May we suggest " Pugh Comprenez " instead of " Comprenez Vous " for a certain Signalman with a poor memory.

Climax.—It is with deep regret that we make the following announcement : " A marriage has been arranged between Miss Kathleen Lewis and Lance Corporal H. Rushton of this Unit. The event is to take place on Saturday, 1st June, 1940, and the condolences of all are simply unanimous. May we express the hope that the latter's ' Learn to cook in 16 lessons ' ideas will be duly and quickly smothered by his wife-to-be, as the Section is already in a bad way.

SUGREF.

Corps News—Officers

Extracts from "The London Gazette"

[War Office, 24/4/40]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS :
Lieutenant Richard Noel Kingsley Rees, M.A. (24603) late General List (T.A.) to be Lieutenant, 26/3/40.
R.S.M. Charles George Russell Sewell (127759) to be Lieutenant (Quartermaster), 3/3/40.
Cecil Charles Pikett (127381) to be 2nd Lieutenant, 29/2/40.

TERRITORIAL ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS.
GENERAL LIST :
2nd Lieutenant J. E. R. Wood (94175) from 8th Battalion Royal Fusiliers (T.A. Reserve of Officers) to be 2nd Lieutenant, 15/3/40.

[War Office, 26/4/40]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS :
The undermentioned to be Lieutenants, 3/9/39 :
W.O. Cl. II Cyril William Catt (126820) R.Signals.
C.Q.M.S. Keith Gordon Montgomery (126821) R.Signals.

[War Office, 30/4/40]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS :
Squadron Leader John Bowater Vernon (126841) R.A.F., to be Lieutenant, 1/5/40.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
Lieutenant (Quartermaster) E. W. Green (90991) relinquishes his commission on account of ill-health, 1/5/40.

TERRITORIAL ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS.
MEMORANDA :
Lieutenant-Colonel A. F. S. Fane (46265) Royal Corps of Signals, at his own request, reverts to the rank of Major whilst employed during the present Emergency, 20/4/40.

[War Office, 3/5/40]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
The notification regarding the undermentioned Lieutenants (T.M.O.s) in the "Gazette" of 20/2/40 are cancelled :
W. Stevenson (100626).
C. Tebby (118219).

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS :
The undermentioned to be Lieutenants (T.M.O.) :
R.Q.M.S. Charles Tebby (118219), 19/12/39.
R.Q.M.S. James George Hall (128022), 3/4/40.
Q.M.S. Victor George Rushworth (128029), 3/4/40.
R.S.M. William Prior (128158), 10/4/40.
C.S.M. Frank Jennison (128134), 10/4/40.
C.S.M. William George Tomlins Archer (128113) to be Lieutenant (T.M.O.), 17/4/40.

[War Office, 7/5/40]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS :
The undermentioned to be Lieutenants :
W.O. Cl. II Cecil Murphy (126846) R.Signals, 8/5/40.
W.O. Cl. III Reginald Arthur Bishop (126848) R.Signals, 8/5/40.
W.O. Cl. III Reginald Frederick Pink (126847) R.Signals, 8/5/40.
W.O. Cl. III John Peters (126849) R.Signals, 8/5/40.
C.Q.M.S. Lewis Baker (126852) R.Signals, 3/9/39.
Superintending Clerk Robert Martin Peachey (111569) to be Lieutenant (Quartermaster), 5/12/39.
C.S.M. Sydney Thomas Cozens (128336) to be Lieutenant (Quartermaster), 18/4/40.
Captain Herbert Edward Prickett (123754) late General List, to be 2nd Lieutenant, 3/2/40.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
2nd Lieutenant R. L. Blakeney (71780) relinquishes his commission on account of ill-health, 8/5/40.

TERRITORIAL ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS.
GENERAL LIST :
Lieutenant-Colonel R. Lazenby (23504) at his own request, reverts to the rank of Captain whilst employed during the present Emergency, 8/5/40.

[War Office, 10/5/40]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS :
Lieutenant Sydney Rupert Bishop (127742) late R.E., to be Lieutenant, 18/4/40.
Michael Simeon Parnell-Smith (120828) late Lieutenant Canadian Forces, to be 2nd Lieutenant, 15/3/40.
Leslie James Jackson (125048) to be 2nd Lieutenant, 18/3/40.
C.S.M. Albert Henry Ward (128426), to be Lieutenant (Quartermaster), 23/4/40.

[War Office, 14/5/40]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS :
Lieutenant J. H. King (93687) relinquishes his commission on account of ill-health, 15/5/40.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
GENERAL LIST :
Colonel H. T. Jessop, T.D. (24423) at his own request reverts to the rank of Major whilst employed during the present Emergency, 19/2/40.

TERRITORIAL ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS.
Captain R. S. Calder (25476) relinquishes his commission on account of ill-health, 14/5/40.

[War Office, 17/5/40]

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS.
Captain J. C. Cree (5656) having attained the age limit of liability to recall, ceases to belong to the Reserve of Officers, 7/5/40.

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS :
Sergeant George James McLean (126039) to be Lieutenant, 1/5/40 (substituted for the notification in the "Gazette" (Supplement) dated 12/4/40.
Q.M.S. (F. of S.) Arthur William Holt (130249) R.Signals, to be Lieutenant, 18/5/40.
Acting R.S.M. Henry Robert Murray (128267) to be Lieutenant (T.M.O.), 14/11/39.
R.S.M. Hector MacDonald Webster (128887) to be Lieutenant (T.M.O.), 25/4/40.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
GENERAL LIST :
Captain A. S. Hartley (53871) from General List (Berkhamsted School Contingent Junior Division O.T.C.) to be Captain, 19/2/40.
Lieutenant G. A. M. Hyde (86200) from R.A.S.C., to be Lieutenant, 19/4/40.
2nd Lieutenant G. R. Rees-Jones (71393) from General List (O.T.C.), to be 2nd Lieutenant, 26/3/40. (Substituted for the notification which appeared in the "Gazette" (Supplement), dated 19th April, 1940, under the heading "General List."

[War Office, 21/5/40]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
Lieutenant-Colonel (temporary Colonel) C. Wheeler, on completion of tenure of service as Regimental Lieutenant-Colonel remains on full pay (supernumary), 20/5/40.
Major J. F. Charlesworth to be Lieutenant-Colonel, 20/5/40.

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS.
The notification regarding Captain J. Skelly (9368) in the "Gazette" of 22nd September, 1939, is cancelled.

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS :
W.O. Cl. I Keith Gordon Montgomery (126821) R.Signals, to be Lieutenant, 3/9/39, with precedence next above Lieutenant C. W. Catt (126820). Substituted for the notification in the "Gazette" (Supplement) dated 26/4/40).

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
Captain A. H. C. Field (85893) relinquishes his commission on account of ill-health, 22/5/40.

[War Office, 24/5/40]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS :

The notification regarding 2nd Lieutenant A. J. Jack (10630) in the " Gazette " (Supplement) dated 15/12/39, is cancelled.

W.O. Cl. II Charles Ernest Harvey (130700) R.Signals, to be Lieutenant, 25/5/40.

John Illingworth (115179) to be 2nd Lieutenant, 1/2/40.

C.S.M. Alfred Penfold (131100) to be Lieutenant (Quartermaster), 23/4/40.

The undermentioned to be Lieutenants, 25/5/40 :

R.S.M. William Thomson Stevenson (132307).
R.Q.M.S. Maurice Seymour Charles Shardlow (132210).
W.O. Cl. II (F. of S.) Alexander McIntosh (132505).
W.O. Cl. II Roberts Leonard Stanley (132212).
W.O. Cl. II Frank William Hopkins (132211).
W.O. Cl. II Charles William Boxall (132213).
W.O. Cl. II James Albert Broadley (132308).
W.O. Cl. II William John Packman (132310).
W.O. Cl. II Colin Charles Tucker (132313).
W.O. Cl. II Ivor Roderick Cox (132301).
W.O. Cl. III James Albert Brunton-Douglas (132302).
W.O. Cl. III Alexander Leslie Golding (132311).
W.O. Cl. III Thomas Alfred Tupper (132314).
W.O. Cl. III William Thomas Edmonds (132303).
W.O. Cl. III Ernest Christopher Collett (132312).
C.Q.M.S. (F. of S.) Arthur William Barron (132306).
Sergeant Stephen William Millen (132304).
W.O. Cl. II William Collingwood Spencer (132309) from R.A. to be 2nd Lieutenant, 25/5/40.

The undermentioned Cadets from 151st Officer Cadet Training Unit to be 2nd Lieutenants, 18/5/40 :

Robert Hugh Arthur (132530).
James Oldaker Donnison (132531).
David Richard Joseph Gifford-Hull (132532).

TERRITORIAL ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS.

GENERAL LIST :

Lieutenant-Colonel R. Lazenby (23504) at his own request reverts to the rank of Captain with his original seniority whilst employed during the present Emergency, 20/3/40. (Substituted for the notification in the " Gazette " (Supplement) dated 7/5/40.

Major N. E. Johnson-Ferguson (26409) from Yeomanry (T.A. Reserve of Officers) to be Major, 1/5/40.

[War Office, 28/5/40]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

The undermentioned Cadets, from Officer Cadet Training Unit (Ex-Gentlemen Cadets Royal Military Academy and Royal Military College), to be 2nd Lieutenants, 18/5/40 :

John Gordon Chenevix-Trench (131672).
Robert Batson Richards (131681).
John Patrick Doveton Mullaly (131674).
Robin Kentish Chater (131675).
Andrew Wynne Stewart (131678).
Patrick Laurence Dudgeon (131676).
Eric Herbert Manswer Rayner (131682).
Peter Desmond Vaigncourt-Strallen (131679).
Peter Bernard Cockburn (131677).
Robert John Fuller Whistler (131673).
Nigel Pidsley (131680).

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS :

Acting C.S.M. Herbert Frederick Thorn (131439) to be Lieutenant (Quartermaster), 6/5/40.

C.S.M. Victor Hoyland (131459) to be Lieutenant (T.M.O.) 25/4/40.

C.S.M. Albert Richard George Maynard (131415) to be Lieutenant (T.M.O.), 1/5/40.

Temporary C.Q.M.S. George Gowan Freemantle (132357) to be Lieutenant, 29/5/40.

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS.

2nd Lieutenant (War Substantive Lieutenant) F. W. Pearce (69331) from R.A.S.C., to be 2nd Lieutenant (War Substantive Lieutenant), 29/5/40, retaining his present seniority.

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VOL. XXI.—No. 245 JULY, 1940 PRICE—SIXPENCE

Editorial Notes

Come the three corners of the world in arms,
None can shock us ;
Naught shall make us rue
If Britain to herself do rest but true.

Correspondence.—The following correspondence is published for the information of ALL RANKS of Royal Signals :

Inspector of Signals Office,
Horse Guards,
Whitehall, S.W.1.

5th June, 1940.

H.R.H. The Princess Royal, C.I., G.C.V.O., G.B.E.,
Colonel-in-Chief,
Royal Corps of Signals,
Harewood House, Leeds.

MADAM,

I have now heard from Major-General R. Chenevix-Trench, O.B.E., M.C., Signal Officer-in-Chief, that the Commander-in-Chief expressed to him, on 28th May, his appreciation of the good work carried out by your Corps during the recent fighting in France.

Major-General R. Chenevix-Trench, O.B.E., M.C., has asked me to convey to your Royal Highness the humble and loyal duty of all ranks serving under him in the B.E.F.

From the visits I have so far been able to make to units returned from the B.E.F., and the reports made to me, I desire to inform your Royal Highness that the spirit of all ranks has never been higher than it is to-day.

I am, Madam,
Your obedient servant,
(Signed) H. WILLAN,
Colonel-Commandant,
Royal Corps of Signals.

DEAR BRIGADIER WILLAN,

I was delighted to get your letter of 5th June and am proud to know the Commander-in-Chief has expressed his appreciation of the good work carried out by my Corps during the recent fighting in France.

(Signed) MARY.

Roll of Honour.—All Ranks of Royal Signals will learn with very deep regret the news that MARTIN STUART WILLAN, of the 60th Rifles, younger son of Brigadier and Mrs. HUGH WILLAN, was killed in action during the recent severe fighting in France. They will also wish to associate themselves with us in tendering the deepest sympathy to our Colonel-Commandant and Mrs. WILLAN in their sad bereavement.

Felicitations.—The following is an extract from the "London Gazette" (Supplement) dated 7th June, 1940:

"War Office, 11/6/1940: Major-General H. C. B. WEMYSS, D.S.O., M.C., from Deputy-Adjutant-General to the Forces to be Adjutant-General to the Forces and is granted the acting rank of Lieutenant-General, 10/6/1940."

The very heartiest congratulations from All Ranks of the Corps, sir!

We also raise our hats to the undermentioned recipients of awards for gallant and distinguished conduct in the field:

MILITARY CROSS.

2nd Lieutenant (Acting Lieutenant) J. J. COLLINS, Royal Signals. This officer found himself at La Panne, on the beach, without any proper Signal Staff. He, however, not only ran a Corps Signal Office for some time, using Despatch Riders and Orderlies, without a relief, but personally found and laid cables with his own hands under shell fire and bombing. He was consistently cool in a situation of great difficulty and set a fine example to the men under him.

DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT MEDAL.

No. 2564758 Sergeant L. G. WELLS, Royal Signals. This N.C.O. was responsible for the maintenance of important circuits forward from Brussels under continual shell-fire and bombing. He repaired the lines personally, working all night to do so on occasions and set a fine example to the men under his command. At a later stage he took a detachment into what was believed to be a tank-infested area and put through some important circuits successfully.

MILITARY MEDAL.

No. 2574905 Lance Corporal LINGWOOD R. L., Royal Signals. This N.C.O. was in a cable detachment which passed by accident into the enemy lines and was captured. The detachment was marched away under escort and Lance Corporal Lingwood seized the opportunity afforded by a moment of inattention on the part of the escort to call on his men to escape. They responded instantly and succeeded in rejoining the Unit by swimming a canal. Thus, this N.C.O. saved six men (and a party of Belgian soldiers) from capture.

DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT MEDAL.

No. 7811235 Sergeant THOMAS BURKE, Royal Signals. From 16th to 29th May, Sergeant Burke T. was the Section Sergeant of "B" Cable Section. By untiring energy and inspiring leadership he encouraged his men to lay and maintain lines throughout the whole period of the operations under shell-fire, bombs and machine gun fire.

Personal.—We have been asked to announce that No. 2582912 Signalman JOHNSTON S., now in Batleys Park War Hospital, Chertsey, Surrey, is anxious to trace the present whereabouts of his friend **ARTHUR GORDON WEBB,** Despatch Rider of No. 1 Company, 23rd Divisional Signals.

Censorship.—We are able to announce that War Office has now agreed to relax the instructions forbidding publication of the names of officers, and Unit correspondents may now refer to all officers of the rank of Major and below. This concession will be greatly appreciated by all concerned as much of the news value of Unit contributions has recently been lost as a result of rigid censorship.

EDITOR.

Benevolent Fund Notes

The Administrator gratefully acknowledges receipt of the following:

Benevolent Fund (General)

CASH SUBSCRIPTIONS from:
Signalman W. H. Greene.

GIFTS OF CLOTHING from:
Colonel J. Waley Cohen, C.M.G., C.B.E., D.S.O., T.D.

Benevolent Fund (No. 2 A/C 1940)

CASH SUBSCRIPTIONS from:
5878 Other Rank Contributors for April as per consolidated list and covering remittance received from Regimental Paymaster.
Other Rank personnel, Holding Battalion, 1st S.T.C.
" " " S.T.C. (India).
" " " 1st Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, India.
" " " Kohat District Signals.
" " " 1st Corps Signals.
Major (Quartermaster) C. H. Manton.

BANKERS' ORDER SUBSCRIPTIONS from:
Lieutenant A. White.
Lieutenant G. L. Oliver.
Captain M. D. Price.
Lieutenant G. H. R. Flynn, M.B.E.
Lieutenant J. B. Melhuish.
2nd Lieutenant A. M. Reid.
Lieutenant-Colonel R. G. L. Giblin.

APPEALS dealt with:

1	Ex-Signalman, Sussex	Grant	£2	0	0
2	Signalman, Hants	Grant	£2	0	0
3	Widow of N.C.O., Aberdeen	Grant	£3	0	0
4	Ex-Signalman, London	Grant	£3	0	0
5	Wife of Signalman, Lincs.	Grant	£1	0	0
6	Wife of Signalman, Dundee	Grant	£3	0	0
7	Mother of Signalman, Birmingham	Grant	£3	0	0
8	Signalman, Llandudno	Loan	£5	0	0
9	Wife of Ex-N.C.O., London	Loan	£3	0	0
10	Widow of Signalman, Nottingham	Grant	£2	0	0

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

Royal Signals Comforts Fund

During the past month the Comforts Fund has been devoting itself principally to the care of wounded members of the Corps. A parcel containing books, magazines, sweets, games, etc., has been sent to each man known to be in Hospital, and from letters of thanks which have come to hand it would appear that these small attentions have been very much appreciated. Through the kindness of many friends the Fund has also been able to arrange for a large percentage of our wounded to be visited in Hospital. As a result of these visits, the Comforts Fund, with the assistance of the Corps Association, have satisfactorily dealt with various small requests and difficulties which had been worrying the men.

It will be realised that such additional services have been a severe drain upon the Fund's limited resources, and any extra contributions for the purpose of continuing this very important branch of activities will be most acceptable.

The following gifts have been received and are gratefully acknowledged:

Two large chests of woollen garments from the 2nd S.T.C. Working Party. A large consignment of mixed goods, suitable for distribution in parcels consigned to the wounded, from the Chislehurst Hospital Supply Depot. A number of woollen goods made in India, and a dozen jig-saw puzzles from The Overseas League, St. James's.

Also many other parcels, large and small, from kind friends who are diligently continuing to knit on behalf of the Fund.

It is also gratifying to record that the appeals inserted in "The Times" and the "Evening News" for books and magazines produced a considerable quantity of literature suitable for inclusion in Hospital parcels.

The Royal Signals Comforts Fund Shop run by Mrs. Ozanne, at 75, Hammersmith Road, W.14, cleared £12 during the first month of trading, and further gifts of clothing and other miscellaneous articles for disposal would be gratefully accepted.

The following extract from a letter received is quoted in the hope that it may inspire others to similar efforts:

"Will you please accept the enclosed cheque for the Royal Signals Comforts Fund. It is money realised from a cake that I raffled at the last Signals Dance."

Incidentally, it may be of interest to those who are so kindly co-operating with us to know that the Fund has now received official "Recognition" granted by the Admiralty, War Office and Air Force to all affiliated organisations.

FURTHER EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS OF APPRECIATION.

"Please allow me to express my appreciation for the parcel and good wishes received from the Comforts Fund. It was a very great and pleasant surprise. To me at least it is more than gratifying to think that although for the time being I am an 'ineffective' I am not forgotten nor regarded as a minute part of a vast machine."

"I am writing to thank you for the parcel I received from you and to which I could not reply sooner as I have just had an operation for the removal of some shrapnel from my shoulder. How you knew I was here beats me, as I am the only one of our Unit in this hospital, and I don't know where any of my chums of 2nd Corps Signals are. I should be glad if you could let them know that I am here and progressing well."—DRIVER L. WARD.

"Many thanks for the pleasant surprise I had yesterday when I received your parcel. I was delighted when I discovered THE WIRE, the first I have seen since last August, and I have already gone through it from cover to cover. I am the first in this ward of 34 wounded casualties to receive a parcel or message from any Regimental Fund. All the others are from different regiments and it is just another instance of 'Signals to the fore again.' Wishing the Fund every success, ——."

"Just a line to thank you for the very welcome parcel received to-day. It is good to know that 'Signals' do not forget us when we are not on the active list, but I hope to be back among the boys as quickly as possible. ——."

"I wish to thank you for the parcel received a few days ago. It was greatly appreciated, especially THE WIRE, which I had not seen for many months. Thank you also for keeping my wife informed as to my welfare. It is comforting to know that we are so well looked after and our relatives kept in touch with our progress. ——."

"Just a brief note thanking you for the parcel I received this morning, particularly the copy of the Corps Magazine. Strangely enough the photograph of the officers of the Nth Division happens to be my own Division. I am progressing quite well and hope to be back on the old key in the near future. ——."

"Thank you very much for the welcome parcel you sent me. There are men of all regiments here, and when I announced that my own regiment had sent me a parcel I had once again to be proud of it for seemingly it is one of the first that has taken the care and thought to provide such luxuries. Wishing success to your efforts. ——."

RECEIPTS (CONTINUED).

	£	s.	d.
Miss Clementi Smith	3	3	0
Staff of Inspection Department (monthly)	4	0	0
The Lady Pender	2	0	0
Mrs. Instrall	1	0	0
Officer's Mess, —— Divisional Signals	5	0	0
Signal Units, Rawalpindi (monthly)	8	13	6
Mrs. Doyle (proceeds of Bridge Tournament)	5	7	6
W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess, 152nd O.C.T.U...	1	2	6
Mrs. Jack's Working Party (monthly)		10	0
Anon.		5	0
Mrs. White	2	2	0
Mrs. Bell		2	6
Captain J. B. Bolitho	5	0	0
Miss A. White	5	0	0
C. H. Jacobs, Esq.	5	0	0
F. C. Previté, Esq.	5	0	0
Brigadier H. I. Allen	2	2	0
— Maddocks		10	0
Lady Alden, M.D.		10	0
Mrs. Fowler	2	2	0
Miss Meyer	1	0	0
E. W. S. Bolton		1	6
P.R.I., —— Divisional Signals	2	0	0
—— Army Signals		15	9
Mrs. W. A. Lindsay	3	0	0
Staff of Records and Pay Office, Royal Signals	6	5	0
Anon.	3	0	0
Lieutenant-Colonel B. G. Rowley	5	5	0
P.M.C., Royal Signals Mess, Aldershot	2	13	0
Mrs. Wheeler (proceeds of cake raffle)	2	10	0
Mrs. Ozanne (profit from shop)	12	0	0
Miss Collins		10	0
Mrs. Jack's Working Party (monthly)		10	0
Mrs. Rabone's Working Party (monthly)		10	0
1st Cadet Signal Company, Haberdashers' School	1	1	0
Kohat District Signals (monthly)	1	19	7
Peshawar District Signals	2	4	10
B.O.R.s' Concert Party, S.T.C., India	3	10	2
Unit Subscription, S.T.C., India	2	5	0
D.C.S.O., Army Signal School, Southern Command, Signal Company, Poona	2	10	0

Plain Tales.

Continued as Promised.—Well, my lucky lads, this is Dunkirk that was. Nice work, Navy; we appreciate it. There were times when we thought in our secret minds that we should never make it, but it is to the credit of everyone that the thought was kept well under the bonnet. It will perhaps be a long time before we know where all our old friends are, but that, unfortunately, is how it goes in time of war. When happier times come, as they must eventually, we shall have a Signals Reunion at the usual place and check up. In the Unit in which I have the honour to serve, the following have deservedly been awarded the Military Medal: Sergeant Turner C. A., Corporals Hadnett R. W. J. and Mitchell W., Lance Corporal Burke D.

And now most of us—but alas not all—are home waiting to be re-formed so that we can go back and have another "duffy." It is a grand spirit and perfectly true that the boys are all in favour of a chance to get their own back. We're a funny lot, we British. Even if we *were* beaten we wouldn't know it.

The Lighter Side.—Under this heading we cannot omit Signalman Bradley's reprehensible efforts to imitate the whine of a shell, with its resulting dives for cover in the Officers' Mess.

Nor the utter amazement of the Wireless Officer when one of his men crept up to him in the midst of a bombing raid and asked for a couple of number nines.

During the machine-gunning of a convoy, Jock replaced his steel helmet, pushed a Nuffield set up against the inside wall of the lorry and pulled his overcoat round his neck. "You don't

expect that to stop machine-gun bullets, do you, Jock?" asked his pal. "No, mon; but it gives me an awfu' lot o' confeedence," he replied.

About Your Friends.—Colonel Ukann Larfe, N.B.G. (and bar), together with Driver Fogworthy (whom you probably don't remember), Lieutenant Faceache, late of the Southshire Constabulary, and Hermione Larfe, A.T.S., landed at a south-east coast village from Mlle Colette's yacht, after a thrilling run from Dunkirk. They are all resting and recovering from their strenuous life of the past few weeks at Little Stench House, Much Doing, Shropwold. There the matter rests at present. Just thought you would like to know that they got away.

The Hooker was last seen in the Miami Club arguing over the price of his drink. It is feared that he too got away.

BARLEUX.

Diary of Events in the War

MAY 12TH TO JUNE 8TH.

By E. W. S.

1940

MAY 12TH.—Germans force back Dutch behind main water defence line. Allies continue advance across Belgium to aid Belgian army in its defence of line of Albert Canal.

MAY 13TH.—Germans continue rapid advance in Holland and Queen Wilhelmina and Dutch Government leave for England. In Belgium Germans succeed in forcing line of Albert Canal in Maastricht area. All male enemy aliens living in East England and Scotland ordered to be interned.

MAY 14TH.—Holland capitulates, unable to continue resistance in face of overwhelming German forces, part of which penetrated as far as Rotterdam and joined up there with parachutists and Fifth Columnists, and under threat of complete destruction of her cities from the air. Dutch army lays down its arms. German attacks in Belgium and north-east France continue with violence. Formation of new corps of Local Defence Volunteers in Britain announced by War Office.

MAY 15TH.—B.E.F., engaged east of Brussels, repel enemy attacks. Powerful German offensive, accompanied by heavy air attacks and led by masses of tanks, including some of a new heavy type, break into French front along the middle Meuse between Namur and Sedan.

MAY 16TH.—B.E.F. repulse new German attack at Louvain. Germans effect break through on wide front in middle Meuse sector, French counter attacks with tanks and aircraft failing to re-establish the line.

MAY 17TH.—Mr. Churchill visits Paris for conference with French Government. German progress in area west of middle Meuse continues, French being unable to check it or reform their broken front, and German co-operation between armoured troops and the air arm being very close and effective.

MAY 18TH.—Allies evacuate Louvain and Brussels. French continue to fall back, hard pressed, in area south of Sambre, where the position is admitted to be serious.

MAY 19TH.—General Weygand appointed French Commander-in-Chief vice General Gamelin. Germans switch main direction of their advance from south-west to west and continue to gain ground.

MAY 20TH.—German advance guards force line of Oise, Allied counter attacks failing to check their progress, though inflicting heavy losses.

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MAY 21ST.—German armoured detachments enter Amiens, Abbeville and Arras. B.E.F., having fallen back to line of Scheldt, hotly engaged north of Cambrai. R.A.F. continue intensive action against enemy on battlefield and in back areas.

MAY 22ND.—French establish themselves on line of Somme from Peronne to Channel coast, B.E.F. recapture Arras. Emergency Bill, giving British Government powers of control over all persons and property for war purposes and raising Excess Profits tax to 100 per cent., passed into law.

MAY 23RD.—Germans penetrate into Allied back areas as far as Boulogne. Big round up of potential Fifth Columnists in Britain, including an M.P. and leading figures of Union of Fascists and Peoples Party.

MAY 24TH.—Germans capture Boulogne, which is evacuated by Allied garrison under heavy pressure. German attack continue in attempt to widen gap between Arras and the Somme through which armoured and motorised troops continue to pass to threaten Allied rear. R.A.F. take heavy toll of enemy air force, over which they establish mastery wherever met.

MAY 25TH.—Germans' advance in Allied rear continues and they are now on outskirts of Calais. Air raid on Yorkshire and East Anglian towns cause a few civilian casualties.

MAY 26TH.—Fighting in streets of Calais, as a result of which Allied garrison withdraws to citadel. General Dill appointed C.I.G.S. in place of General Ironside, who becomes Commander-in-Chief, Home Forces.

MAY 27TH.—Heavy fighting rages on lines of Scheldt and Lys, where masses of enemy infantry are now in action. R.A.F. continue to take toll of enemy air forces and ground troops.

MAY 28TH.—King Leopold, as Commander-in-Chief of the Belgian Army, signs capitulation, which, though disowned

by Belgian Government, lays open left flank and rear of Allied forces still fighting in north-west Belgium. These, nevertheless, make new dispositions and continue heroic resistance.

MAY 29TH.—Under violent pressure Allies in north fall back fighting on Dunkirk, only possible port of embarkation now left them, as Germans claim to have put an end to heroic resistance of garrison of citadel of Calais. In northern Norway Allies capture Narvik, Germans falling back eastwards towards frontier of Sweden.

MAY 30TH.—Evacuation of Allied forces from Dunkirk, begun and carried on under great difficulties of shoals, wind and tide, and under heavy fire from land and air, makes steady progress, all sorts, shapes and sizes of craft being used for the task. R.A.F. cover the evacuation as best it can in face of greatly superior numbers of enemy aircraft, of which, however, it takes heavy toll.

JUNE 1ST.—Greater part of B.E.F. now safely got away from Dunkirk, and Lord Gort returns home to report to the King and British Government. R.A.F. continue to cover withdrawal of French rear guards to line of water defences around port, and to inflict heavy losses on enemy. French retake all but one of the German bridgeheads established on south bank of Somme.

JUNE 2ND.—Final stage of evacuation of Dunkirk began.

JUNE 3RD.—Heavy German air raid on Paris causes 900 casualties and considerable damage. Twenty-five enemy machines shot down out of 250 taking part.

JUNE 4TH.—Dunkirk evacuation now completed; Mr. Churchill announces that 335,000 Allied troops had been evacuated in 857 British and many French ships; our casualties had totalled some 30,000 only, but all our material of B.E.F., including over 1,000 guns, had been lost.

JUNE 5TH.—Germans launch great new offensive on all fronts from Aisne to Channel coast, but Allies, holding position organised in great depth, hold firm everywhere.

JUNE 6TH.—Enemy offensive continues with utmost violence all along battle front. Heavy casualties inflicted on him in personnel, tanks, and aircraft and except on extreme left of line, Allies everywhere hold their ground.

JUNE 7TH.—Enemy attacks continue but with little result save heavy loss to Germans; tank casualties already estimated at 400. R.A.F. and French Air Force carry out series of extensive raids on German and German-occupied territory. Enemy air raids on wide area of Eastern and South-Eastern England do little damage and caused few casualties.

JUNE 8TH.—Enemy progress on whole battle front small and costly save on western flank, where Allies fall back to line of Bresle and hostile armoured detachments reach vicinity of Forges les Eaux. French Air Force raid Berlin as reprisal for German raid on Paris.

The Great Battle in France and Flanders

(ANON.)

All doubts, engendered by the long inactivity of last autumn and winter, as to Germany's plans and intentions were swept away on the morning of 10th May, when, exactly a month after the initiation of her Norwegian diversion—as we can now see it to have been—she struck at the Allies all along the front, from the north end of the Maginot Line proper about Montmedy to the north-eastern corner of the Dutch-German frontier. It was a grandiosely planned and skilfully and resolutely executed offensive, and the hateful treachery and cunning which attended the involving of two more peaceful and harmless little nations in the conflict, for no better reason than that such a course enabled Germany to strike more effectively at her principal foes, France and Britain, must not blind us to the broadness of the conception and the energy and ability with which it was executed.

It opened with a prelude which was at once a diversion and a bait. The invasion of Holland and Belgium, carried out without warning of any sort or any serious attempt to justify it, was primarily designed as an introduction to the main attack and in order to divert attention from it. Not that the invasion was not fully prepared for and carried out in strength more than adequate to push it through to success. It was known to the Germans, as well as to ourselves, that the Dutch powers of resistance could hardly enable them to hold out for more than a few days; their air force, though of good quality, was weak in numbers, their army was inexperienced and only partially trained, and the country, which had not known war for over a century, was ill prepared, physically and morally, for a fight, which must have brought to all its crowded cities and smiling fields a holocaust of death and destruction. But Holland's chief weakness and the main cause of her swift defeat was her own inner dissensions and the odious yet skilful manner in which these were fomented and exploited by the enemy for his own fell purposes. As her brave soldiers were straining to hold their water line defences against heavy pressure, they found the country which they were embattled to defend scourged by bombing from the air, overrun by hordes of parachutists and forces landed by troop-carrying aeroplanes, and riven from one end to the other by traitors and hidden foes helping the enemy, falling rapidly to pieces behind them. All was over in five days from the start; the Dutch army, beset on all sides, laid down its arms, and the whole country, yet another hapless victim of German aggression, passed under the heel of the invader. Once more a false neutrality—between scrupulous friends and greedy and ruthless foes—had betrayed a small land and a pacific people into mortally wounding itself by refusing to take in time the course which all impartial observers realised could alone have availed to save it.

Meanwhile the Allied forces, which had had no chance of saving Holland, had hurried forward their left wing in force from its long prepared positions on the northern frontier of France to join up with the Belgian army, under King Leopold, aligned along the Meuse and the Albert Canal. Before they could get there, that line had given way and the Germans pouring across it, had isolated Liege and invested Namur and were sweeping on towards Brussels. It was all the Allied forces could do to hold and dig in on a line covering the capital and here the hostile advance was temporarily brought to a stand. But in fact neither the attack on Holland nor the advance into Belgium was Germany's real blow. That was delivered against the stretch of the middle Meuse that runs south from Namur towards the western end of the Maginot Line near Montmedy, and it met with swift and overwhelming success.

That this success was in part due to gross errors and omissions on both the French and Belgian parts has since been frankly admitted. The Belgians, over-estimating the delaying powers of their light forces in the difficult terrain of the Ardennes, omitted to destroy the river bridges; the French, relying on the defensive strength of the ground and believing a serious hostile attack in so unpromising a sector to be unlikely, had sent there indifferently trained and ill-led troops, who moved forward too slowly to anticipate the Germans on the banks of the Meuse. The crossings were forced and the enemy launched at the surprised and badly situated defence a horde of tanks, many of them of a new heavy type impervious to the lighter anti-tank weapons of the French. Their onslaught was heralded and prepared by swarms of dive-bombing aeroplanes, working in the close and effective conjunction with the ground troops that only long practice together can ensure; it was followed by mosquito clouds of motor cyclist machine gunners and motorised infantry units, who quickly consolidated and held the ground over which the tanks had preceded them. French counter-blows, delivered hurriedly and without adequate force or consolidated plan, failed to check the tide of invasion, which swept irresistibly on to the heart of Northern France. When, on 19th May General Weygand, Foch's former friend and collaborator, was summoned to the supreme command in the room of General Gamelin, he might well have recollected his old chief's words when he was appointed to take charge of the Allied operations in March, 1918, "You call me to retrieve a battle already more than half lost."

The German advance guards were already on the Oise, the Allies to the north of the great bulge in the centre of their line were in steady retreat, and Brussels was in enemy hands. Yet worse was to follow; the bulge became a rent and the rent a

wide gap, through which the German mechanised forces drove forward like a scythe and swept round the open flank into the rear of the northern armies. While the French centre, hurriedly rallied along the line of the Aisne and the Somme, proceeded to prepare the front for defence, the left wing, the B.E.F., French, and Belgians, to the north, strove to clear their communications, and hold out a hand to a possible counter offensive to close the gap behind the onrushing Germans and reknit the broken line. But no such counter offensive was delivered ; General Weygand, boldest yet most clear-sighted of commanders, realised that to attempt it prematurely with insufficient force might well jeopardise the whole future of the Allied cause for a slender prospect of partial success, and bade his left wing fight it out where it stood or evacuate by sea, if it could, to gain time for the main body to consolidate on a new system of defence in great depth and strength the main line covering the road to Paris and the heart of France. It was a herculean task which seemed inevitably to involve the detachment to certain destruction, for the task of getting it clear from the Channel ports under the nose of a superior enemy flushed with victory and in command of the air, and all but astride its line of communications with the coast, seemed an impossible one. The Germans boasted that the Allies here were ringed round in an iron circle and already as good as lost. Mr. Churchill bade Britain prepare for "hard and heavy tidings," the import of which was all too clear when on 28th May King Leopold ordered his army to capitulate in the open field. The doom of the B.E.F. and the French Army of the north seemed irrevocably sealed. Boulogne and Calais had been in German hands for some days, though a heroic garrison was still holding out in Calais citadel. Now the northern road to the last port, Dunkirk, lay open to the enemy. It looked like the end.

It was not the end. Within a week, despite all that the Germans could do by land, sea, and air, a motley armada of craft of all kinds came to Dunkirk and slowly and painfully embarked and carried home all but a small portion of the Allied armies, which fought to the end to secure its comrades' safe retreat. A third of a million men were thus snatched from the destruction on which the Germans had confidently counted ; they came home with their faith in themselves and their chances and their cause unimpaired, and their morale and resolve to fight again and win higher than ever before. They left behind them much—all their guns and tanks, vehicles, and munitions (much of this great booty, of course, at the last moment rendered unserviceable to the enemy), but they themselves, and the honour and credit of their arms, were saved. Time had been won, too, for the main armies to gird themselves for the new fiery ordeal to which, within forty-eight hours of the final evacuation of Dunkirk, they were again to be exposed. That new battle still rages as these words are being penned.

History alone can weigh with any pretence of accuracy or fullness the events of this great battle of Flanders and its effects on the fortunes of the war. She will probably assess it as a great defeat, which ought to have been by all the rules and probabilities a great disaster, yet was not. The Allies retrieved at the last moment something of what they had lost and made the enemy pay more dearly than he had anticipated for a success great indeed, but far less than he had hoped for and counted on. He may have cause later bitterly to regret the loss of that flower of his army which fell in these Flanders fields, and the wealth of material and equipment spent in that vain effort to force a lightning decision. The moral ascendency established by the R.A.F. over his air force in face of great difficulties and heavy numerical odds may well be an earnest of the true Allied air supremacy which must be the first condition of our future victory. Moreover, the Allies have gained precious time to marshal and swell their vast resources and replace their grievous losses, which they can even now do more easily and quickly than their foes. Now that all the energies of Britain are being brought powerfully and resolutely to work to redeem the lost months, and the help of the United States is making itself felt more and more, time is truly on our side. Once this crisis is passed and this tempest weathered, we shall have survived the worst and fiercest of our ordeals, and can look forward with hope and confidence to the balance of forces swaying ever more and more to our favour. The battle of Flanders may then well appear to the future historian as one of these Pyrrhic victories which prelude a turn in the tide of war and a decline down the road to defeat.

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Sig. RON ALLEN

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PHEW! And to think that a few weeks ago some of us were grumbling at the monotony of our job! A few weeks ago? So much has happened in the past fortnight that it seems like years since my boredom was brightened by seeing my name at the top of the leave list. Leave! Blighty!! Whoopee!!!

When you are told the glorious news you rush round in ever-decreasing circles, as happy as the day when you rode your first motorcycle. Then you start chasing doubts in your mind. It can't be true. Surely it would be just your luck if leave is suspended. Meanwhile, you are most careful not to do those things which are best left undone for fear of having your name shoved to the bottom of the list as a punishment.

Time seems to stand still, but at last the gladsome hour arrives and, with the envious good wishes of your less fortunate comrades ringing in your ears, you start for the station, literally with hours to spare to catch the train which will take you towards that magic place—Home.

Leave!

After a journey in a train which on any other occasion would appear to be damnably uncomfortable, you embark, full of the joy of spring, to cross the "Drink." Never believe those people who tell you the Channel is always calm at this time of year, because I can assure you that I was far too busy feeding the fishes even to think of the pleasures to come when the purgatory passed!

Blighty at last! What a joy to hear the backchat of the British porters. Then a journey in a really comfortable train, with my eyes closed in an endeavour to recover from the bout of "Uncle Dick." Shortly afterwards came the family reunion. Need I say more? Anyone who has had a similar experience will know what I mean, whilst those who have not wouldn't understand me, anyway. But leave passed all too quickly. The return journey was not so happy, but such is the wonderful *camaraderie* of the Army that, once back at the billet, I seemed to settle down with no regrets, more particularly as I found a strange D.R. sleeping in my chicken-coop bed, and I can assure you it was not long before he realised who was the real owner and he was kipping on the floor.

The Chicken Lost!

It is funny the small things which make our news and how important they seem in this new life. For example, upon my return I found there was terrific excitement because the boys had had chicken for supper one night owing to one of the runners having played a game of "last across" with a chicken, which the latter lost. Then there had been our first organised rat hunt and, believe me, in France rats are rats, and rabbits have been known to shelter in their shadow from the sun! Apparently burnt twigs and leaves had been tried as a means of smoking them out of their holes, but not too successfully. Then, out of the mist of fog which is Alan's brain, came the suggestion of introducing the rats to the exhaust fumes of a side-valve Norton led to the front door of the rats' establishment by a length of hosepipe whilst the boys waited at the tradesmen's entrance armed with sticks and other death-dealing devices. This seemed to be a great success, for the sole rat to appear just, and only just, managed to reach the exit and then laid him down and died. But third time lucky. With a little better organization another hunt was held, using the same methods, and on this occasion several rats left their holes somewhat sharpish. Tally Ho! The hunt was on! But so many people were anxious to be in at the death that most of the boys fell over each other and the rats were still playing hide and seek in the vicinity of our billet when we left for pastures new.

Then there were other small items of gossip I had to hear, in between intervals of telling the lads what it was like in Blighty. "Silvo," for example, experiencing a burst tyre at considerable velocity, had been faced with the choice of hitting a lorry or going through a cafe door. With all the initiative of the full-blown D.R. he naturally chose the cafe and was revived with "cafe Cognac." And yet there are some people who still say that D.R.s have no imagination!

A Perfect Husband!

But our life in those far-off days was not all gallivanting about the countryside, and each had to take his turn at fatigues, in the messrooms or on coal parade. The latter is just delivering coal to the various billets—it doesn't sound much when you say it quickly, but you would be amazed at the length of some of the French kilometres. Although I am single, when I get married I shall make a perfect husband, for now I know what it is like to dish out grub for 200 chaps and then clean up the place for the next meal. Try that three times a day and you will know what I mean.

But there were bright spots to relieve all this toil, and there was nothing to equal the joy of a visit to the baths. Crowded on a lorry, like a lot of kids going on an outing, we learned to appreciate the true luxury of lying back in a basin full of hot drink. But Army life is packed with surprises. Just as we had lulled ourselves into a drowsy state of doing our daily duty, crawling out of "Uncle Ned" in the morning to give our machines the once over, and to carry out the usual runs, came the sudden order to pack up and depart for a village in the Somme area where we went through a six weeks' period of intensive training.

That village was one of the places which appear on the map as a dot, but remain in the memory as a blot. Not even the most enthusiastic estate agent could have described it as fit for human habitation, whilst as for sanitation the natives could certainly not understand words longer than one syllable! But long before that training period was completed came the order to move to another spot and to dump all surplus kit. Apparently we were due for a sea trip, and by the time we had finished arguing as to our destination we reckoned it was any port in the world bar Southend. But what do you think happened? We merely returned to the village *sans* sanitation and resumed our training until That Man invaded Holland and Belgium.

Then came the order, "Pack up, boys, and on your way north." Came nights of ceaseless travelling, with days full of everlasting work. Sleep was practically unknown. First we went to a place near Brussels and there we learnt for the first time the terrors of an air raid. The Germans came over in shoals, machine-gunning and bombing, and at first they had it all their own way, just flying around as they pleased. And to think that a few weeks before this Lofty Lobb had wanted action!

Searching for Safety

We saw streams of refugees—and, believe me, the papers have not exaggerated their tragedy—the lucky ones had cars, rickety vehicles which they somehow kept on the roads until they ran out of petrol. The unlucky ones walked with their homes on



(With acknowledgments to "Motor Cycling"

"... they stumble along ... conscious that they have parted with their homes ... and all they hold dear, and looking back, they see a pillar of smoke ..."

their backs. My command of words is incapable of describing this horrible picture but perhaps your imagination can conjure up what you would feel like if suddenly someone told you to get out sharpish for the enemy were on their way—for that is how the Germans arrived at some of the places. Picture your mother and father, your wife and kiddies, trudging along the roads weighed down with the few things they can carry, choked with dust from the passing vehicles, despairingly jumping into ditches when the swinish Hun dives down to do his beastly work. The only hope they have as they stumble along is that they may ultimately reach safety, conscious that they have parted with their homes, their friends, and all that they hold dear, and looking back they see a pillar of smoke rising from the place which has previously been their whole life.

Remember, too, that these people had no young men to help them, for the youth of France is in the Army to an extent that those in England can never truly appreciate. The sight of the limp bundles of clothing shrouding the dead bodies of what were once happy and hopeful people is something that none of us will ever forget; it has left us with a desire to get back and to do our individual utmost to deal a death blow to a people who have no pity, but just a brutish instinct to kill and destroy everything in their path. The sight of a hospital after the passing of the Germans must make any man with normal instincts wonder what word the Hun uses for "Civilisation" in his dictionary.

Ditch Diving

We were lucky; whilst we were bombed regularly we suffered comparatively few casualties, although units on each side of us were not so fortunate. Our life at this period was one of continuous movement—a couple of days here, a couple of days there. Eventually came the time when we crossed the Belgian border. The Hun bombers were still having fun but the D.R.s had now become experts at "bailing out" and diving into ditches at the sight of an enemy plane.

Then came the treachery of Leopold and we started on the retirement to Dunkirk. We received orders to dump all kit which we could not carry on a long march. We were told the Germans were very close to the road and the trip was going to be hazardous. Alan and myself were lucky for we were picked with Gee Gee, Lofty Lobb and a sergeant to accompany the advance party. All went well for several miles, when we caught up with a slowly moving column as we passed through a succession of smashed villages; again luckily missing bombings by a few minutes in every case. Then came a halt during which we smashed Lofty's Norton, for it had packed up and we determined to make it useless for the Huns. It pained us to spoil such good machinery but with the aid of a 4-ft. iron bar what we did to that model was just nobody's business!

Still the column stuck, so Alan, the sergeant and myself were sent forward to investigate the cause of the delay and to endeavour to get things cracking. We rode for several miles but could find nothing doing, and although we waited for a couple of hours the rest of our mob never turned up, so we decided to push on. Eventually, however, we came to a solid mass of vehicles spread over the countryside, and in the process of

trying to find some way round the blockage, we lost the sergeant, and it became a case of " every man for himself."

Any attempt to ride the bikes was out of the question. We tramped on and on, Alan and I, until we came to the end of the jam where to our joy we discovered an abandoned " Bug " (light lorry.—Ed.). We had decided not to wreck our two models as we knew others were following in our tracks and they might be useful to some poor footsore devil. Taking to the fields in an attempt to get round another blockage I wrecked the bug in a deep drainage ditch, but by this time we were getting expert car bandits, and by constantly swopping vehicles we eventually arrived at Dunkirk with our last acquirement looking like a flypaper. There were men on the roof, on the running boards, on the bonnet and even one bloke with asbestos pants on the radiator.

Dunkirk was a horrible sight, with everything smashed to smithereens with the exception of the courage of the chaps defending it. We were told where to go, and as it was some distance away we cast around for a vehicle, and what do you think we found ? Alan's Norton, which had been abandoned miles back !

We were luckier than most on the trip across to Blighty. The day before, the place of embarkation had been bombed to blazes. The day after we left Jerry brought up his heavy artillery to add to the inferno on the beach. But were were in the lucky group which struck a patch of mist, when flying conditions were bad and the enemy guns had not got the range.

Back in England we found ourselves temporary heroes. Everyone was waving to us. We were given fags and even bread, a luxury we had not had for many a day, and we are now at a camp " Somewhere in England " waiting to join our re-formed unit with the promise of a spot of leave thrown in.

Meanwhile, we are anxiously awaiting news of the rest of our lads, but it may be some time before we hear from them, and it is inevitable that some will be missing, as, indeed, one or two were missing before we started on the great trek.

Ir's funny how, after a time of stress, the sense of humour returns to the rescue of sanity. Already we have begun to remind each other of the time when we were billeted near a deserted brewery—all the beer and even champagne that you wanted for nothing ! Oh, boy ! Oh, boy ! And to think that in these parts the pubs shut at 10 and its 10d. a pint (beer, not champagne).

Then there was the time when one of the lads had a large officer (about Uncle Graham's size) on the back of his bike seated on top of a pile of blankets. The expression on the officer's face when they returned after their " dice " was something that not even Oxley could draw. Then there was the occasion when I found a deserted canteen full of fags and my popularity was such as it has never been before, or since !

Even shelling has its bright side as we discovered when one crump killed a pig. The change from corned beeg to pork even persuaded us to say a kind word for Jerry. It is incidents like these that become matters of major importance in Army life, for it is a life which is essentially simple. To eat when you can, sleep when you can, and above all to get on with the job, and, after what we have seen of the German methods, there will be no lack of enthusiasm to make a good job of that job.

I SLEPT ON BOOTS



Then I still slept on Boots because all my comrades borrowed it

- Splendid on manœuvres and in camp — Khaki material
- Ideal for all on service — Up or down in a few seconds
- Deflated about the size of handkerchief, 15″ × 10″
- Send now, stocks cannot be replenished — Price **4'3**
- Offered by ex-W.O. who knows its worth — Postage - 3d.

KENOSHA AGENCIES, COWPLAIN, PORTSMOUTH

" Coffee "

Day-dreaming one rather depressing Sunday afternoon in the Mess, my attention was drawn by certain pungent, blue-pencilled remarks voiced by two young N.C.O.s descriptive of the quality of the stuff dished up over the canteen bar and alleged to be coffee.

Swiftly the pages of memory turned back to a hot day in 1919. I had been out since dawn, patrolling the Telegraph Route running from Jerusalem, up through Galilee and on to Damascus. I had reached a spot just outside the mud-walled, embattlemented village of Sasa and was reminded, as I gazed at it, of the sharp action that took place there during the previous September. It was on this occasion that the "Aussies " and our Yeomanry made their dramatic dash to Damascus after capturing the entire Turkish 4th Division on the plains of Armageddon. Incidentally, at that period I had the good fortune of being with T. E. Lawrence, in charge of the Signal Troop attached to the Hedjaz Forces—but that is another yarn.

Rousing myself, I was vastly intrigued to discern a large Bedouin encampment which, judging by the number and size of the black-topped Arab tents, evidently belonged to a Bedouin of some importance. I urged on my camel and soon approached the spot where a dignified group of Arabs was seated. They rose to receive me, giving the customary desert greeting, " Salaam Aleikum," accompanied by the hand to head and heart gesture ; I was invited to enter. Taking care to slip off my boots (being well-schooled in the niceties of desert life) I sank gratefully on to a pile of fine Damascus rugs.

Following a few guttural Arabic words from my host, fresh water was brought in a goat skin, together with a clean hand-towel which, I was inwardly amused to see, bore the mystic imprint " Hotel Victoria," the principal tourist place in Damascus. Feet and hands were washed by a grinning Soudanese slave. A good swill would have suited better.

" Would I take coffee ? " " Yes ! I would." A small leather bag was produced, the running string opened and a few green coffee beans taken out. These were next placed on a brass roaster which, simply described, looked to my Western eyes very much like our familiar fish-slice, with a long thin handle. The slumbering embers of a small charcoal fire were quickly blown into a glowing mass by means of a primitive but strangely efficient method of squeezing a skin bag with an iron nozzle.

Quite soon the beans were roasted and, after gravely considering them, mine host placed them in a cylindrival box with a small drawer in its base. To the accompaniment of a strange Arabic chant, rendered by the entire personnel, the beans were pounded into powder and at intervals the husks wafted away with a fan. During this period a much blackened brass pot had been simmering on the live coals and in due course the coffee was poured into the boiling water and allowed to boil slowly.

Quantities of sugar were added—the true Bedouin likes his coffee sweet—a final boil, the coffee was ready. And what coffee ! Mere words can describe neither its fragrance nor its flavour.

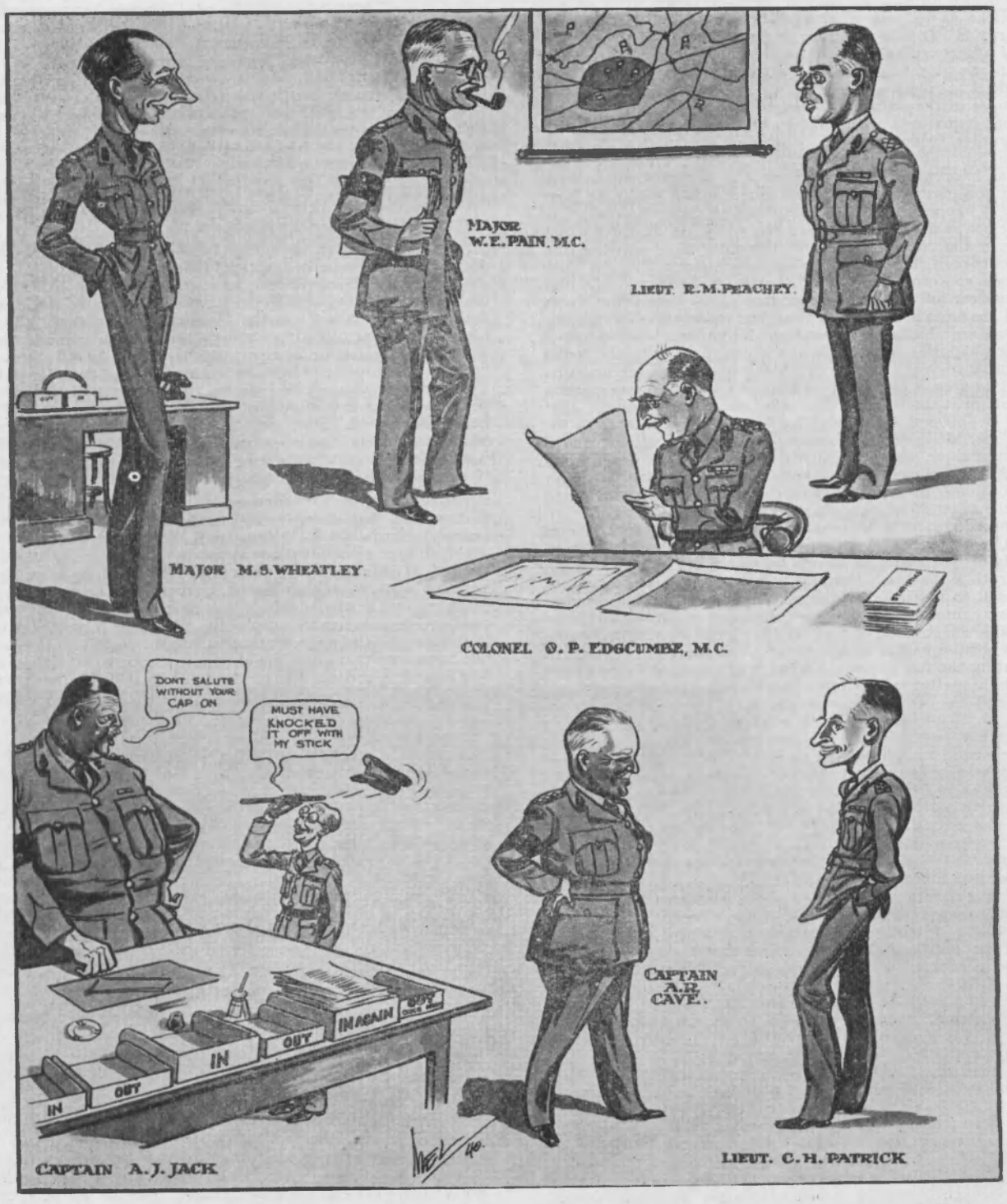
Surreptitiously I had timed the whole ceremony. It had occupied two and a half hours ! But then, time to the Arab is of no consequence. On the other hand, two and a half minutes' wait at the canteen bar causes these youngsters to create h—ll.

J. H. G.

German Communiques and How to Read Them

(ANON.)

Now that active operations of war are in full tide on land, on sea, and in the air, one of the sources of information as to their progress open to us and to all the world—and the only one open to the people of Germany, it is important to note—is the series of daily official German High Command communiques. Since as full and accurate a service of war news as is possible is not only in our democratic tradition, but a necessity if we are to see the military situation as it really is from day to day, and to forecast and be prepared in time to meet its future possibilities, that source of information from the enemy side cannot and ought not to be neglected. The main points to be ascertained, therefore, are : " How far is it true and trustworthy ? How



(With Acknowledgments to " The Tatler ")

THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS—PERSONNEL BRANCH : BY " MEL "

ought we to estimate its value as a contributory source of information, and how far is it mere propaganda? How does it compare for accuracy and reliability with the official war communiques of the Allies?"

Now before forming an opinion on these points, it is as well to be clear as to just what every communique of this kind necessarily is. It is a summary of past events and the present state of affairs as far as these are known to the writer of the communique at the moment of writing it. That may sound, and indeed is, platitudinous, or what "Punch" used to call "a glimpse of the obvious." But we sometimes tend to forget just what it involves. No military officer, however exalted his rank, however widespread his sources of information, however profound his military judgment, can possibly know all about what has happened in every corner of a battlefield, measured, as often nowadays, in hundreds of square miles, within an hour or so of it happening. No naval officer, in these days when all ships at sea maintain "wireless silence" while in the possible vicinity of the enemy for fear of revealing their presence and movements, can hope to say what has happened at sea until the vessels concerned have reached port or are near it. No air officer can get full details of a squadron's achievements or losses until all its pilots land and hand in their reports, even supposing that these are absolutely accurate and complete. Therefore, it may often happen that the official communiques of the two sides are at variance over a certain episode or over the exact situation in a certain area, without the authors of either being necessarily dishonest or untruthful. One side may have reports that another has not got; one side may have fuller reports than the other; one side may have later reports than the other; and if one communique therefore mentions an incident or gives in great detail a situation which another does not refer to at all or merely outlines, the most obvious course would normally be to accept the fuller story as the truer one.

One must also bear in mind the obvious limitations under which the writer of every communique necessarily labours. Normally his purpose is, or should be, to tell his readers as much of the truth as he can. But this is not to say that he can, or should, tell as much as he knows, for that might well involve giving away information valuable to the enemy, quite apart from the possible effect, good or bad, on the morale of his own people of items of information of which not all of them are capable of appreciating the full purport. What is or is not of value to the enemy is a matter which only the High Command itself can decide, and the communique writer may therefore be strictly fettered from time to time as to what he says or omits to say. We must not neglect either the natural bias, both of the communique writer himself, and of those on whose reports he relies for his knowledge of events, to stress or exaggerate the favourable and minimise or pass over in silence the unfavourable. In a word, an official communique, even if honestly written, cannot be expected to tell the whole truth, but one may reasonably expect from it nothing but the truth.

Unfortunately, the proviso "if honestly written" cannot be said to be applicable to the German High Command communiques to-day. They are merely another form of German propaganda, and what governs their contents and composition is not primarily considerations of truths or falsehood, but their possible good effect on the morale of the German and neutral peoples and the possible bad effect on the morale of the enemy. The basic purpose of these communiques is thus exactly the same as that of the lucubrations of "Lord Haw-Haw" and his fellows; they are different means to identical ends. The words of Mr. Sinclair, in his brilliant little pamphlet, "The Voice of the Nazi," are apposite here:

"The question of what is true does not enter into the Nazi propagandist's calculations at all (except, of course, in so far as they must say some things that are true in order to make people listen). They recognise no obligation whatever to tell the truth or anything resembling the truth. They are not interested in the truth. They are interested only in saying anything which it would benefit Germany to make people believe, and in denying anything which it would benefit Germany to make people disbelieve."

Under these circumstances it is a good rough rule, where the claims of an Allied and a German communique conflict, at least to examine the latter carefully to see if the news that it contains is news such as the German Government would like its own, enemy, and neutral people to believe, and the former to see if any of the news that it contains is what would be unwelcome to the German Government. Then, again as a rough rule, we may place reasonably full faith in the truth of such Allied statements and regard such German statements with grave suspicion. There is only one qualification to this rough rule, which is that even a confirmed and deliberate liar must tell the truth sometimes if he is to continue to achieve his purpose of deceiving people, or no one will listen to him or believe a word he says. So even the German communique writer will not sit down to compose a continuous stream of pure unadulterated fantastic falsehoods, bearing no relation to facts or possibilities; some items of truth, even though unwelcome, will be intermingled with the lies, preferably items which will anyhow transpire from other sources, or which can be twisted in some way to redound to Germany's credit or profit.

The general effect of these considerations on our estimate of the contents of the three main categories of these German communiques then may be summarised as follows:

(a) The military statements of fact have so far been reasonably accurate. This is easily explained by the consideration that they can readily be checked by the statements in the Allied communiques, and therefore come more or less under the head of truths which it is safe to admit and unsafe to falsify. Moreover the development of military events having so far gone markedly in Germany's favour everywhere, the truth about them has been as profitable to Germany as inventions could be. When the tide turns against her, we may expect to find the military portions of her communiques growing less ingenuous and less trustworthy with great rapidity. Even to-day the general estimates of the military positions tend to be more what Germany would like the world to believe than what is in fact the case.

(b) On the naval side, on the other hand, the German communique is totally and hopelessly unreliable—so notoriously so that when a few days ago its announcement that the aircraft carrier "Glorious" had been sunk, aroused nothing but disbelief, and the subsequent admission of its truth by our Admiralty the utmost astonishment. The unreliability of these naval stories has been considerably enhanced by the recent German habit of chopping and changing about the names of their ships (which can have no conceivable purpose save to make it easier for them to conceal or falsify the truth about naval matters). It is a safe rule to assume that every naval item in the German communique is a lie unless and until it is admitted officially by the Allies to be the truth.

(c) It is noteworthy that many of the more fantastic of the German claims to have destroyed Allied naval craft emanate from their air force, the pilots of which are either constitutionally incapable of distinguishing a trawler from a battleship at sea, or have an unexcelled capacity for wishful thinking in the matter of their own exploits. Their tales of these, like those of their naval colleagues, may always be resolutely disbelieved. As regards the numbers of their own aircraft lost and enemy aircraft shot down, the German air authorities apparently work on a very simple plan—that of changing the figures round. Such figures tend to be unreliable anyway and are quite impossible to check, so here is a case where the truth can safely be twisted out of all resemblance without fear of detection or exposure by the outside world and to the temporary profit of Nazi Germany.

Here then are the three rules of thumb for the student of the German High Command communique:

(a) Admit its military facts (not its appreciations) as generally correct (but not as complete) unless denied, and so long, but only so long, as Germany has good news to report.

(b) Disbelieve all its naval facts entirely unless and until any are admitted by the Allies.

(c) Disbelieve all its air facts and figures in the same manner.

General rule—remember always that, as pointed out by Mr. Sinclair in the pamphlet above referred to: "Hitler's purpose is not to tell people anything but to make them do something. And if he succeeds in making them do what he wants, then he is satisfied, and he is not interested in whether the statements he employs are true or not." So ask yourself always, when reading a German communique, not "Is this or that true?" but "Is it to Germany's interest to make me believe this or that is true? And if so, why?"

Quite apart from anything else, you get much more fun out of studying the communiques that way.

HOME STATIONS

Yorkshire I.

1st Holding Battalion

We must crave indulgence for the absence of notes for the last few months from this Unit, but members new and old will understand the position here. In the removal into various new Company offices the notes compiled have, unfortunately, " Gone with the Wind."

We are still the Holding Battalion even if we belie our name by not holding them.

The Griffin's Nest per Sergeant and Corporal " B's " could tell a pretty tale, but we must leave that to writers of history.

Photographs of the Unit officers and N.C.O.s of the cadre, or shall we say what was the cadre, are interesting, and one can imagine how they will be scanned by past members of the Unit wherever they may be.

It is, of course, impossible to give details of our activities, but it is enough to say that we are all very active.

Promotions.—Under this heading we can say there have been many. Some caused the usual " Ticks." Our congratulations to those who " touched," and to those who missed the boat this trip, hard luck ! Keep smiling, your turn will come.

Postings.—Naturally there have been many postings, and several well-known faces are missing from the various messes. Best of luck, lads, wherever you may be.

Social Activities.—The weekly dance still proves as attractive and as well supported as ever. The housey-housey schools and whist drives run by the Entertainment Committee, and also the several S.O.B. concerts have done much to relieve the burden of recent restrictions. We feel we must comment on the recent cinema show given in the dining hall. It was, indeed, worth the price of admission, if only for the humour and laughs caused by the persistent breakdown of the machine during the main feature.

Sport.—Our football team once again carried off all the honours by winning the McEwan (Garrison) Cup and Medals, this being our second success. Well done, lads ! The result was, indeed, gratifying considering the many changes due to postings in the team during the competition. We are afraid the final was a great disappointment to our friendly rivals and neighbours at the ——O.C.T.U. With all the talent they had available " it was in the bag " according to S.M. C——y. A Victory Group of the team has been sent in for publication.

Hockey and rugby matches were played with various Units, and while not so successful, the games were enjoyed. After all, it's the game that counts and not the result.

As regards cricket, our budding Huttons and Larwoods are to be seen practising diligently at the nets. A scratch team recently played —— O.C.T.U. Hence the aforementioned practice.

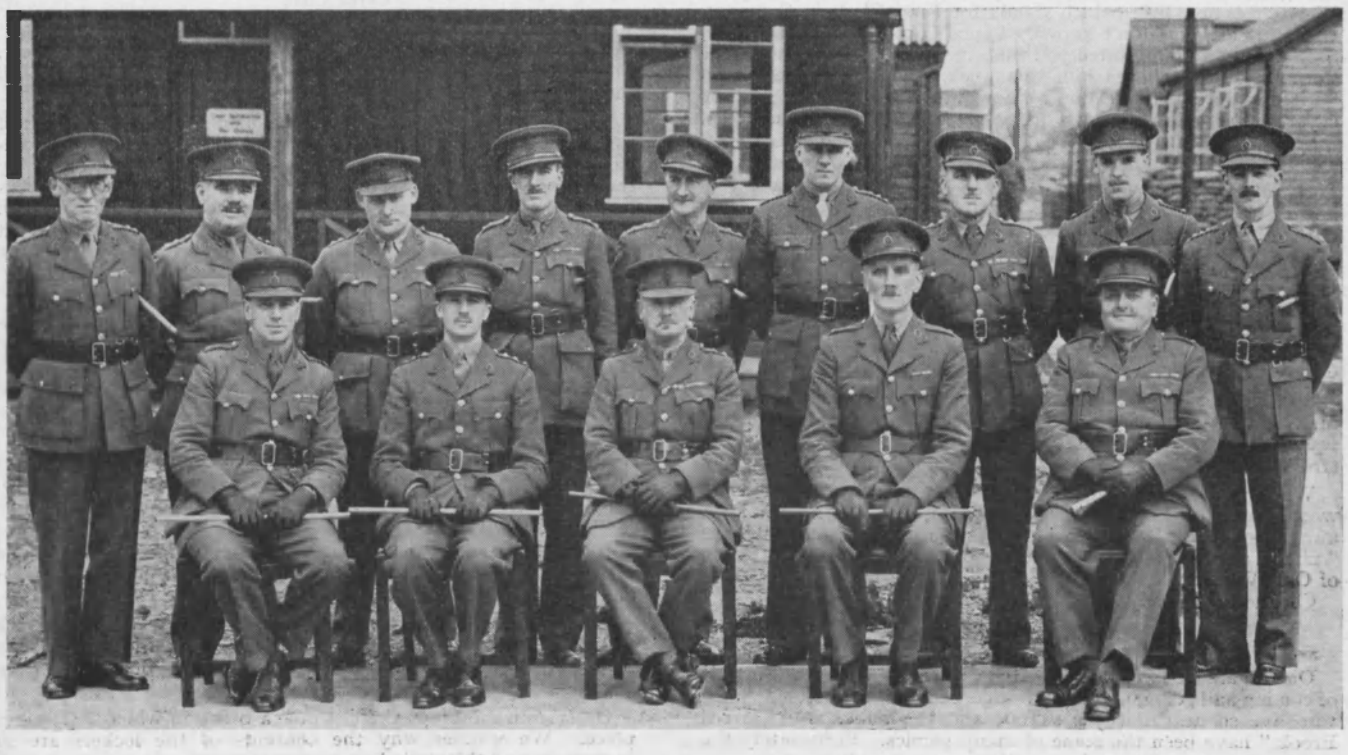
Now a final word of greeting to our many friends who are over yonder. Best of luck and a safe return !

THE OLD 'UN.

No. 2 Company

I think that the man who invented air-raid sirens deserves a biff, because I find it almost impossible to sleep when their racket begins, even when it is only two o'clock in the morning, and the howler at least 150 yards away.

Luckily, Jerry is more thoughtful. His aero-shovers realise how they may, albeit unthinkingly, deprive honest soldiers of



OFFICERS OF 1st HOLDING BATTALION

their toil-won repose. At any rate, if they do happen to cross our coastline, their consciences and our sleep-requirements (and maybe something from the "Archies" and the R.A.F.) strike them forcibly, and in two ticks it is homeward that they wing their way.

I read an example of their chivalry only yesterday. A British pilot who brought down a Boche bomber saw three chaps get out of it, nip across a field, and go through a gate on to a road. The last chap closed the gate ever so carefully, and so they saved the bull, who came fourth, from almost possible death on the highway.

Anyway we are taking our holidays down in the country in relays, and showing the Local Deaf Volunteers how to become less inefficient members of the P.B.I.

You ought to see us stopping cars on the byways. Boys for blocks are we—and don't we have some fine traffic jams ?

Of course, some cars don't play fair. One truck smacked the Sappers' choicest block, concrete-sided, earth-filled, Mark I*, and made it see more stars. It looked like Barney's hencote after a wet Friday night, but we built it up again, with a grand curve on it, to give lorries a bit more chance—but the R.E.s were there before you could say " Blocks off." They eliminated that beauteous bend, and left the thing as severely rectangular as my respirator-case (was).

Ah, well, the Saps. won't accept " Certa cito " ; it is always " Festina Lente " with them.

Then we caused the M.O. a grief. He said that when we got digging behind canvas screens our ideas were LATerally too narrow. He soon broadened our minds, and deepened our designs.

Well, we are still learning to operate, but it ain't only on a buzzer-key !

This famous health-resort is surpassing itself. We have had brilliant sunshine for the last three weeks, and we have made the most of it. The other chaps vary in colour from walnut to the background of the T.M.O.'s " Stop " sign. Their mammas won't know them when the next seven days' leave comes along. (Who knows ? It may.)

Our office-wallahs do scramble about. Lance Corporal Ball has gone to do his stuff in " Q " Branch. Lance Corporal Woodard is now F.C. (which stands for First Clerk in Company Office in case you don't know). Lance Corporal Piper has been S.C. (I am not going to tell you that one) for a month, and Lance Corporal Bond relieves him this week. Corporal Lace is still " in loco parentis." I don't know what that means, but he says they sometimes nearly drive him loco, if that is any help.

Lance Corporal Harris drifted from Company Office to Hospital, and is now convalescing at a well-known spa. Lance Corporal Elder returned from his Command P.T. Course. Now he gets us " up in the morning early," and he gets us down (very down) in the afternoons.

We bade adieux to Squads 15 and 16, and we congratulate Rice on the first, and Mashford and Hazel on the second, in collecting a stripe apiece. Lance Corporal Rice has joined " O " Squad and awaits an O.C.T.U. vacancy. Lance Corporals Mashford and Hazel have clicked for a posh Junior N.C.O.'s Course at the Depot.

Speaking of " O " Squad reminds me that there are now so many streaks on their arms that when they perform on the square every afternoon you would think it was a blinking zebra strolling about.

We have also said " goodbye and good luck " to S.S.M. Hall, who hurried up his wedding last month, and has now hurried away elsewhere. We welcome, in his place, Sergeant Swift (the " pukka sahibs " of No. 2 Company now include quite a bunch of Old Wazirs.).

Cheerio, everybody !

Sergeants' Mess

Once again we have little to write about. There has been a lot of coming and going, and the Mess has been full of those members who live so near but yet so far, and the banks of " Burrell Brook " have been the scene of many picnics. Fortunately the weather has been fine and sunbathing very popular.

Departures.—We regret the departure of our C.O., whose stay with us was very brief. All wish him the best of luck in his new appointment and congratulations on his promotion.

Best of luck go with S.S.M. Hall and Sergeant Hardy. We hope the latter will still retain his " grip " on things " Secret," " Urgent," and " Immediate."

Arrivals.—A welcome is extended to Sergeant Swift.

Things We Want to Know.—Why W.O.s and N.C.O.s of a certain Company like the term " Ironsides " ?

Do the moors make them think that they are in the War of the Roses, or is it the Vicar (not) of Wakefield ?

What the R.S.M. said after the Corporal of C.M.P. saluted him and asked for his pass, then saluted him and retired ?

Was it " Thank goodness we've got a Navy," or was it unprintable ?

Why the two members went suddenly poetical and put it into print ? Did they intend to " croon " it over the mike, to the tune of " Won't you come home, Bill Bayley " ?

What the C.Q.M.S. said when he arrived complete with a salad tea and found the Mess had provided same ?

Was it " Love's labour lost " ?

GESTAPO.

Boys Training Company

The last month has been comparatively uneventful, but the weather deserves special mention. This famous beauty spot goes to the extremes and now we are enjoying a lapse of sweltering sunshine. (Somewhat different from a few months ago, eh ?)

Our O.C. has taken over duties as Adjutant, after a very short stay in the Company and we are very sorry to lose him. Everyone extends a hearty welcome to our new O.C., who already has shown a deep interest in the boys.

Lance Corporal Boy Sanders, Boys Bennett and Brown A. have joined the ranks since our last contribution. Their slogan ought to be found in a modified version of :

Ashes to ashes,
Dust to dust ;
" Certa Cito,"
Berlin or bust.

The great chief paid us a couple of unexpected visits lately. The Telebolo soon got to work to the great satisfaction of all the " grippers."

As cricket is now in full swing, it was decided that a series of three test matches take place between the N.C.O.s of the Company and the N.C.O. Boys. The first game was won easily by the N.C.O. Boys, but the next time the teams met the N.C.O.s turned the tables. It is suggested that when a certain N.C.O. bowls next time he bears in mind that his main object is to hit the wickets. With great enthusiasm everyone was looking forward to the third and final game, but, as someone was teething, the match has not yet come off.

The M.O. kindly gave us a lantern lecture entitled " The Navy," supported by personal experience ; he delivered a most thrilling and interesting talk. Later on he came along and lectured the " over 17s " on a very important and interesting subject. Since then there has been a demand for boxing gloves. Thank you very much indeed, sir !

Since the First Aid Squad have taken on Battalion first aid duties the Senior Boys now form the various other P.A.D.Squads. They have had numerous opportunities to practise in the early hours of the morning.

It has been suggested that the canteen Romeos who indulge in Big Alf's pastime do the same as he did (i.e., use elbow pads) and so make their incessant counter vigil more comfortable.

Promotions and Appointments.—Lance Corporal Boy Forsyth to be Corporal Boy ; Boys Hopkins, Linington and O'Connor to be Lance Corporal Boys. Congratulations to you all and keep it going.

On certain mornings there is now a break in which P.T. takes place. We wonder why the contents of the lockers are so restless during this period.

Things We Want to Know.—Who was the D.R. of long experience and renown who thought he could ride through the greenhouse without using the door ?

Who claimed that an ion was a thousand farads ?

Which Operator tried to work speech without using the " mike ? "

Who used the " mike " when working on C.W. ?

We welcome Recruit Boy Sherman to this Company. A smart and intelligent lad, he shows every sign of doing well.

BUSH.

SPORTS NOTES

Athletics.—Athletics this year have not been so successful as in previous years, because of the war, and only individual Companies have been able to run off their athletics. The results of Boy's Company athletics were as follows :

100 YARDS.—Under 15 : 1, Boy Dadswell ; 2, Boy Edgerton ; 3, Boy Tilley. Under 16 : 1, Boy Hine ; 2, Boy Haw ; 3, Boy Knight L. Under 17 : 1, Boy Knight R. ; 2, Boy Harrison ; 3, Boy Durrant. Open : 1, Lance Corporal Boy Kite ; 2, Lance Corporal Murray A. ; 3, Signalman Brown A.

HURDLES.—Under 16 : 1, Boy Hine ; 2, Boy Haw.

220 YARDS.—Under 16 : 1, Boy Hine ; 2, Boy Knight ; 3, Boy Haw. Open : 1, Lance Corporal Boy Kite ; 2, Lance Corporal Boy Brodie ; 3, Signalman Brown A.

440 YARDS.—Under 16 : 1, Boy Moore ; 2, Boy Mullen ; 3, Boy Dugdale. Open : 1, Boy Martin ; 2, Boy Roberts B. ; 3, Boy Knight R.

ONE MILE.—Under 16 : 1, Boy Raine ; 2, Boy Moore ; 3, Boy Bond G. Open : 1, Boy Hopkins ; 2, Corporal Boy Rabjohns ; 3, Lance Corporal Boy Perkins.

880 YARDS.—Open : 1, Boy Roberts B. ; 2, Corporal Boy Rabjohns ; 3, Boy Mole.

LONG JUMP.—1, Signalman Brown A. ; 2, Boy Walters C. ; 3, Lance Corporal Boy Forsyth.

DISCUS.—1, Lance Corporal Smith A. ; 2, Lance Corporal Boy Rowe ; 3, Lance Corporal Robbins.

SHOT.—1, Lance Corporal Murray A. ; 2, Boy Knight R. ; 3, Boy Overington.

THREE MILE.—1, Lance Corporal Boy Royle ; 2, Lance-Corporal Boy Perkins ; 3, Corporal Boy Rabjohns.

The best performances of the afternoon were shown by Boy Martin A. D. in the 440 yards, which he won in 58 seconds ; and Lance Corporal Boy Royle, who won the three mile (cross-country) in 14 mins. 13 secs.

Cricket.—The Company team played the School of Signals and defeated them. Each team batted for 1 hour 20 minutes each. School won the toss and batted first, making 135 for 6 wickets. Boys' Company replied with 144 for 4 wickets, the scorers being Boy Hopkins 38, Lance Corporal Boy Rowe 38 not out, and Lance Corporal Boy D'Hoeghe 33.

The annual fixture with Ampleforth College resulted in a draw, the game being marred by rain. The Boys batted first, making 107 for 6 wickets declared. Ampleforth had scored 73 for 4 wickets when stumps were drawn.

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S.T.C. Wales

Depot Battalion

It is but seldom that I like to begin any article with an apology; nevertheless it now is my clear duty to ask forgiveness of all regular readers of these notes if through my inexperience of the general activities of our Corps any or some usual features have been omitted.

The last month has not been without excitement even in the wilds of Wales. Earlier, we had attached to us a contingent of Royal Artillery to whom we offer a sincere welcome plus the usual words of good cheer ; latterly the Battalion has had the satisfaction of acting as a temporary host to personnel of the B.E.F. and I can only hope that their feeling of comfort here has been as great as our pleasure.

On 2nd June there was an impressive church service, the salute being taken by the Lord Lieutenant of the county. Noticeably smart and efficient were the members of the A.T.S. On the lighter side, we held a " wizard " dance on 20th May, admirably stage-managed by Corporal Kraft. I well remember how, at the time, I mentally compared it to the eve of Waterloo. Had the Duke of Richmond been spiritually present I feel he would have agreed, even if the ladies' gowns were slightly different.

Should we have golfers of the scratch variety in the camp I would inform them that C.O.M.S. Cruickshank is an amateur international of no mean reputation. Possibly in C.S.M. Abbott, M.M., of Administrative Wing, who told me with expressionless face that the R.A. defeated Administrative Wing 2—1 at soccer, we have an expert poker player, but this latter I cannot vouch for. I liked the story of the recruit being attested ; when asked " Married or single ? " he replied, " When ? "

Speaking to one lad the other day, I asked him what he liked the most in the camp. He replied, after the most careful consideration, " The control tower which makes me think of the films of American prisons, but isn't it a pity the black-out prevents the searchlight from working." For some time afterwards I wondered whether he or I were crazy. It was only later when examining a rifle that I consoled myself with the thought that at least I was a warder and his complete sanity dawned on me. That night was spent dreaming of huge Germans being awarded ersatz C.B. for smashing imaginary searchlights. The reader will, however, be glad to know that the following morning found orange juice an excellent substitute for alka seltzer.

As an experiment commencing next month I propose starting a short letter section. Readers are invited to ask questions, express their views on any subject, technical or general, serious

or humorous ; in fact, anything at all provided it is thought of sufficient interest to Signals to allow of the possibility of it being published, with or without reply, in extract or in full. Particularly would I like to hear from ex members of the Battalion. Write " Glendalough," c/o Administrative Wing, 2nd Depot Battalion, 2nd S.T.C.

"B" Company Depot Battalion

Our regular correspondent being posted to Training Wing, I have been asked to take over. This is my first effort at journalism, so don't be too hard on me, blokes !

First of all I'd like to apologise for the lack of notes lately from " B " Company, but we put forward that old excuse " Too much work." That's my story and I'm sticking to it. The weather has been lovely lately and everyone is in the pink of condition (very pink). The P.T. staff appear to be having a competition amongst themselves as who is the most sunburnt. Young Tommy C. R., appears to be leading by a small patch owing to a hole in his pants.

My word what with sunburn and Bond Street waisted P.T. vests the boys of the red and black are looking ducky, the handsome brutes. Summer training is in full swing with bags of overtime. The recruits can't understand why they don't get time and a half for overtime and double time for Sundays ! I would like to take this chance of congratulating all D.I.s on doing a great job of work. It should not be long now ; a few more squads each and then back to " Civvie Street " and that back room of the local for a good grip.

Departures.—We are sorry to say we have lost Sergeant Driscoll and Sergeant Morphew, who have both been posted to Training Wing. They have not gone far and we can still beat them up at darts.

Sport.—An athletic competition was held on Whit Monday and a cup was presented to the best Company. " B " drew with a company from Operators Battalion, so at the present we have a nice little Cup in our trophy case. Some more work for the office orderly.

Courses.—Congratulations to Sergeant Reardon and Lance Corporal Cavie on doing so well on their gas courses " D " and " Q1 " respectively. Good show fellows.

2nd Depot Battalion

Training Wing

General.—This Company makes its debut with the usual apology, i.e., we are sorry we have not written before but pressure of work, etc., has prevented us. The primary object of this Wing is to produce Drill Instructors and train O.C.T.U. candidates to the standard required for admission to an O.C.T.U.

The lecturers are many and various ; the Adjutant, R.S.M., R.Q.M.S. and other distinguished people are pressed into service to hold forth on their respective jobs, and all are fitted in with some magic touch by our officers without causing any real disorganisation in the Battalion.

Training Groups are formed within the Wing, each under the supervision of an N.C.O. ; Senior N.C.O.s Course, Sergeant Driscoll ; Junior N.C.O.s Course, Sergeant Morphew, and O.C.T.U. candidates under Lance Sergeant Blanchard. Weapon training is centralised under Corporal Emery. The office is run by Lance Corporal Adams ably assisted by Section Leader Corbett-Owen, A.T.S.

Things We Should Like To Know.—Why do they call him " Kettle " ?

Are white kid gloves really worn with blues when there is a war on ?

Why are A.T.S. ?

Is it always wet on map-reading schemes.

"A" Company.

Work in the Company is proceeding with ever increasing vigour. A heat wave has, as it were, made a few people " browned-off." Also the shortage of ice cream vendors has not helped. Are they all interned ?

Your correspondent is a photographic fan, but having just taken over the job has not had time to prepare for publication. Don't be downhearted ; watch for next month's WIRE.

N.B.—Fifth column, please copy.

Evacuation.—Our " Gestapo " reports that there will be many broken hearts in the vicinity in the near future. Owing to the wife movements ex Scarborough, a certain curly-headed N.C.O. will be evacuating (shame !).

Wanted.—A cycle (" nester " pattern), ration bag, and accumulator carrier. Cash or will exchange for full set of unused "return only " bus tickets.

Deaths.—Officers, N.C.O.s and men of this Company express their deepest sympathy with Lance Corporal and Mrs. Ffoulkes, on the recent death of their son, Alan, aged 6 months.

R. O. F.

A.A. Signals, Nottinghamshire

The absence of notes in the last issue of the WIRE was unavoidable ; it was due to pressure of work.

Unit Headquarters and No. 1 Company Headquarters have now bedded down together in the new quarters and the removal has no doubt proved beneficial to health. The gardening, which was begun so hopefully and energetically, has now given way to the digging of trenches, but the good work which was put in at the start may perhaps even yet prove to have been well spent ; however, the proof will be in the eating.

Since the last notes we have taken over as our third Company that which we lost as our No. 2 Company some months ago. We are pleased to welcome our old comrades back to the fold.

Arrivals.—Lieutenant C. C. Deane joined us a few weeks ago and we extend a welcome to him.

Departures.—The following have been posted elsewhere during the last month : Captain T. C. Loveday, Captain F. H. Boland, Lieutenant (Quartermaster) H. E. Mott, 2nd Lieutenants F. E. Berry, W. H. Collins, J. B. Dadds, C. J. Davies, D. Hayes, J. E. Holgate, R. S. King and H. Reddaway. We wish them success wherever they may be and, in addition, we offer our congratulations to the first named on being promoted Major.

Amongst other ranks we were sorry to lose Sergeant Pharaoh N. D., and we hope he is settling down in his new surroundings. We hope that he has managed to find a good hairdresser at his new station. Perhaps he would like Sergeant Swann to put the clippers round !

Commissions.—C.S.M. Thorn started the list by taking the Lieutenant (Quartermaster's) job and the following took one star each : R.S.M. Taman F. J., C.S.M. Woodger F. C., C.Q.M.S. Biddulph N. S., Sergeants Campbell J. L. and Blyth C. R., Lance Sergeants Dadds J. B. and Collins W., Corporal Reddaway H. and Signalman Riggs C. V. (D.C.M.). Truly a respectable list and we hope they will all prosper.

Promotions.—Amongst the officers, 2nd Lieutenant T. C. Harding and 2nd Lieutenant and Adjutant A. G. Smith have both been promoted Captains. Our congratulations are heartily extended and we hope that they will soon be gaining further honours.

As might be assumed from the list of commissions, promotions among other ranks have been numerous and are far too many to quote in detail. In all, over 60 promotions and appointments have been made during the last two or three weeks and the Orderly Room Sergeant has had quite a heap of trouble in keeping the Unit W.O. and N.C.O. Seniority List up to date. Whilst it is realised that to the individual concerned each of the promotions is the most important, for the purpose of these notes we can only quote the following : R.Q.M.S. Hooton S. C. N. to R.S.M. ; C.S.M. Pilgrim H. A. to R.Q.M.S. ; C.Q.M.S. Coates

YORKSHIRE 3



No. 3 COMPANY, 3rd OPERATORS TRAINING BATTALION
JUNE, 1940

W. J. and Sergeant Danks C. to C.S.M. ; Sergeants Orton F. R. and Howells W. to C.Q.M.S.

O.C.T.U.—The number of colleagues going on these Courses continues to increase and this fact, together with the number of commissions already granted, indicates the quality of the personnel of this Unit. The recent departures for O.C.T.U.s are as follows : Sergeants Knight W. B. and Jackson J. W., Lance Sergeants Freeman W. E. and Sheppard L. I.., Corporal Faulkes G. H., Lance Corporals Brunsden R. S., Hilton R. F. and Roper W., and Signalman Taylor D. G.

Sports.—At Unit and No. 1 Company Headquarters an extremely useful cricket team has been assembled, and if time were available for more practice the team would give a very good account of itself with any of the strongest of the local teams. Recently the officers and N.C.O.s formed a team with a view to beating the lads, but, although the latter received a shock, they were just that much better and won by 4 wickets. For the officers and N.C.O.s, the C.O. scored 9, Lance Sergeant Head 22 not out and Corporal Kidd 24. Chief scorers for the lads were Bennett 47 and Lawson 20 not out.

H. S.

A.A. Signals, South-East England

Headquarters.

The main items of interest recently have been the real summer heat and the various means for keeping reasonably cool. This summer has, however, given ample opportunity for indulging in various sports, duties and other calls permitting. We have found the local swimming pool a very great attraction. And some astounding aquatic evolutions are performed daily by one or other member of the Unit.

Tennis, too, has been much in evidence and we have had two " friendly " games with the Dental Centre Staff. One game resulted in the honours being divided. The other, however, was lost, both occasions proved very enjoyable and we hope to improve on this record as time progresses.

Our cricket has provided us with some good fun although the results have not been outstandingly successful. The main difficulty apparent is that of obtaining a full side. However, we succeeded in winning one of four evening matches fairly comfortably. The others being lost by small margins. We then essayed a Saturday match against the Senior Service. We lost by the margin of 155 to 103, but the match was a great success in all other respects and helped to mould the team together. We were most ably assisted by Sergeant Whittington, who proved the star performer. He opened the innings and scored a grand 48 and subsequently bowled well as to take the lion's share of the wickets. We are hoping that more such fixtures will come our way so that we can show what we can really do when we get going.

No. 1 Company

Another month has passed, a solid, businesslike month. At the time of writing nothing untoward has happened except that we have spent one or two restless nights and the black fly has got at the Captain's bed of broad beans.

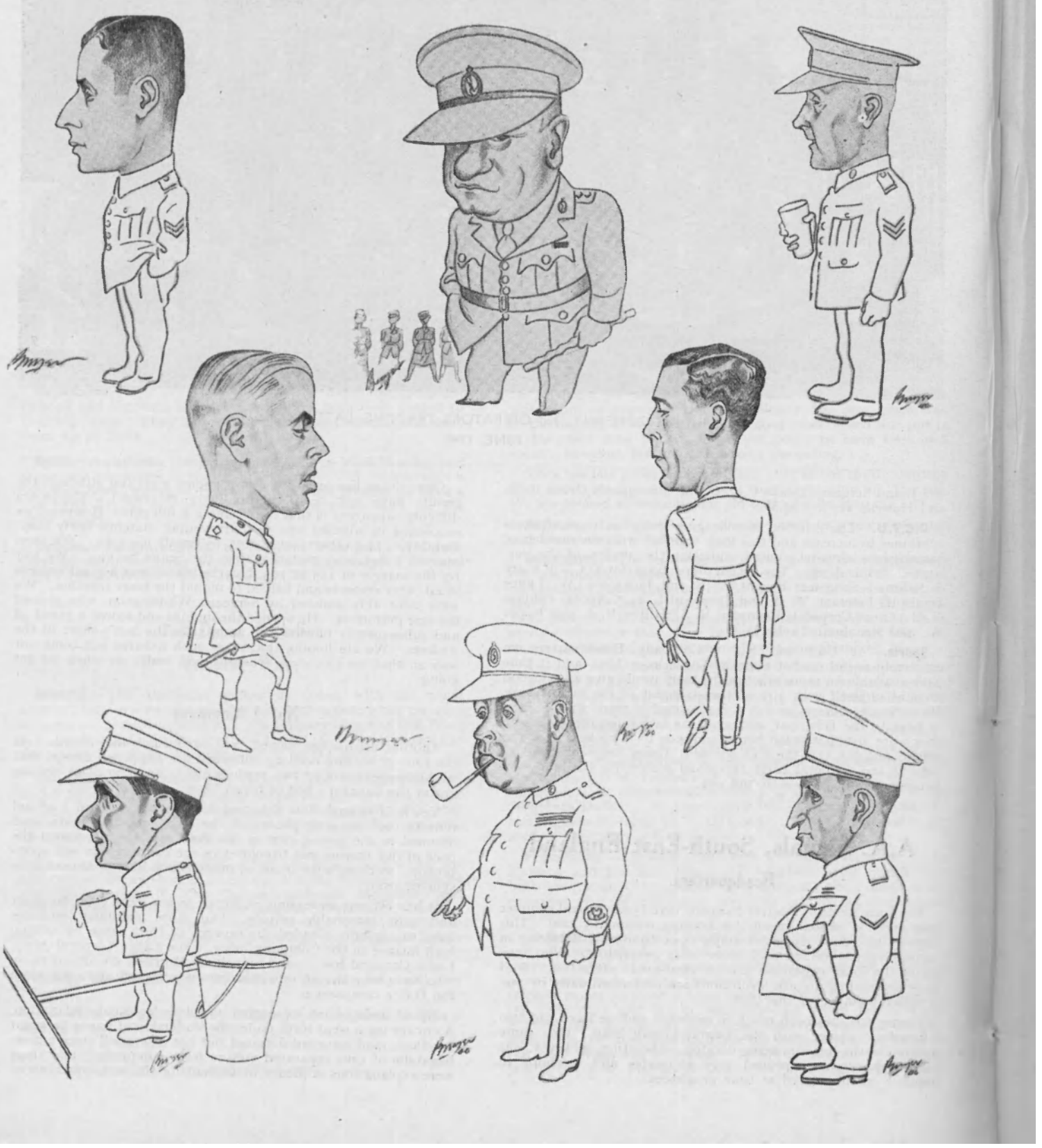
Yet it is strange how this forgotten corner of rural England reflects the changing phases of the war. As the lights were dimmed in the gayest city in the world we, too, slackened the pace of our dances and frivolities in the canteen. It was spontaneous, as though the mood of millions was held in almost eerie synchronism.

It has become increasingly difficult to get leave even for short and quite reasonable periods. Our more mundane comrades have successfully pleaded the urgency of their cause by talking high finance in the Company office, while Lance Corporal Allen, Lance Corporal Reeves and Signalman Morrison are among those who have been driven into matrimony in the effort to stimulate the O.C.'s compassion.

By no means have we denied ourselves legitimate relaxation. A cricket team went forth under the leadership of Lance Sergeant Leedham, and returned defeated but not disgraced, since a mere bagatelle of runs separated victors from vanquished, and there were explanations in plenty to account for this unhappy circum-

A.A. SIGNALS, SOUTH-EAST ENGLAND

MORE IMPRESSIONS BY SIGNALMAN L. T. BOWYER



stance. The defeat was soon avenged after a match of swiftly changing fortunes. Our first four batsmen were dismissed for five runs and the last man in hit up top score. The greatest contribution to the common weal came from the appropriately-named Signalman Hammond, who took 10 wickets for 14 runs. We won by 30 runs.

A billiards tournament has also been inaugurated. The first round was distinguished by a thrilling duel between the C.S.M. and the C.Q.M.S., the former surviving.

Our nocturnal alarums have added variety to the ordered existence we have imposed upon ourselves in recent weeks. The first in the period under review followed upon a particularly merry evening had been attended by certain N.C.O.s resplendant in " blues." The premature awakening in the small hours was followed by a painstaking search for braces, which had not been detached before retiring, boots (rubber, knee) and socks. But the language did not seriously deteriorate until it was discovered, an hour or so later that it was all in vain.

These excursions into the unknown are now supremely organised. The scheme even trained watchers-out-for-bombs whose duty it would be in the event of a bomb falling on the camp, to note the fact immediately and inform a Section N.C.O.

An influx of talented recruits has enabled us to spend an entertaining hour or so. The conjuror is so efficient that he is regarded with open suspicion in the barrack room, while the home cinematograph operator, who gives us Charlie Chaplin, is overwhelmed with suggestions to increase the popularity of his shows.

Apart from all this, the greater part of our time is devoted to a job of work which cannot be placed on record. We consider ourselves more efficient at this than at our cricket, or billiards, or even gardening.

No. 2 Company

The keynote of this month has been WORK—and then more WORK. The urgent necessity for this has been fully appreciated by all ranks, as shown by their willing response.

Changes in personnel have seen the making of many new friends, coupled with the happy renewal of old-time acquaintanceships.

It was with great regret that we bade farewell to Captain A. B. Harnden. May he profit by his new surroundings. Captain V. P. Care takes his place, and in the short time he has been with us, he has already proved that he has the welfare of the Company at heart. We sincerely hope that his stay will be a long and pleasant one.

The N.C.O.s Mess has lost Sergeant McGee and Corporal MacDonald, who have been gazetted, together with Lance Corporal Winchester, we wish them the best of luck in their new sphere.

We also congratulate Corporal B. L. Snook on his promotion to Lance Sergeant and Lance Corporal Orriss R. H., who has been promoted to Corporal.

Lance Sergeant Wray and Lance Corporal Hill have left us to take up instructors' duties. We wish them the best of luck.

Sporting activities have been curtailed owing to the exigencies of these times, but we have managed to play two cricket matches, and we carried home the honours each time.

Tennis is in full swing, and there is a possibility of a tournament being arranged soon.

Relaxation has been chiefly centred on the canteen in the evenings, and we have had many jolly impromptu sing-songs in the best traditions.

Once again " The Ridges Review " has been published and is embellished by many new and original features. This unofficial organ is steadily going from strength to strength and is eagerly awaited by all members.

EXPERTS ON THE WAR

CAPT. LIDDELL HART
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Welsh Divisional Signals

Since our last notes to THE WIRE were published, the Unit has moved to fields and pastures new. The move went very smoothly, though the baggage party considers itself very lucky to have escaped the unloading without casualties. The unloading was carried out by the baleful flickering light of one standard lamp in a Scotch mist, and if we had not been quick to jump for safety, a stevedore's barrow or descending crane load would most surely have claimed a victim.

Where previously we depended for amusement either on the E.N.S.A. concert parties or our own efforts, here, of course, all manner of entertainment is at hand. The local populace have been particularly hospitable and kind in their welcome and they have spared no effort to make us happy and comfortable.

Training is rather more difficult here but again the co-operation of the inhabitants has permitted us the use of a cricket ground and lecture halls and we have managed to produce satisfactory results in the recent trade boards. Also on the question of stores, the G.P.O. authorities have been very generous to the linemen and we had only to ask for help which was readily forthcoming.

Congratulations to our attached M.O. (the " faith healer ") on his promotion to the rank of Captain.

Entertainments.—The Unit weekly dances have recommenced to the delight of the " high steppers," and the ladies of the city have given us their able support.

An E.N.S.A. concert party is giving a show for the troops on Thursday, 13th June, and it is anticipated that everyone will thoroughly enjoy it, judging by the high standard of performances given by our good friends the E.N.S.A. in the past.

What We Would Like To Know.—Who was the W.O. who came home by rail from a dance and landed up in the tram depot? (" Blue Niles " around the corner, just round the corner from you).

R·A·F shaver drops us a letter..



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North Wales L. of C. Signals

Introduction.—As this is the first contribution from this Unit, an introduction of some kind is usual, but beyond the information given in the heading, very little else is permissible. Our location leaves very little to be desired, and the residents here are doing all within their power to make our stay here as enjoyable as possible.

Life here was developing into one long sunbathe, until the sun was placed virtually " out of bounds " by an insertion in Regimental Orders, this following an epidemic of sore shoulders and backs, and an appreciable shortage of olive oil due to buying up on the part of foreseeing individuals.

Opus Primum.—

SAUSAGES FOR BREAKFAST.

We had sausages for breakfast and the one that I had taken*
Crawled right across my censored plate and swallowed up my bacon.*
Now, I'm not the fellow to crib and whine,
But I wanted my breakfast, you see,
So I gave the sausage a Number Nine
To bring back my breakfast to me.

Another chap who had false teeth found it easier to skin it,
But when he cut the sausage up, a piece of wood was in it.
He called the Orderly Officer, whose name was Mr. Pennell,
" I don't mind eating dog," he said, " but hang it—not the kennel ! "

(Apologies to Mr. Pennell, but he is the only officer whose name rhymes with " Kennel ").

*Vide poetic license number 2525252, Sect. 40.

Marriages.—Packs of 'em, but, hang it all, we've got to get week-end leave somehow.

Courses.—A course is being considered for WIRE correspondents, probably to take place in a quiet South Sea island, away from the turmoil of chattering typewritiers. Candidates will be issued with a special cap badge, suitably inscribed with the characters " W.C."

Things We Want To Know.—Who, on returning from a midnight bathe, found their clothes imbued with sea fever, and scuttled themselves with reckless abandon somewhere in the Irish Sea ?

Who was the Daniel that dared ? (That's set them all thinking).

Opus Secundum.—

PART II ORDERS.

The Orderly Room works late at night, long after we're in bed
Aprinting Part II orders, which are hardly ever read.
They tell us lots and lots of things that we're supposed to know
That So-and-so is on a course and where he has to go.

I don't care if he's on a course or how long he will be,
So long as he comes back and pays the bob he owes to me.
However, that's beside the point, for what I want to know
Is if they printed Part II orders in the days of long ago.

At Hastings where Harold invented the tank,
The first Part II Order was made,
" William the Conqueror is granted the rank
" Of Acting Lance Corporal Unpaid."

When Henry married Anne Boleyn,
The sixth time he had faltered,
The Part II Orders, Next of Kin
Once more for him were altered.

(To be continued in next month's issue).

Departures.—We have had to bid fond farewell to our Medical Officer, Dr. Thompson. We congratulate him on his promotion, and hope he is having a " pipping " time in his new surroundings.

At the same time we extend a hearty welcome to Dr. Hodges. According to the recently innoculated new arrivals, he is carrying on his fistic activities in the Medical Inspection Room.

SLANGIS.

STATIONS ABROAD

4th Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop (India)

WIRE notes from the Unit finished with those of November 1939, when all the B.O.R.s, with the exception of S.S.M. Page, left the Unit. These notes are being sent to the Editor for publication in case the doings of the Unit since then are of interest to old B.O.R. members. Owing to the war, only the lighter side of the Unit's life will be referred to, and it is hoped that readers will fill in the gaps themselves from past memories.

All of C.Q.M.S. Dilworth's old friends have gone, some were shot, and others posted to other Units. The trumpeter no longer sounds the daily call to stables, but in spite of this the Unit still remains the same. Three horses went to Officers, No. 18, who was third in the Remount Class at last year's horse show, to myself, and " Balu " and " Pop:eye " (of " Snowball " fame) to another officer of the Corps. The latter is now playing polo, we hope.

The final equitation competitions were held in March and results were: Inter-Section Equitation Shield to Havildar Mohd Sadiq's team; the Trained Soldier's trophy to Naik Feroze Khan on " Pop-eye " with Havildar Mohd Sadiq second; the Young Soldier's Trophy to Signalman Malk Khan.

These trophies are now to be awarded for new competitions: the Inter-Section Shield for Inter-Section athletics and the Trained and Young Soldier's Trophies for individual athletics. These competitions will be held during the Christmas holidays.

Of the other Unit trophies, the " Snowball " Cup went to Naik Feroze Khan's 1 Set Det for 1939/40, so that the winners so far have been: Naik Mohd Lal's C Set Det, Lance Naik Mohd Ibrahim's and Naik Feroze Khan's Z Set Dets. The Sports Shield continues to be held for the same leagues in all games, with football now included.

Drill and P.T. are now the order of the day, the same keenness is shown in these newer activities as in the older ones of the past.

All ranks of the Unit would like to congratulate two old B.O.R. members on being granted Emergency Commissions. There may be others, but we do know of these two, and wish them the best of luck in the future.

S.S.M. Page has left us, and we now have Sergeant Warburton in his stead. The latter has settled down happily, and seems to have grasped the intricacies of " Q " very quickly. I hope he won't mind the remark that in appearance he is a typical " Q," and is always as cheerful as all " Q " scribes invariably are.

Amongst the Indian ranks there are many new faces, but a number of old friends still remain. Of these, all will remember Naik Abdul Rehman, who remains as cheerful as ever. He is still the same old enthusiast for the Unit hockey team, and we hope to get together a good team here, and win some of the local tournaments.

In conclusion, we shall always be pleased to hear from any old friends who have the time and care to write. The sentiments expressed by Indian N.C.O.s at the farewell tea-party last year were very genuine ones, and they join the officers in wishing all past B.O.R. members of the Unit the best of luck in the future, and may we all meet again.

C. O.

6th Divisional Signals, Palestine

Introduction.—None is really necessary, because with several having been the backbone of various other Units, it is only logic that they should be selected to carry on with the good work here. Without going into detail, there are gathered in this fold pioneers from all corners of the earth. "A" Corps " wallahs " who were out here for a week-end sometime in 1936 may be interested to know that there are still a few out here " holding 'em back," and seemingly of the opinion that a little tin shack, somewhere in the hills, is matrimonial bliss as it should be.

Now that another orange blossom season has come and gone, keen is the competition (although no prizes have been offered) to devise some means whereby these intelligent (?) animals, flies and mosquitoes, can give one a wide berth, the wider the better. Judging by the tactics adopted by this " air arm," they should be a big asset to Hitler and his merry men. The problem of finding an efficient " anti-aircraft defence " against this particular " barrage " seems to be beyond the capabilities of the " Locals "; so why should the lads give themselves a headache over such minor problems?

The heat and dust are trivial affairs, but it is about time that the cooks were informed that the brand of sand we have is not ideal for colouring the gravy.

General.—Congratulations to our C.O. on his appointment to that rank. All good luck, sir. Let us know where you throw your baton when you decide to don civvies and lay your jackboots, as it will save us going around hunting for one. We cannot see a Colonel's baton, or its equivalent, in our knapsack. Congratulations also to our second-in-command on his recent appointment to his present rank; this item of news will be of interest to " old sweats " of "A" Corps.

Things We Want to Know.—Why the O.R.S. calls the Pay Bloke " Useless," and what does he do when he wants a big pay?

Why we should have to suffer having a Scotsman as our Pay N.C.O., his favourite delight being to stick us on " Scotch rations."

Who " scoffed " the tin of candles that a certain clerk had in his office? Do you know anything about it " Gunner "?

Who told the Canteen manager that the Unit liked " wog " music?

Jews' Mail.—To Knocker from Sandy. " What about that letter, it is only two years overdue; the back of a message pad will do? "

To Ecky from Sandy. " If you want to hear about your darling, June, let's have your address. Gee and Denny are still going strong."

Conclusion.—Please, Mr. Editor, break the point of your blue pencil when you scrutinise this, or, better still, read it whilst waiting on a bus during a black-out. At anyrate, help me somehow, because I have told the lads that my brother is a Press reporter and that I have had lots and lots of tuition from him. I should hate them to be disappointed.

Tailpiece.—Who said " Swat that fly "?

HAGGIS.

Ceylon Signal Section

Opening Chorus.—A spectacular effort this! Against a background of the spacious verandahs familiar to Headquarter buildings way down East a fine body of men, grouped in the centre of the stage, are seen swaying in unison, while the local photographer insists on hiding his head 'neath the proverbial red and black cloth covering the camera.

Howbeit, you audience of WIRE fans, we will endeavour to forward a copy of this imposing sight because, never in the history of Ceylon have so many " Certa Cito " protegees been grouped together with two O.Cs. (the old and the new) as the

centre piece. Neither have we, who serve in this theatre of war (ahem), ever seen our local staff so radiantly attired. Even Fernando looked like a Rajah's aide-de-camp, whilst one of the labourers in a beautiful green sarong made Dorothy Lamour's jungle outfits appear quite old-fashioned.

The most touching scene was when the Staff produced two exquisite garlands (festivals, South Sea Islands, for the use of) to decorate the O.sC., and it was only with much assurance that you don't do that there 'ere (considering the group was to show the Corps representatives in Colombo) that the garlands (S.S.I.) were finally cast aside.

Curtain falls as the chorus swing that good old quickstep " Oh to be in England-tra-la-la-now Spring, etc., iddy-umpty-iddy." What inspires them to sing this in keys somewhere between Cash's baritone and Jack's falsetto I cannot say, because we have had practically no rain since last September—in fact it has been roses, roses, all the way (for confirmation of this ask Joe).

Keep your seats, customers, and cheer, lads, cheer.

ACT I. Curtain rises. Same chorus, minus local staff, scurry to and fro, apparently working hard (Cheer, lads, cheer), when the usual G.P.O. Boy, complete with pill box hat, hands to the leading star (fourth from left centre row) the pink slip one associates with births, marriages and the other occasions worth celebrating. This (the pink slip I mean) apparently answered the leading lights' swan song (see opening chorus).

Curtain falls as the chorus (less fourth from the left) sing their best wishes while " Mr. T." merrily dances something resembling the sailor's hornpipe on the ship fading away beyond Ceylon's horizon. (Some unit is going to be lucky anyhow.)

ACT II. Curtain rises with chorus (now minus original fourth from the left) heartily singing songs of congratulations to the new Officer Commanding, " Mr. P." To those who left our party in recent years, it's your old Chief who has now taken over the reins once again, but from the O.C.'s office this time. Curtain falls with the chorus singing " Roll out the Barrel."

ACT III. Curtain rises—typical scene of a barrack block in the tropics. Approximately one Aussie, R.A.F., three Sappers, four Mosquitoes and five Signalmen are in possession of the stage. Said Aussie, R.A.F., Sappers, Mosquitoes and two of the Signalmen, hum the lullaby "Adolf." The two Signalmen (the baritone and the fal-etto) sit in centre of the stage and with loving care stitch, stitch and stitch. One imagines it's a magic carpet that Cash is shaping, but, nevertheless, both seem to be figuring elephants out of cotton. The other three Signalmen appear to be dreaming of dashing through jungles on the same elephants braving fearful odds. Cheer softly, lads, cheer softly.

ACT IV. Chorus, minus O.C. and local staff, appear performing neck-rolls, high kicks and other exercises (every Wednesday mornings) and forming threes in swing-time (Saturday morning matinees only).

Cheer, lads, cheer.

FINALE. Some swing fans are reading the WIRE. They read page 88, March issue (3rd Operators' Training Battalion notes, para. 4), and are left wondering why someone does not offer to give them such advice.

That's all, customers—close the door quietly, please.

Conclusion.—Answers following the publication of our Jews' Mail have already been received. One from C.Q.M.S. " Tich " Bratt (congratulations from the Section, " Tich ") who, as Ceylon's only representative (of recent years we mean) in France, is doing his best for us. I pity " Jerry " if it comes to a hand-to-hand with hockey sticks!

Cheerio!

SANDY.

HAVE YOU JOINED THE SIGNALS ASSOCIATION?

Inspection Duty in Tanganyika

BY LIEUT. C. W. CATT, ROYAL SIGNALS

By the middle of November, 1939, the general situation in East Africa was such that a visit to Loliondo was possible. International situations had prevented a visit being made since early March, 1939, and the Askari there were getting tired of the bicycle-charging apparatus. (*See photo No.* 9.)

The specially-designed lorries being required for training purposes we obtained an old farm Chevrolet two-ton lorry with over 45,000 miles of work in Tanganyika to its credit, and a Chevrolet 25 h.p. car, which, although with a mere 18,000 miles covered, had been in not very considerate hands. A minimum only of tools could be obtained and, owing to the risk of rains on the return journey there was time for no more than a very rapid look-over by the P.W.D. Transport people, and the fitting of new tyres. A driver for the lorry was obtained the day before starting—all the regulars being required for training—whilst I drove the car, my personal boy completing the personnel. A start was made on the morning of 22nd November, 1939, with loads consisting of a windcharger, new batteries, various spares and tools, plenty of food, water and petrol.

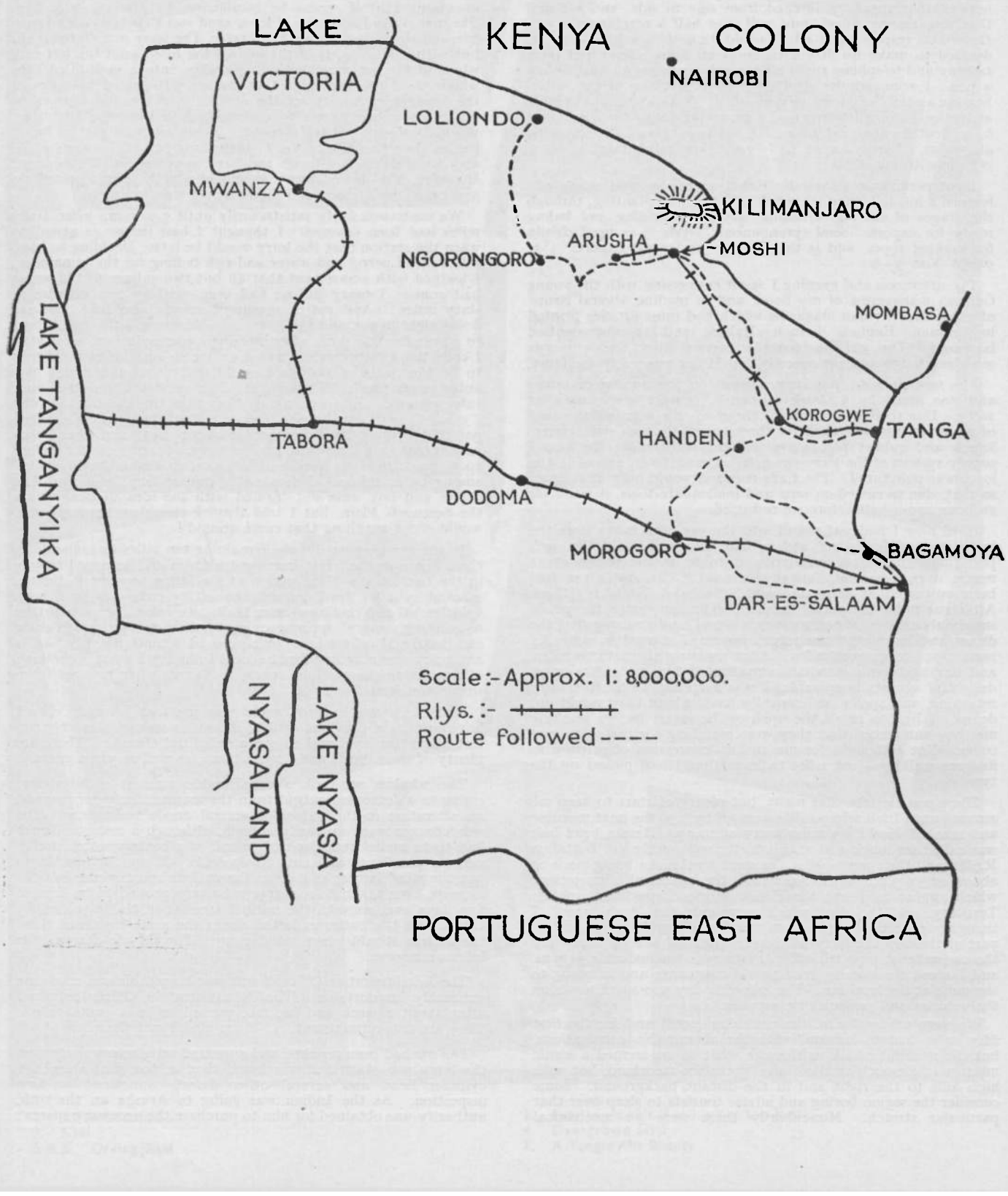
I very quickly discovered that the driver was unable to cope with the lorry, stalling the engine at the slightest slope. This meant that I had to drive the lorry up the hills, return on foot and take up the car. The driver insisted upon keeping to the extreme left of the road the whole time. Soon after leaving Dar-es-Salaam the road was nothing more than two deep ruts with loose sand between and on each side, and this meant that the lorry slid from side to side in the most alarming manner. This " keep left " insistence of the driver became increasingly alarming when crossing the type of bridge built of planks at right angles to the road with single planks on top to continue the track. He couldn't get on to the two planks, and as the cross pieces are not intended to bear the full weight I decided that I had better also drive the lorry across rivers. This relaying slowed us up terribly, so I asked the driver to manage the car. But not for long. Crossing the first bridge he maintained his " keep left " principles so well that the rear left wheel went over the edge and the car was only saved from falling by the running board catching a supporting pillar and after ascending the next hill he drove it into the back of the lorry, denting a mudguard and radiator front. I decided to revert to our original tasks.

After about 60 miles we struck black cotton soil. (*See photo No.* 1.) This is tricky enough for anyone, being soft, soggy soil reputed to be beyond control. It completely beat the driver, and the lorry was continually stuck. By 5.30 p.m. I was thoroughly tired and decided to camp by the roadside, which at this spot ran through the hot, wet forests beloved of school geography books. At 2.30 a.m. I was awakened by a terrific deluge, and could do no more than leap for the car seat and spend the rest of the night there, leaving bedding out in the rain. The kit most likely to be spoilt had been left in the car, but the roof leaked in places, so that there was a scramble inside the car in an attempt to rearrange things.

A start was made at 7 a.m., and with relief I found that the bad patch finished within 400 yards of the " camp " site. Then the lorry's steering gear stuck and it dived into the bush on the side of the track. Extricating it was fairly simple, but not being a motor mechanic the damaged steering gear proved a different problem. However, by a combination of guesswork, common sense, and good luck, we were able to proceed after an hour and a half's delay.

I had decided on a mid-day halt for lunch and to dry my bedding, but just before noon another tropical downpour destroyed all hope of a dry bed that night, but instead gave us another strenuous hour extricating ourselves. No sooner were we clear of rain and the bad patch than the lorry's petrol supply failed. The application of first principles was ensuring slow but sure progress, which was hastened by the rough, practical help of an Indian driver who came along, and by two Germans (both ex-internees on parole) who followed him.

At 5.30 p.m. we reached a tiny village, having covered 65 miles in 10½ hours. I had decided to camp for the night when an Administrative Officer appeared and invited us to share his grass hut. This was willingly accepted and was the more appreciated when at 6 p.m. came another downpour which lasted for an hour and a half. The Administrative Officer was on circuit


LAKE
VICTORIA
KENYA COLONY
NAIROBI
LOLIONDO
MWANZA
KILIMANJARO
ARUSHA
MOSHI
NGORONGORO
MOMBASA
LAKE TANGANYIKA
KOROGWE
TANGA
HANDENI
TABORA
DODOMA
MOROGORO
BAGAMOYA
DAR-ES-SALAAM
NYASALAND
LAKE NYASA
Scale:- Approx. 1: 8,000,000.
Rlys.:-
Route followed----
PORTUGUESE EAST AFRICA

and was stopping one night only. We had a pleasant evening yarning, especially when we found we were both from the same home town.

A start was made at 8 o'clock the next morning, by which time the driver had learned to climb hills but maintained his "keep to the left" principles. No bad patches were met and reasonable progress was made for sixty miles, when it was noticed that the lorry lurched from side to side, and I found that the steering wheel spun well over half a revolution before the wheels responded at all. I could do nothing on the road, so decided to make for Korogwe, fourteen miles ahead and on a railway and telephone route. On reaching Korogwe, just before 4 p.m., I removed the steering gear to find one of the roller-bearing assemblies completely smashed. Nothing being available at the local stores I telephoned a garage at Tanga for a new part to be sent by the next train, due to leave Tanga the following afternoon. The enforced halt was taken advantage of for a complete drying of kit.

I got permission to wander round a near-by sisal estate and learned a lot, following the whole process from planting, through the stages of cutting, crushing, drying, shredding and baling ready for export. Sisal (pronounced "sysle") is used chiefly for making ropes, and is this Territory's largest export. (*See photos Nos.* 3—6.)

The afternoon and evening I spent conversing with the young German manageress of my hotel, and in reading several issues of a popular German magazine which had most articles printed in German, English, French, Italian, and an unrecognised language. The girl, incidentally, agreed that the war was senseless, but would not concede that Hitler was solely to blame.

The new part for the lorry arrived on the Sunday morning and was fitted by a Greek mechanic, a start being made at 10.15. Due to the fair state of the road, the astounding speed of 20 m.p.h. was averaged for three hours, through sisal, coffee, kapok and rubber plantations. After sixty miles the petrol supply system of the lorry again failed, and, later, a tyre on the lorry was punctured. The tools required would only fit the car, so that, due to rusted-on nuts and inadequate tools, it was over an hour and a half before we restarted.

Until now I had put petrol into the car tank every time the lorry stopped for petrol and so had no real idea of the car's performance, beyond considering it to be in the region of 15 m.p.g. over a normal Tanganyika road. This day's run had been estimated at 110 miles and I had put in eight gallons. After 104 miles the petrol finished. The lorry with the petrol supply aboard was about 100 yards ahead, and realising that the driver and boy would not return for me, I started to walk the remaining six or seven miles. After covering about three miles, and having been somewhat compensated by one of the most delightful sunsets imaginable, I was surprised to see the lorry returning, and apologised inwardly for thinking they would not do so. I had to recall the apology, however, for on reaching me they announced that they were searching for the spare tyre cover. Not a thought for me and no expression of surprise to find me walking—just relief to learn that I had picked up the tyre!

There was no rain that night, but plenty of stars to keep me amused until I fell asleep. We were off by 7.30 the next morning and reached Moshi, 65 miles away at 11.30. Here a brief halt was called for lunch and a visit to the wife of the 1st Battalion R.S.M. and their week-old son, a start for Arusha being made at about 12.30 p.m., when we struck the wretched corrugations which appear to defeat the Public Works Department of this Territory, and the dust which surrounds the Moshi area. I thought we were to be free from mechanical troubles, but on this part of the trip the lorry accelerator jammed several times and the car exhaust pipe fell off. Arusha was reached at 4.30 p.m. and I spent the evening reading old magazines and listening to the radio at the local inn. The following day was spent servicing the vehicles and replenishing supplies.

We were off by 8 a.m. the next day (29th) and for the first fifty miles had to contend with the abominable corrugations, but the next fifty took us through what to me seemed a scenic mixture of Sussex downland and Yorkshire moorland, but with high hills to the right and in the distant background. Some consider the region boring and advise tourists to sleep over that particular stretch. Miraculously there were no mechanical troubles, although the state of the roads and the gradients climbed increased the petrol and water consumption considerably. The Ngorongoro Crater was reached by 4 p.m. There I found the Loliondo Administrative Officer and we spent the evening together.

Next morning I set off full of hope. Knowing the nature of the country we carried twenty-five gallons of water, little imagining that it would be insufficient for the 113-mile trip. The first really bad patch of loose sand was that between twenty five and thirty miles from the Crater. The lorry negotiated it all, but within fifty yards of the end of the loose sand the left rear wheel of the car sank, without warning, into a sand-filled hole which the lorry had missed by inches. Repeated hootings of the horn failed to attract the attention of the lorry driver or my boy, so five rounds were loosed off in the hope that they would be heard. They weren't. Realising it might be hours before they thought of me I started digging with bare hands, and after about two hours the lorry appeared on the horizon. However, I'd cleared away so much sand that it required no great push by the boy and driver to get the car out.

We continued fairly satisfactorily until 5.30 p.m., when sixty miles had been covered. I thought I had better go ahead to warn the station that the lorry would be late. Deciding to have a last fill of petrol and water and risk boiling for the remainder, I learned with amazement that all but two gallons of the water had gone! Twenty gallons had been used by two vehicles in sixty miles! And petrol consumption was also high, the car doing eight m.p.g. and the lorry six. However, I thought it best to proceed. At 7 p.m., after crossing a particularly stony stretch I collected a puncture. I had gone for so long believing stones to be the cause of the steering difficulty that the brand new outer cover was split nearly all the way round and the inner tube pierced. After changing the wheel in the dark I was "going" again by about 8 o'clock, but the engine laboured painfully, giving up altogether at about 8.45, and there was no alternative but to wait for the lorry. It arrived just before 10.30 p.m., and was also in a bad way, the lights having failed among other things. I decided to put up for the night. The driver and boy were not thrilled with the idea of sleeping on the Serengeti Plain, but I told them I should wake easily and would shoot anything that came around!

In the morning we did the remaining ten miles to Loliondo in three hours in the lorry, borrowed a chain and returned to tow in the car. A visual inspection of the latter brought to light a cracked cylinder head, several connecting rods useless in both vehicles, oil and cooling system faults, six valves beyond further re-grinding, several springs useless, both petrol pumps leaking and nearly all plugs in urgent need of attention. The O.C.'s authority was obtained for the local Indian (who was something of a mechanic) to purchase spares in Nairobi when he went there within the next few days.

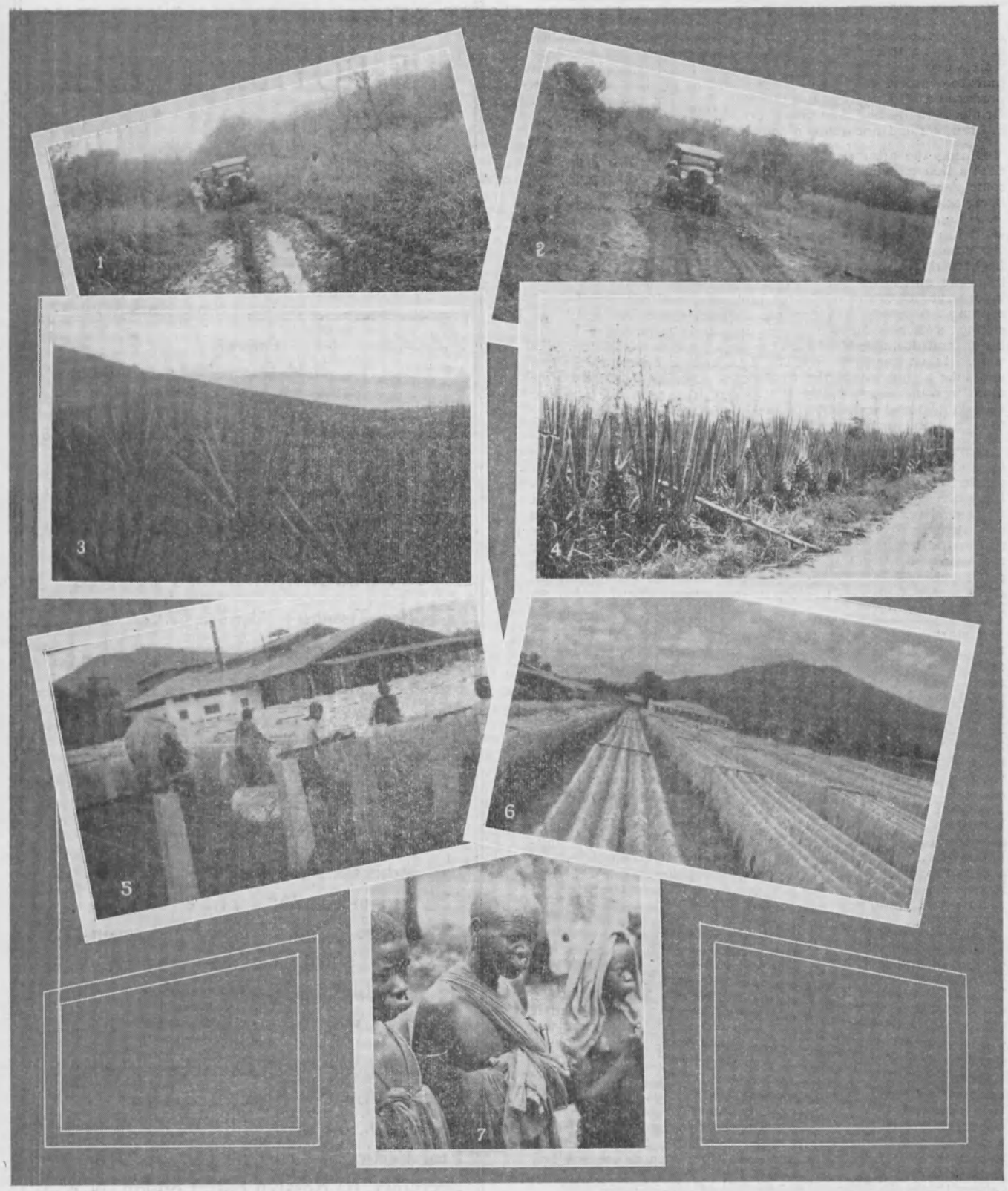
A most enjoyable three weeks was spent at Loliondo. As I have said in a previous article, it nestles in the hills at 7,000 feet above sea level and enjoys a delightful climate. There are plenty of trees, birds and flowers there, as well as green grass.

The wireless set took a considerable amount of adjusting, owing to a decreased output from the transmitter generator and an alteration in the values of several anode resistances. The windcharger went up easily enough, although a collector brush had to be made from the carbon rod of a battery, torch, hand, using a pen knife and nail file as tools. It was impossible to put the windcharger as high as the makers recommend, but the average time taken to recharge a battery proved to be four to five days and, as with the normal amount of traffic passed by the station the batteries lasted about the same length of time, the system should prove satisfactory. The bicycle charger was left as a reserve.

The Administrative Officer's wife was hospitable and made me extremely comfortable. The Administrative Officer returned after about a week and he, too, proved to be a grand fellow. They are true administrators. I am glad I met them.

The car had been repaired and appeared satisfactory, but when the lorry was started it was found that it, too, had a cracked cylinder head and several other defects unnoticed on first inspection. As the Indian was going to Arusha on the 19th, authority was obtained for him to purchase the necessary spares;

WITH THE SIGNALS IN TANGANYIKA



1. Black Cotton Soil
2. Easy to do this if soil is not too loose
3. Sisal
4. Overgrown Sisal
5 & 6. Drying Sisal
7. A Tanganyika Beauty

it was also decided that I should depart as soon as the wireless was satisfactory, and leave the lorry to follow when ready.

Determined that I should not miss my Christmas dinner, the A.O.'s wife decided that Christmas Day would be celebrated at Loliondo on the 19th December. After tea, and prior to the customary walk, we swam in the thirty feet square, ten feet deep pool they had built to conserve the water. In the evening my host and hostess produced a bird, a Christmas pudding, decorations and crackers. Drinks were low but they brought out their remaining half-bottle of brandy and I unearthed a couple of beers.

During the afternoon an Indian had arrived with the news that a lion had broken into his compound at the trading post some twenty miles away, and had killed his five donkeys before being scared off. So, after a really good Christmas dinner, the A.O. and I set off in his car with a policeman and boy, and waited in the Indian's store. At 1 a.m. we heard the lion inside the compound. The boy and the policeman went inside to frighten the beast out whilst we went outside to bag him. The lion was much too easily frightened, however, and got away before the A.O. was ready for him. We waited a while, but nothing happened. We got into the car, the A.O. started the engine, switched on the headlights, and there, right in the beam, and no more than twenty yards away, sat the lion. He was so taken unawares that the A.O. had time to grab his gun and take a shot round the windscreen. He got him, but three more were necessary before it was safe to approach. The lion was skinned and proved to be just under twelve feet from tip to tail; a quite worthy specimen.

I eventually set off on 21st December, taking only personal kit and boy with me. All went well for the first hour, and with gentle treatment the car covered twenty miles. Then it stopped. Lack of petrol reaching the pump proved to be the cause, and was quickly and easily remedied. But not for long, for during the next twenty-five miles it was necessary to stop for similar reasons no less than four times, and it took 3½ hours to cover those twenty-five miles. It was then found that the pump was not functioning at all and after two hours of attempting to effect repairs I decided to sleep in the car and return on foot to Loliondo next day.

A start was made at 4.30 the next morning, with hopes of reaching Loliondo that evening. Loads comprised a blanket each, a raincoat, change of clothing, toilet requisites, some sandwiches cut the previous evening, a few dates, three one-pint flasks of water, a hurricane lamp, rifle and revolver (with fifteen rounds for the former and six for the latter). These items my boy and I shared fairly equally at the start. Realising that I could not afford a ten-minutes' halt every hour I decided to try ten-fifteen minutes every three hours. Walking wasn't too pleasant; where the track was well defined it was a deep rut and I constantly kicked my ankles; out of the rut, or where there was no rut, it was like walking over a bad patch of the Yorkshire moors. Reasonably good progress was made until about mid-day, when the sandwiches were eaten during a half-hour's rest. After an hour and a half the boy complained of aching thighs, and my right foot had developed a blister. But it was necessary to go on, for sleeping in the open on the Serengeti Plain would be no fun.

It was not too hot, for we had a fair breeze against us the whole time. The car had stopped somewhere around the 5,000 feet level and the gradual ascent began to be felt during the afternoon, it becoming necessary to shorten the walking periods from three to two hours. By about 2 p.m. my boy declared that he could not keep up the pace, but could carry a greater load if allowed to go slower. To this I agreed, for by this time my share of the load was telling on me, but the desirability of reaching Loliondo that evening kept me going.

Other factors took a hand, however. Recognising ground features when walking is difficult if these features have hitherto been seen only from a vehicle. I thought I had reached the correct valley and a full half-hour passed before I realised that no vehicle could ever have followed the track. I had to retrace my steps, so that reaching Loliondo that evening seemed less possible. By now our steps were those of weary men, and my calves, thighs, back and shoulders ached considerably.

(To be continued)

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Corps News—Officers

Extracts from "The London Gazette"

[War Office, 31/5/40]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS:

The undermentioned to be Lieutenants:
Lieutenant Alfred Waldren, T.D. (2277), late R.E., 29/2/40.
Lieutenant Stephen Charles Edwards (123764), late R.E. (Sigs.), 26/3/40.
Cecil John Challice (27163), late Lieutenant, South Wales Borderers, 8/4/40.
R.S.M. Henry Richard Broadhead (132315), 1/6/40.
W.O. Cl. II Sydney John Massey (132352), 1/6/40.
Acting W.O. Cl. II Daniel Sellars (132316), 1/6/40.

The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants:
Lieutenant Edward Frank Lyne, M.M. (127113), late R.E., 15/4/40.
William Garrett-Windebank (128120), 29/4/40.
Francis Adam Powell (128073), 29/4/40.
George McLean Wilford (127937), late Captain, N.Z.F., 30/4/40.
Acting W.O. Cl. I Frederick James Taman (132323), 1/6/40.
R.Q.M.S. Stanley Robson (132318), 1/6/40.
W.O. Cl. II Frederick Cecil Woodger (132317), 1/6/40.
W.O. Cl. II Benjamin Farrell (132319), 1/6/40.
C.Q.M.S. Norman Stevenson Biddulph (132320), 1/6/40.
Sergeant John Laughlan Campbell (132324), 1/6/40.
Sergeant Charles Robert Blyth (132326), 1/6/40.
Acting Sergeant Thomas Hall (132321), 1/6/40.
Acting Lance Sergeant John Bradfield Dadds (132327), 1/6/40.
Acting Lance Sergeant Walter Henry Collins (132325), 1/6/40.
Corporal Henry Reddaway (132322), 1/6/40.
Signalman Charles Victor Riggs, D.C.M. (24932), 1/6/40.
Sergeant George Edward Keech, M.M. (132367), R.A. (Cadet, 152nd O.C.T.U.), 1/6/40.

The undermentioned Cadets, from 151st Officer Cadet Training Unit to be 2nd Lieutenants, 25/5/40:
Jack William Crombie Collins (132940).
Gurney Oliver Probert (132941).
Albert John Woodrow (132942).

R.Q.M.S. Charles William Wheeler (131810) to be Lieutenant (Quartermaster), 19/4/40.

Lieutenant W. C. Jarvis (117008) to be Lieutenant (I.P.C.), 1/5/40.

The undermentioned to be Lieutenants (T.M.O.):
R.Q.M.S. Roland Bremner (131763), 25/4/40.
C.S.M. Eustace Herbert Offord (131598), 27/4/40.
C.Q.M.S. Roland Ernest Rickard (131802), 1/5/40.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

The notification regarding Lieutenant-Colonel E. R. Moore (41831) in the "Gazette" (Supplement) dated 12/3/40 is cancelled.

[War Office, 4/6/40]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS:

Lieutenant Laurence Victor John Sharp (128488), late R.E. (Sigs.), to be Lieutenant, 6/5/40.

Captain John Noel Radcliffe Perks (128614), late R.E., to be Lieutenant, 13/5/40.

The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants:
Arthur Ronald Heald (128289), 1/3/40.
Aubrey Thomas Johnson (128712), late Captain Aux. F. Ind., 1/5/40.
John Parkinson (128595), 13/5/40.
Leslie Bridge Rothwell (128602), 13/5/40.
Leslie Herbert Floyd (128502), 15/5/40.

2nd Lieutenant A. H. Babb (110706), from R.E., retaining his present seniority, 1/6/40.

C.S.M. Charles Robert Dodman (131964) to be Lieutenant (T.M.O.), 10/5/40.



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TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS

2nd Lieutenant W. R. Hipwell (38206) resigns his commission, 5/6/40.

TERRITORIAL ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS.

GENERAL LIST:

Major B. S. Taylor, T.D. (32908), from R.E. (T.A. Res. of Off.), to be Major, 20/1/40, and retains his present seniority. (Substituted for the notification in the "Gazette" (Supplement) dated 13/2/40.)

[War Office, 7/6/40]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS:

The notification regarding Lieutenant J. H. King (93687) in the "Gazette" (Supplement) dated 14/5/40 is cancelled.

The undermentioned to be Lieutenants, 8/6/40:
Acting W.O. Cl. II Frederick James Wheeler (132344).
Acting Sergeant Edward Frederick Baker (132347).

The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants, 8/6/40:
Acting W.O. II Ernest Arthur Blood (132345).
Sergeant Clifford John Standley (132346).
Sergeant Patrick Thomas Caldwell McGee (132350).
Acting Sergeant Cyril Vernon Kitcat (132348).
Acting Corporal Angus James George Macdonald (132351).
Acting Lance Corporal James Douglas Winchester (132349).
Sidney Pitham (132369), without pay and allowances.
Wilfred Gray (132370), without pay and allowances.

[War Office, 11/6/40]

REGULAR ARMY—COMMANDS AND STAFF.

Major-General H. C. B. Wemyss, D.S.O., M.C., from Dep. Adjt.-General to the Forces, to be Adjt.-General to the Forces and is granted the Acting Rank of Lieutenant-General, 10/6/40.

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

The undermentioned Cadets from Officer Cadet Training Unit (Signals) (Ex-Gentlemen Cadets, R. Mil. Acad.), to be 2nd Lieutenants, 25/5/40 :

Frank Leonard Clarkson (133777).
James Wardlaw Distin (133776).
John Anthony Stafford Fearfield (133775).
Henry Louis Horn (133772).
Miles Peter King (133785).
William Ernest Lysk (133784).
John Crichton Stuart McDouall (133774).
Gordon John Collison Moss (133773).
William Dare Stuart Renton (133783).
Kenneth Nangel Smartt (133782).
Dudley Crichton Ward (133780).
Derek Edward Warren (133779).
John Bernard Woodhouse (133778).

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS :

Ralph MacGregor Mitchell (128875) to be 2nd Lieutenant, 16/5/40.
2nd Lieutenant F. H. Akroyd (112309), from R.A.S.C., to be 2nd Lieutenant, 12/6/40. retaining his present seniority.
Lieutenant R. G. E. Taplin (113295) to be Lieutenant (I.P.C.), 12/6/40.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Lieutenant F. G. Monk (63101) to be Captain, 26/8/39.

[War Office, 18/6/40]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS :

The undermentioned to be Lieutenants :
Captain Frank Papprill (114545), late Leicester Regt., 26/3/40.
W.O. Cl. I William Stobbs Sanderson (132395).
Acting R.Q.M.S. Harold Percy Bell (134829).
W.O. Cl. III David Shepherd (134828).
Acting W.O. Cl. III Basil James Stevens (134831).
C.Q.M.S. Robert Preston (132394).
C.Q.M.S. George Handy McKowen (134835).
Sergeant Alfred Lane (134827).
Sergeant William John Main (134830).

R.S.M. Reginald Frank Minion (135129) to be Lieutenant (Quartermaster), 21/5/40.

[War Office, 21/6/40]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS :

The undermentioned to be Lieutenants :
Lieutenant Harold Malins (119588), late R.E., 24/4/40.
Lieutenant John Barradale Melhuish, M.B.E. (123093), late Leicester Regt., 27/5/40.

Lieutenant (Quartermaster) N. J. Woodcock (100675), and relinquishes the appointment of Quartermaster, 1/6/40.
C.Q.M.S. George Rowland (134848), 22/6/40.
Geoffrey Steven (131981) to be 2nd Lieutenant, 13/5/40.
Acting Sergeant George Cuthbert Port (134849) to be 2nd Lieutenant, 22/6/40.

The undermentioned to be Lieutenants (Quartermaster) :
C.S.M. Leonard William Green (135823), 29/5/40.
R.Q.M.S. Stanley Robson (132318), 1/6/40.
C.S.M. Frank Edward Farmer (134787), 3/6/40.

The undermentioned Cadets, from 151st Officer Cadet Training Unit (Royal Signals), to be 2nd Lieutenants, 15/6/40.:
William McMillan Anderson (134517).
David Pegg (134516).
David Hurley Piddock (134515).
George Edwin Simcox (134514).
John Alfred Lionel Wharton (134513).

[War Office, 25/6/40]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Cadet George Washington Philips (135567), from Officer Cadet Training Unit (Ex-Gentleman Cadet, R. Mil. Acad.), to be 2nd Lieutenant, 8/6/40.

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS :

The undermentioned to be Lieutenants :
Sergeant Albert Rowe (134874), 2/6/40.
W.O. Cl. II Edward William Pack (134800), 26/6/40.
W.O. Cl. II Alfred Bert Clarke (134879), 26/6/40.

Leslie William Dunkley (128593) to be 2nd Lieutenant, 30/5/40.
Gerald Crocker Leighton (133730) to be 2nd Lieutenant, 3/6/40.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

The King has been graciously pleased to confer the Efficiency Decoration upon the undermentioned officers under the terms of the Royal Warrant dated 23/9/30 :
Lieutenant-Colonel Edward Birnie Reid (Deputy Chief Signal Officer, Scottish Command).
Major Frank Eric Barr Jones (2855).
Lieutenant-Colonel Walter Glyn Trice (25505).

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VOL. XXI.—No. 246 AUGUST, 1940 PRICE—SIXPENCE

Editorial Notes

Our Colonel-in-Chief.—As will be seen by a perusal of Royal Signals Comforts Fund Notes on page 228 of this issue, we were honoured by a visit from Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal to Association Headquarter Offices on Friday, 26th July.

Her Royal Highness, who was accompanied by Lady Carrington, spent some considerable time in making a detailed inspection of the work undertaken by the Comforts Fund Committee and showed a keen interest in all that is being done for the welfare and comfort of R.Signals personnel generally.

Felicitations.—We convey our hearty congratulations to the undermentioned whose names were included in the King's Birthday Honours List, as published in the "London Gazette":

C.B. (Military Division) (11/7/40)
Major-General (Acting Lieutenant-General) H. C. B. Wemyss, D.S.O., M.C.
Colonel (Acting Brigadier) R. Chenevix-Trench, O.B.E., M.C.

C.B.E. (Military Division) (11/7/40)
Colonel Fitz-Alan Drayson, M.C.
Colonel (Acting Brigadier) G. E. Mansergh, M.C. (appointment to be dated 1st June, 1940).
Colonel A. C. Sykes, D.S.O., O.B.E.

Order of the Star of India
G.C.S.I. (11/7/40)
General Sir Robert A. Cassels, G.C.B., C.S.I., D.S.O., Commander-in-Chief in India and Colonel-Commandant Indian Signal Corps.

O.B.E. (Military Division) (11/7/40)
Major A. E. Barton.
Lieutenant-Colonel H. D. Beadon, M.C.
Lieutenant-Colonel G. W. Cumming, T.D.
Lieutenant-Colonel F. H. Dallison, M.C. (Supp. Res.).
Major J. G. Deedes, M.B.E. (R. of O.).
Lieutenant-Colonel B. T. Godfrey-Faussett, M.C. (T.A.).
Lieutenant-Colonel C. L. H. Humphreys, T.D., M.INST.C.E., M.I.MECH.E. (T.A.).
Major W. H. Lloyd, M.C. (T.A.).
Lieutenant-Colonel L. B. Nicholls.
Major (Acting Lieutenant-Colonel) H. E. Rance.
Captain (Acting Major) H. C. B. Rogers.
Lieutenant-Colonel R. S. Smith, M.C., D.C.M. (Supp. Res.).
Lieutenant-Colonel W. F. Jackson, M.C., T.D. (T.A.).

M.B.E. (Military Division) (11/7/40)
Lieutenant (Acting Captain) D. G. Allen (T.A.).
Lieutenant (Quartermaster) H. J. L. Archbold (Supp. Res.).
No. 2308270 Warrant Officer Class 1 (R.S.M.) Bailey H. J. R. (Supp. Res.).

Captain W. B. G. Collis, B.SC. (T.A.).
2nd Lieutenant A. R. Dyce (Supp. Res.).
Lieutenant F. A. Hough (Supp. Res.).
Captain B. Minor (T.A.).
2nd Lieutenant W. L. Renecle (Supp. Res.).
Captain D. M. Smyth.
Lieutenant (Acting Captain) C. T. Williams.
Captain F. W. P. Bradford.
Captain (Insp. of Perm. Comm.) W. Clark.
Captain S. J. Dagg, B.A.
No. 2315339 Warrant Officer Class II (Foreman of Signals) Holt A. W.
No. 2312362 Warrant Officer Class I (Foreman of Signals) (S.M.) T. Paterson
Temporary Lieutenant (Quartermaster) A. E. Smart.

Military Cross (11/7/40)

Lieutenant (Acting Captain) A. F. Freeman.
Lieutenant E. H. Wilkinson.

D.C.M. (11/7/40)

No. 2308424 Warrant Officer Class I (R.S.M.) Phillp P. W.
Warrant Officer Class II (R.Q.M.S.) Page W. W.
No. 4031837 C.Q.M.S. White C. F.
No. 2560755 Sergeant Dearlove W.
No. 5105857 Sergeant Stanley G. A.

M.M. (11/7/40)

No. 6395313 Sergeant Goldsmith T. W.
No. 2321067 Lance Sergeant Beevers H.
No. 2326462 Corporal Alexander A.
No. 2577890 Corporal Burnside L.
No. 2568414 Corporal Gilling E.
No. 2560652 Corporal Lawson G.
No. 2573667 Lance Corporal Halford L.
No. 2575973 Signalman Ashford A.
No. 2590718 Signalman Baker L. A.
No. 2581852 Signalman Bonsall E. J.
No. 2580921 Signalman Shelmerdine F. L.
No. 2586638 Signalman Coxon A.
No. 2583403 Signalman Dean G. E.
No. 2319377 Signalman Fish A. R.
No. 2590646 Signalman Haworth A.
No. 2320267 Signalman Hough T. F.
No. 2322662 Signalman Hussey F. G.
No. 2574424 Signalman Latham J. T.
No. 2319713 Signalman MacAlister J. C.
No. 2320604 Signalman Mullard J. H.
No. 2586058 Signalman Thompson T.
No. 2571302 Signalman Wilson J. W.
No. 2339496 Driver Watkinson L. H.
No. 2319579 Signalman Arthur Gregory (5/7/40).

M.S.M. (11/7/40)

No. 2311463 Sergeant Craddock F. L. (Supp. Res.).
No. 2023843 Corporal Garnett J. A.
No. 2338923 Lance Corporal Hewson E. (Supp. Res.).
No. 2558661 Lance Corporal McGosh H. H. (Supp. Res.).
No. 2324558 Signalman McLeod J. J. (Supp. Res.).
No. 2360555 Signalman Salter W. J.
No. 2324613 Lance Corporal (Acting Corporal Southall M. G.)
No. 5669929 Sergeant Hitchens Treloar H. W.

Mentioned in Despatches ("London Gazette," 26/7/40)

Colonel (Acting Major-General) R. Chenevix-Trench, C.B., O.B.E., M.C.
Colonel A. C. Sykes, D.S.O., C.B.E., A.M.I.E.E.
Lieutenant-Colonel F. S. Morgan (S.R.).
Major J. G. T. Hiley (S.R.).
Major L. D. Goddard, A.M.I.E.E.
Major J. Gardiner (S.R.).
Captain (Acting Major) W. F. Blakeney (Res. of Off.).
Captain (Acting Major) E. B. Tinney (S.R.).
Captain (Acting Major) H. A. Penn, B.SC. (S.R.).
Captain J. D. L. Morris.
Captain N. G. Newell.
Lieutenant (Acting Captain) T. E. Kitts (S.R.).
Lieutenant E. A. Goodland (T.A.).
Lieutenant D. W. Roy, A.M.I.E.E. (S.R.).
Lieutenant (Quartermaster) J. A. Burgess.
Lieutenant (Quartermaster) G. R. Price.
Lieutenant (Quartermaster) G. Perry (T.A.)
2nd Lieutenant T. R. North (S.R.).
2nd Lieutenant G. P. J. Pegg (T.A.).
2nd Lieutenant G. Wilson (S.R.).
No. 2563889 W.O. I (S.S.M.) Kelly F.
No. 1857322 W.O. I (S.S.M.) McMillan D.
No. 2313031 W.O. II (C.S.M.) Parsons J. T.
No. 2310857 W.O. II (C.S.M.) Shove J. C.
No. 2306830 W.O. II (C.S.M.) Hunt J. N.
No. 2309675 W.O. II (R.Q.M.S.) Higham B.
No. 2318099 Sergeant Blanchard A.
No. 2320422 Sergeant Christian W. L. G.
No. 2339361 Signalman McInees J. R.
No. 2926934 Sergeant McRae D.
No. 2323824 Sergeant Royall D. C. McA.
No. 2311986 Sergeant Warburton W. F.
No. 549867 Lance Sergeant Cooper B. J.
No. 405011 Corporal Lister D. R.
No. 2326272 Lance Corporal Crosbie F. W.
No. 2318218 Lance Corporal Delicate W.
No. 2322257 Lance Corporal Hughes S.
No. 2217827 Lance Corporal Blake A. E.
No. 2320381 Signalman Cathmoir R.
No. 2562607 Signalman Garth A.
No. 2313167 Signalman Simpson W. N.
No. 2326467 Signalman Wyllie F.

Royal Signals Benevolent Fund.—The Central Committee of Signals Association desire to express their appreciation of a generous donation recently made to the Corps Benevolent Fund by "Beauman Divisional Signals." Further acknowledgment will be found below.

Personal.—We have been asked to announce that "Dan" Godfrey, now living at 77, High Street, Old Headington, Oxford, sends his greetings to all old friends of "F Divisional Signals, India." He desires us to add that a cordial welcome awaits any of them who care to pay him a visit at the above address.

THE EDITOR.

Benevolent Fund Notes

Security regulations do not permit us to publish detailed particulars of Corps Units, but it is hoped that the following list of those formations, who have already responded to the Colonels-Commandant's appeal for regular monthly contributions to the Corps Benevolent Fund will be found satisfactory for purposes of identification.

The Administrator gratefully acknowledges receipt of the following :

BENEVOLENT FUND (GENERAL)

CASH SUBSCRIPTIONS from :
Mr. R. V. May.
Signalman W. H. Greene.
Mr. E. W. S. Bolton.

BENEVOLENT FUND (No. 2 A/C 1940)

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No. — Company, IV London, for March, April, May.
No. — Company, IV London, for March, April, May.
No. — Company, IV London, for March, April, May.
Eastern Command Signal Company, for June.
No. — Company, IV London, for March, April, May.
Eastern Command Signal Company, for June.
H.Q. I A.A. London, for June.
No. — Company, — Army Signals, Surrey, for April.
No. — Company, — Army Signals, Surrey, for April.
No. — Company, — Divisional Signals, Essex, for March.
No. — Company, — Divisional Signals, Norfolk, for March, April, May.
No. — Company, — Divisional Signals, Norfolk, for March, April, May.
No. — Company, — Divisional Signals, Norfolk, for March, April, May.
London Area Signals, for February, March, April, May, June.
— Army Signals, Yorkshire, for March, April, May.
— Corps Signals, Derbyshire, for April, May.
No. — Squadron, Armoured Divisional Signals, Notts., for March, April.
No. — Squadron, Armoured Divisional Signals, Lincs., for March, April, May.

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No. — Squadron, Armoured Divisional Signals, Northants, for April.
No. — Squadron, Armoured Divisional Signals, Derbyshire, for March, April, May.
"General Trades," Yorkshire, for March, April, May.
No. — Company, — Divisional Signals, Northumberland, for March, April, May.
No. — Company, — Divisional Signals, Northumberland, for March, May.
No. — Company, — Divisional Signals, Northumberland, for March, April.
No. — Company, — Divisional Signals, Northumberland, for April, May.
Beauman Divisional Signals, balance of private funds contributed by all ranks.
No. — Company, — Divisional Signals, Ross shire, for March, April, May.
No. — Company,— Divisional Signals, Ross-shire, for March, April, May.
S.P. and S.M. Areas Signals, for April, May.
No. — Company, —Divisional Signals, Berkshire, for March, April, May, June, July.
No. — Company, — Divisional Signals, Berkshire, for March April, May, June.
No. — Company, — Divisional Signals, Berkshire, for March, April, May.
"General Trades," Wales, for April, May, June.
Operators T.B., Wales, for March, April, May.
No. — Company, — Divisional Signals, Somerset, for April, May.
No. — Company, — Divisional Signals, Yorkshire, for March.
Southern Command Signal Company, for March.
P.R.I. — Holding Battalion, Yorkshire, for May, June, July.
No. — Company, L. of C. Signals, Wales, for July.
P.R.I. — Divisional Signals, Dorset, for July.
Mrs. Purser.
Lieutenant-Colonel A. C. C. Willway.

Units Abroad :

1st Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, for April, May.
Malta Signal Company, for March, April.
Kohat District Signals, for April, May.
S.T.C. (India), for April.
"A" Corps Signals, India, for March.

BANKERS ORDER SUBSCRIPTIONS from :
Captain J. N. Barker.
Captain J. H. L. Crichton.

APPEALS dealt with :

1	Wife of Signalman, London	Grant £3	0 0
2	Wife of Signalman, Farnborough	Grant £3	0 0
3	Ex-Signalman, Essex	Grant £2	0 0
4	Convalescent treatment, child of Signalman, London	Grant £3	0 0
5	Ex-Signalman, Southampton	Grant £2	0 0
6	Mother of Signalman, India	Grant £5	0 0
7	N.C.O., Lincoln	Grant £4	0 0
8	Wife of Signalman, Newcastle	Grant £1	10 0
9	Wife of Signalman, Prestatyn	Grant £3	10 0
10	Wife of Signalman, London	Grant £2	0 0
11	Signalman, Huddersfield	Grant £4	10 0

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

Royal Signals Comforts Fund

The Committee of the Comforts Fund were honoured by a visit from H.R.H. the Princess Royal to the Association Headquarters at 95, Belgrave Road on 26th July. Her Royal Highness, who stayed for about half an hour, made a detailed inspection of all sides of the work being carried on there. She showed a keen interest in the woollen garments and in the packing of parcels. Her Royal Highness also read some of the letters which have been received from the wounded men to whom gifts parcels from the Fund have been sent.

It was felt that the Fund would like to make a gesture of friendship towards the men from the Dominions, now serving in this country, and a parcel of mixed comforts was, therefore, sent to the Signals belonging to each of the Australian, Canadian, and New Zealand Forces. From the letters of thanks received it is obvious that these parcels were much appreciated.

The Comforts Fund Shop has recently moved to new and larger premises at 67 Hammersmith Road. As a result of this move a record week was recorded, when the takings amounted to over £10. Old clothes are urgently needed for sale in the Shop. Please send them to 95, Belgrave Road, S.W.1.

Congratulations are due to Mrs. Elstob of Beckenham, whose working party has now sent over 1,000 garments to the Fund, also to Mrs. Wells and Mrs. Johnson of Brixton Hill, who knitted up 51 lbs. of wool in six weeks.

Parcels have been received from the Honble. Mrs. Gamage's Depot in Vincent Square (sent at the request of the Princess Royal), the Malaya Signal Company, the Overseas League, the Friends of the Fighting Forces, the Loughton W.V.S. and Mrs. Chenevix-Trench's working party.

	£	s.	d.
Mrs. Gravely (Collecting Box)		6	0
Malta Signal Company	6	2	0
Comforts Fund Shop	12	0	0
Thames & Medway Signals	1	12	0
152nd O.C.T.V.	13	2	6
Anonymous	4	10	0
Brigadier Chenevix-Trench (quarterly)		15	0
Officers' Mess, — Divisional Signals	2	17	0
Richmondshire Musical Society	1	1	0
Major R. V. Cooke (quarterly)	2	10	0
Mrs. Bhodwoshe		10	0
Mrs. Rabone's Working Party		10	0
Mrs. Osborne	5	0	0
Staff of Records Office (monthly)	6	10	0
Officers' Mess, Aldershot	2	12	0
Proceeds of Dance	37	16	8
Mrs. Chenevix-Trench, Proceeds of Jumble Sale and Band Concert	11	0	0
Mrs. Jack's Working Party		10	0
Kohat District Signals	2	3	1
Major A. E. Morison	1	0	0
— Armoured Divisional Signals	5	0	0
Staff of Inspection Department, R.E. and Signal Stores (monthly)	3	0	0

ROYAL SIGNALS COMFORTS FUND

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

25TH MARCH TO 25TH JUNE, 1940

RECEIPTS

	£	s.	d.
Balance in Bank on 25th March	218	5	4
Individual Subscriptions	82	7	8
Unit Subscriptions	188	6	9
Proceeds of Entertainments	68	5	3
Proceeds of Comforts Fund Shop	12	0	0
TOTAL	£569	5	0

EXPENDITURE

	£	s.	d.
Wool	232	16	4
Razor Blades	4	15	0
Cork Soles for Gum Boots	28	13	0
Turkish Towelling for Scarves	23	1	3
Packing Materials	6	4	10
Printing and Stationery	2	3	3
Games and Sundry Comforts	55	5	7
Bridge Tournament Expenses	8	4	9
Postage and Carriage on Parcels	21	0	8
Office Expenses, Insurances, Bank Charges, etc.	4	14	6
Petty Cash Balance	3	0	5
Balance in Bank	179	5	5
TOTAL	£569	5	0

Diary of Events in the War

JUNE 9TH TO JULY 13TH.

1940

JUNE 9TH.—Germans extend offensive eastwards as far as Argonne Forest and push forward advanced elements to Seine about Rouen.

JUNE 10TH.—Italy declares war on France and Britain. President Roosevelt places all resources of United States at disposal of Allies, and Mr. Churchill announces despatch of fresh substantial British reinforcements to France. German advanced troops cross lower Seine. Allied forces successfully withdraw from Narvik and King of Norway and Norwegian Government establish themselves in London.

JUNE 11TH.—Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and India declare war on Italy. Italian air force raid Malta with little result; R.A.F. successfully attack Italian air bases in Libya and Abyssinia. French Government moves to Tours as German advance on Paris continues.

JUNE 12TH.—Fighting in France continues fiercely all along front from the Channel to the Argonne. Anglo-French conference at Tours. R.A.F. raid Genoa, Turin and Milan with great success. One Italian warship and two submarines damaged in air attack on Tobruk in Libya. Egypt breaks off diplomatic relations with Italy. Spain declares attitude of non-belligerency.

JUNE 13TH.—Germans approach Havre and occupy Reims. Paris declared an open city. Surrender of Allied detachment at St. Valery after fierce resistance. Successful skirmish with Italian detachment on Libyan border.

JUNE 14TH.—German advanced troops enter Paris unopposed and occupy Havre and Montmedy. Britain renews pledge to France to continue war to victorious conclusion. French Government leaves Tours for Bordeaux. 211,000 tons of Italian shipping at sea or in Allied ports falls into Allied hands. British and South African air forces successfully raid Italian Somaliland and Eritrea. French air forces raid Venice, and French fleet shells Italian coast. Spanish troops occupy International zone of Tangier.

JUNE 15TH.—Germans occupy Verdun and breach Maginot Line near Saarbrucken. President Roosevelt gives new pledge of maximum support short of declaration of war, in response to appeal from French Government. Successful fighting on Libyan border and capture of two Italian forts. In accordance with ultimatum from Soviet Russia, Lithuania agrees to large increase of Russian garrisons in her territory.

JUNE 16TH.—Resignation of French Government of M. Reynaud and appointment of Marshal Petain as Prime Minister. Mr. Roosevelt promises all possible material support for Allies as long as they continue to resist. British Government assures France of its resolve to continue war.

JUNE 17TH.—French Government asks Germany for her armistice terms. British Government proposes Anglo-French union with common citizenship for both peoples and single war Cabinet and Government for duration of war. All Allied ships bound for France ordered to make for British ports. German advance into Central France continues.

JUNE 18TH.—Hitler and Mussolini meet to agree on terms to be offered to France. Britain refuses to release France from her treaty obligation not to make a separate peace with Germany. Mr. Churchill in speeches in Parliament and on wireless reaffirms British resolve to fight on and confidence in ultimate victory.

JUNE 19TH.—Hitler informs French Government that armistice terms will be notified as soon as its plenipotentiaries are appointed. Large-scale German air raid on Britain by over 100 aeroplanes inflicts 42 casualties and does little material damage. Seven enemy machines shot down.

JUNE 20TH.—Second air raid on Britain on even larger scale results in eight casualties and slight material damage; four enemy machines shot down. German and French plenipotentiaries meet at Compiegne. Large Anzac contingents arrive at northern British port. Secret session of Parliament to consider home defence.

JUNE 21ST.—Hitler receives French plenipotentiaries in same place and in same railway coach as that in which Marshal Foch received German representatives in November, 1918, and lays down terms designed to prevent any resumption of hostilities by France and to provide Germany with necessary safeguards for continuance of war against Britain. British air raids in Libya and Italian East Africa carried out with success and without loss.

JUNE 22ND.—French Government accepts Germany's armistice terms. Third enemy air raid on Britain causes little damage and only three casualties. Men of 29 years of age register for service in Britain.

JUNE 23RD.—Franco-German armistice terms made public; they amount to complete surrender and disarmament of France, occupation of her western coastline, and use of all her resources by Germany for continuance of war against Britain. Negotiations for Franco-Italian armistice begun.

JUNE 24TH.—Armistice agreement reached between France and Italy. End of hostilities between France and the Axis Powers. Italian submarine destroyed in Gulf of Suez.

JUNE 25TH.—Italian terms of armistice with France published, including demilitarisation of all French frontiers with Italian territory in France and Africa and of all French naval bases in Mediterranean. First German air raid on London and southern part of England causes 25 civilian casualties. Effective R.A.F. raids on North-Western Germany continue.

JUNE 26TH.—Combined raids successfully carried out against French coastal areas in enemy occupation. Second German air raid of week causes little damage at cost of loss of five enemy machines.

JUNE 27TH.—Third German air raid causes slight damage; four hostile machines brought down. Russia sends ultimatum to Rumania demanding surrender of province of Bessarabia. Secret session of British Parliament to discuss supply questions.

JUNE 28TH.—Rumania agrees to Russia's demands and Soviet troops commence to occupy Bessarabia as Rumanian garrisons withdraw. Britain recognises General de Gaulle as leader of all free French forces prepared to carry on war.

French commander in Syria proclaims cessation of hostilities there. German transport sunk by British submarine off coast of Norway.

JUNE 29TH.—Rumanian mobilisation proclaimed in preparation for resistance against possible claims by Hungary and Bulgaria for return of their lost provinces. Italian Marshal Balbo killed in mysterious air accident in Libya.

JUNE 30TH.—Germans extend their occupation of France as far as the Spanish frontier. Sporadic land fighting on a small scale and air activity in Libya and East Africa with marked advantage to the British.

JULY 1ST.—Rumania renounces Allied guarantee and remodels her foreign and domestic standpoint in favour of the Axis Powers. Britain reserves her right to act in case of threat to Syria and Lebanon by any hostile Power. Germans occupy Channel Islands, following on destructive air raids, demilitarisation of the Islands, and evacuation of part of the civil population. Raid on Scottish coast town causes some 40 casualties. Destructive R.A.F. raids over Western Germany continue. Twelve out of 17 German fighters accounted for in air battles over France.

JULY 2ND.—British and German air raids continue. R.A.F. attack Kiel and inflict heavy damage on battleship "Scharnhorst" in repair dock there. Large scale German raid on north-east coast causes over 100 casualties. Four more Italian submarines destroyed, making a total of 14 since Italy entered war. South coast of England from Brighton to Selsey declared a military area and closed to public.

JULY 3RD.—"Arandora Star," carrying 1,500 German prisoners and internees, torpedoed and sunk with loss of some 500 lives amid scenes of panic and disorder on board. Six enemy aircraft brought down in attempted raids on England

JULY 4TH.—Prime Minister announced that bulk of French fleet had now been taken over and was in our hands. No resistance offered save at Oran, where British battle squadron, after a day spent in negotiations, had to engage in battle with strong force of French warships. After brief but fierce action all French heavy ships either run ashore, sunk, or so severely damaged as to be out of service for some time to come.

JULY 5TH.—French Government reported to have broken off relations with Britain as a result of battle of Oran, which has caused outburst of baffled rage throughout Germany and Italy and met with general approval and relief in America and throughout the Empire. Further units of the French fleet taken over by us. South coast from Bexhill to Portland and 20 miles inland declared a defence area.

JULY 6TH.—Continuance of British and German air raids. One enemy bomber shot down off south coast of England.

JULY 7TH.—R.A.F. lay large minefield in Baltic and continue heavy and effective raids on Germany and German-occupied territory. H.M. Submarine "Snapper" torpedoes five enemy supply ships off coast of Norway.

JULY 8TH.—Enemy air raids on England; first use of gliding attack, but little damage done and few casualties.

JULY 9TH.—French fleet at Alexandria demilitarised by agreement with British. French battleship "Richelieu" in harbour at Dakar, in West Africa, disabled by depth charges and air attacks. Of eight French battleships, only one, the "Strasbourg," now remains in French hands, badly damaged, at Toulon. R.A.F. bomb and sink enemy barges in Dutch waters.

JULY 10TH.—Naval engagements off Malta between British and Italian squadrons. Italians seek refuge behind shore defences after losing one destroyer and other ships damaged. Italian submarine sunk. Heavy air actions off south-east coast, 70 German machines being engaged in one battle; 14 shot down and 23 others crippled at cost of two of our aircraft.

JULY 11TH.—Twenty-two German aircraft shot down in fighting off our coasts as against four of our machines. Fleet Air Arm sink Italian destroyer and store ship in raid on port in Sicily. French Parliament pass new constitution under which Marshal Petain becomes Chief of State.

JULY 12TH.—Eleven enemy aircraft shot down in air fighting, making a total of 108 in last three weeks. R.A.F. continue air raids on Germany and enemy-occupied territory with vigour and effect.

JULY 13TH.—Sporadic enemy air raids on Britain cause some damage and casualties.

Roll of Honour

R.I.P.

The Adjutant-General regrets to notify the undermentioned casualties:

OFFICERS—KILLED IN ACTION.

Brigadier G. E. Mansergh, C.B.E., M.C.
Major R. M. Lunt.
Acting Major C. C. Worrall.
Captain N. B. Scott.
Lieutenant R. M. Barlas.

OTHER RANKS—KILLED IN ACTION.

2584035 Signalman Allan A. W.
2571267 Signalman Brook J. A.
2571870 Signalman Beattie E. C.
2584693 Signalman Black M. M.
2362394 Driver I.C. Bates H
2326342 Signalman Bentley G. F.
1045282 Sergeant Bye (alias) Powell E. C.
2323146 C.Q.M.S. Bratt W. J.
7337322 Corporal Bowen C. E.
2327805 Signalman Cooke L. H.
2579364 Lance Corporal Cross H. G.
2593462 Signalman Cannon R. LeRoy.
2587649 Signalman Day N. H.
2587747 A/Lance Corporal Eccles A.
2327822 A/Lance Corporal Evans O. P.
2575874 Corporal Ferrier J. T.
2326926 Signalman Foulsham R. A. J.
2574348 Signalman Gallon M. G.
2327350 Signalman Goodwill H. F.
2328593 Signalman Hill N.
2574443 Lance Corporal Howell P. E. A.
2588616 Signalman Hayward R.
2313458 Signalman Jones A. T.
2327984 Signalman Kellard A. P.
2579832 A/Lance Corporal Lester A. E.
2328269 Signalman Leggett K. C. J.
2326817 Signalman Milton I. M.
2326391 Signalman Macdonald W.
2584495 Signalman Middleton W. R.
2319815 Signalman Moore S.
2577053 Driver I.C. Meikle A.
2582344 Driver I.C. Oxley K.
2313331 A/Lance Sergeant Parker W. J.
156401 Driver I.C. Price J.
2574282 Signalman Richards S. H.
2361055 Signalman Riley J.
2316682 Signalman Richards A. G.
2581090 Signalman Stone K. J.
2570998 Signalman Shaw K.
2574381 Signalman Stewart K.
2588496 Signalman Sykes A. E.
2325411 Signalman Saunders J. E.
2574942 Signalman Taylor G.
4969595 A/U/Lance Corporal Trueman H. M.
2325906 Signalman Tonge J. V.
2574363 Signalman Trotter J. E.
2319022 Lance Corporal Watson C.
2573336 Signalman Wyche W. J. D.
844464 Signalman Ward C.

DIED OF WOUNDS.

117710 Driver I.C. Allan C. Smith
2565735 Lance Corporal Cook R.
2321533 Sergeant Dellar A. G.
2581578 Signalman Farrington W.
2327507 Signalman Greenall L.
2316270 Signalman Harry R. Llewellyn.
2582142 Signalman Jones W. M.
2572049 Signalman Moncur N. Brewis.
2573080 A/U/Lance Corporal Mercer W.
2571106 Signalman Munro V. L.
2586692 Signalman Pearce G. W.
2338408 Signalman Pitham A. J.
2572212 Signalman Roberts E.
2316855 Signalman Surmon C. A.
2571274 Signalman Stain S.
2574667 Signalman Waters J. T.



JUBBULPORE, INDIA, 1921

Back Row (left to right) : Lieutenant F. Church, Captain Fiddaman, Lieutenant E. Bevan, Captain A. E. Meredith.
Centre Row : Lieutenant L. C. Bell, Lieutenant W. A. Dimoline, ? , Lieutenant E. J. Murphy, Captain E. Humphries Major G. D. Ozanne.
Front Row : Captain H. Dane, Major H. P. Radley, Major L. H. Morse, Lieutenant-Colonel R. G. Earle, Captain C. J. R. Turner, Captain C. B. Farrar, Captain C. H. H. Vulliamy.

Britain's Man Power

(ANON.)

Making the best use of a nation's available man power in war is a matter calling for much judgement and perception. There are many conflicting needs, and only a given quantity of human material that can be distributed among them all. Moreover, in this industrial age, man power can be used only in conjunction with machines, without which it is helpless either to fight or to produce, and if the machines are not there for it to use, it must perforce be left in idlesness till they are. Transferring man power from one task to another, moreover, is not a matter of a few pen-strokes; the raw recruit, whether to the fighting services or to a fresh branch of industry, must be taught his new job and given time to become expert at it. Not all these facts are fully realised by those who complain that even now, after nearly a year of war, our man power is still incompletely utilised in the national effort. Yet there is little doubt that in that past year more, and much more, might and should have been done in this respect. We have not hitherto been going "all out." But we are getting nearer and nearer to it every week, and if we are allowed or can win for ourselves the necessary respite to complete the process, we shall quickly reach the point when we are really an armed nation, harnessed from top to bottom to the sole task of waging and winning the war.

A good general view of how we stand at the moment of writing (mid-July) can be gathered from a series of semi-official statements made a few days back by the three Ministries principally concerned with the distribution and use of the nation's man power for war purposes. The Ministries in question were those of War, Labour, and Home Security, and their statements are full of interest and will bear summarising.

As far as the Army is concerned, it is known that over 3,000,000 men have now been registered for military service and that the delay between registration and calling up has been sensibly reduced from what it was in the early days of the war. Three more age classes are due to register before these lines appear in print, which should bring the total beyond the 4,000,000 mark. Before next spring, all these should be fully trained and equipped; and there will be more to come, though as the registration age rises, the effects of the schedule of reserved occupations and the percentage of physically unfit will somewhat diminish the yield from each class. This has hitherto varied widely between 220,000 and 335,000, and it is probable that future classes will fall little, if at all, below the former figure.

In addition to the increased rate of calling up, there has, within the last few weeks, been a speeding up of drafting from training to service units in the Army. This has been made possible by increases in the numbers of instructors and of facilities for training, as well as by a great improvement in the supply of arms and equipment. This supply would have been all the greater but for the heavy material losses suffered in the course of our double withdrawal from France and the consequent necessity of fitting out the B.E.F. anew from head to foot. That process even now is all but completed, and doubtless will be completed by the time this article appears. Behind the old divisions of the B.E.F. there now stand a number of new ones, not yet blooded in battle but up to strength and eager to show what they can do.

An idea of the present rate of intake into the Army may be gathered from the statement that over a seven weeks' period the rate has been 7,000 a day, that is over a third of a million for the whole period, more than the largest of any of the age groups that have hitherto been registered. This rate of intake, it must be assumed from the increased rate of calling up—one age group per week—will be sensibly improved upon in the near future. The ideal to be aimed at, of course, is that men should be taken in at the same rate as that at which they register—that rate is now a million and a quarter men per month—and that the delay between registration and calling up should be reduced to one of days rather than of weeks. We have not reached that stage yet, but we are getting nearer to it. When we reach it, then we shall be able to say that, so far as men are concerned, the nation is giving the Army all it can possibly ask for.

It must be remembered, too, that the newly organised Local Defence Volunteers, of whom over a million have now been enrolled, are a most powerful auxiliary to the Army for purposes of home defence, which is our main military task at present. Not all of these L.D.V.s are yet armed and equipped, and only a proportion of them can be regarded as available for duty at any one time, save in the event of actual invasion. Their duties of getting information about and containing an attacking enemy until the arrival of regular troops to deal with him, and of relieving these troops of a number of sedentary duties and thereby increasing their mobility and radius of action, are sure to prove of the utmost value, as soon as this force has found its feet and attained its full power.

Before turning from the needs of the Army to those of war-time industry, it must be remembered that, in addition to the strong army of Britain, we now have in this country, to help in its defence against invasion, large forces from Canada, Australia and New Zealand, and contingents from every Allied country as well—from France, from Norway, from Poland, from Czecho-slovakia, from Holland, and from Belgium—which in sum add many thousands to our available armed strength.

The chief difference between the last war and this, as regards industrial mobilisation, is the greater proportion of skilled to unskilled labour in armament work to-day as compared with twenty-five years ago—an estimated increase of 50 per cent. To enhance the difficulty of finding this number of skilled men, the pre-war years showed a heavy wastage and drift away from industry of that class, without which unskilled labour, however plentiful, is only of limited use. There was also a serious shortage of machine tools, another key product, but both these shortages are fast being overcome, thanks to the energy and drive of the new Minister of Labour and his advisers, and to the enthusiastic co-operation of employers and workers alike. It has been authoritatively stated that the numbers of workers put back into industry from the ranks of the unemployed already exceeds the numbers taken from industry for the ranks of the Army, and that as time goes on every gap in production caused by the withdrawal of men for the forces will be filled within a few days.

As the flow of labour is thus being regulated, so is the flow of material, so that no shortage anywhere shall act as a cork in a

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bottle and hold up production. Dock labour has been pooled into four flexible and mobile groups, and the same thing has been done with shipbuilding labour, so that should any one group be compelled to cease work by reason of air or land attack, its labour resources can quickly be transferred and set to work elsewhere. The possibility of industrial friction, or of strikes and lock-outs, which in 1914-1918 did so much to clog our war effort, has been reduced to a minimum by regulation of wages and compulsory arbitration, while union restrictions have been relaxed or abolished for the period of the war. Welfare matters, medical services, recreation and unemployment provision are all receiving attention, and the stimulating effect of all these measures on production cannot be doubted. The country feels, and with justice, that the whole question of man power for industry and of war production is now at long last in the right hands—the hands of those whose life work it has been to study it, who have the confidence of the workers and the country, and whose energy and efforts are already showing swift and startling results.

As regards the fourth aim, Civil defence, there is an equally satisfactory story to tell. No serious deficiency exists either in personnel or in equipment; there are now about a million and a half men and women enrolled, either as full-time or part-time personnel, apart from those forming part of the staffs of industrial and commercial establishments, of which they form a proportion of about one in ten, and a part also from the stirrup pump teams, for dealing with fires, which now number many thousands up and down the country. Compulsory powers exist for filling up gaps in the Civil defence services in areas where any such exist, and the best method of exercising these powers to the advantage of Civil defence without detriment to the needs of the fighting forces or of industry is now under urgent examination. In the calls that have recently been made upon these Civil defence services, the zeal and efficiency shown have been of a high order; turn out of personnel has been almost up to full establishment, and the whole force, fully on its mettle after a trying period of idle waiting and much ill-advised and ungenerous criticism, has rendered devoted and indefatigable service, for which the country is deeply indebted to it.

It is no doubt true that the man power of the country is not even yet fully exploited for the benefit of the national war effort, any more than our industrial war machine is yet putting forward the full potential of which it is capable. But in both respects matters are far better than they have ever been before in all our history; and, moreover, we may feel with complete confidence that both the machinery and the man power to man and run it are in the right hands and are being worked on the right lines. Here, in this war of nations, in which we are now engaged in fighting for our lives, lie alike the key to salvation and the key to victory.



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The Defeat of France

(Anon.)

Last month we described in outline the first phase of the battle of France—the great offensive which carried the German armies in less than a month from their western frontiers to the Channel coast, and placed in their power Holland, Belgium and all France north of the Somme. This was beyond dispute a heavy Allied defeat, redeemed only by the fine fighting spirit shown by all the four armies embattled against Hitler's hordes, and by the skilfulness and resolution which alone rendered possible the miraculous withdrawal of the B.E.F. and its comrades of the northern French armies from Dunkirk. The second phase led to a yet heavier Allied defeat, of which the French had to bear the full weight, and beneath which their sorely tried armies finally and completely broke down. Hard on the collapse of their resistance came the complete capitulation of France, so that before the end of June the British Empire was left alone to face the embattled hosts of Germany and Italy, flushed with pride of triumph and fired by greed for plunder.

The story of this second phase of the battle is a melancholy one. At the end of the first phase, the enemy, prior to turning the whole weight of his force upon the northern group of Allied armies, had managed to establish some small bridgeheads on the south bank of the lower Somme between Amiens and the sea, and the Allied efforts to reduce them achieved only partial success. This failure had dire results, for the strong anti-tank obstacle formed all along their new front on the line of the Somme, the Crozat Canal and the Aisne was thus imperfect in the very area where it was easiest for the Germans to regroup their armoured divisions after the conclusion of the first phase of the battle.

General Weygand, the new Allied commander, appointed, like his former chief and model, Marshal Foch, in the full tide of a grave defeat that threatened to become a disaster, had little—too little—time to reorganise his gravely weakened armies, fortify his new line, and devise fresh tactical methods to deal with the novel German system of attack. This method, as is well known, comprised a strong attack by armoured formations, prepared and assisted by aerial dive bombers, and followed closely by motorised troops to take over and consolidate the ground overrun. Recourse was therefore had to the principle of defence in great depth, so that the spearhead of the attack, blocked in front, hemmed in on both flanks and clogged in the rear, should be blunted and brought to a halt before it could penetrate the whole of the deep defensive zone, and at the same time should be cut off from the support of the troops behind it, without whose help any success that it might win could only be temporary and incomplete. But the French troops, hard though they worked, had too little time to erect their new defensive belt in the great depth necessary to achieve this purpose. Many of them had already fought hard and suffered materially and morally in the battles of the previous weeks; they were short of weapons, tools, munitions and food owing to the devastation caused by the in-roads of the German mobile forces in their back areas; and they were set to hold a greatly prolonged front with numbers heavily inferior to those of their assailants. The new leaders, whom General Weygand had appointed in large numbers immediately he took over command, had had no time to settle themselves in the saddle and get a firm grip on the reins; and new tactical methods, however well adapted to their purpose, can be neither devised nor learned in a day or two. It was a battered and unready army upon which the Germans fell

on that morning of 5th June, that marked the opening of the second phase of the great battle.

At first all seemed to be going well for the Allies. Left to themselves, save for a small British contingent that had avoided being involved in the retreat to Dunkirk, and deprived also of their own tried troops who had escaped—or failed to escape—from the northern battle, the French afforded a skilful and resolute resistance all along the line. Only at a few places did the enemy, who was observed to be making much more use of his infantry than in the earlier fighting, and therefore to be suffering proportionately heavier losses, manage to push his way into the tangle of defences in and behind which the French were standing their ground. For the moment it looked as if a valid reply to the new German tactics had been found, that dive bombers and tanks seemed to have lost their initial terrors and that the battle would stabilise and die out into the stalemate so familiar to us all from memories and stories of the last war. That must have meant defeat for the Germans, who would have shot their most formidable bolt in vain. But the picture was a false one, and events were to prove such hopes delusive.

The German pressure was heaviest south of the lower Somme, where the Allied troops, which included a small British contingent, were pressed back in forty-eight hours of fierce fighting as far as the Bresle, and in the angle of the Aisne and the Oise about Soissons and Compiegne, where French counter-attacks succeeded in slackening but not in checking the hostile advance. In the former of these sectors there now occurred what was to prove the fatal turn of the battle—a breach in the Allied line through which a force of German tanks, reported at first only to be small, passed, headed for the Seine. But the enemy managed to exploit this success so swiftly and resolutely that the trickle soon became a torrent and then a flood, which set all the battle front swaying, never to steady itself again.

There is neither need nor space to retell in detail the mournful tale of swift French collapse before an immensely superior foe. The various outstanding incidents are fresh in all our memories. The surrounding and surrender of 6,000 British troops and about an equal number of French at St. Valery—the German crossing of the lower Seine and the threat to Paris from the west—the spread of the battle in ever-growing scope and fury further ever and further to the east, until all the line from the Maginot fortifications to the sea was in movement, a movement of Allied retreat—the decision to evacuate Paris without a fight which to all informed observers heralded the beginning of the end—the evacuation, almost unmolested, of the little British force which had played a worthy part in this final battle, and the turning back home of the new reinforcements which were on their way from this country to join in it—the spread of the flood of invasion all over Central France, and the swift collapse of every possible front of defence before it could be occupied in force or fortified—all this was the prelude of the last scene of all, when the Government of M. Reynaud, that indomitable incarnation of the very spirit of French resistance, fell and was replaced by a new one under the aged Marshal Petain, pledged to seek an "honourable" conclusion of hostilities. The rest of the pitiful story we all know, and it is too painful and poignant to bear the retelling. The full force and effects of the catastrophe that has befallen great but stricken France yet remain to work themselves out.

It is too early yet to analyse the causes which led to this swift and annihilating victory, of which Nazi Germany is so naturally and justifiably—though as is her usual manner so arrogantly and offensively—proud. It seems already clear that they were at least as much political, moral, and economic as military, as one would naturally expect in a modern total war of peoples, where every national strength finds full scope and every national weakness may be paid for in blood and treasure, if not in defeat and disaster. Marshal Petain's summary of these causes as "too few children, too few Allies, too few tanks," however superficial, at least shows their complexity, for of the three one is economic or perhaps moral, one political, and only one military. In fact, the Germans had on their side very predominant advantages, of which it must be admitted they made the fullest and most effective, if also the most ruthless and brutal, use; and once the French army had been manœuvred or driven out of the formidable permanent works designed to compensate for its numerical and material inferiority, those advantages, if properly exploited, were of a nature to prove decisive. So it turned out, and in a campaign which for swiftness and efficiency of conduct may well be compared with the classic operations conducted by Moltke in the late summer of 1870 France was forced out of the war and laid prostrate at her conqueror's feet. The armistice terms which she was reduced to accepting from him were deliberately and insultingly designed to make of her a helpless vassal in the further prosecution of the campaign, the last one that stands between Hitler and the domination of Europe—the attack of Britain. That campaign has yet to begin as these words are being penned; before they appear in print, it will probably have opened, and may perhaps even have been decided. It will take the form of an ingenious and formidable onslaught, we may be sure, and will put us to a stern test. But it will encounter far greater and more insuperable difficulties than that just victoriously concluded in France, and its issue will be decisive, not as yet of Germany's defeat but of the possibility of her ever achieving the swift and complete victory that alone can avert it. That victory Britain is as firmly resolved to deny her as is she to gain it, and this time the balance of advantages and the final victory we believe will be ours. And with that final victory there will come the resurrection once more from the ashes of sorrow and defeat the great and fair France of history, for a while, but only for a while, passed into temporary eclipse.

"THE WIRE" No.....

THE EDITOR,
"THE WIRE,"
95 BELGRAVE ROAD, LONDON, S.W.1.

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OPEN LETTER

TO

ALL RANKS OF ROYAL SIGNALS

THE CORPS MAGAZINE.—With the object of restoring The Wire to its pre-war circulation an appeal has recently been made to all ranks of the Corps asking them to resume that active co-operation and support which was temporarily broken by the outbreak of hostilities and the departure of a considerable number of our original subscribers for service with the British Expeditionary Force.

With the return of the B.E.F. to this country there are no longer "despatch" and "delivery" obstacles to contend with, and there are many serving with Royal Signals to-day who, if they do not wish to receive the magazine themselves, would be glad to know that a monthly copy is being sent regularly to their relatives and friends at home.

It is also probable that the war-time personnel of the Corps includes many who are not yet aware of the magazine's existence and they also may be regarded as potential subscribers if the publication is brought to their notice.

Despite the many difficulties that had to be overcome in the early days of the war, no break in the continuity of production has as yet been necessary and so long as the demand for it exists, and 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 provide the regular monthly news bulletins and to supplement such articles with snap-shots, group photographs, and 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 as long as a REGULAR supply of news can be maintained it will enable the Editorial Staff to continue with the production of an hitherto unbroken record of Corps History.

There are also many new Units of the Corps who have not as yet been represented in our news columns and to them we extend a cordial invitation to collaborate at the earliest possible moment.

The latest official ruling regarding production is briefly as follows:

1. War Office hope that Service and Regimental Journals will continue to be published, but it is of paramount importance that they should contain no information which may be of the slightest use to the enemy.
2. Each Editor will act as his own censor and will be held personally responsible for all matter appearing in his publication.
3. No articles may be published upon any of the following topics without submission to higher authority:
   - (a) Military subjects of a contentious nature.
   - (b) Modern tactical doctrines as accepted in the Army, or tactical theories.
   - (c) Modern weapons or equipment in possession of Great Britain, or her allies.
   - (d) Plans for the expansion, equipment, or mechanisation of the Army, or any part of it.
   - (e) Preparations for Home Defence or for operations abroad.

At first sight, the above may appear to be a formidable array of "Don'ts," but actually they concern us very slightly as we rarely, if ever, embark on such serious and momentous topics.

The chief object of our Corps magazine is to chronicle a record, in lighter vein, of each Unit's domestic activities and to provide readers with a monthly publication dealing with Corps matters of "personal" rather than "technical" interest.

It should be remembered that The Wire is YOUR publication and is what YOU care to make it.

For a number of years up to the outbreak of hostilities it had a larger circulation than any of its contemporaries and contributed a considerable annual revenue to the funds of the Corps Association, which is doing such good work among your comrades both past and present.

The need for that financial support to Association Funds is now greater than ever. Yet, despite the fact that the Corps is at full war strength, our circulation figures have dropped by 50 per cent. in the last ten months and the majority of our present subscribers are those serving in Units overseas.

Many of those fellows are "off the beaten track" and out of the limelight. They are anxious for Corps news and anticipate delivery of the magazine each month for tidings of their friends in other Units, particularly those situated in the centre of operations.

Their keen disappointment may be imagined when the magazines arrive and they find that the particular Unit contribution they had hoped to peruse is conspicuous by its absence.

It is only recently that we had further proof of the magazine's popularity when we distributed free copies throughout the hospitals to all Royal Signals wounded casualties. Those copies were contained in parcels of miscellaneous gifts from Royal Signals Comforts Fund and the following is a typical extract from many of the letters of thanks subsequently received:

"It was all greatly appreciated, especially The Wire, which I had not seen for many months and have since read from cover to cover."

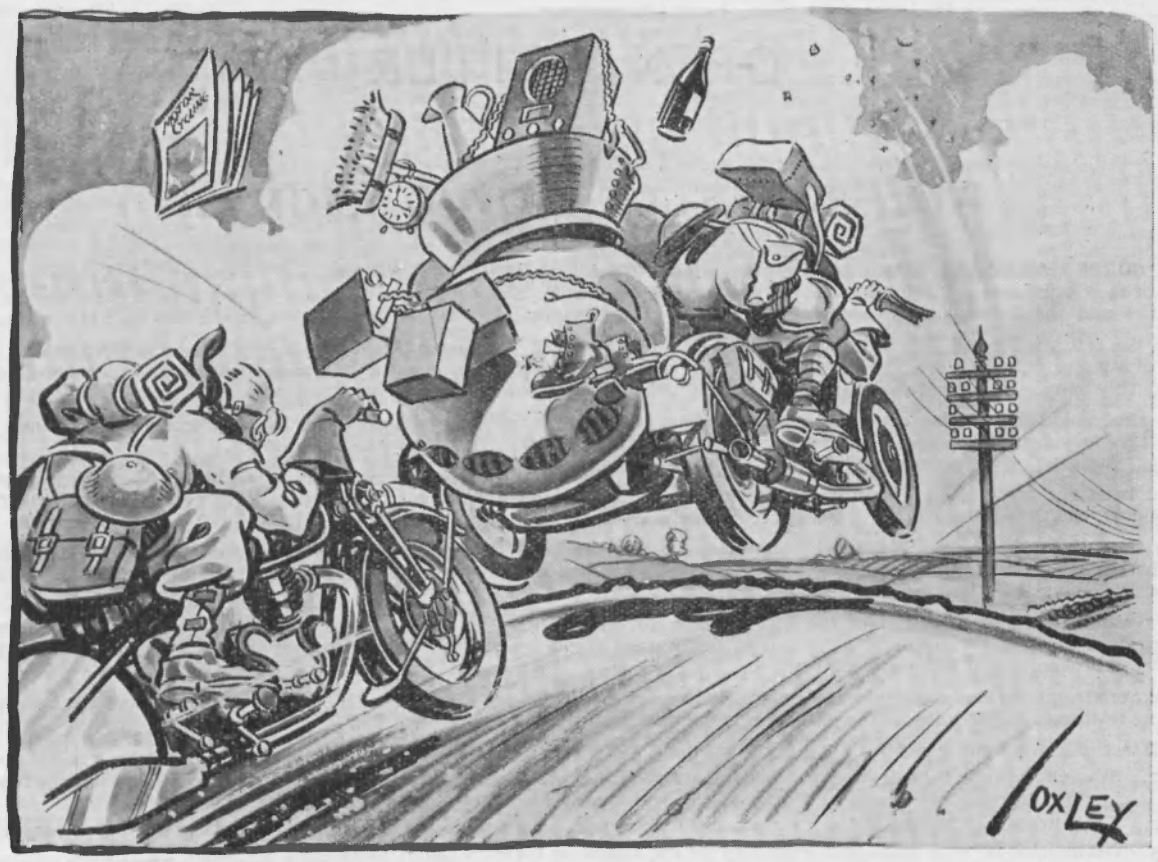
It has been stated at the commencement of this letter that the Central Committee have every intention of continuing production of the magazine "as long as there is a demand for it," and it is for YOU to make that decision.

You can answer that question at once by completing the Order Form supplied opposite, and sending it in to the Editorial Office with your covering remittance without delay.

Like the Corps itself, The Wire has always been in the front line. Are you going to keep it there? Or are you going to let it be jettisoned at the critical moment through lack of interest?

IT IS UP TO YOU!

The Editor.



"S.S. Oil Drag" was "loaded high above the gun'als with a mixed cargo . . . . . "

(With acknowledgments to "Motor Cycling")

It Has Its Compensations!

CYRIL QUANTRILL

Discourses Further on Army Life

(Reproduced by kind permission of "Motor Cycling")

You know I'm not normally the sort of bloke who takes kindly to soldiering or anything connected with uniforms, discipline and that sort of stuff, but that doesn't prevent me from getting a lot of enjoyment from our present peculiar mode of life. When I get into any bother with drill or a rifle, I just console myself with the thought that I joined up as a motorcyclist—not a ruddy Guardsman.

You may remember the last time I wrote of our doings we were stationed near London. Well, a few weeks ago Eric (the little man from my home town who gave the impression of having been filleted when on parade in the recruit squad) and I were called into the office and told that the following morning we were to proceed to Div. H.Q., "Somewhere in the Eastern Counties," in company with a Scotch "hammer and chisel merchant." Despite the fact that she was loaded high above the gun'als with a mixed cargo of palliasses, petrol cans, kitbags, tools and odd personal items, "S.S. Oil Drag" had the Little Man's 350 Velocette quite hot under the collar on the 100-odd-mile journey, and we steamed into the town's station well ahead of Jock's train—with true Northern caution the "hammer and chisel merchant" had declined the offer of a pillion ride. While waiting in the station yard, there was a slight impasse with a "Red Cap," who disliked our vintage storm coats; we got out of that lot by explaining that they were relics from the Great War!

Refreshed by "Naffy" tea, we trailed the speeding Ford V8 van, sent to collect Jock, over the mile or so out to our new "home," which turned out to be a fine old mansion standing in pleasant grounds. "Satan's Cavalry" were rather appropriately housed in the stable buildings, and, in addition to being equipped with an old-fashioned kitchen grate, the room in which we were to be billeted had its walls decorated with those pictures of T.T. races, "Olly" at Brands Hatch, and lovely ladies, which are a feature of so many clubrooms; and, joy of joys, we were issued with camp beds for the first time in our Army career.

Since that day I have been on "active service" in England. There is no dicing along with things that go bang, and whoomph, dropping all round us, but then we get no rum ration to steel us for that sort of thing. Otherwise, I suppose our job approximates to the "real thing": the weekly mileage, covered on woofle-irons, is pretty terrific, and we manage to keep to fairly tight schedules despite the disappearance of signposts and the bad habits that Units have of changing their addresses overnight.

Concerning the present lack of any "route-marking," there is a story about "Bonaparte" (a Londoner named Bearpark whose signature was once deciphered as that). Being none too sure whether he was on the correct road to somewhere-or-other, he stopped to ask a gent wearing something resembling a bus conductor's uniform, who was cycling towards him.

"Is this the right road for Little Pottington?"

He was somewhat astonished when a fatherly hand was laid on his shoulder and the bus conductor gent replied: "This road

twists and turns and winds about; but the right road is the straight road, the narrow road that leads to Heaven." Very helpful for the soul, but not for the sense of direction.

In this part of the world these sort of people seem to abound. Only the other night, after a rather worrying day on the town's wet wood blocks, some well-meaning person presented me with a tract which contained the following choice little poem:

"Our life is ever on the wing,
And death is EVER NIGH,
The moment when our lives begin,
We all begin to die."

Pretty sentiment! And after a couple of hundred words of sob-stuff came:

"Just think some night the stars will gleam
Upon a cold grey stone,
And trace a name with silvery gleam,
And lo! 'TWILL BE YOUR OWN."

As, on the previous evening, one of the lads had discovered a C. Quantrill to be buried in the local churchyard, I began to be obsessed with all sorts of nasty fears and wonderings—but I'm still alive at the moment.

The real beauty of being at H.Q. is that there are precious few parades and no fatigues to speak of. There are officers all over the place, but we solve the saluting problem by the simple expedient of going everywhere sans cap. When off duty we sun-bathe on the lawn or have a game of billiards in the canteen. This establishment is, unfortunately, of the "dry" variety, and the "Bandy Bull," our local, is over a mile away. Perhaps as a result of this, Friday night at the "Bull" is a pretty hectic affair, with the Belle and the Duchess holding court in one corner and "Bonaparte" providing a piano accompaniment to the excellent yodelling of George, the cook.

Only last week "Jammy," "Bert" and "Little Tich" (another cook) organised some highly successful (to their way of thinking) manœuvres on their way home. A bus driver who came across them wriggling on their tummies along the white line in the centre of the road, neatly camouflaged with fern-fronds and some lupins from the local beer garden, took a different view of things however. So, I believe, did the Guard Commander when they finally turned up.

Of course, there is a magnificent "Entente Cordiale" between the D.R.s and the cooks. We all do a day's messing in turn, and as we each make a point of getting the job of "wopper-outer," there is no such thing as hungry Don. R. around our way. In return for our services as "kitchen maids," there is the knowledge that a frying-pan is always available when one of the lads is misguided enough to run over some poor rabbit. Owd Bob 'Umble had a tin of lovely little new potatoes arrive from his native Westmorland not long ago, and that night, after lights out, we sat in the glow of the fire munching golden-brown fried potatoes. (I had remembered that last year, when in France, tiny new potatoes done in butter had made a most satisfying dish.) Strawberries and cream, coffee, and biscuits followed—the while Ambrose and his orchestra played sweet music over the radio. As Eric sleeps within a foot of the fireplace, he must subsequently have had a pretty warm night; but it is evenings like that when we forget about the woolly side-valve substitutes for our "civvy" speed irons, and about our periodic bouts of home sickness, and we really enjoy ourselves. Whatever the outcome of the present affair, we have made some good pals.

All six of the other chaps in my room are clubmen, the South-Eastern Centre being numerically strongest. When Owd Bob, who rides a Redwing Panther or a vintage A.J.S. up and down Lakeland crags, starts making deprecating remarks about "buzz-boxes," "steam kettles," and so on, the fur begins to fly; and you ought to hear Len, from Maidstone, and Joe, a Loughborough lad, arguing about the correct pronunciation of words like "butter." Looking after us all is Sergeant M., who was in the Signals before they existed, so to speak, and is too much of an old soldier to pour scorn on his "lads" when they display their

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profound ignorance of military details. He can spin a pretty yarn when the occasion arises.

"Ever been to Spain, Sarge?" somebody queried the other day.

"Lord, yes, lad. Lovely girls—not that they've ever interested me much; bull fights, y'know and such like are more up my street. Seen a few of 'em in my time, real big does, where the blokes in the ring get 1,000 pesetas a show—some must make £20,000 a year, but I don't suppose they last all that long.

"The procession's the big moment. All the performers—matadors, picadors, toreadors, open-and-shut-the-doors—march round the ring and bow to the Big Noise among the spectators. Then they open the door and the bull comes in. (He's been kept in the dark for 12 days or so.) Lovely creatures they are—all shiny and black. The matadors start waving their red flags and when the bull comes at 'em they just dodge, like this . . . ."

(Here we had a realistic demonstration of just how the matador did dodge, followed by a vivid, blood-curdling description of the fight up to the final moment when the frenzied, cheering crowds stood screaming as the dead bull was dragged from the arena.) And then, like a flash, Sarge starts off on another tale.

He can go like that for hours, and he is always willing to give any of the boys good advice. Concerning which, perhaps some of the following tips which I have picked up during my six months of soldiering may be of use to even less-experienced D.R.s than myself.

(1) Don't be tempted to blind on the outward part of any D.R.L.S. run. If you must indulge in that sort of thing, wait until you've delivered your despatches. Actually, the model D.R. is the one who maintains "railway schedules" whatever the weather.

(2) Carry plenty of insulating tape, a bit of copper wire and your puncture outfit with you always; and have an occasional peep at the tyre pump in case its internals have disintegrated.

(3) Watch out for barbed-wire barricades at night—some of them are in the most unexpected places. And if there is an air raid in progress, mind you don't get a load of buckshot in the pants from an over-zealous L.D.V. merchant.

(4) Treat yourself to a drink now and again—it's a wonderful antidote to military blues.

(5) Don't talk to sentries; you'll get them into trouble.

(6) Always be nice to cooks, canteen wallahs, and, if you can possibly manage it, to those insolent young devils in the Q.M.'s store.

(7) Pool everything arriving from home with your pals—it means a regular supply of luxuries as against periodic gluts. And try your hand at a spot of tin-plate-over-candle cooking.

(8) If, while giving you a "dressing-down" some warrant officer asks, "What do you think I am?" don't tell him! Console yourself with the thought that he has plenty of superior officers to give *him* a kick in the battle dress.

(9) Remember there's always somebody doing a worse job than you.

HOME STATIONS

Yorkshire I.

1st Operators' Training Battalion

No. 1 Company

Since No. 1 Company of the 1st Operators' Training Battalion became the " First Teleprinter Rifles," about a couple of months ago, the lads have had great fun and games ! More than that, we've learned a lot about civil engineering and constructional work, and it is rumoured that there is a movement afoot to give us a teleprinter operator's trade pay, a rifleman's proficiency pay, and Royal Engineers' trade pay.

But then you know what Army rumours are, especially in No. 1 Company of the 1st O.T.B. !

But to get down to the epic and stirring story of the first day of the " Teleprinter Rifles." They showed us something few of us had ever seen before, except perhaps through bleary eyes that were the legacy of a night of revelry. They showed us the dawn of day, but alas and alack ! The beauty of the birth of another day, and the call of the sun was lost in another call, the call of a warm bed. While we of the Dawn Patrol waited and watched, there was one paramount thought, the thought of the luxury of stretching out on biscuits, pulling the blankets over one's ears, and going back to sleep. When that thought became a reality, was there a skirmish ?

Tin hats, equipment, battle dress, boots and socks were divested from one's person in a hectic scramble. There followed a dive into bed—and that word " dive " is no mere figure of speech—and within five minutes practically everyone was emitting unmusical snores. We're grizzled veterans now. We've followed the advice given by our O.C. and learned the art of " cat sleeping." Now, nobody seems to care about getting back to bed. Anyhow, that is if one can judge from the numerous arguments on divers subjects that have a habit of developing, and the battle cries from certain barrack rooms where honour is either being defended or avenged in the Signals method of tipping unsuspecting sleepers from their beds.

In the beginning, the up-in-the-morning-early business was a bit of a b——ore (some applied another adjective), but there have been plenty of high lights in the short history of the " First Teleprinter Rifles."

They were grand days, and, though picking up roads and throwing about half-cwt. sandbags proved a bit of a " burden " for some of us. There was plenty of time to spare for pleasure and that river bank was turned into a rare old lido. Everybody from the O.C. down to the latest home-sick rookie, seemed to throw aside the cares and worries of war-time existence in the Army, and enjoy a rattling good holiday.

Throughout each day, and they were lovely days, the sun pouring down warmly all the time, that river was thronged with men and certain others—no names, no spud-bashing—all attired in their birthday suits. We all learned during that week something that we didn't know about some of our superiors. Such as who looks quite lean in battledress, but in actual fact has a decided paunch ; and who is such a very, very dinky figure when dressed in a natty pair of shorts and sun glasses.

Apart from the swimmers, there were the sun bathers and the fishermen. Some of the sunbathers caught a packet, judging by their agonised countenances when they donned their battle dress, but though the anglers did little in the way of emulating Izaak Walton—no, he wasn't one of those accursed scientists who discovered electricity and magnetism—they seemed thoroughly to enjoy themselves.

Especially was this the case with Lance Sergeant Cooper. Lance Sergeant Pickles was the most successful angler, because, after expending about a thousand pellets, he bagged a gudgeon of about two ounces, and what looked like its newly-born offspring. But Sergeant Pickles was more of the complete angler. With a beatific look of infinite patience on his face, he stood hour on end on that river bank, dangling a worm on a bent pin on a line that emanated from somebody's housewife, and was attached to a twig. The fish weren't having any, but it is alleged that since then the Sergeants' Mess has rung with tales of the ones that got away. It is said they were monsters.

But the doubting Thomases don't believe the tales of fish. The ones that got away were so big, they declare, that somebody is either prevaricating, or that some German submarines must have got hooked on that cotton line. When this tale becomes a legend, those mythical fish will probably have become ocean-going submarines, and Sergeant Pickles' name will live through the annals of the history of the Signals as that of the man who hooked a German submarine on a piece of khaki cotton.

Apart from sunbathing, swimming and fishing, the " First Teleprinter Rifles " did some real work during that week. Under the guidance of the second-in-command, heavy work was quickly done and we were congratulated by the Commanding Officer. It was really a good job done well, and everybody had a feeling of satisfaction when they surveyed their work. It was hard graft while it lasted, especially when the temperature soared over the 80's.

Also many inviting glances from the village lasses. These led to hopes of the would-be Romeos running very high when another of those mysterious rumours swept through the barrack rooms. It was said the " First Teleprinter Rifles " were to be billeted out in the village. Thoughts of Romance, with a capital R, came into the minds of the lady-killers, especially with one Signalman, who writes home every day and tells his girl of his fidelity, while he spent most of his time buying a stamp from one of the attractive maidens in the post office. Were they thrilled ? And was he ? He couldn't sleep at nights thinking of her. When the rumour about billeting turned out to be only another rumour, the poor fellow was almost distraught. In fact he talked about resigning from the army. It was only after his colleagues had talked to him seriously that he decided not to ask for his cards. It was a good thing for the Empire that he did not resign. Otherwise the Commonwealth of Nations would probably have rocked to its foundations.

Sez you !

So much for the " First Teleprinter Rifles " and their first days. Later on we hope to tell you more of their adventures.

In conclusion, here is a little tailpiece. A secret Sunshine League has been formed by the trainees in No. 1 Company. All the officials have been elected by the Committee. They are mainly gathered from the N.C.O.s. Some of them have already been expelled for acts contrary to rules. Others outside the elite circle are rapidly qualifying for membership.

The qualifications for office ? Well, look at the name—" Sunshine League." 'Nuff said !

R. W. M.

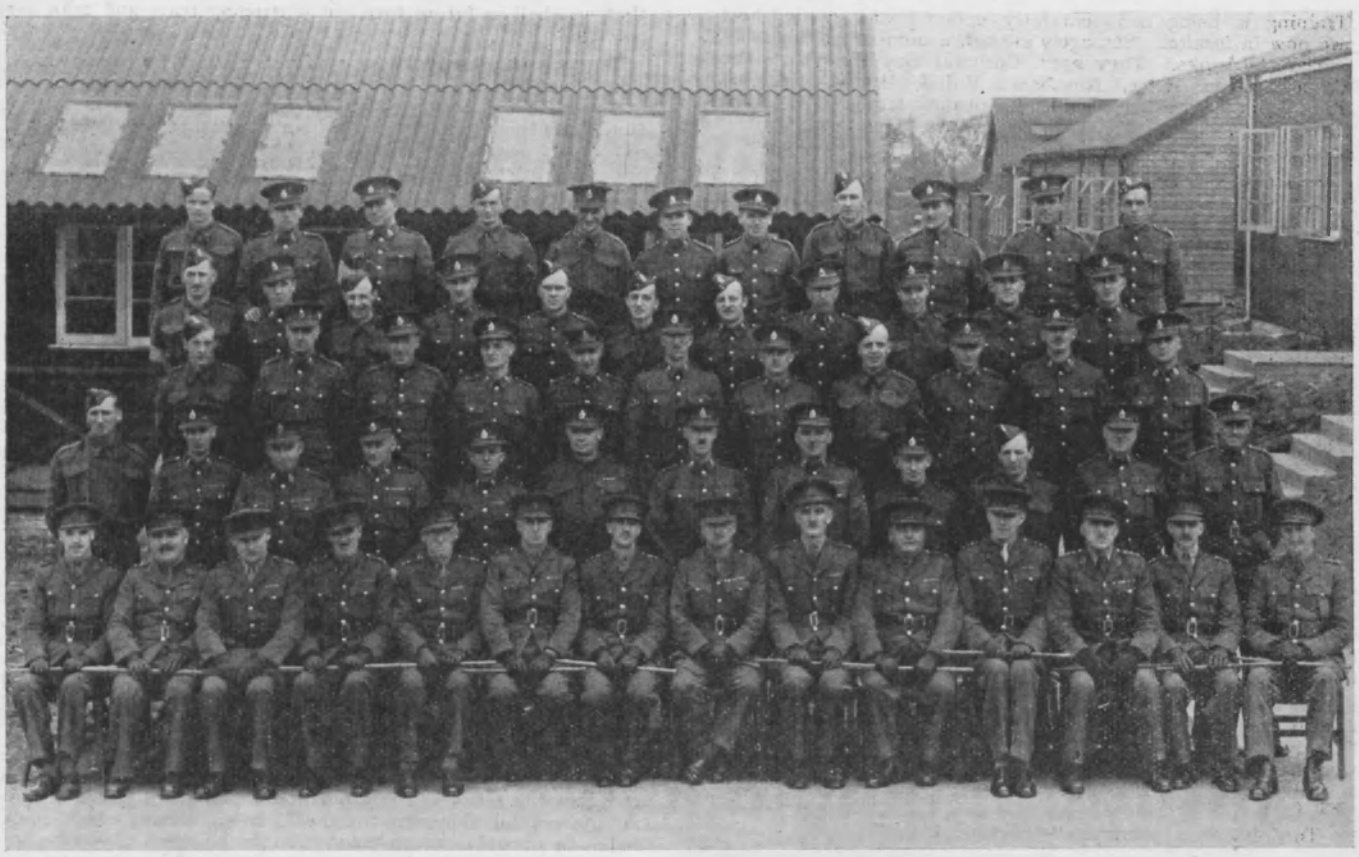
No. 2 Company

It is with some hesitation that a new Pen attempts a baptism in the journalistic creed, but with patience, ink and an eraser, the work is at last underway.

During the last month quite a good deal of work has come our way, but it has all been accomplished in the right spirit, despite little troubles and trials.

For a new-comer to the Company it is rather difficult to express a fair opinion of progress here, and after having been so long on the other side of the " Rubicon " it will take a little time before an unbiassed statement can be given.

We welcome all our new arrivals, including those who sit for so long and look so studious in the " Temple of Knowledge." Our advice to those who pass by that hallowed edifice—and wonder—is to pass " tout de suite "—and keep on wondering.



OFFICERS AND N.C.O.s OF 1st HOLDING BATTALION

Copyright Reserved.—We tend our best wishes to all those who have passed the acid test of the aforesaid " Temple " and are now endeavouring to squeeze a pip from the fruits of their labours (rather good that !), and to all those who have acquired trade ratings.

Leave is again a testy subject, and again we note some confusion between the terms " passionate " and " compassionate " ; fortunately we are not so easily gulled by deliberate misinterpretation—the C.S.M. has a dictionary !

It is with regret that we say farewell to Lieutenant A. M. Stonebanks. No. 2 Company wish him the very best of luck in his new appointment, and hope that he will find time to reflect on the brighter side of training days—if that was only visible on W/T Schemes far from barracks, or perchance on a " mo-bike " run in the squirting rain.

Sport.—At the Unit sports meeting we are proud to say the Company was well and adequately represented. It would seem that Lance Corporal Fairman has had lots of practice " heaving the pill." The long jump and the high jump proved that physical fitness is yet another quality we " acquire " in No. 2 Company.

Congratulations.—To Corporal Bond on the acquisition of a new stripe and pay.

Jews' Mail.—Walker 151. " Received your billet-doux. Good to know someone else is working like hell. Are Rice and Allen down to it yet ? "

" O " Squad.

Administrative Wing

General.—This time last month we were beset by heat waves. This is all over now, and we have reverted to the true local weather.

Promotions and Appointments.—Our heartiest congratulations to : Our C.O., and Captain W. J. Morris, Royal Signals (our Adjutant) on their promotions ; and to the following : U/A/Corporal Pyke to be A/Corporal ; L/U/Lance Corporal Perkins to be Paid /A/Lance Corporal ; Signalman Laver to be Paid/A/Lance Corporal.

Departures.—Signalmen Griffiths R., Kennedy J., Bartlett S., and Hazelgrove B., Driver (I.C.) Hancock and Driver (H.T.) Ingles H. We wish them luck in their new spheres.

Arrivals.—Lance Corporal Harris G., Signalmen Coleman, Tipping F., Connell F., Yardley A., Brown J., Cross S. C. and Butterley G. H., Drivers (H.T.) Shorey A. and (H.T.) Cross G.

We offer them a hearty welcome and wish them a pleasant tour with this Unit.

Births.—The stork, which has been flying low over here again this month, has paid a visit to the abode of Corporal Robins, presenting him and Mrs. Robins with a son, Lionel John Walter. Congratulations.

Marriages.—Having settled their fate, we have to report the marriage of Signalman Power R. to Gladys Esme Hill. We wish them every happiness.

Entertainments.—Once again the Northern Regional Entertainments Committee provided an excellent entertainment and we thoroughly appreciated the performance. The Unit dance, held recently, was also thoroughly appreciated, and we very much hope that these concerts and dances will become a weekly feature.

Stop Press.—A marriage threatens. More anon !

E. M. Jay.

Boys Training Company

The climatic conditions recorded in last month's Wire were truly phenomenal. This invigorating health resort is now experiencing weather which is worthy of its celebrated traditions.

Training is being conscientiously endured and groundsheets are now in fashion. Strangely enough a number of Boys have joined the ranks. They are: Corporal Boy Forsyth, Lance Corporal Boys Rowe, Kneebone, Mullin, Brodie, Kite and King J., and Boys Green and Cox (of tank fame). We all join in wishing them the best of luck for the future and may they soon reach the first rung of the ladder.

An ex-rat (perhaps a buffon) in the form of Fatty Holdsworth rolled, yes, rolled, over to see us the other day. It is rather remarkable that his visit coincided with the N.C.O. Boys' Gorging Competition. He always did have a nose for food and was heard to say "The seat of all remembrance lies in the stomach." No wonder he recognised everyone so quickly.

Now stretch your imagination a moment or two. Think of a Chinese village orchestra fanatically syncopating under a galvanised iron roof whilst a hail-storm vents its wrath without. The discordant bedlam attempts to maintain dance tempo under the primitive efforts of a drugged drummer whose staccato parididdles intermittently interrupt the chaotic symphony. Meanwhile some weird string instrument, accompanied by a Jew's harp, throbs mournfully in the background when an air-raid alarm rends the humid air. All this din gives a vague, very vague, idea of what our prospective musicians sound like at practice. Ask the boys in the south-east wing; they ought to know.

Congratulations to Sergeant Boy Rabjohns, Corporal Boy D'Hooghe, Lance Corporal Boys Roberts B. and Richardson G. on their promotion.

Corporal Smith A. has joined us from No. 1 Line Company and may his stay be a long and pleasant one.

Jews' Mail.—To Smudger K. from Hagopkagins. "What's on at the Scala?"

To Pop from Hoppy "'Ows 'appy 'Ampstead?"

To Nunky, Malta, from J.F.K. "When are you going to write?"

To Chink from Johnny. "How about it?"

Unfortunately, at this moment I have just awakened. Stop.

BUSH.

SPORTS NOTES

Hockey.—Our usual opponents, the School of Signals, have played us five times since the last notes. The results were in our favour as follows: 3—1, 3—1, 3—2, 3—1 and 5—1 respectively. The last game was one of the second teams and they proved themselves worthy to take up places in the first team as soon as there are vacancies. The games were fast, but not particularly good. The Boys' team had the measure of their opponents in every phase of the game. The team has lately been changed to find the best one to play against R.A., O.C.T.U., one of the best teams in this district. The R.A., O.C.T.U., beat the Battalion team by 3—1.

The Intermediate Workshops and Operators have met each other several times in the past month. The Workshops proved themselves superior in the final game by 6—2.

Junior Athletics (under 16).—

100 YARDS RELAY RACE.—1, No. 12 Hut; 2, No. 2 Hut.
LONG JUMP.—1, Knight L. (17 ft. 1½ ins.); 2, Ham (17 ft. 1 in.).
220 YARDS HANDICAP.—1, Moore (26 1/5 secs.); 2, Hine; 3, Knight.
JAVELIN.—1, Vickers (112 ft. 5½ ins.); 2, Ford; 3, Ham.
100 YARDS.—1, Ford (11 2/5 secs.); 2, Hine; 3, Moore.
BOAT RACE.—1, No. 7 Hut; 2, No. 12 Hut.
OBSTACLE RACE.—1, Ham; 2, Earl; 3, Dadswell.
THREE MILE.—1, Moore; 2, Christie; 3, Bond G. de V.

Cricket.—The Boys' team played against the Wireless Section and defeated them in a time match. The scores were: Boys' Company, 76 for 6 wickets; Wireless Section, 60 for 7 wickets. Lance Corporal Boy Hopkins put up a fine performance by taking six wickets for 20 runs. Richmond Grammar School are our next opponents and the result will be published in next month's WIRE. Lance Corporal Boys Hopkins and D'Hooghe and Boy Mole represented this Company in the Battalion team against a civilian cricket club.

Football.—Our team played the Wireless Section twice and lost both games. The scores were 2—0 and 4—1. It is hoped that we shall in future turn out a stronger team and take our revenge!

Tennis.—At present this sport is in its infancy, but we expect to obtain a few fixtures. The Boys who are keen are to be seen on every possible occasion practising on the courts. It is quite a time since this Company had a tennis team and we hope to put out a good one.

Swimming.—The first heats have been completed, but the final results are not to hand.

DOOGY.

S.T.C. Wales

2nd Depot Battalion

My thanks to those readers who have written to me since the last issue; nevertheless, I must express surprise at the contents of many letters.

One, signed "New Year Bride," gave graphic details of the engagement period, the anxieties of the wedding day and the "quiet contrasts of married life." Not being "Auntie Maud" of a twopenny weekly, I am not in the position of giving her the information she requires, but however, if the answer eventually proves to be "Yes," I hope my congratulations will be accepted.

Another asked me why, in these days of rationing, Popeye could still obtain so much spinach. The answer is, of course, that in the countries which Popeye usually visits, spinach is so plentiful, and the order of the hour would appear to be to persuade him to bottle the precious juice, this to be strictly reserved for the use of the inhabitants of some of the remaining neutral countries.

My third and last which I have the space to quote is to me the craziest of all. The writer complains that as "Comic Opera" was recognised as serious entertainment and American gangster films as intellectually lowering for the "cinema classes," how could ballet be possibly misconstrued even in the stress of war? The reply to these words of wisdom can only be "I quite agree."

Turning to Battalion affairs, two very enjoyable dances have been held since last month and all the sporting activities have continued on the usual smooth lines, although, possibly because the writer has been unobservant, there is nothing of unusual interest to report.

I have been told a tale, the truth of which I strongly doubt. A recruit, on being asked his date of marriage, replied that it was either the 10th of May, 1932, or the 12th of September of that year. The attestor's curiosity being aroused, the recruit said that on one of those dates he married and on the other his wife and he had adopted a child, but that at random he could not differentiate.

For the real news I leave you in the good care of the Company correspondents.

GLENDALOCH.

"A" Company Depot Battalion

General.—Well, here we are again. Your correspondent has worked very hard on his notes this month, so sit back, put your feet on the O.C.'s desk, light up one of his favourite brand, and ring for a coffee. (Who will?)

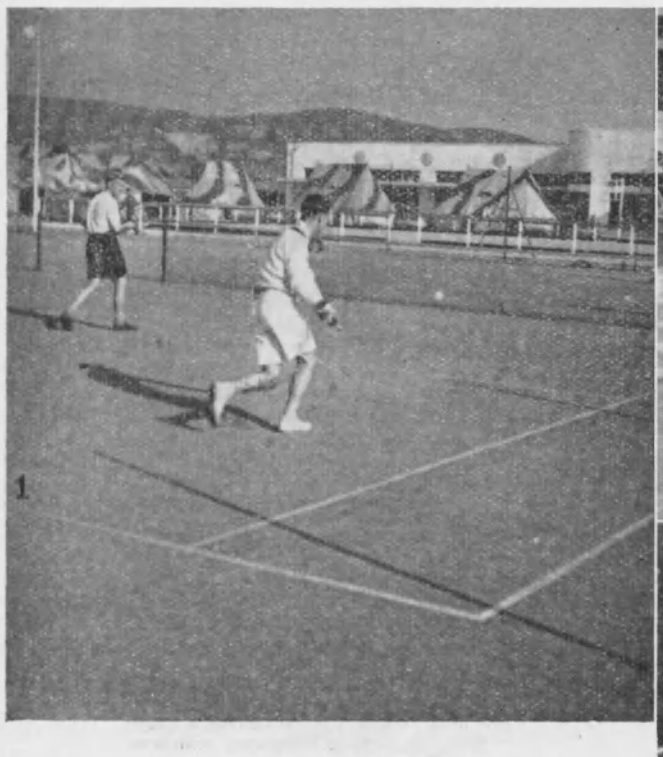
Since our last contribution the Company has moved into more suitable quarters. Our new Company office is a real treat; one can now sit down in peace, without fear of covering up half the office documents.

Our Q.M.S. is highly delighted with his new store. He told me that he could now swing the "proverbial" cat (or was it "lead?" I just forget.) Never mind, we hope he swings, anyway.

Squads are now billeted in barrack rooms under their squad N.C.O.s. This is a great improvement. But we miss the familiar voice of the Orderly Corporal shouting "All in, all in"; what's more we can't fool him now, as he comes in and has a "look-see" for himself.

Work in the Company is well up to standard, some good squads having been passed-off in the past few weeks.

FUN AND GAMES—"WALES"



1



2



3

1. Tennis Courts, with Roller Skating Rink in background

2. Camp Swimming Pool

3. Camp Concert. Hughie Green's famous Road Show Dance Band

Promotions.—We congratulate the following on their promotions, and wish them "all the best": Sergeant Wilson P.T. promoted Acting Staff Sergeant Major; Lance Sergeant Spargo W. H. promoted Sergeant; Corporals Kraft H., Styan A., and Reed W. J. promoted Lance Sergeants; Lance Corporals Roscoe W., Cavie E. R., and Barnes C. W. promoted Corporals; and Signalman Vaughan promoted Lance Corporal.

The latter being such an "old soldier," we think it is not before time.

Engagement.—We congratulate Lance Corporal Fulton R. O. (Jimmy), on his engagement to Miss B. M. Greenhalgh, of Southport, Lancs. Best wishes.

Poem.—The dance was on, the lights were low,
The dancers gaily laughed,
Then the M.C. shouted "Kiss me,"
Who was he? I ain't daft.

Overheard.—In Company Office: "I can't, my wife is up here now."

In the Q.M. Stores: "One for you, one for me, one for . . ."

In the A.T.S. Lines: "The only trouble is I don't like haggis."

In the Black-out: "Stop it George . . It is George, isn't it?"

Stop Press.—Flash! Enemy aircraft bring down barrage balloon. Hefty Harry gets goon-skin at last.

All for now.

R. O. F.

"B" Company Depot Battalion

I regret that there is nothing to hand from our "B" Company this month, but on his behalf I offer congratulations to the following gentlemen recently promoted:

Staff Sergeant Major Fowkes appointed Company Sergeant Major; Corporals Wheeldon and Proudlove appointed Lance Sergeants; Lance Corporals Davis and Richardson appointed Corporals.

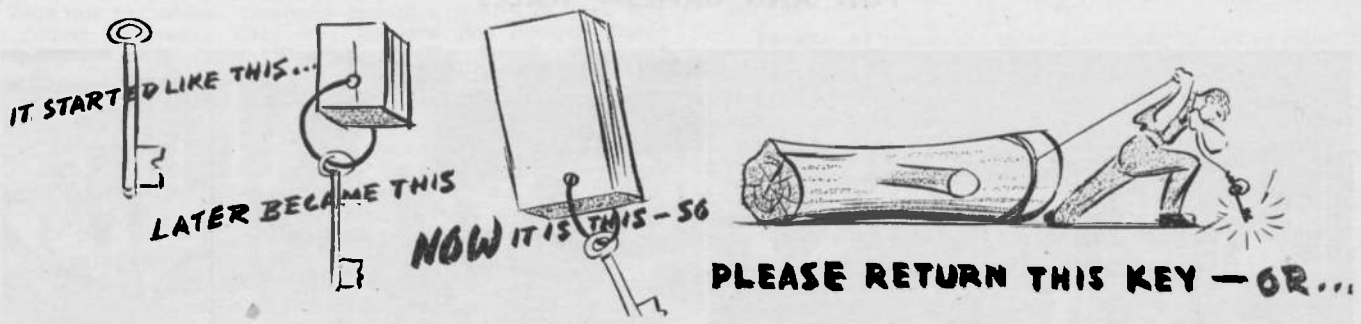
Corporal Davis is doubly fortunate, as, since the last issue, he has also acquired married status.

Our O.C. and Lance Sergeant Wheeldon have been doing excellent work in training the L.D.V. They will be in the interesting position of comparing 1914-18 recruits with those of 1940.

G.

Postscript from Administration Wing.—Our congratulations to those stalwarts of the Orderly Room on their promotions: Sergeant Bird appointed Staff Sergeant Major; Lance Sergeant Fudgell appointed Sergeant; and Lance Corporal Conway appointed Corporal.

S.T.C. WALES



" Instructors hearts may be large, but their pockets are small "
How " C " Company retains its Lecture-room keys

A.A. Signals, South-East England

Headquarters.

We are in the process of transforming ourselves into even better examples of physical development by carrying out a miscellaneous series of complicated evolutions on the green sward every morning, for we are being initiated into the mysteries of " P.T." under the guidance of Lance Sergeant Frankson.

A further proof of our boundless activity is the air raid shelter constructed at the " Attery." Under the supervision of Sergeant Burchell, came many men armed with picks, shovels and pieces of timber, and the assault upon the garden commenced. We have been made to realise the truth of two outstanding facts. Firstly, that gardens undoubtedly need an awful lot of rain. Secondly, the meaning of the term " spade work." We nearly forgot to mention that we had a beautifully drawn plan upon which to work. We wish to emphasise the point lest it be thought that this was a mere haphazard amateurish affair.

At cricket we have had the satisfaction of avenging a former defeat. We met the Senior Service side who proved too good for us before, and this time we won comfortably, thanks to the splendid fast bowling of Driver Hughes, who claimed 5 for 17, and Sergeant Whittington, who bagged the remaining wickets. We dismissed our opponents for 66, a total which we passed for the loss of 4 wickets. Having achieved our object, our later batsmen hit out or got out, mainly the latter, and our innings closed for 93; Sergeant Whittington with 36 and some big hitting by Captain J. W. Hyde, who made 18, were the chief contributors to our score. With an hour left for play each side batted for half an hour and staked a pint per man on the issue. Our hosts rattled up 87 in 30 minutes for the loss of 6 wickets and we felt we had something to beat. However, after an early reverse, we succeeded in compiling 110 for 3 in our half-hour turn, so we were able to claim the stakes, which, incidentally, were most appropriate for the occasion.

ORDERLY ROOM

Our Orderly Room is rather small,
  I call it " The Little Hive,"
But under the hand of Sergeant Gall
  We manage to keep alive.

Second in Command is Sergeant Frankson,
  A P.T. walla, you know!
When in his shorts he looks quite handsome,
  With hair as white as snow.

You ought to see him early morning,
  Getting us out of bed,
Every one with fits of yawning
  Wishing that we were dead.

Corporal Runagall sits by the door,
  And sometimes takes P.T.
" Now you've all done this before,"
  Says he with utmost glee.

At the Registration desk sits Harris,
  A Lance Corporal now, by jove!
A man who's really been to Paris
  (By a cheap day trip from Hove).

Then there is our Signalman Jones,
  A Welshman in every sense,
And tells us without any bones,
  That Welshmen " Sit on the fence."

Signalman Blackmore's our " Ray of Light,"
  With his friendly " Hallo Chum,"
And his persistent " Yes, that's right,"
  Has already had a good run.

Sub-Leader Richardson is the name
  Of the typist who's one of our members.
She always seems to be having a game
  With all sorts of telephone numbers.

Then, of course, there is young " Doug."
  His surname is Signalman Bone.
He curls up in bed—ever so snug,
  And snores with melodious tone.

Now there remains but one on the list
  Of the persons up here each day.
The trouble is he will persist
  In making puns on what you say.

We have visits from the fairer sex,
  Who work (?) in the typists' room,
Miss Colyer always up to her tricks,
  She never has fits of gloom.

The other one is Miss Fraser,
  A little more serious she,
But still can be sharp as a razor,
  If need should arise to be.

We must mention our poor old Reg,
  Who's with them all the day,
He always seems to be on edge,
  When we ask him what they say.

From this account you all can gather
  That we are a varied lot,
The Army's not bad, but we would rather
  Be thrown out on the spot.

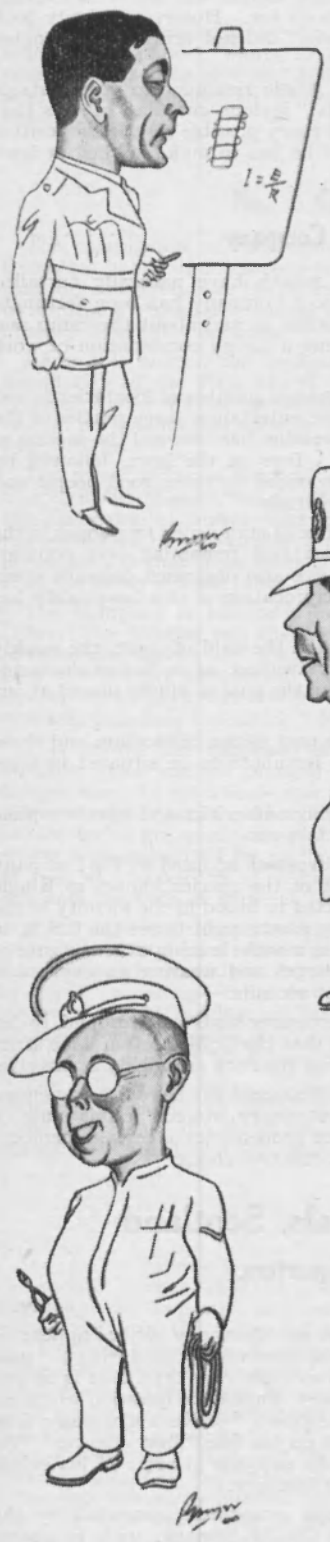
LEX.

NO. 1 COMPANY (BY A RECRUIT)

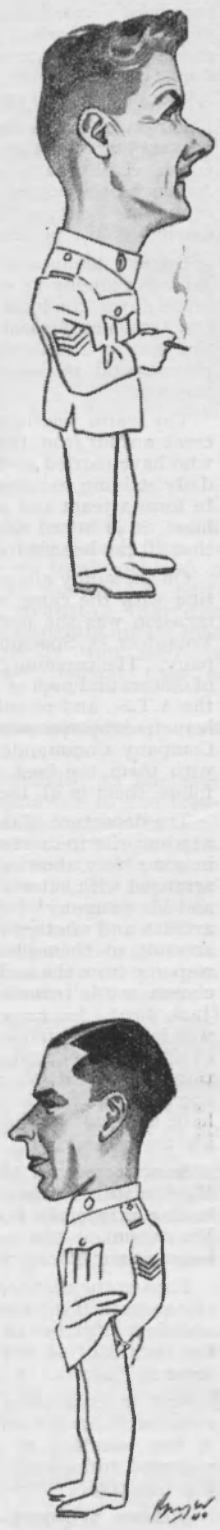
Until a few months ago many of us had but a passing knowledge of the existence of the little village of " Blank." Little did we then dream that one day we would find ourselves in temporary residence here. But here we are as one large family, drawn from the many corners of England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland—all with the same objective—to do and to give our best in the great effort to conquer the greatest enemy the world has ever known.

A.A. SIGNALS, SOUTH-EAST ENGLAND

MORE IMPRESSIONS BY SIGNALMAN L. T. BOWYER













Those of us who were members of the first Company of recruits to arrive have witnessed many changes in the life and activities of the camp. Memory brings back those frosty mornings when we endured with quiet fortitude the agonies of blistered hands as we dug into what was then a hard and unbecoming soil. Daily we toiled and now we have a garden that is abundant in its supply of vegetables and fruit. Everything is kept lovely by the guidance and jealous care of the Sergeants, who also see that the meals of both officers and men are fortified with the green products of our garden. Now we realise that our sufferings and labours have not been in vain.

However, it has not been all work. We have had lectures to interest our minds and to prepare us for more important work to come. Drills have kept us both mentally and physically fit, As has been reported previously in earlier numbers, we were well represented during the football season by a team that nearly carried off the premier prize of the district.

Cricket, tennis and swimming are now our out-door pastimes. We have among us some fine cricketers and given more time to settle down, the local teams will find us a formidable opposition. Our tennis enthusiasts have been kindly granted the free use of the lawn of the local vicarage. Here again we have some fine players and we hope that the efforts at forming a team will succeed.

The warm weather has seen a daily trek of Signalmen to the creek not far from the camp. Among them are a few individuals who have carried away many prizes. Others, less fortunate, are daily striving to improve their strokes. Again, there is a desire to form a team and as Sergeant Batchelor has offered a lending hand, it is hoped that all interested will rally around him, so that all can benefit from a sport that is both healthy and clean.

On the sunny afternoon of 18th June, a happy event in connection with the camp was witnessed at the Parish Church. The occasion was the wedding of Lance Corporal Reeves and Chief Volunteer B. Spackman, both popular members of No. 1 Company. The ceremony was attended by a number of well-wishers of officers and men of the Royal Corps of Signals, also members of the A.T.S., and to complete a happy gathering the occasion was honoured by the presence of the Commanding Officer and the Company Commander of the A.T.S. The happy couple carry with them the best wishes of the Company that success may follow them in all their endeavours.

The departure of our esteemed O.C., Captain A. P. Jack, came as a surprise to most of us. Not to let the occasion go by without in some way showing our appreciation, a farewell concert was arranged with entertainment provided by Signalman Dick Calkin and his company of signalmen. New faces were seen among the artistes and whether in wit, verse or song, the boys gave a good account of themselves. This was shown by an appreciative response from the audience. Captain A. C. Pitcairn in a few well-chosen words remarked on the good work rendered by Captain Jack during his association with the Company and wished him well in his new sphere. This was echoed by the vociferous cheers of all present. Captain Jack suitably responded. While regretting his departure, we congratulate Captain Pitcairn on his appointment to take command of the Company and hope he will have the same measure of success as that which was enjoyed by his predecessor.

A newcomer to the officers' staff is 2nd Lieutenant A. G. MacDonald. To the older members he is not altogether a stranger having previously been associated with them in Signals work. We extend to him a hearty welcome and hope he will have a happy time among us.

Though the occasion is rather belated, we take this opportunity of congratulating those N.C.O.s who have been awarded with additional stripes. Also the Signalmen whose work has merited the reward of an initial stripe. May this be only the signal of more to follow.

And in conclusion, we are very grateful to those persons responsible for the introduction of a library in the billiard room. A fine selection of books, by well-known authors has been collected and a loan of these can be obtained on application to the librarian.

Wisdom Whispers.—Two Lance Corporals feel very embarrassed at the daily congratulations showered upon them after rescuing two members of the A.T.S. from the imprisonment of a locked bedroom. It may be of particular interest to them to know that one of our Lieutenants witnessed their heroic deed. This column may yet have occasion to congratulate the modest heroes.

During a recent air-raid a new recruit was heard to exclaim that the balloon barrages were on fire. However, nobody took any notice as " Fireman Winnie " did not bring his fire-engine into action.

Which brings us to give a gentle reminder to occupants of Barrack Room No. 4 that this " jealous guardian of fires that never happen " is deserving of every possible rest. His position is not of such importance that he has to make his bed at least three times every night !

No. 2 Company

Circumstances of the past month have naturally curtailed activities considerably, but No. 2 Company has been fortunate enough to find a deal of relaxation in and about the camp and has been successful in promoting a happy combination of work and pleasure.

We are fortunate in having made a number of local friends and during the past weeks they have entertained large parties of the camp personnel. Favourable weather has crowned the success of these delightful " At Homes." Teas on the lawn, followed by musical evenings, have been organised by these good people and we owe them a big debt of gratitude.

The Canteen has been the venue of many good sing-songs in the old tradition, this form of relaxation remaining ever popular. Our comrades the W.A.T.S. have also organised pleasant evenings in their Mess, and the reciprocation of this hospitality has been a pleasant duty.

Aquatics have taken priority in the field of sport, the weekly swimming parade being eagerly awaited, as no better surroundings could have been chosen than the pool so kindly placed at our disposal.

Route marches have become part of the curriculum and these are popular events, as we are fortunate to be situated in ideal country for the purpose.

The " sowers " are now reaping and critics and admirers alike are enjoying the fruits of their labours.

Among the various forms of livestock adopted by the Company are two dejected looking fowls of the species known as Rhode Island Reds. These are permitted to brood in the vicinity of the Sergeants' Mess and it is a very pretty sight to see the C.S.M. in the cool of the evening, straw in mouth, leaning over the gate of the run, contemplating his charges and wearing an expression usually reserved for the newest recruits.

It is hoped that these unfortunate birds will respond to his treatment and it is understood that the L./M. Section have strict instructions to increase the size of the flock as quickly as possible.

It is anticipated that the establishment will have to be amended to include the services of a veterinary surgeon if this state of affairs persists, but the poaching propensities of certain members of the Company may prove an effective check.

A.A. Signals, Scotland

Headquarters.

July.

We observe with regret that our Company scribes appear to have been going about with their eyes wide open during the past month, so much so that they have left very little that is of any interest for us to write. Of course, there is no question whatever of poaching, but really—. " Sassenach," of No. 1 Company, is to be most heartily congratulated on his fine " first offence." We hope (for his own sake) that the subjects of some of his subtle wisecracks do not discover his identity.

The spirit of youth has been recaptured somewhat by the opening here of a school for Ops. Keyboard, with Sergeant-Professor Sandison J. wearing the mortar-board. So far, the results have been most satisfactory, and Sergeant Sandison and

his assistant, Lance Sergeant Byrne P. J., seem to have no difficulty in " putting it over " to their pupils.

We send our greetings to No. 1 Company's late Commander, who left us recently to join the — A.A. Signals at —. His successor, Lieutenant Evans, who is no stranger to these columns, has already established himself and is nobly carrying on the good work.

By the way a well-wisher (who must, for reasons of " security " remain anonymous), wants to know the result of the recent competition for the title of " M.T. Wrecker No. 1." Having no alternative, we endorsed his request " Refer to O.C. No. ? Company."

ACK-ACK.

No. 1 Company

The compilation of these notes has been delivered into the trembling hands of a comparative rookie, and it is to be hoped that any indiscretion in the future will not be taken so hardly as to result in his ultimate removal to convalescence, and temporary absence from these columns.

Early this month, the Company had the pleasure of being introduced to the Rev. W. R. Leadbetter, who continues to conduct Divine Service on Sunday mornings. His friendly and helpful personality has aroused the sincere wish that he may be long with us.

The recent influx of English recruits, rashly claimed by some as a civilising mission, has resulted in the transfer of nearly half the Company to billets next door. The removed sing loud praises of their new abode, but are greeted with cynical smiles. It is pointed out that those transferred were carefully selected, and that the name of their billet is —— Institution.

The Company is infinitely poorer by the loss of Signalman Cherry, the popular and cheery custodian of the Canteen, who has returned to civil life. Despite the capability of his successor, bars of chocolate and glasses of beer have not quite the same flavour these days. However, much of old Tom's spirit still prevails, including the notice " No Credit."

This month has witnessed an outbreak of digging in the grounds. One and all plunged into the work with vim, and competition—to get away—was rife. It was generally acknowledged, however, that the honours were carried off by a certain section which grappled with pick and spade one evening. Their efforts were supported by prolonged cheers, and their departure at dusk was marked by an enthusiastic soldiers' farewell swelling out from the beds of adjacent barrack-rooms.

A few days ago Company Headquarters defeated Unit Headquarters in the first seven-a-side soccer match of the recently-launched sports campaign. A hard game soon gave rise—and fall, in rapid succession—to a few palpitating chests. Practice, however, should quickly eradicate deficiencies of wind. It is worthy of note that the spectators maintained throughout that well-known attitude of loud, helpful criticism.

The following evening, Company and Unit Headquarters' stalwarts joined forces with the best that the various sections could offer, and our eleven gained a splendid victory over a strong and gallant R.A.S.C. team.

SASSENACH.

No. 3 Company

It is with diffidence I venture to pen a few notes for the WIRE this month, having neglected to do so for several months. Since our last notes appeared in these columns, changes have been taking place in the personnel of this Company. Lieutenant J. M. Evans has returned to the land of his birth (sorry No. 3 Company, you have been misled !—H.Q.), and his place has been taken by 2nd Lieutenant W. Gardiner. The latter was a very short time with us when he had to undergo a very serious operation, but his many friends will be glad to know that he is now almost completely recovered and enjoying a period of leave. 2nd Lieutenant D. Saville has also left us for another Unit. He takes with him our best wishes and we hope he will, at some future date, pay us a visit. 2nd Lieutenant Saville has been replaced by 2nd Lieutenant E. E. Bailey from No. 2 Company.



The heartiest of congratulations are extended to our late C.S.M.—Mr. F. J. Wheeler—on his appointment to the commissioned ranks as Lieutenant. He, too, has departed from us for No. 2 Company. His place will be hard to fill, but he has a worthy successor in Sergeant Bruce H., our new C.S.M., who is assured of all our support. Corporal Scott W. H. has been promoted Sergeant, filling the vacancy in the Mess left by the departure to No. 1 Company of Lance Sergeant Byrne P. J. The recruits recently arrived soon acclimatised themselves to their new environment. Other recent changes are the postings of Signalmen Malone M. D. and Aston H. to No. 2 Company.

The Sports Committee, under the chairmanship of the Company Commander, is still very active. At the moment of writing an interesting inter-Section football league is in progress and grave doubts are entertained that H.Q. Section will not head the League. Cricket also finds many followers, but the Company team got a nasty jolt recently when they were challenged by an unofficial team and beaten. They got their revenge, however, the following week, when they won the return match by a very narrow margin. It is thought there may be changes in the team. The tennis enthusiasts are very grateful to our O.C. for giving them permission to play on his private court, which is convenient to the camp. A match last month against an A.A. Battery resulted in a win by 3 sets to 3 and 38 games to 37.

We had a visit last month from the Second in Command and the R.S.M., and hope that the former has carried away with him pleasant recollections of this loyal part of the British Isles. All were delighted to see R.S.M. Drake looking so well, but we could not help noticing that he has got somewhat thinner since leaving this Company. Perhaps this is due to the change of climate, etc. ?

On 19th June a Trade Board was held under the presidency of the Second in Command, when 75 men were trade tested and only 10 failed to pass as tradesmen.

AMBRO.

The First (London) Ack Ack's

Frequently when compiling these notes the writer deplores the fact that so little of the really important story of this Unit's activities can be told. Those who record for the WIRE the news of other Units must also experience the same feeling. One hopes that the time will come when our part in home defence operations can be openly described—and it will certainly make very good reading. Meanwhile, here is an account of some of the events of recent weeks.

Promotions and Appointments.—Following a number of changes in personnel, various interesting promotions have taken place. Outstanding among these are the attainment of commissioned rank by C.S.M. Blood E. A., and Sergeants Baker E. F., Kitcat C. V., and Standley C. J., who all received their first " pips " on the same day. Lieutenant Baker had the surprising and pleasant task of putting up his second " pip " that very morning, in view of his previous service in the Regular Army.

The undermentioned have been promoted to the ranks shown : R.Q.M.S. Whittingham L. A. ; C.Q.M.S. Caseley H. H. ; C.S.M. Larkins T., and Drackford T. A. ; Sergeants Cooper W. C. S., Cowlard H. J., Perry L. J., and Wells H. F. ; Lance Sergeant Livermore A. ; Corporals Carr J., Grice J. R., Monger J. G. W., and Potter C. J. D. ; Lance Corporals Balaam D. C., Bowles V. R. C., Cotton J. W., Cuttler J. C. L., Ferry F. J., Frost A. E., Lee J. W., Rashbrook A. C., Sheen J. P., Sumpter R., Tresidder W., and Weeden E. E.

While on the subject of personnel, it will be noted with interest that Captain Scarborough, who was first commissioned in the 1st A.A. Signals some years ago, has rejoined the Unit, in which he is once more occupying a senior position. We are very happy to have him with us again. Corporal Eayres, too (shortly due to display three stripes and a crown), paid us a brief visit recently on his return to his new Unit after having successfully completed his Foreman of Signals course.

We take this opportunity of offering our good wishes to 2nd Lieutenants Winstanley and Hinde who have left us and are busily occupied elsewhere. These bright and energetic young men will be missed by all ranks, but we hope to see them in our midst again before long.

Social.—The First Ack-Ack dug-out continues to figure largely in the lighter side of our existence.

One very pleasant function on a sunny afternoon was a " strawberries and cream " party given on the churchyard lawn by Mrs. Newman (or, as she puts it, by Sandy, her famous dog). Generously heaped plates of luscious fruit, rich cream and delicious iced coffee went down very well with the troops.

Two more of the popular Tuesday evening concerts have been given in the Dug-Out. One was considerably enlivened by the presence of Joyce Grenfell (of the Little Revue) and Harold Lindo whose songs and monologues sparkled with brilliant wit ; this show also included yet another jolly " I Want to be an Actor " sketch, " Signalman, Save My Child ! " by Lance Corporal Lomas, who organised the entertainment. The second show was an all A.T.S. affair, produced by the Company Commandant, Miss M. M. Hemelryk, who herself gave a splendid performance, first as everything that an A.T.S. officer should not be and also as a glamorous duchess.

A very thoughtful addition to the facilities at the Dug-Out has been the inauguration of a repair service. This has proved most welcome and all our socks are nicely darned, thank you.

We had our first E.N.S.A. concert at the Mess Hall on 6th July, when a very capable company compered by Harry Emeric, the comedian, gave some excellent entertainment to a large, appreciative audience. We are looking forward to more E.N.S.A. shows of the same high standard.

Pressure of work and duties has delayed the preparation of our Unit magazine, the " Ack Ack Mercury," but a new number is about to appear and we hope conditions in the future will permit us to get back to a monthly issue again.

Sport.—Thanks to the energies of Lieutenant Q.M. Hall, we have been able to enjoy some cricket practice on the churchyard lawn, permission to use which has kindly been granted by the Rev. Bryan S. W. Green, the Unit Chaplain. An excellent practice net was presented to us by Sir Pelham (" Plum ") Warner, good bats, pads, etc., being provided by the readers of the " Daily Sketch " and C.S.M. Larkins. The chance of pursuing a favourite sport comes as a godsend to a Unit like ours, stationed in town.

E. G. L.

6th (1st London)

Since my last poor and boring effort to give readers some news from the Best Unit of the Best Corps, much has happened, many faces are missed, and many hundreds of miles have been traversed.

The Unit had its full share of warfare during those trying and tragic twenty days. It seems very much as though Jerry was only after the 2nd Corps Signals and I feel convinced that he was. Luck, or should I say fortune, was with us all the way through, because we were moved from place to place (which sometimes annoyed us) with such skill and swiftness, and often heard afterwards that our old billets had been blown to —— ; well, you can guess where.

We landed up on the fateful Dunkirk beaches and spent two rather unpleasant nights there. With great coolness our Commanding Officer (now C.S.O., —— Corps) " re-organised " the very crowded and chaotic beach and we were taken aboard various craft on the afternoon of the third day.

Many of us thought that as soon as we were aboard our troubles would be over, but alas ! We thought wrong, and readers will have seen in the papers how many craft, including the " Gracie Fields," had a card dropped on her from Uncle Adolf. Fortunately our Unit once again had very few casualties.

After landing in dear old England again, the Unit was re-equipped in Hampshire, surrounded by thousands (literally speaking) of Colonial troops.

We " lost " all our transport when it went to a south coast port to embark (to repeat the old Army saying, " for an unknown destination "). After two days' absence, however, it returned again and drivers (I.C.) related many tall yarns of their experiences. We were not to remain in Hampshire for long. After three weeks we were again under movement orders for the " Horsey " district. During our sixteen days' stay in Suffolk, we first of all learned of the well-earned decorations gained during our active service. They were as follows :

M.C.	..	Lieutenant (now Captain) J. J. Collins.
D.C.M.	..	Sergeant Wells L. J.
M.M.	..	Lance Corporal Lingwood R. L.

We were all sorry to have to lose our Commanding Officer, but we are sure that our loss will be Corps gain. Should you scan these notes, sir, we wish you the very best of good luck in your new position.

The vacancy of Commanding Officer has been very ably filled by our old second-in-command, and his old post is filled by the late O.C., No. 1 Company.

These two notable personalities have, I understand, just received the O.B.E. for very excellent work performed in the field. Another award has just been received—Lance Corporal Ashford A., the well-known Unit D.R., and even better known to Stamford Bridge supporters as Ashford, the Chelsea amateur forward, has been awarded the Military Medal.

Well, chums, what would you do ? I can tell you what I am going to do, and that is—just put out the lights and go to bed.

Cheerio, folks, more next month.

SERGEIL.

London Area Signal Company

Not a single sigh has been heard for the " good old days "—days when we had 120 men to do the work of 400.

Things are altogether splendid in every way since we have grown and now have 500 men to do the work of 2,000.

These are not the actual figures, of course, but it seems like 'em when you are here.

There are burbles of happy laughter and the cheerful buzz of crowds at work in all the corners of the place now.

Since " Taters " Crisp and Steve Guyenette went on a course for muskets and drill and things, obviously the only blokes who could be chosen to bring zip, and pip, and slap to the square were Speed Ace Tucker from " Brum," Titch Reece the Man with the Laugh and the other old " Masters," but what a job they made of it !

In the meantime the other experts with the diplomas and bits of things from the Courses have gone into " foreign parts " or entered those icy realms far above we ordinary rankers called the Guard Room or the Quarters' Stores.

What a change in the atmosphere it all is. Bonny young boys in flannels appear, with sports coats, tousled blonde hair and Oxford Street (or Zummerzet) accents and—cripes !—in ten days they're tanned and cocky and putting the " P " and " T " in park like veterans.

And can those boys do the well-known fatigue. It is the first time that these old eyes have seen a coal yard conquered with a grin—twenty broad grins, in fact.

Keep it up, lads. There is an enormous lot to your credit in your attitude, and for the Lord's sake don't lose that spirit, it's the only thing that will beat what we are up against.

In between the work the concert by the recruits, so willingly lauded by us above, was a piece of joyful work, and the Unit dance, quite the most successful yet, was largely improved by our first excursion into the new hall.

What the poor blighters who live in it think, however, and what was said to the poor hard-working Lieutenant who bought the banks of blossoms a la Dorchester, cannot be printed.

We want more cricketers, by the way, and as a Unit ask with due respect, if we cannot have one or two more cricketing officers to give that Raffles-cum-C. B. Fry-cum-Canterbury Festival air to the sports section.

Which brings us to our joy at finding the Quartermaster Buttle achieving the dignity of his commission, and especially to our appreciation of the speedy rise of our recently appointed R.S.M. Gover to his rank of Lieutenant. Here is a worker for the good of the Unit whom we too seldom see—except to keep the stuff flowing freely when carnival nights are here—but the amount of work he has done for the smooth living of all and the good of the Unit has been endless for many, many months. No one can testify more to this than the C.O. himself.

Among the many " crowns " we have had thrust upon us none has been more deserved or more popular than that given to So-long-Sergeant Wells. He is a real " beak " on parade, but has claimed the deep respect of all of us. It is fitting thing to find him our R.S.M.

It is with deep regret that we report the accidental death of Signalman Matthews C. H. while riding his motor cycle on duty. The funeral took place at Kensington Cemetery and wreaths were sent from the officers, N.C.O.s and men. Signalman Matthews, just out of his teens, leaves a widowed mother.

Is It True ?—That a certain N.C.O. recently returned from a musketry course has now gone on a diet of bullets and shrapnel.

That Corporal Reece's drum is out of tune.

That one of the new recruits wants to know why junior N.C.O.s are always complaining about " carrying a can."

That Driver Fussell has taken on a new swagger since being appointed C.O.'s chauffeur.

That a certain (?) driver is love sick for a certain young lady in the married quarters.

That Signalman Kirkham does not enjoy being tucked up in bed at 7.30 each night by the Orderly Sergeant.

That one of the new recruits wears his boots at the " alert."

That a new medical orderly supplied a large dose of mag. sulph. to stop a cough and did it.

That all the fitters wanted to do the repairs to the C.O.'s car.

That a new voice has been discovered for the "mike."

That the Sanitary Squad complained about all the work they had to do following the air-raid warning.

That a certain S.S.M. not hearing the alarm, but hearing the " All Clear," dressed hurriedly and made for the Command Post.

That Lance Corporal Masters is writing a song entitled " Knees Bend."

That a few of the D.R.s are writing a book called " Detention and what it feels like."

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CONTENTS OF THE AUGUST ISSUE

AMERICAN RADIO—A SURVEY
Recent radio tendencies in the U.S.A. are interestingly discussed by an American correspondent who explains how several revolutionary factors bid fair to bring about far-reaching changes.

ON LEARNING MORSE
New views on learning morse, which the author describes as essentially a psychological process in two distinct stages.

CROSS MODULATION
Although cross modulation is not so prevalent as formerly, a knowledge of its nature is still useful in detecting its effects.

COLLECTING SHORT-WAVE DATA
It is, as this article explains, not beyond the average listener with a frequency calibrated receiver to make a useful record of short-wave propagation conditions.

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That a D.R. on being admonished by the C.O. told his pals he was " abolished."

That Sergeant Bond takes great pleasure in making mint sauce from our own home grown mint.

That about 20 of the lads now wish we grew our own tomatoes.

That a recently appointed Lance Corporal is contemplating having his stripe tattooed on his arm.

That the writer of all the above would have been interned if he had not handed in his " hokie pokie " barrow in exchange for a suit of khaki

Thames and Medway Signals

The rather unexpected departure of our former scribe, " Jimmie the One," to take up duties elsewhere, resulted not only in our missing the July issue with our notes, but in the writer being " roped in " to take his place and act as the Section's reporter, despite the fact that the safest of hide-outs was occupied for days in an effort to " dodge the column."

Now that leave is but a memory and " C.B." for most evenings our lot, we are really becoming acquainted with each other, for those whose entertainment previously took them well away from barracks, are now to be frequently seen before " Lights Out."

The present phase of the war has, naturally, curtailed our social activities, but we have acquired a sports room equipped with table tennis, darts and other indoor games. There is, however, evidence that a certain party hold a monopoly over the " Monopoly," and that draughts often circulate from the sports room to the barrack room. Someone, someday, will surely " catch a cold."

And now congratulations to our lost friend, " Jimmie the One " —Signalman J. Redington—on his promotion to Lance Corporal and transfer. May his further promotion be as rapid as was his recovery after his recent accident.

Also congratulations to Lance Corporal Taylor W. on his appointment to Corporal and to Signalman Plane C. on his promotion to Lance Corporal.

There was little time for any of us to personally congratulate one of our new arrivals and, incidentally, departures—Signalman Lancaster H. J.—upon his marriage, for no sooner had he joined us than he decided to wed, immediately after which he fled ! But we take this opportunity of wishing both Mrs. Lancaster and him the best of luck and happiness.

A hearty welcome is extended to our new arrivals, Signalman Cox R., and Drivers Fowler, Hobson, and Wiltshire.

The former should keep an eye on the amps,
While the latter should make good use of their "lamps."

To Signalmen Heywood (Daddy) and Powell (Louie) who have recently left us for other stations, we extend our best wishes. May they be as happy in their new surroundings as they were with us here.

Things We Want To Know.—Who is it that has decided to avoid the pay queue and pay himself ?

Who is it that wore his hat at the " Beatty " angle and starched his collar for an important occasion ?

Who are the A.T.S. after when they ask for " Alfie " ?

Who hid in their clothes locker when the air raid warning sounded ?

YORKY.

Welsh Divisional Signals

Training.—Since writing the last notes for the WIRE, the Unit has taken part in two one-day exercises, at which good results were obtained. Although there was plenty of hard work to be done, every one set to with a will and judging by the cheers that greeted the cooks' efforts in the field, and the way the cooked meal was tackled, the country air certainly agreed with every one.

Training in the city is going ahead well, and the numbers of fully trained tradesmen are increasing weekly, speaking volumes for our able instructors, both officers and N.C.O.s.

Very satisfactory results were obtained by the men of this Unit who have just completed the P.O. Course of Operating.

The training of all officers and senior N.C.O.s in the gentle art of motor cycling has been completed, and every one is again breathing freely, and one can now walk along the streets in peace without fear of a " snorting juggernaut " cutting short one's young life. En passant ! One " young " C.Q.M.S. has very kindly offered to swop his mount for a safe seat in the comforts of an open 30 cwt. G.S.

Congratulations.—Congratulations to Major K. G. S. Llewellyn and to Captain C. Patheyjohns in attaining their respective ranks. " Roll out the Barrel."

Entertainments.—The venue of our weekly dances decided to take on a gala appearance on Wednesday, 26th June, and a carnival dance was held at which approximately 250 attended. A good time was had by every one, and the fun and frolics reached its height at midnight when our Colonel, Major and partners led the Grand March. This show was such a success that it was repeated again on Wednesday, 10th July, only this time a free show was given, no charge being made for entrance or refreshments, for which our heartiest thanks go to our Colonel and Major.

Several E.N.S.A. shows have entertained the troops during the past month and were voted a huge success.

North Wales L. of C. Signals

General.—Once again the Censor throws his impenetrable shroud of secrecy around my pen. I think this censoring business has been carried too far, because here, even the seaside rock is marked " Somewhere in England." Forgive me, therefore, if I burst suddenly into verse.

Opus Tertium.—

CONFESSIONS OF A NAZI SPY

I'm a spy for a broadcasting station,
I work for Lord Haw-Haw and Co.,
I give him inside information
Of the things that he's longing to know.

I'm not what you might call a traitor,
For they are the scum of the earth,
But I must obey my Dictator
Because I'm a German by birth.

I worked my way into the Army,
By giving false name and address,
The R.S.M. would have gone balmy
Had he known that my surname was Hess.

I've told him what transport we're using,
I'll tell you as well if you like,
It is, though it may sound amusing,
A wheel-barrow, hand-cart and bike.

I've told him what food we are getting,
Of eggs decent hens wouldn't lay,
I've told him there's no harm in betting
That the custard is burnt every day.

But Haw-Haw found out I was lying,
And he said that my spy days must cease
So I'll do the next best thing to spying
And sign on for the military police.

Marriages.—Still the Leading Leave Lever. More good men, in fact, are being ruined this way than by Jerry.

Arrivals and Departures.—Respectively, Jupiter Pluvius and Old King Sol, but very few mortals.

Sergeants' Mess.—A games tournament between Officers and Sergeants was held in the Sergeants' Mess on 4th July, 1940. The officers turned up in full force, the only notable absentees being O.C. No. 2 Company and the Quartermaster, who is happily recovering from his recent illness.

During the evening a general knowledge bee was introduced as a slight diversion from seeing the officers' boots off at darts, table tennis, and other games of skill. The questions were varied and the competitors are now aware of the weight of a pull-through and the name of the Corps March Past, etc. It is surprising how ignorant some people can be.

The sketch " The Dis-Orderly Room " produced by R.S.M. Springett was (we hope) appreciated ; anyway the C.O. got his " tin hat " back next morning, and the telephone orderly at " Bryn Odol " was relieved without further delay.

" Musical Corner " was another amusing item and signature tunes applicable to members of the Unit were the subject of much amusement. Another song, omitted in error, would apply very aptly to a well known personality, namely, " Roses are blooming in Picardy " (or Collieston).

The result of the tournament was, luckily, a draw, so the " Victor's Cup " was passed round and those who could manage it drank to the success of a very pleasant evening.

SLANGIS.

STATIONS ABROAD

Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron, Meerut

General.—There is not much to say this month, perhaps owing to the fact that the Squadron are all working hard at their respective jobs; most of the Unit have been spending their time with the District Signals on various Upgrading Courses, and we all hope to see them have the good fortune to pass their respective trade tests in the near future. The remainder of the Unit have had to keep the Unit running, as it were, and have got through quite a lot of work.

Arrivals.—Sergeant Rolls and wife from Quetta.

Departures.—Corporal Rawcliffe to Simla.

Leave in India.—Our second hill party left us for six weeks' leave at Kailana on 27th May. The happy band of hill parrots are as follows: Corporal Redhouse, Lance Corporal Clarke, Signalmen Hockley, Dodd, Leftley and Doolan, and Signaller Chandler. We trust they will all enjoy their staff jobs—if any

Leave Ex-India.—So far NIL, but this war cannot go on for ever, so why not be an optimist.

Sport.—The Unit netball team were entered in the last competition held, which included six teams in all. We excelled to the extent of not losing a single point, thereby winning with ease. We are now the proud possessors of a rather nice clock, which was presented to the winners by the Sports Officer. The netball team is as follows: Corporals Booth and Hounsom, Signalmen Trotter, Brown and Leftley.

The Unit hockey team were a little unlucky, owing to one or two injuries, etc., although the Signals over the way are still too easy for us. Of course, we had to let the Sergeants' Mess beat us, 1—0. But never mind, we hope to have a replay some day. The hockey team is as follows: Lance Corporal Cox; Corporal Redhouse, Signalman McDermott; Corporal Craggs, Lance Corporal Bass, Signalman Dodd; Signalmen McCormick, Lewis, Tuck, Trotter and Lance Corporal Peacock.

Sorry! That will have to be all for this month. A. A. C.

Inspection Duty in Tanganyika

(Continued from last issue)

Towards dusk thunder and lightning started from the rear and soon we saw rain overtaking us. Realising that the lost time had handicapped our chances of reaching our destination at a reasonable hour, I decided to head for a native village we had noticed on a hill top now some two miles away to the right. We somehow managed, by a series of spurts, to reach the village, only to find it deserted. (The tribe of this district, the Masai, is a nomadic one.) The huts seemed to be in reasonable condition, but proved very leaky when the rain came. Changing from one to the other got us drenched, so we decided to "stay put." Told to light the lantern, the boy announced he had left the matches in the car! Smoking not being among my indulgences, I rarely carry matches, so there we were with neither light nor warmth, just when both would have been appreciated. These huts are built of grass and sticks matted together with cowdung, and soon liquified manure was flowing from the roof and along the floor. I did not fancy lying down in such quarters, so put my raincoat on the ground, my change of clothing on that, sat myself on my clothing, tucked my knees under my chin and my toilet requisites under my knees, surrounded myself with the blanket and capped all with my slouch hat, which kept the streams from flowing down my neck. As may be imagined I did not stay dry for long but could not bring myself to change position. I dare not remove footwear, partly because I had no desire to paddle in liquified cowdung, and partly because I had a feeling that with one foot already raw I might be unable to get my boots on again.

At dawn (between 5.30 and 6 a.m.) a start was made on what proved to be the last seven to eight miles. I was cold and wet, stiff and sore, tired, hungry and thirsty, and the half-cupful of water I had saved for the morning did little to help. Every step was an effort and the boy rested after every twenty to thirty paces. After about five miles, six Masai women appeared from nowhere and refused to pass me, but kept just behind, and with their jingling ornaments made a musical escort for a very undignified entry into Loliondo, which I reached just after 11 o'clock.

Naturally, the District Officer and his wife were surprised to see me, but they were equal to the occasion and knew just what was wanted. I was soon enjoying pints of hot tea with liberal tots of brandy, a hot bath (when I was relieved to find no more than one blister on my foot), a good meal—and so to bed until tea time. By the next day I felt no ill effects beyond the blister; this I credit to the prompt treatment given me, although my boy, similarly treated, did not recover for several days.

A wire was sent to the Indian at Arusha for him to bring a spare pump, and the station lorry went out and towed in the car.

The return of the Indian being a doubtful proposition, after four days the District Officer scraped around and found sufficient to rig up a gravity feed system—an old "packall," lengths of water piping with elbows and bends, and some rubber tubing from his medical stores. All was ready by the 28th and the system was tested by driving to the Indian's store, there to learn he had returned late the previous night with a second-hand pump and a spare diaphragm. We decided to fit the pump, though disappointed at not being able to use the gadget.

A start was made at 10.30 a.m. the same day, the Administrative Officer, bound for his District H.Q. beyond the Ngorongoro Crater, accompanying us. We reached the Crater at about 7 p.m. with no serious mishaps. The car behaved fairly well, doing eleven miles per gallon, although the cooling system was still not correct as eight gallons of water were used compared with the two used by the D.O.'s car.

During the next two days road conditions were decidedly better and the car performance improved. Moshi was left at 8 a.m. on 1st January, 1940, and I reached Korogwe at 5 p.m., having averaged about 20 m.p.h. throughout the day. For the last 40 miles the car lacked power, but there was nobody at Korogwe to see to it. Within five minutes of starting the next day a front wheel spring broke, but a search of the old lorries at the various Indian stores at Korogwe brought to light a suitable second-hand spring. This was fitted and a fresh start made. We progressed fairly well for about forty miles until, after descending a steep hill, the car would neither climb the hill in front nor the one we had just come down, so that night was spent in the open. The next day the car was pushed back to the Rest Camp, where I discovered that only two cylinders were functioning properly.

From Handeni I telephoned to the O.C. at Dar-es-Salaam. He suggested that we should get the car to Tanga and have it seen to there. Further phoning got the car back to Korogwe and a rail truck ready, and we reached Tanga at 8 p.m.

I spent four complete days at Tanga and passed the time in wandering round, reading periodicals, and yarning or more reading in the evenings. It was pleasant to find an atmosphere so different from that at Dar-es-Salaam. Folk did not hesitate before speaking to a stranger. I was invited to play chess, bridge, billiards, and "Monopoly," and was invited to accompany parties to the local cinema, swimming beach and Club.

We left Tanga at 11 a.m. on 9th January. The car behaved quite well and I was able to cover 170 miles by 8.30 p.m., but on setting up camp I discovered that one leaf of a front spring had been broken and more crockery smashed than the total to date of all my previous tours.

Off next day at about 7.30 a.m., with just over 200 miles to go, and hopes of reaching Dar-es-Salaam that night. Rain, which had kept off during the night, started again. For 10 miles the road was good, but then came a stretch of forty miles without "runaways" for the water, and it was a tricky business keeping the car on the road. But the chief scare came when, without warning, a huge tree fell across the path. It was impossible to get off the road, but I managed to slow up sufficiently well to allow the tree trunk to bring the car to a halt withou

serious damage. I found that natives had felled the tree without placing a guard because they thought nobody would be passing!

After chopping the tree away we went on to Morogoro, by which time the rain had stopped. The Administrative Officer suggested an alternative route of thirty more miles, but advised asking the latest news from natives at the fork forty-five miles out. These natives were not enthusiastic, but thought it worth trying, and by 6.45 p.m. I had added eleven miles, which had involved the help of some twenty odd natives, the cutting of a considerable amount of wood to lay across the road, the digging away of mud, and the building of a dam with "runaways" to allow the water to leave the road! We stayed the night at a P.W.D. Camp and the next morning, by 4¼ hours' continuous effort, we covered three miles. Then came news that conditions ahead were worse! I decided to return on foot to the P.W.D. Camp, where for the first time since early childhood, I bathed openly in full view of females. They were native women, however, and took no notice of my unconventional behaviour.

Feeling better for the cleansing, I took stock of the general situation. I had enough tinned foods but only half of a small loaf and no flour. I had sufficient tea, but only two days' sugar, although there was plenty of sweetened cocoa. I decided to send my boy to recruit porters and then to walk to the nearest railway station some forty miles away. The boy started next morning, taking with him a telegram addressed to the O.C., which was to be relayed by walkers until a telegraph office was reached. He returned just before midnight with nine porters and a start was made at about 6.30 a.m. to attempt to reach the nearest railway station by the following evening and to catch the next train to Dar-es-Salaam. Shortly after passing my abandoned car we met a party which included ten fairly youthful males. I immediately "press-ganged" them and returned with them and the nine porters to the car, which, with many grunts and groans, native chanting and a straining engine, we moved three miles in the next two hours. For the next eight miles (to the River Ruvu) the road was bad only in patches, so I paid off the "press-ganged" natives, loaded up the car and with the "porters" as passengers, managed eight miles in about 45 minutes.

Once the river was crossed, by ferry, it was plain sailing. The road was in such condition that, in spite of the worn engine, fifty-five miles were covered in the hour from 11 till noon. Then came the descent to the Coastal belt and the last twenty-five miles took until 1.30 p.m., Dar-es-Salaam being reached a quarter of an hour before a search party was starting off! My telegram did not arrive until two days later!

Such is life for Signals in Tanganyika.

Corps News—Officers

Extracts from "The London Gazette"

[War Office, 28/6/40]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

The undermentioned Cadets from Officer Cadet Training Unit (Signals) (Ex-Gentlemen Cadets R. Mil. Acad. and R. Mil. Coll.), to be Lieutenants, 15/6/40:

Percival Wilfred Fountain (136033).
Maurice Richard Hewitt (136030).
John Edward Pennycuick Sampson (136028).
George Holmes Hoerder (136029).
Waryn Thomas Mogridge Gaskell (136032).
John Crockenden Green (136031).

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS:

2nd Lieutenant S. Pitham (132369) relinquishes his commission, 29/6/40.

2nd Lieutenant W. Gray (132370) relinquishes his commission, 29/6/40.

The undermentioned to be Lieutenants:

2nd Lieutenant Harold Thomas Thear (131057) late R. Norfolk Regt., 19/5/40.

R.S.M. William Charles Price (134887), R.Signals, 29/6/40.

W.O. Cl. II James Dodds Rankin (134888), R.Signals, 29/6/40.

Sergeant Harry Norman Brooks (134889), R.Signals, 29/6/40.

Lieutenant John Wallace, M.C. (131808), late R.E., to be 2nd Lieutenant, 1/5/40.

C.S.M. Arthur Gadsby, D.C.M. (134797), to be Lieutenant (Quartermaster), 5/6/40.

C.S.M. James Anthony (134798), to be Lieutenant (T.M.O.), 9/5/40.

The undermentioned Cadets from 151st Officer Cadet Training Unit (Signals) to be 2nd Lieutenants, 22/6/40:

Philip Thomas Collins (137838).
Eric James Dickenson (137839).
Donald Albert George Waldock (137840).
John Francis Webber (137841).
Richard Mills Williams (137842).
Norman Howard Blundell (137843).
Walter Manning Buchanan (137844).
Kenneth David Sandeman Craik (137845).
Percy Robert Anthony Farr (137846).
Thomas Halliday Hesketh (137847).
Malcolm Leckie (137848).
Peter Henry Loneman (137849).
David Jardine Mackenzie Reid (137850).
William Hambleton Watt (137851).
Dennis Westwood (137852).
Alexander Richard Merrick (137853).
Stanley Brice Lascelles Somers (138401).

[War Office, 2/7/40]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS:

The notification regarding 2nd Lieutenant S. W. B. Lee (109283) in the "Gazette" (Supplement), dated 15/12/39, is cancelled.

The undermentioned to be Lieutenants:

John Thursley Wigglesworth, M.B.E. (133421), 1/6/40.
R.Q.M.S. Harry Cecil George Barnham (134882), 3/7/40.
C.Q.M.S. Walter Sidney Anderson (134883).

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Corporal Stanley William Barnett Lee (109283) to be 2nd Lieutenant, 28/8/39.

[War Office, 5/7/40]

The King has been graciously pleased to approve of the undermentioned award for gallant and distinguished service in action in connection with recent operations:

MILITARY MEDAL.

No. 2319579 Signalman Arthur Gregory, Royal Signals.

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

The undermentioned Cadets from Officer Cadet Training Unit (Signals) (Ex-Gentlemen Cadets R. Mil. Acad. and R. Mil. Coll.) to be 2nd Lieutenants, 15/6/40:

Percival Wilfred Fountain (136033).
Maurice Richard Hewitt (136030).
John Edward Pennycuick Sampson (136028).
George Holmes Hoerder (136029).
Waryn Thomas Mogridge Gaskell (136032).
John Crockenden Green (136031).
(Substituted for the notification in the "Gazette" of 28/6/40).

Cadet Brian Stanley Walker (136008) (Ex-Gentleman Cadet R. Mil. Acad.) to be 2nd Lieutenant, 22/6/40.

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS:

The undermentioned to be Lieutenants, 6/7/40:

Acting W.O. Cl. I Stanley Gilbert Gover (137799).
Acting Q.M.S. Lucken Alick Humphrey (137800).
Acting W.O. Cl. II William Henry Buttle (137798).
Robert Victor Lester (31453) to be 2nd Lieutenant, 21/5/40.
Gunner Horace Alfred Robins (136500) from R.A. (T.A.) to be 2nd Lieutenant, 6/7/40.

Lieutenant H. L. Collingbourne (36126) resigns his commission, 6/7/40.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Captain C. H. Howarth (58973) at his own request reverts to the rank of Lieutenant whilst employed during the present emergency, 5/6/40.

[War Office, 9/7/40]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

The undermentioned to be Lieutenants:

Captain Anthony Bramwell Jordan (131784), 7/6/40.
Captain George James Rowland Hill (33266), 8/6/40.
Lieutenant Richard Philip Griffin (133411), 11/6/40.
Lieutenant Percival George Sly (118311), 17/6/40.
C.Q.M.S. George Edward Woods (137773), 10/7/40.

Lance Sergeant Charles Robert Neville Emary (137775), 10/7/40.

The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants:
Edmund Harold Newman (135316), 4/6/40.
James Ernest Capon Banham (135142), 10/6/40.
Corporal Henry Norman Inwood (137774), 10/7/40.
Signalman William Allan Cherry (137776), 10/7/40.
C.S.M. Reginald Henry Fishwick (137688) to be Lieutenant (Quartermaster), 12/6/40.

[War Office, 11/7/40]

The King has been graciously pleased to give orders for the following appointments to the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, for distinguished services in the field:

To be an additional member of the Military Division of the Third Class or Companions of the said Most Honourable Order:

Major-General (Acting Lieutenant-General) Henry Colville Barclay Wemyss, D.S.O., M.C.
Colonel (Acting Brigadier) Ralph Chenevix Trench, O.B.E., M.C.

The King has been graciously pleased to give orders for the following promotions in, and appointments to the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, for distinguished services in the field:

To be additional Commanders of the Military Division of the said Most Excellent Order:

Colonel Fitz-Alan Drayson, M.C. (ret. pay).
Colonel (Acting Brigadier) Geoffrey Ernest Mansergh, M.C. (appointment to be dated 1/6/40).
Colonel Arthur Clifton Sykes, D.S.O., O.B.E.

To be additional Officers of the Military Division of the said Most Excellent Order:

Major Arthur Emerson Barton, Royal Signals.
Lieutenant-Colonel Herbert Dacres Beadon, M.C., Royal Signals.
Lieutenant-Colonel George William Cumming, T.D., Royal Signals.
Lieutenant-Colonel Francis Herbert Dallison, M.C., Royal Signals (S.R.).
Major John Gordon Deedes, M.B.E., Royal Signals (R. of O.).
Lieutenant-Colonel Bryan Trevor Godfrey-Faussett, M.C., Royal Signals (T.A.).
Lieutenant-Colonel Cecil Lee Howard Humphreys, T.D., M.INST.C.E., M.I.MECH.E., Royal Signals (T.A.).
Major William Henry Lloyd, M.C., Royal Signals (T.A.).
Lieutenant-Colonel Leslie Burtonshaw Nicholls, Royal Signals.
Major (Acting Lieutenant-Colonel) Hubert Elvin Rance, Royal Signals.
Captain (Acting Major) Hugh Cuthbert Basset Rogers, Royal Signals.
Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Stanley Smith, M.C., D.C.M., Royal Signals (S.R.).
Lieutenant-Colonel William Francis Jackson, M.C., T.D., Royal Signals (T.A.).

To be additional members of the Military Division of the said Most Excellent Order:

Lieutenant (Acting Captain) Desmond Greystoke Allen, Royal Signals (T.A.).
Lieutenant (Quartermaster) Hugh James Lauder Archbold, Royal Signals (S.R.).
No. 2308270 W.O. Cl. I (R.S.M.) Herbert John Richard Bailey, Royal Signals (S.R.).
Captain William Blow Gurney Collis, B.SC., Royal Signals (T.A.).
2nd Lieutenant Alan Robert Dyce, Royal Signals (S.R.).
Lieutenant Francis Alexander Hough, Royal Signals (S.R.).
Captain Basil Minor, Royal Signals (T.A.).
2nd Lieutenant William Leonard Renecle, Royal Signals (S.R.).
Captain David Maitland Smyth, Royal Signals.
Lieutenant (Acting Captain) Cyril Tennant Williams, Royal Signals.
Captain Frank William Percy Bradford, Royal Signals
Captain (Inspector of Permanent Communications) William Clark, Royal Signals.
Captain Sidney John Dagg, B.A., Royal Signals.
No. 2315339 Warrant Officer Cl. II (Foreman of Signals) Arthur William Holt, Royal Signals.
No. 2312362 Warrant Officer Cl. I (Foreman of Signals) (Sergeant Major) Thomas Paterson, Royal Signals.
Temporary Lieutenant (Quartermaster) Albert Edwin Smart, Royal Signals.

The King has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards in recognition of services in the field:

The Medal of the Military Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire for Meritorious Service:

No. 2311463 Sergeant Frederick Leonard Craddock, R.Signals (S.R.).
No. 2023843 Corporal James Arthur Garnett, R.Signals.
No. 2338923 Lance Corporal Edward Hewson, R.Signals (S.R.).
No. 2558661 Lance Corporal Henry Hamilton McGosh, R.Signals (S.R.).
No. 2324558 Signalman John Joseph McLeod, R.Signals (S.R.).
No. 2360555 Signalman Walter John Salter, R.Signals.
No. 2324613 Lance Corporal (Acting Corporal) Montford George Southall, R.Signals.
No. 5669929 Sergeant Hubert William Hitchen Treloar, R.Signals.

The King has been graciously pleased to approve of the undermentioned awards for gallant and distinguished services in action in connection with recent operations:

The Military Cross:

Lieutenant (Acting Captain) Alfred Francis Freeman, R.Signals.
Lieutenant Ernest Herbert Wilkinson, R.Signals.

The Distinguished Conduct Medal:

No. 2308424 Warrant Officer Cl. I (R.S.M.) Percy William Phillp, R.Signals.
Warrant Officer Cl. II (R.Q.M.S.) W. W. Page, R.Signals
No. 4031837 C.Q.M.S. Cecil Frederick White, R.Signals.
No. 2560755 Sergeant William Dearlove, R.Signals.
No. 5105857 Sergeant Gordon Arthur Stanley, R.Signals.

The Military Medal:

No. 6395313 Sergeant Thomas Walter Goldsmith, R.Signals.
No. 2321067 Lance Sergeant Herbert Beevers, R.Signals.
No. 2326462 Corporal Andrew Alexander, R.Signals.
No. 2577890 Corporal Luke Burnside, R.Signals.
No. 2568414 Corporal E. Gilling, R.Signals.
No. 2560652 Corporal George Lawson, R.Signals.
No. 2573667 Lance Corporal Lionel Halford, R.Signals.
No. 2575973 Signalman Arthur Ashford, R.Signals.
No. 2590718 Signalman L. A. Baker, R.Signals.
No. 2581852 Signalman Eric James Bonsall, R.Signals.
No. 2580921 Signalman Francis Leslie Shelmerdine, R.Signals.
No. 2586638 Signalman A. Coxon, R.Signals.
No. 2583403 Signalman George Edwin Dean, R.Signals.
No. 2319377 Signalman Albert Richard Fish, R.Signals.
No. 2590646 Signalman A. Haworth, R.Signals.
No. 2320267 Signalman Thomas Frederick Hough, R.Signals.
No. 2322662 Signalman Frederick Guy Hussey, R.Signals.
No. 2574424 Signalman J. T. Latham, R.Signals.
No. 2319713 Signalman James Cameron MacAlister, R.Signals.
No. 2320604 Signalman John Henry Mullard, R.Signals.
No. 2586058 Signalman T. Thompson, R.Signals.
No. 2571302 Signalman J. W. Wilson, R.Signals.
No. 2339496 Driver Leslie Henry Watkinson, R.Signals.

[War Office, 12/7/40]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

The undermentioned Lieutenants (T.M.O.s) (Emergency Commissions) to be Lieutenants (T.M.O.s), 19/12/39:
James Mollison Laing (100630).

Guy Rodwell Bishop (107084).

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Lieutenant-Colonel and Brevet-Colonel M. F. Allan (36474) (from Supp. Res. of Off.) to be Lieutenant-Colonel and Brevet-Colonel, 1/1/40, retaining his present seniority.

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS :

Captain Alfred Benjamin Diplock, M.C. (135707) to be Lieutenant, 11/6/40.

Captain John Alexander Wood, M.C., A.M.I.E.E. (48627) to be Lieutenant, 11/6/40.

John Rodgers (135803) to be 2nd Lieutenant, 15/6/40.

Alfred Henry Leonard (135950) to be 2nd Lieutenant, 18/6/40.

The undermentioned Cadets from 152nd Officer Cadet Training Unit to be 2nd Lieutenants except as otherwise stated :

Ernest John Denbow (140315) to be Lieutenant, 6/7/40.
John Anthony Graham (140317), to be Lieutenant, 6/7/40.
Ernest Marcham (140318), to be Lieutenant, 6/7/40.
Kenneth William Jordan (140320), to be Lieutenant, 6/7/40.
Lawrence Frederick Robson (140312).
Trevor Angus Boothroyd (140313).
James Bourn (140314).
Geoffrey Fowkes Hirst (140316).
Guy Redding Thompson (140319).

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Captain G. A. Fleming (58972) at his own request, reverts to the rank of Lieutenant whilst employed during the present emergency, 29/6/40.

[War Office, 16/7/40]

REGULAR ARMY—COMMANDS AND STAFF.

Major-General E. A. Osborne, C.B., D.S.O., Colonel-Commandant, R.Signals, from a Comdr. to be Spec. Empld., and is granted the acting rank of Lieutenant-General, 26/6/40.

The undermentioned Colonel (temporary Brigadier) is granted the acting rank of Major-General whilst spec. empld., 8/5/40 :

R. Chenevix-Trench, C.B., O.B.E., M.C.

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS :

The undermentioned to be Lieutenants, 17/7/40 :

W.O. Cl. III James Arthur Cakebread (137733) from R.A.C.
W.O. Cl. III Charles Frederick Bunce (137739).
C.Q.M.S. Lionel Phillips (137731).

2nd Lieutenant William Burnett (136451) to be 2nd Lieutenant 22/6/40.

W.O. Cl. III Wilfrid Charles Jackson (137740) from R.A. to be 2nd Lieutenant, 17/7/40.

Acting W.O. Cl. I (S.C.) Albert Edward Wells (137616), to be Lieutenant (Quartermaster), 22/6/40.

The undermentioned Cadets from 151st Officer Cadet Training Unit to be 2nd Lieutenants, 6/7/40 :

Ian Peter Mackay (140179).
Donald Halliday Miller (140178).
David Alexander Stephen (140177).
Frederick George Barnes (140176).
James Davidson (140175).
George Edgar Graham (140174).
Hugh Ward Higson (140173).
John James Macbeth (140172).
Charles Spencer Pratt (140171).
Alexander Smith (140170).
The above to take precedence next below 2nd Lieutenant G. F. Hirst (140316).
James Lonsdale Haselwood (140169).
To take precedence next below 2nd Lieutenant G. R. Thompson (140319).

[War Office, 19/7/40]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS :

The Christian names of Lieutenant Edward Stanley Jones (117755) are as now described and not as stated in " Gazette" (Supplement) dated 20/2/40.

The undermentioned to be Lieutenants :

Lieutenant Harry Douglas Harvey (135255), 13/5/40.
John Chipperfield De Wardt (133709), 11/6/40.
R.S.M. Alexander Mowatt (137724), R.Signals, 20/7/40.
Douglas Henry Norton (125517) to be 2nd Lieutenant, 12/2/40.

The notification regarding Lieutenant (Quartermaster) W. A. Smith (121901) in " Gazette " (Supplement), dated 12/4/40 is cancelled.

The undermentioned to be Lieutenants (Quartermaster) :

R.Q.M.S. William Ainsworth Smith, M.B.E., M.M. (121901), 20/1/40.
R.S.M. Cecil Ernest Bryant (137621), 14/6/40.
R.S.M. John Mansbridge Swatton (137629), 17/6/40.
C.S.M. James Arthur McKee (137626) to be Lieutenant (T.M.O.), 29/6/40.

The undermentioned Cadets from 151st Officer Cadet Training Unit to be 2nd Lieutenants, 13/7/40 :

Peter Hazell (140321).
Henry George Arthur Sexton (140322).
Errol Gilchrist Whittall (140323).
Desmond Victor Close (140324).
John Herbert Cooper (140325).
Thomas John Doonan (140326).
Emlyn Wynne Evans (140327).
Donovan Paul John Holbrook (140328).
Norman Horner (140329).
Patrick Hubert Mathews (140330).
Henry Peacock (140331).

[War Office, 23/7/40]

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Captain (temporary Major) and Admin. Officer J. Jardine, M.B.E. (31298) Captain Res. of Off., relinquishes his appointment as Admin. Officer, 2/9/39.

[War Office, 26/7/40]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS :

The undermentioned to be Lieutenants :

W.O. Cl. II William Harry Bowler (113050), R.Signals, 27/7/40.
W.O. Cl. II Herbert Ernest Gresham (137713), R.Signals, 27/7/40.
C.S.M. Leslie Bramwell (137639), to be Lieutenant (T.M.O.), 1/7/40.

Cadet John Douglas Webster Janes (140810) from 152nd Officer Cadet Training Unit, to be 2nd Lieutenant, 15/7/40.

The undermentioned Cadets from 151st and 152nd Officer Cadet Training Units to be 2nd Lieutenants, 20/7/40 :

Douglas Frank Barton (140308).
Walter Charles Andrew Hutchinson (140309).
Eric Charles Marsden (140300).
Ronald James Mills (140310).
Eric William Walker (140311).
Robert James John Barry (138890).
Hubert Douglas Bould (138919).
Thomas Richard Townsend Bucknill (140988).
Robert Stuart Chesnutt (138922).
Alan Frank Clayton (140901).
Edwin Charles Herbert Cookson (140902).
John Galloway (138352).
Ronald George Simeon Hanreck (140903).
Arthur Edward Harvey (140904).
Robert Gale Hay (138353).
James Frank Williamson Hendry (138354).
Geoffrey Arthur Hesketh Jones (140905).
David Arthur Smith (140906).
Gerald Arthur Whatley (140908).
Denis Malcolm Bale (140909).
Roy Augustus Bery (140910).
Bruce Douglas Elsmore (138355).
Sidney Kendall (138356).

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Lieutenant W. A. Watson (71535) relinquishes his commission on account of ill-health, 27/7/40.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

The date of appointment of 2nd Lieutenant J. C. Ellis (103570) is 21/8/39 and not as notified in " Gazette " (Supplement) dated 23/10/39.

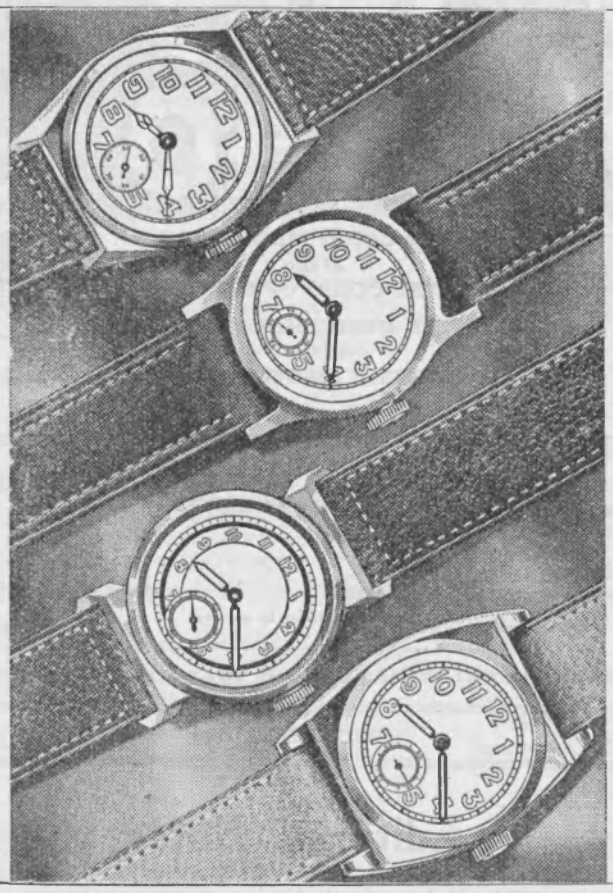
TERRITORIAL ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS.

GENERAL LIST :

Captain G. B. Burr (26229) relinquishes his commission on account of ill-health and retains his rank, 27/7/40.

By Appointment to the late King George V.

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VOL. XXI.—No. 247 SEPTEMBER, 1940 PRICE—SIXPENCE

Editorial Notes

"Take this honey, for the bitterest cup,
There's **No** failure, save in giving up—
No real fall so long as one still tries
For seeming set-backs make the strong man wise—
There's no defeat, in truth, save from within
Unless you're beaten there **You're Bound to Win.**"

Corrigenda—Awards and Decorations.—

MEDAL OF THE ORDER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE (FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE)—

No. 2311463 Sergeant Craddock F. L. (Supp. Res.).
No. 2023843 Corporal Garnett J. A.
No. 2338923 Lance Corporal Hewson E. (Supp. Res.).
No. 2558661 Lance Corporal McGosh H. H. (Supp. Res.).
No. 2324558 Signalman McLeod J. J. (Supp. Res.).
No. 2360555 Signalman Salter W. J.
No. 2324613 Lance Corporal (A/Corporal) Southall M. G.
No. 5669929 Sergeant Hitchens-Treloar H. W.
No. 2310444 Sergeant Roy Brackley Cherrill (Supp. Res.).
No. 2311899 Sergeant John Goodrick (Supp. Res.).

The above recipients are as now described and not as published under Editorial Notes in our August, 1940, issue.

Further Awards.—We convey our hearty congratulations to the undermentioned Warrant Officer, N.C.O.s and men whose names appeared in the "London Gazette" (Supplement) dated 20.8.1940:

DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT MEDAL—

No. 2318534 Warrant Officer, Class II (C.S.M.) Ronald Thornhill Lundie.
No. 2321944 Sergeant Percy David Legge.

MILITARY MEDAL—

No. 2321428 Sergeant Charles Alfred Turner.
No. 2319198 Corporal William Mitchell.
No. 2588065 Corporal John Taylor.
No. 2319714 Lance Corporal Peter Costigane.
No. 2593498 Signalman Stanley James Morris.
No. 2329075 Signalman Ignatius Rowland-Jones.

Notice.—The attention of readers is drawn to the Unit contribution from 1st A.A. Brigade H.Q. Signals on page 275 of this issue, particularly the concluding paragraph.

The Corps Magazine.—With the object of restoring THE WIRE to its pre-war circulation an appeal has recently been made to all ranks of the Corps asking them to resume that active co-operation and support which was temporarily broken by the outbreak of hostilities and the departure of a considerable number of our original subscribers for service with the British Expeditionary Force.

With the return of the B.E.F. to this country there are no longer "despatch" and "delivery" obstacles to contend with, and there are many serving with Royal Signals to-day who, if they do not wish to receive the magazine themselves, would be glad to know that a monthly copy is being sent regularly to their relatives and friends at home.

It is also probable that the war-time personnel of the Corps includes many who are not yet aware of the magazine's existence and they also may be regarded as potential subscribers if the publication is brought to their notice.

Despite the many difficulties that had to be overcome in the early days of the war, no break in the continuity of production has as yet been necessary and so long as the demand for it exists, and 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 provide the regular monthly news bulletins and to supplement such articles with snap-shots, group photographs, and 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 as 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.

There are also many new Units of the Corps who have not as yet been represented in our news columns and to them we extend a cordial invitation to collaborate at the earliest possible moment.

The latest official ruling regarding production is briefly as follows:

1. War Office hope that Service and Regimental Journals will continue to be published, but it is of paramount importance that they should contain no information which may be of the slightest use to the enemy.
2. Each Editor will act as his own censor and will be held personally responsible for all matter appearing in his publication.
3. No articles may be published upon any of the following topics without submission to higher authority:
   (a) Military subjects of a contentious nature.
   (b) Modern tactical doctrines as accepted in the Army, or tactical theories.
   (c) Modern weapons or equipment in possession of Great Britain, or her allies.
   (d) Plans for the expansion, equipment, or mechanisation of the Army, or any part of it.
   (e) Preparations for Home Defence or for operations abroad.

At first sight the above may appear to be a formidable array of "Don'ts," but actually they concern us very slightly as we rarely, if ever, embark on such serious and momentous topics.

The chief object of our Corps magazine is to chronicle a record, in lighter vein, of each Unit's domestic activities and to provide readers with a monthly publication dealing with Corps matters of "personal" rather than "technical" interest.

It should be remembered that THE WIRE is YOUR publication and is what YOU care to make it.

For a number of years up to the outbreak of hostilities it had a larger circulation than any of its contemporaries and contributed a considerable annual revenue to the funds of the Corps Association, which is doing such good work among your comrades both past and present.

The need for that financial support to Association Funds is now greater than ever. Yet, despite the fact that the Corps is at full war strength, our circulation figures have dropped by 50 per cent. in the last ten months and the majority of our present subscribers are those serving in Units overseas.

Many of those fellows are "off the beaten track" and out of the limelight. They are anxious for Corps news and anticipate delivery of the magazine each month for tidings of their friends in other Units, particularly those situated in the centre of operations.

Their keen disappointment may be imagined when the magazines arrive and they find that the particular Unit contribution they had hoped to peruse is conspicuous by its absence.

It is only recently that we had further proof of the magazine's popularity when we distributed free copies throughout the hospitals to all Royal Signals wounded casualties. Those copies were contained in parcels of miscellaneous gifts from Royal Signals Comforts Fund and the following is a typical extract from many of the letters of thanks subsequently received:

"It was all greatly appreciated, especially THE WIRE, which I had not seen for many months and have since read from cover to cover."

It has been stated at the commencement of this letter that the Central Committee have every intention of continuing production of the magazine "as long as there is a demand for it," and it is for YOU to make that decision.

You can answer that question at once by completing the Order Form supplied (next page), and sending it in to the Editorial Offices with your covering remittance without delay.

Like the Corps itself, THE WIRE has always been in the front line. Are you going to keep it there? Or are you going to let it be jettisoned at the critical moment through lack of interest?

IT IS UP TO YOU!

THE EDITOR.

Benevolent Fund Notes

Security regulations do not permit us to publish detailed particulars of Corps Units, but it is hoped that the following list of those formations who have already responded to the Colonels-Commandants' appeal for regular monthly contributions to the Corps Benevolent Fund will be found satisfactory for the purpose of identification.

The Administrator gratefully acknowledges receipt of the following:

Benevolent Fund (General)

GIFT OF CLOTHING from:

Mrs. J. Waley Cohen.

Benevolent Fund (No. 2 A/C 1940) (list continued)

CASH SUBSCRIPTIONS from:

— Company, — L. of C. Signals, Wales—July and August.
Eastern Command Signal Company—August.
— Corps Signals, Yorkshire—July.
— Divisional Signals, Yorkshire.
— Operators' Training Battalion, Yorkshire.
— Divisional Signals, N. Ireland.
— Company, — Corps Signals, Hertfordshire—July.
— Divisional Signals, Northumberland—June and July.
— Company, —Corps Signals, Wiltshire—July.
London Area Signal Company—July.
— Corps Signals, Derbyshire—August.

UNITS ABROAD—

H.Q., Palestine Command Signals—April and May.
Wireless Experimental Section, India—August.
Light Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron, India—August.
Signal Training Centre (India)—May.
1st Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, India—June.
Hong Kong Signal Section—to June, 1941.
Gibraltar Signal Section.

APPEALS dealt with:

1	Wife of N.C.O., London	Grant	£3	0	0
2	Ex N.C.O., Surrey	Loan	£5	0	0
3	Signalman, Aldershot	Grant	£3	15	0
4	Wife of Signalman, Farnborough	Grant	£2	0	0

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

Royal Signals Comforts Fund

It is thought that the activities and needs of the Corps Comforts Fund is not widely enough known among the wives and families of the Corps personnel, and it is suggested that all married men who receive THE WIRE should make a point of bringing this appeal to the notice of "the folk at home."

The Fund is in urgent need of Scarves, Helmets, Mittens, and other woollen garments for distribution during the coming winter. Supplies of wool can be obtained free on application to this office if necessary.

The Fund, moreover, is in a position to arrange for an equitable distribution of comforts throughout the Corps, and it is, therefore, of far greater benefit to Royal Signals as a whole if knitted garments are sent to the Central Office rather than to Units privately.

Just now a certain amount of time is being spent in air raid shelters. May we suggest that in addition to a generous supply of cushions, first-aid outfit, emergency box of provisions, and other impedimenta with which all good shelters are supposed to be equipped, you should also take some knitting with you. It will help to pass the time and production will be augmented instead of curtailed by the "nasty" nocturnal nuisances.

The Comforts Fund is also endeavouring to provide for the troops' leisure hours by preparing parcels of books, games, magazines, etc., and gifts of this nature will be gratefully received by the Committee.

A cricket match between the London Area Signal Company and the Metropolitan Police was held at Lords on 9th August, and a collection made on the ground realised a very acceptable sum for the Fund. May we recommend the idea to all Unit Sports Officers whenever local matches are being arranged.

E. R., Honorary Secretary,
Royal Signals Comforts Fund.

95, Belgrave Road,
London, S.W.1.

The Committee gratefully acknowledge receipt of the following:

	£	s.	d.
1st Operators' Training Battalion (quarterly)	9	0	0
Mrs. H. C. Curteis		5	2
Major Houghton Brown (bet with Mrs. Ozanne)			6
Royal Signals Records Office (monthly)	7	0	0
C.S.O. and Staff, A.A. Command (collecting box)	1	1	0
C.S.O. and Staff, Western Command (collecting box)		5	0
C.S.O. and Staff, Southern Command (collection)	1	9	0
Royal Signals Officers' Mess, Aldershot (monthly)	2	3	0
C.S.O. and Staff, Eastern Command (collecting box)	2	11	0
Mrs. Ward		5	0
Anonymous	6	0	0
Commandant and Staff, H.Q., 1st S.T.C. (collecting box)	1	13	9
Mrs. Jack's Working Party (monthly)	1	0	0
Collection at Cricket Match	2	0	2
Signals Association Office (collecting box)		5	11
C.S.O. and Staff, Aldershot (collecting box)	5	5	0
Mrs. Rabone's Working Party (monthly)		10	0
Staff of A.G. 11 (collecting box)		7	2
Western (I.) District Signals, Quetta (proceeds of Jumble Sale and Unit Whist Drives)	30	0	0
W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess, R.E. and Royal Signals, Colombo, Ceylon	7	10	0
1st General Trades Training Battalion (half-yearly)	20	0	0
Proceeds of Comforts Fund Shop	12	0	0

Correspondence

W/T Section,
No. 110 Squadron,
Royal Canadian Air Force,
Home Forces,
c/o Army Post Office.

The Editor, THE WIRE. 10th August, 1940.

DEAR SIR,—I should very much like to get in touch with some of my old comrades in Royal Signals and would be grateful if you will be good enough to publish the following in your next issue of the Corps magazine:

"Ex-Signalman J. N. (Paddy) O'Byrne would be glad to meet some of his old friends from The Training Battalion, S.T.C.; "E" Company; and 2nd Indian Divisional Signals, Quetta; particularly 'Tich' Watson, Frank Williams, Paddy O'Rourke, Sam Hilton, Roberts, Pluquet, Wilson and Steel; also R. E. (Bob) Hammerton of Cardiff and T.B., believed to have been drafted to Palestine, and any others who may remember him."

They would, no doubt, be glad to hear of my travels since leaving the Corps and interested to hear more about the Royal Canadian Air Force in which I am now serving. I should also be glad if you will arrange to supply me with monthly copies of THE WIRE.

With best wishes to all,

Yours sincerely,
(Signed) LEADING AIRCRAFTMAN J. O'BYRNE.

"THE WIRE" No.....

THE EDITOR,
"THE WIRE,"
95 BELGRAVE ROAD, LONDON, S.W.1.

Please deliver the Corps Magazine to the following address for * 12 months / 6 ,, / 3 ,, commencing *with the ..... edition, for which purpose I enclose*

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* *Strike out where non-applicable.*

The Battle of Britain

(ANON.)

As these words are being written, the Battle of Britain is in full swing—and Britain is winning it.

The battle up to the present has taken the form of sea and air warfare only, for not unless or until the enemy scores a temporarily decisive success in one or both of these fields can he hope to be able to carry the contest on to the military land theatre, on which he is relatively strongest. If the Royal Navy commands the sea, as at present it indisputably does, no army of invaders dare try to cross that sea to insult our shores—nor if it ever did so, and managed to reach them, could it establish itself on them, or maintain itself there for more than a few days, or get the continued flow of reinforcements, supplies, and munitions which it would need to be able to accomplish anything effective. If the Royal Air Force can keep the skies over Britain and the British seas clear of the enemy so that he can only venture fleetingly and sporadically into them—as it can and is doing at present—any invading force will not only be crippled without the powerful air co-operation which was the main secret of the German success in France, but will be exposed to constant risk of devastation from the air on its sea passage while disembarking, and when ashore. And all this leaves quite out of account the part to be played by the British, Dominion and Allied armies now guarding this country, which on the score of numbers, equipment and morale are more than a match for anything the enemy could possibly set against them, unless and until—and perhaps even if—our Navy should be swept from the seas and our Air Force from the skies.

However, since the Germans too agree that the battle of Britain has begun, but claim that they, not we, are winning it, let us cast a brief glance over the facts and figures of the matter. I propose to base myself on our own facts and figures rather than on those of the Germans, and that for a variety of reasons. The first reason is my own personal knowledge, based, I may perhaps add, on information not accessible to all, that these facts and figures are absolutely correct, in fact that they definitely and deliberately underestimate the favourable balance of things from our point of view. The second reason is that the Germans, on their own confession, pay no regard at all to truth in the accounts they put forward, and admittedly work on the theory that the bigger the lies they tell, the more likely they are to be believed. Why, therefore, should I, or anyone else, believe the stories of those who confess to lying as a habit and a policy and whose remedy for their hearers' incredulity is merely to tell more and bigger lies? The third reason is that these liars have in many cases been openly and flagrantly caught in the act on more than one occasion recently by the publication from our side of facts and figures that make nonsense of their stories. And the fourth reason—a purely personal one—is that during last week I happened myself to get ocular proof of the absurdity and exaggeration of what Germany was at that moment telling the world was happening.

Let us take first the facts and figures of the battle at sea. The Germans have already, as was amusingly shown last week in an official Admiralty statement, claimed to have sunk a considerably larger number of warships than the British Navy has ever possessed, so that our Fleet should, on this basis, now have been reduced to a minus quantity. Actually it is still very much in being, and very much in action, as, of course, the Germans to their cost know full well. The Axis fleets, including the portion of the French Navy which fell into their hands after the French surrender, now numbers 9 battleships, as against the Allied 14, 2 pocket battleships as against 3 Allied battle cruisers, 29 cruisers as against 57, 174 destroyers as against 168, and 2 aircraft carriers as against 7. Thus in every category, except destroyers, the Allies have a clear superiority, 50 per cent. in battleships, 33 per cent. in battlecruisers, over 100 per cent. in cruisers, and over 300 per cent. in aircraft carriers. Moreover, materially and morally, the Allied units, whenever they have had a chance, have manifested a clear superiority over those of the enemy, whether Germans, Italians, or surrendered French. As regards naval power, in a word, the trident is still in our fist.

As regards mercantile power, the enemy, for all his display of frightfulness over and under the sea, has signally failed to affect it seriously. He has indeed inflicted important losses, amounting up to the beginning of July, that is, in ten months of war, to over two million tons of shipping. But to set off against this, a third of a million tons have been captured from Germany and Italy; a million or more tons have been or are now being built by way of replacement in our shipyards; we have taken over the greater part of the Dutch, Belgian, and Norwegian mercantile fleets, and a considerable portion of that of France; and a large quantity of neutral tonnage is under long or short term charter in our service. As a result of all this, our merchant fleet is now considerably larger than it was at the beginning of the war. The total losses of the Axis Powers in merchant shipping are brought up by the addition of ships sunk to well over a million tons, so that our actual net losses fall well below theirs—quite apart from the fact, which after all is the vital one, that our merchant shipping continues to ply the seven seas on its lawful occasions, whereas no ship of theirs dares venture to show its prow outside harbour for fear of capture or destruction.

The figures since 1st July are not at hand as I write, but the rate of losses of Allied ships, despite the increasing pressure of the Nazi attack on them, has increased but little in proportion, and indeed already show a tendency to decline. This attack, too, has so far utterly failed of its purpose. Our sea-borne traffic still plies, and the spirit, resource, and courage of our merchant seamen are still more than equal to all the demands hitherto made upon them. We may be confident that this will remain the case, whatever new threats, perils, and terror may be devised for use against them.

The air battle, so far as it has gone, has resulted in what has been described as "an utter defeat" for the German Luftwaffe, whose vaunted might was so recently and so loudly trumpeted as being about to mete out to Britain the fate of Poland, Norway, the Low Countries, and France. Few things can have given greater satisfaction to ourselves, to America, and to the watching world—so far as it has not been deceived by the unscrupulously mendacious German propaganda about the matter—than the heavy toll taken of this ruthless and brutal instrument of Nazi tyranny and terrorism. Here are the figures of the results of the eight days intensive air war between 8th August, when the so-called "blitzkrieg" started, and 18th August, the date of writing these lines:

Enemy aircraft known to have been destroyed ..	701
British aircraft destroyed	192
Enemy air personnel casualties (approx.)	over 1,500
British air personnel casualties	under 300

(The British losses include those incurred in our air raids over Germany.)

Since the first German air raids on Britain began on 18th July, just a month ago, the Luftwaffe has lost 830 aircraft, a rate of 28 a day, and some 1,700 personnel. In the last eight days above mentioned this rate has been more than doubled to 78 a day. These, it must also be remembered, are absolutely minimum and certain figures; it has been stated by those who have had access to official records that so far as machines are concerned, those that failed to get home owing to severe damage but were not actually seen by two witnesses to crash and therefore are not counted as lost, amount to at least as many again. But if we take only a conservative estimate and reckon the total losses for the week at 750 and for the month at 1,250, we shall be well on the safe side.

As regards the results which the enemy can set in the balance against these very heavy losses, they are, so far as can be ascertained, meagre in the extreme. Civilian causalties up to 1st August have been little more than half those caused on the roads of this country in peace-time; though in August they must have been considerably heavier; military and air force losses, of which there are no published figures, have certainly amounted to nothing like that figure. There has been severe local damage to civilian property in places, but very little to military objectives or to industrial plant and buildings. In fact, the Germans have achieved nothing that could have the slightest deleterious effect on our powers of defence, our war effort, or the morale of the nation and its resolve, never before so universal and unbreakable, to fight on until we have saved ourselves by our exertions and Europe by our example.

It is true that the indefatigable German propagandists are striving all they know to imprint on our minds and the world's,

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REDUCING INTERFERENCE
Various circuit arrangements for reducing man made electrical interference, which can be incorporated in the receiver itself, are outlined and discussed.

VERSATILE OSCILLATOR
A simple single-coil oscillator circuit, originally known as the Numans oscillator, is described. It can be employed for generating saw-tooth waveforms and also makes a useful RF and AF oscillator.

TELEPHONE BROADCASTING
A member of the Post Office staff describes the proposed G.P.O. "wired wireless" broadcast distribution scheme which had to be abandoned for the duration of the war.

SOUND ON FILM
The principal photographic methods of sound recording are outlined by the author, who is in the B.B.C. Technical Recording Section.

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as well as on their own deluded people's, a far different picture. According to them, the Luftwaffe ranges the skies unresisted, drops its myriads of bombs as, when, and where it will, and easily disposes of any of the cowardly R.A.F. who flutter forth to meet it or can be overtaken in flight. A personal experience may throw some light on the truth of these yarns. On Friday, 16th August, I left London by train for home as an air raid warning sounded. Some miles out we stopped in open country with a fine view for miles around and all the sky over London plainly visible. Soon afterwards a scud of machines sped across the train and was quickly gone. But for the rest, until we moved on, the landscape was quiet, serene, and peaceful—the landscape of England at evening under the light of the westering summer sun, without sight or sound of war. The "All Clear" went and the train proceeded, passing a village where the German aircraft that we had heard had wrecked some senseless, wanton, but purely local havoc, to be greeted by waving hands and handkerchiefs, and the "thumbs up" sign from practically the whole of the population gathered at their doors and windows —Goering's paladins had not impaired their fine spirit. But next day, to my amazement and amusement, I read that the half hour or so I had spent in that peaceful countryside had been a time of terror and ruin; that the sky over London had been black with hostile wings raining a shower of bombs over the defenceless city below, and that the smoke of her burning had covered her like a funeral pall. Such was the fantasy of lies that the Germans had reared over the prosaic reality I had beheld with my own eyes.

That the battle of Britain is over and won it would as yet be premature to believe. The enemy still has great numerical resources at his command to carry it on, if he thinks it worth his while to do so; and indeed so loudly has he proclaimed his purpose of striking us to our knees, so furiously and fiercely has he striven to do so, and so emphatically has he averred that his purpose is already all but achieved, that he can hardly face the open confession of failure that would involve breaking the off without some plausible pretext. All the less can he do so because all these weeks the bombers of the R.A.F., at far less cost and with far greater effect, have been taking nightly material and moral toll of important military targets in Germany, in Italy, and in German occupied territory. Moreover, Britain's resources for defence are growing daily, faster than his for offence can possibly grow; high as has been the price and small as have been the fruits of his furious efforts hitherto, he can never hope again in the future to be so favourably placed to do us hurt, and his malice and hatred, unlike his powers for harm, have no limits. Britain's ordeal is not yet over—many good judges think not even the worst of it; but the events of this first round of the battle give us firm assurance of being able to repel the enemy's most violent assaults, whatever form they may take, and with whatever ruthlessness and recklessness of cost they may be delivered.

The Empire's Rally

(ANON.).

One of the most striking phenomena of the war to those who have eyes to see and minds to reflect must be the presence among us, at this hour of the greatest peril to which our country has been exposed since the days of the Spanish Armada over three hundred and fifty years ago, of so many thousands of our overseas kinsmen in arms. One sometimes wonders what is the magnet that draws these men hither to help serve and save a country that to them must be little more than a name, though that name be the dear name of home. Whatever it be, it is something that no foreigner can understand—and small wonder, for we can hardly understand it ourselves, nor can our kinsmen explain it to us—it just is so, and there is an end on't. How many prophets, long before Hitler, have confidently foretold the deliquesence and unreality of that ramshackle business, the British Empire, and how signally their words have always been falsified in the day of peril and of war. Words are inadequate to express our thanks to these kinsmen of ours for their very present help in trouble. We are none of us good at thanking or being thanked anyway, but let not what is unsaid in the way of gratitude pass for being unfelt. And if our kinsmen say, as many of them tend to do, "That's nothing," or "It's only natural," we must politely ask leave to disagree. So far from

being " nothing," it is something of inestimable value ; so far from being " natural," it is the dismay of our enemies and the wonder of the world.

Let us briefly summarise what the Dominions have done for the Imperial cause to date.

Canada was the first to send her troops to this country at the end of last year, and the fourth of her contingents, belonging to the 2nd Canadian Division, arrived only a few weeks ago, at the end of June. The whole of the 1st Division is now here, and the greater part of the 2nd Division will eventually come to complete the Canadian Corps, though this will probably not be for some weeks yet to come. As at present arranged, no more forces will be sent overseas from Canada, but a total of 300,000 men are to be called up in the autumn for home defence, in ten monthly classes of 30,000 men, beginning with men aged 21.

This home defence service will be compulsory, but only volunteers will be sent overseas. It has also been arranged that Canada shall furnish troops for garrisons in Iceland, in Newfoundland and in the West Indies, and some of those have already taken up their stations. In addition to this military aid to Britain, Canada is, of course, the centre of the new Empire Air Training Scheme ; the first trained air crews produced under this scheme have recently passed into service and from now onward the flow will be steady and increasing. Units of the Canadian Air Force, too, are already serving as units in this country, and ships of the Royal Canadian Navy have for many months been playing a full and glorious part in the daily work of policing the British seas and keeping open the sea routes for our maritime traffic.

Nor must Canada's great industrial war effort be forgotten. Not only all her human, but also all her material resources are being rapidly mobilised. A large new rifle factory is shortly to be established, and Bren gun production is being accelerated. Air frames and engines are also being produced in increasing quantities at home, while purchases from the United States are being increased and speeded up. The war spirit of Canada was admirably expressed by General Odlum, who, arriving in England at the head of the fourth contingent in July, said, " We are all delighted to be here to share with the people of Great Britain the dangers and trials which face them. We know the road will be rough, but we are ready to take it. Germany has asked for it, and she is going to get it."

Less imposing, of course, but no less heartfelt and no less acceptable is the contribution of little Newfoundland to the Imperial war effort. Already before the end of June last she had sent 5,400 men overseas and 2,000 more were only waiting to go. Several War Loans have been raised, most of which have been rapidly over-subscribed within a few days of first issue. The flow of volunteers for the Royal Air Force has gone on in a steady stream. Small as Newfoundland's man-power resources are, she has given of them lavishly and has promised yet further aid as opportunity offers. What more can any people, great or small, do to show their zeal, patriotism and goodwill ?

The Australian contribution has already been fully comparable to that she made in the Great War of 1914-1918. Her soldiers have come to the Middle Eastern theatre of war as well as to this country—indeed many of these are veterans of the last war, who are renewing in these same theatres their experiences of a quarter of a century ago, and put up their medal ribbons of that former war when they were a few days out at sea from home on their way to the conflict of to-day. They have not as yet had an opportunity to cross swords with their old enemies or with their old allies of that day, the Italians, but the time for that will come, and probably soon, and the same magnificent military qualities which made the name of the Anzacs world-famous on the fields of Gallipoli, Palestine and France will be found again in their descendants of 1940. 29,000 men from Australia are even now overseas, and 40,000 more are under training at home ready to go when called upon. These will form in due course a full army corps of two divisions at war strength, quite apart from the four railway construction and survey companies and two forestry companies which have already been formed for service outside the Commonwealth. For home defence there are permanent troops, militia and garrison units, totalling 100,000 men, and the full establishment for this purpose of 250,000 will soon be reached by calling up additional classes of compulsory service recruits. Service overseas, as in the last war, will be on a voluntary basis, but with the spirit now pervading the whole of Australia's manhood, there will be little difficulty in keeping the ranks of the Expeditionary Force full.

The Royal Australian Navy has already won its spurs. H.M.A.S. Cruiser " Sydney," emulating the exploits of her predecessor of the same name against the " Emden " in the last war, has sunk the Italian cruiser " Bartolomeo Colleoni " in the Mediterranean, and H.M.A.S. destroyer " Voyager " has accounted for an Italian submarine in the same war area. Other sister ships taking their full share of the burden of the war, have not as yet had the opportunity of similarly distinguishing themselves, but their time will come and all, most of all their foes, know that they will not be slow to take advantage of it when it comes. The personnel has risen from 7,000 to 12,000 ; the number of warships in commission has greatly increased and 138 merchantmen have been defensively armed. The new shipbuilding programme is going fast and well ahead ; a new graving dock for warship repair is under construction at Sydney, and submarine and other naval personnel for the Navy are being trained in Australia.

The Australian Air Force has already given Germans and Italians more than one taste of its superb quality. A squadron has been operating under the British Coastal Command for many months, and Sunderland flying boats have taken considerable toll of enemy aircraft and submarines. Australia has contracted to train 57,000 airmen under the Empire Training Scheme, and her total of 125,000 volunteers is more than can be immediately absorbed. Many of these have already received full training and are ready for service overseas. Many training machines are to be built in the Commonwealth, and before long fighting and bomber aircraft will be added to these. Fifty-five million pounds are scheduled to be spent in aircraft construction in the next three years.

In industrial war production, too, the Commonwealth is going full steam ahead. Her products include explosives, rifle and gun ammunition, anti-aircraft guns, naval guns and armoured cars. She is already practically self-supporting in the matter of munitions and is sending much overseas for the use of Great Britain, New Zealand and India. " She has refused and will refuse Britain nothing," as one of her spokesmen has declared, thus echoing the words of her Prime Minister, " What we have said we shall fight for we shall fight for until we have won."

New Zealand, whose people who like to think of themselves as the most British of the Dominion peoples, is also pulling her full weight in the Imperial war canoe. Her troops are here and also in the Middle Eastern theatre ; her naval ships are at sea with the Royal Navy and one of them, the "Achilles," won immortal fame in the battle of the River Plate against the " Graf Spee " ; her airmen, too, are hard at work in the skies. The Maoris, once the most gallant and chivalrous foes that our army ever encountered in all the long annals of its Colonial wars, are now here to help to defend this country against invasion, and these picturesque warriors have made themselves as deservedly popular with us as they will, no doubt, when their chante comes, render themselves feared and hated by the enemy. Among the specialised units to be raised in New Zealand for overseas service are a railway survey company, a railway construction company, two railway operating companies and two forestry companies. Compulsory military service has been instituted, as in the last war ; industrial war production is being pushed forward at full speed, and the whole manpower and resources of the land are being thrown into the war effort without stint.

Space does not permit us to tell of the contribution of India, of the Crown Colonies, or of the many small possessions, save to say that one and all of them have shown, in a fashion as splendid as it is touching, their zeal and patriotism and devotion to the common cause. Before this warlike array of free men, each of whom " knows what he fights for and loves what he knows," the hosts of totalitarianism, for all their frantic zeal and fierce courage and cruel ruthlessness, will assuredly in the end bend and break in defeat.

HAVE YOU JOINED THE SIGNALS ASSOCIATION ?

Journalism, Khaki, Adversities of

(By kind permission of "Motor Cycling")

CYRIL QUANTRILL

Describes The Birth of a D.R.'s Bulletin

When I wrote that article suggesting that every club should endeavour to run a regular bulletin for the benefit of members who were serving in the Forces, I could almost hear some of you saying "Easy enough for a blinking journalist to talk like that; we've got no facilities for doing the job." Well, I've forestalled these Dismal Jimmies by producing a weekly four-pager under conditions far more unfavourable than anyone still in "Civvy Street" could possibly appreciate. Perhaps a short account of its early life may inspire others to follow my example.

No sooner had I joined up than I was entertaining hopes of running a Divisional magazine. Apart from the fact that, after a day's training in the recruit squad, it was almost too much of an effort to write a letter home, I very soon discovered that not only was I unaware of what was happening in other sections of my own Unit, but I was in complete ignorance of the whereabouts of Div. H.Q. and of what other Units belonged to our Division. So much for the Divisional magazine; I might still have produced a sheet for D.R.s only had I been able to borrow a typewriter, but I couldn't. It was not until I became attached to Div. H.Q. that the "Woofler's Weekly," a bulletin for those lads who have to ride woofle-irons on His Majesty's business became a reality instead of a dream.



(Reproduced by courtesy of "Motor Cycling")

"There was a sort of tearing noise and . . . . it was devouring pages by the dozen . . . . "

My opportunity arose when George, the Signalmaster's clerk induced me to deputise for him while he had a week's motorcycling. In between bouts of "Your ref. A/1089/XO/2B/NBGs.," I was busy tapping out rude paragraphs about the Sergeant-Major, the low-down on the professor's bent footrest, and items concerning this and that. In a couple of days I had sufficient snappy scoops, the first of a "Personality" series and a crossword puzzle, to fill four pages of foolscap—if I had any foolscap.

It so happened that George knew where to lay his hands on some "easy" stencils, and, even more important, how to cut them; so he was appointed assistant editor.

That evening we slid, as inconspicuously as possible, into the clerks' office and successfully "borrowed" four stencils. Two hours later a couple of Signalmen might have been seen creeping round the passages and furtively peering into offices. Eventually we spotted a machine, something like a cross between a coffee-grinder and a household mangle, which George said was a duplicator. Tenderly he separated the first precious "onion-skin" from its backing, and, with rather a pretty flourish, stuck it to the roller. Most conveniently there was a miniature mountain of suitable paper on a table close by, and it really seemed that the few dozen sheets we required would never be missed.

A small wad of paper was placed in the appropriate end of the device, I adjusted the pressure knob, and George turned the handle. There was a sort of tearing noise and about half a dozen

sheets disappeared from the feeding department, but failed to emerge at the other side of the duplicator. There they were, wound round and round some steel bars in the machine's internals ; some nifty work with a screwdriver removed the inky mess, the " pressure gauge " was readjusted, and we had another shot. The monster's appetite seemed to have increased, for now it was devouring pages by the dozen and only very occasionally disgorging a blurred and smudged top sheet of the " Woofler's Weekly." This was terrible : I went in search of expert advice.

The duty orderly was run to earth in the hall, but although he admitted that he knew how to work a duplicator, he declined to have anything to do with an undertaking which he was sure would land all participants in the " glasshouse." In the end, I discovered that Vic, one of the D.R.s, had worked a similar machine during his civilian days. Unfortunately, even his expert knowledge failed to cure the thing's bad habits, and, before long, we were gazing with a sort of fascinated horror at a large mound of crumpled inky paper and quite a small heap of virgin foolscap. The time had come to stop ; the sticky " onion-skin " was peeled from the roller and folded between two sheets of blotting paper ; we gathered up armfuls of the waste products and crept back to our home in the stables. Ten minutes later this " incriminating evidence " was being consumed in flames.

I was almost despairing of ever going into production when, in the peculiar way that things sometimes do happen, an N.C.O. from the Medical Corps came round to see us on the following morning for some advice concerning an ailing New Imperial, and, in the course of conversation, he offered to let us use an old flat-bed duplicator which the R.A.M.C. clerks possessed. Being a very nice man, he actually ran off the first copies himself, and so the first issue of our magazine, with a very bleary top page, was ready for distribution. As it had cost us nothing more than a good deal of anxiety and a few sleepless nights, no charge was made for the first number. Perhaps that is why it was soon " sold " out.

On the next pay-day, George and I " thumbed " a car into the City and did a little shopping. A certain amount of persuasion induced the girl at the local typewriting bureau to part with three stencils for 9d.—we reckoned that the fourth one could be scrounged without difficulty. And at the stationer's we snaffled the best part of a ream of duplicating paper for 2s. 6d.

As we prepared to start on the second issue of our paper, we felt quite confident. This time it would only be necessary to " find " that odd stencil and a few pins or staples, apart from borrowing a typewriter and the duplicator. George, I regret to say, failed badly on this occasion, for when we attempted to run off duplicates of our three cheap stencils all that came out were halves of letters and weird blobs and splodges ; it transpired that he had forgotten to remove the protective tissue paper. So again the Army had to supply our " onion-skins." That issue sold out within two hours at 1d. a copy—nice work, we thought.

A bit of borrowing and our takings from this issue enabled us to purchase half a dozen quite good stencils for 5s. 6d. and a full ream of paper for 3s. 6d. As we reckon to sell at least 60 copies each week, the magazine is, as the City gents would have it, a sound financial proposition.

One of the most popular features seems to be the weekly collection of news items. This is just the sort of stuff that anyone can write ; all that is necessary is an alert ear and the systematic noting of events as they happen (needless to say the paragraphs should be brief and, if possible, witty). Luck has been with us in that George's young wife is an expert at inventing really good crossword puzzles, and the lads seem quite keen on producing short stories about their past life and so on. Our " Personality " series is improved I think by getting the victim's own friend to write about him !

Really, once the initial spadework is done, the job becomes fairly easy, and it is something that a lot of you lads should try in your own Unit. You will get any amount of enthusiastic support and, providing you have the sense to refrain from divulging any military secrets and keep the rude remarks about your W.O.s fairly subdued (or artfully masked), your O.C. will raise no objections—he will, in fact, probably become a subscriber. Get his permission before you start, though.

What's all this about a pint and a half of perspiration?



We all perspire about a pint and a half every day even if we sit still the whole time. And not all this perspiration evaporates on reaching the surface of the skin. That's the trouble! Some always remains in the pores, where it quickly becomes stale and causes 'B.O.'

So play safe. Avoid 'B.O.' by taking a regular bath with Lifebuoy Toilet Soap. Its rich, full lather, with the antiseptic health element, goes deep into the pores and removes every trace of stale perspiration. It deals with the *cause* of Body-Odour. A Lifebuoy bath leaves you really fresh and invigorated!



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B



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Pistol Shooting

FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO LIVE

By An American Instructor.—Edited by M.T.5.
(With acknowledgments to " The Tank.")

If you are keen on winning silver cups, seeing your photograph in the papers as the pistol champion or think that pistol shooting is only a sport, you had better not trouble to read this any further, because the method described will upset your " bull's eye " shooting, and prevent you from ever becoming a target champion. It is written for the man who is liable to be shot at and killed at any moment. For him it ceases to become a sport, but is a matter of life and death.

Everyone knows that it is the ambition of every red-blooded man to be able to use a revolver or automatic pistol effectively. That being so, and keenness to learn being recognised as half the battle, why is it that most men are poor pistol shots ?

From our experience of Army, Navy and Police methods of instruction, which extends over the past twenty-six years, we give it as our opinion that it is the method of instruction that is wrong, not the men. There is no reason in the world why an average intelligent man cannot become a good and safe revolver or pistol shot, providing he is keen.

To become a good revolver or automatic pistol shot, one must remember right at the start that it should be carried for quick work at very close range, under such conditions where it would be almost impossible to use a rifle. There will be no time to line up the backsight with the foresight, and if your shot takes longer than a third of a second in the " Let off " you are not going to be the one to tell the newspapers about it. It is obvious that the foundation of practical pistol shooting is speed, and more speed.

Always bear in mind that if your shot is a tenth of a second in advance of the other man he will not hit you with his shot, and there is always this certainty that your shot will have upset your opponent's accuracy in the event of its having missed.

Take the records of the New York and Chicago Police, and see the average distance at which *effective shooting* has taken place, both at and by the police during the past five years—longer if you like—and we shall be surprised if it is over five feet—not yards. It does not take much power of imagination to see at that distance it is a question of the greatest possible speed and owing to the disconcerting knowledge of knowing that the other man is trying to kill you, your firing will have to be done instinctively, and the greater the volume of fire you can put in the greater the chance of your living.

We advocate in our method : Grip the pistol as if it was 30 of 40 lbs. in weight. Try to imagine the target is an armed assailant who is shooting back at you. Cultivate the offensive spirit, and if your time is up, well, die fighting. When you can get that spirit into your shooting you have some idea of what practical pistol shooting really is, and the Wild and Woolly West stories you have read will appear more understandable.

When you read of pistol shooting at 30 to 50 yards, forget it. Records show that the number of hits made with the revolver, etc., at ranges over 20 yards (under practical conditions such as previously described), are so few that they are not worth while worrying about.

We do not expect the expert " bull's eye " target shots to agree with us in this method, but we are of opinion it is far and away superior for getting effective results to any other method we have previously seen. All we asked is that they will give it a fair trial, after which they can come back at us for all they are worth. We shall be ready for them.

It is advisable that a little empty pistol practice should first of all be practised, so as to get the feel and balance of the pistol. Care should be taken to PROVE the pistol EMPTY.

SAFETY PRECAUTION

The man who accidentally kills another with a loaded firearm does not exist. " I thought it was NOT LOADED " is the usual cry. It is, therefore, obvious that the first thing in instructions should be safety precautions.

Always consider any firearm loaded until you yourself have proved it otherwise. Do this by opening the firearm. DO NOT do this by looking down the barrel, and pressing the trigger. It is surprising how many would do this if not prevented.

CARRYING POSITION

There are two positions in which the revolver can be carried.
(1) On the left hand side of the belt in front of the left arm.
(2) On the right hand side just below the right hip, and carried by a strap over the left shoulder.

I prefer the second position, and also a holster without a flap.

READY POSITION

To find the correct position : Stand square with the object, feet apart, taking deliberate aim at the centre of the object. When correct, lower the pistol, bringing it down in a vertical line so that the pistol is in line with the centre of the body. If the wrist has not been moved up or down, left or right, the correct position will be—facing the target, arm straight, pistol a continuation of the right arm.

Variation in grip is a common error when firing with the pistol, resulting in scattered shots. To overcome this, grip the pistol firmly as if it was 30 or 40 lbs. in weight. The hand as high as possible on the butt, so that barrel and arm are nearly as possible in a straight line.

TO FIRE

Keeping both eyes focused on the centre of the object—with pistol, take care that the right thumb is straight and parallel with the bottom of the slide—raise the pistol in a smooth upward movement from the shoulder (Vertical Lift), and when it cuts the line of sight make a pause of a fraction of a second. Fire the pistol by releasing the trigger with an equal pressure of fingers and thumb, then immediately release the trigger and return to the " Ready Position."

As previously stated, a shot that takes longer to fire than one-

third of a second is wasted. It is, therefore, obvious that there is not sufficient time to align the sights in addition to bringing the pistol up to the object. All men who make 100 per cent. score at surprise targets fire with both eyes open, although in some cases they are unconscious of doing so. This is the only practical way of firing a pistol, as a trial will convince anyone that with both eyes open the master eye always takes charge.

By closing one eye the field of view is restricted. This would be fatal if you were being attacked from an unknown quarter.

NOTE.—Attention is called to the "Vertical Lift." It will be clearly seen that when you can consistently raise and lower your pistol with the muzzle cutting this imaginary line, that you will hit anything that is in front of you. Also, the same rule applies for shooting in the dark.

It is only being necessary to remember that you must keep your body square and face your object.

Having got the feel of your muscles in the wrist and arm so that you can consistently perform the "Vertical Lift" without having to watch your pistol, you have laid the foundation of practical pistol shooting, and you are now ready to commence shooting and to gain speed.

FIRING PRACTICE

1ST PRACTICE. (STATIONARY MAN.)

Target: Man-size target, with rectangles marked in the centre as follows:

4in. x 8in.
8in. x 12in.
12in. x 16in.

with a 1in. x 1½ in. black mark in the centre of the smallest rectangle.

Range. Not more than 3 to 4 yards.

Load the pistol, keeping both eyes focused on the black spot, raise the pistol as quickly as possible by the Vertical Lift, and immediately the pistol cuts the black spot fire two rapid shots as rapidly as your trigger finger can be made to work; make a pause, see where your shots have hit, and then come down to the "Ready Position." Neither in this or any of the following practices should you see your sights: the action should be far too quick for that.

Repeat and fire two rapid shots, and return to the "Ready Position." Repeat.

At this stage you will notice that wherever you are facing your shots will go. This is on account of there not being sufficient time to align the sights, and should help to convince you that the most natural position for the body is square with the object.

For those who find a difficulty in keeping square with the object the following will be found to be a great help:

At the moment of raising the pistol by the Vertical Lift advance the *left* foot, even to the extent of making a lunge. This lunge forward with the left foot will also help to cultivate the offensive spirit that is so necessary in practical pistol shooting.

Do not worry too much at this stage because one of your shots may have clean missed a man-size target. Always remember that a man hit in the region of the stomach will not fire back, and if your shots have been fired as rapidly as possible it is immaterial if it was the first or second shot that hit.

When you can consistently place one out of each string of two shots in the centre or second rectangle (each string having been fired as quick as it is possible to count one-two), increase the range to 5 yards and refire.

2ND PRACTICE. (BOBBING MAN.)

Target: Man-size target, exposed up to the waist-line, for one second.

12in. x 16in. rectangle in the centre.
Range: not more than 5 yards.
Load the pistol.

Upon the target being fully exposed, raise the pistol as quickly as possible and fire two rapid shots, wait a pause and return to the "Ready Position." Repeat twice.

When you can consistently place three out of the four shots in the 12m. x 16in. rectangle you have mastered this practice.

3RD PRACTICE. (WALKING.)

Target: Man-size. (Run of 10 to 12 feet across front at 3 to 4 miles per hour.)

Range: not more than 5 yards.

Load the pistol.

When the target is fully exposed, fire two rapid shots as in previous practice.

NOTE.—To enable you to keep your body square do not move the feet but swing from the hips, in a similar manner to a clay pigeon-shot firing at a right and left rise.

Try and remember that your shot will reach the target in approximately a 50th part of a second. Keep swinging, and there is no necessity to make any allowance and aim ahead. Difficult as it may be to believe, for every shot that is fired at a moving object and missed in the rear you can be sure there are 10 that have missed in front, in some cases as much as three feet. Therefore, focus your attention on the part of the object you wish to hit, and you will be surprised to find out how much truth there is in the saying "You hit where you look," in the same manner as when using a shot gun or throwing a stone or a ball.

One hit out of each string of two shots is good enough—you have got your man.

IMPROVING YOURSELF

When you can make 75 per cent. score at any practice, increase the range by another yard up to 10 yards. Thirty feet is a long distance, and there are few who can do good work over that range, but if you feel confident then go up to 15 or 20 yards.

I must point out that an Instructor can instruct up to a certain point beyond that. It depends entirely upon the firers. There is always a reason for a "miss." Find this out and correct it, and one is on the way to become an "expert."

By an "expert" we mean the man who can prevent his opponent from firing.

CARRYING AND HANDLING

Cultivate a good habit when carrying or handling the pistol.

When carrying a pistol loaded or unloaded, it must be held at the "Ready Position": arm straight at an angle of 45 degrees from the body, pistol pointing towards the ground. This is the safest method of carrying a pistol. and it allows the weapon to be brought up to the firing position much quicker than is possible from *any other position;* further, the fact that one is armed is not advertised—the pistol is not intended for use as a signalling flag.

Any man who carries a pistol should be able to walk or run with his finger on the trigger, and still be perfectly safe.

We are aware that nearly all other methods teach that the trigger finger must be outside the trigger guard when not actually firing. We have yet to meet the man who is looking for an armed opponent who carries out this instruction. Why should he?—when he is aware that it takes time to insert his finger into the trigger guard. At that particular time of his life—time is the most important thing he knows about.

SAFETY RULE

There is one safety rule, and that is best explained in the following lines:

When unloaded you THINK you be,
Please DON'T POINT your gun at me.
That it may UNLOADED be,
Matters not a damn to me.
So never, NEVER, let your gun,
POINTED be at ANYONE.

Unless you are justified!

Continental Touring !

Readers will Remember "The Dash for Dunkirk" Related by Sig. R. Allen, who Became Separated from the Main Party of the "Whang Boys." This Story, Describing the Adventures of that Party, is Told by

Sig. MAURICE LOBB

(By kind permission of "Motor Cycling")

We were all disappointed when Hitler's hordes invaded the Low Countries when we were down at Le Havre. From Christmas until April we had been waiting on the Belgian frontier for him to start something and then we had been ordered to the French port en route to, we believed, Norway. However, plans were quickly altered and we commenced our long ride back.

Our first halt was near Amiens and who should we see there but Les Love just out from England and on his way to join our Corps H.Q. D.R.s. He gave us news of our old rivals, "The Cream" (Curly, Tom, Eric and Co.), whilst he and Ron Allen eyed each other warily—the last time they met Ron was hurtled very forcibly into a ditch during the 1939 Carshalton Hill climb, Les, bike and chair following "with intent to do bodily harm."

Air Raids

At Doullens we witnessed the effect of an air raid for the first time, while Tom had the pleasure of seeing Jerry "parasites" dropping from a 'plane. It was in this district that Tresh spotted one of these gentry stepping out from a hedge. The Hun proceeded to fire at point-blank range, but thanks to Tresh's speed it was a miss—but only just. Tresh took an even bleaker view of the proceedings when we, with great lack of sympathy, just laughed at the way he told the tale. But that's the way things are in war; somehow the near-misses always seem funny to the other chaps!

A Narrow Escape

From Estaires we got back to familiar surroundings, entering Belgium along the Tournai road en route to Everbeck, where we went to sleep for the first time to the thunder of guns pounding enemy positions. The following day Jock and Lofty were in Brussels and reported continuous air raids over the city and on Hal, which was burning fiercely.

Our Unit was occupying an orchard and it was when returning to this H.Q. that Lofty got mixed up with a trio of Junkers 87s He crouched against a wall while they bombed the village, only to make a bolt for better cover when one came low enough for him to see the rear gunner at work and machine-gun bullets hitting the wall all round him.

The Junkers carried on to find our H.Q., and after thoroughly machine-gunning the place, finished up by diving down and laying a giant egg at the end of the orchard.

We were all tickled about this "do," but without waiting for orders, proceeded to "dig in," altering our famous slogan, as some wag remarked, from "Whang Ho" to "Whang Hole." Not content with just "holes" we drove the lorries over the excavations for extra protection, which was just as well, for emboldened by our apparent lack of defence Jerry came back with another load and to our joy promptly lost five 'planes, which must have shaken him more than somewhat!

Another alarm was given that night. Tanks had broken through! Everyone turned out, a barricade was erected and we "stood-to" for fun and games, including Streaky, who was apparently prepared to take on all-comers armed with nothing more lethal than a revolver. Some of the lads were out on runs, riding without lights, never knowing when a stray tank would bob up. Several of us were unpleasantly close to where the enemy had pushed through, trying to locate units which had already fallen back. Tresh, in fact, returned to our own Signal Office to find a move had taken place and Jerry had *already been there!* He departed at speed! Then began our retreat from Belgium, and it was at this time that one of our parties actually saw some Junkers troop-carriers land and "de-plane" heavily armed detachments.

Fifth Columnists

Via Tournai, now well ablaze, to Seclin, our D.R.s convoyed the Unit along roads carrying three or even four lines of traffic. By this time we were all used to bombing raids, and the sight of masses of fifth columnists rounded up by the local gendarmerie and our own F.S.P. One of the former gentry had a genuine "square head" with a close crop and "Made in Germany" written all over him. He emphatically denied any connection with the Fatherland until someone "accidentally" trod on his toe, when a guttural torrent of German oaths poured forth! There's something in that slogan "Careless talk may cost lives."

All this time the bikes were getting absolutely no attention, but in spite of the flogging we gave them they stood up to it nobly.

Our next move was to Arras and en route our field ambulance units suffered from machine-gunning from the air despite the



Lofty got mixed up w
bombed the village, (

(Reproduced by kind permission of "Motor Cycling")

fact that they were clearly marked with the Red Cross—apparently too clearly.

We took over a brewery at Vimy and it was here that things got really lively ! Tresh was doing regular runs into Arras while the enemy executed his usual " pincers " movement round the town and heavily pounded the road with shells. Lofty, Streaky, R.J. and many others had a bad time on that road.

Tom, for instance, was blasted into fallen telephone wires, caught one round his neck and gashed his throat almost from ear to ear. Luckily, " Taffy," who was on the pillion, flung himself off and pulled Tom down too before the wire ran tight. Tom was patched up and, being in no shape to ride, decided to pinch a lorry and carry on. Nice work !

" Fair 'orrible "

In the meantime Stan, Arthur and Ken were operating from a Forward Report Centre at Gavrelle. Jerry steadily banged the place to little pieces while they were there and it " were fair 'orrible " riding into the village. The enemy artillery had the road, on which there was no cover, ranged to an inch, and he usually vented his wrath on any one who showed up, including poor devils of refugees.

Enemy fire put our " line " out of action on the road, so Lofty went out from one end and a linesman from the other. Having a bike, Lofty had covered five miles to the linesmen's half a mile when they met and, together, they repaired six breaks in 30 yds. Having tested the line they left to return to their own ends, but with only half a mile to go the linesman never returned.

At Vimy the Unit was bombed for 14 hours in one day and *still* the D.R.L.S. was maintained. But that night yet another move was ordered. Those of us at Vimy wondered if the Gavrelle party would ever get out in time ; the village was a shambles, the Signal Office had had a direct hit and Ken had been lifted bodily off his bike by blast, but despite his shaking was still on the job.

(*Continued on next page*)



mixed up with a trio of Junkers 87s. He crouched against a wall while they the village, only to make a bolt for better cover when he saw . . . machine-gun bullets hitting the wall all round him."

Burning Tanks

Tresh, Jock and myself were ordered to Douai to set up a Forward Report Centre there. It meant making a detour to dodge a bulge in the lines, but we couldn't go wrong for our destination was marked by a column of flame in the sky—Douai was a blazing inferno!

We passed a couple of burning tanks, rode on through Henin Lietard, which was no longer a village but just a pile of bricks after the bombers had been there, and although I've never quite understood how, we eventually entered Douai. We contacted French scouts and passed into the French front line. Shortly after, these scouts fell back, blowing up the bridges behind them. My job was to stay in the front line, await the expected attack, nip out to the bike, which was hidden, and warn the F.R.C. As it happened, the F.R.C. was ordered back unknown to me, but Tresh returned to the line to bring me back. Thanks, Tresh!

It was after Douai that I last saw Streaky. He fell foul of a dirty great dive bomber, collected head and shoulder injuries and was posted missing for five weeks before suddenly bobbing up again in England.

Near Rochin we saw "Curly" (of "The Cream") and another old friend, Charlie Mein, well known in East Midland Centre trials.

We then paid a second visit to Belgium, and, as usual, immediately on arrival were bombed, but the Bofors A/A guns gave a good account of themselves. The bombs were dangerously close, being only bare yards from our car park. Not so good!

"Fingers Crossed"

All the boys were under shell fire on Messines Ridge, while we stayed at Ploegsteert, and in Ypres I had the heaviest two hours' shelling I had experienced up to date. Every time any one was a minute overdue we sat "with fingers crossed," and it was amazing what we *did* get away with.

Even the second big raid on Armentieres, which just about finished off the town, saw us still safe, but our final retirement began in this sector when the Belgians threw down their arms. Falling back towards the coast the parties became broken up due to the congested roads, R.J. and Ron Allen, cut off from the main party, reaching England on their own, as you have already read.

Despite the bombing of Poperhinge I was glad to see the original Toc H untouched. Hour after hour the boming raids continued and acute congestion of vehicles added to our difficulties. Day and night the procession to the coast staggered on until our Unit eventually set up its last Signal Office on the Franco-Belgian frontier at Adinkirke.

Dog-fights

The German 'planes kept up their harassing tactics, but not without considerable opposition, and there was one glorious dog-fight "all over the sky" which lasted for most of an afternoon. The enemy artillery, however, was spasmodic, so during a lull in the proceedings Jock, Tresh and Lofty picked up a Triumph Speed Twin, a B.S.A. Empire Star and a 500 o.h.v. Ariel and went to play in a "trials section" that someone found. But eventually came the order to pack up and beat it to the coast. (Incidentally, when it came to destroying the vehicles which had served us so well, I tried to put a .38 bullet through my crankcase. A slight nick was the sole result, so I doffed my tin topee to "Mr. Norton.")

At Dunkirk

We marched along the coast towards Dunkirk until we found a lorry, climbed aboard and rode a few miles, then ditched the bus during yet another air raid and foot-slogged into the now sadly battered town. By the time we reached the beach we were very, very tired but somehow picked our way through all sorts of debris and discarded equipment.

Near the mole we came under shell fire yet again and with the gathering darkness the flames from the burning docks seemed to reach higher. Personally I was just about "on the last knockings" when, with Stan, I was told to fall out as a stretcher bearer. We grabbed our "case," a wounded "poilu," and carried him along the quay, put him aboard a warship, and then found she had cast off and was standing out to sea with us still aboard!

The rest of the lads boarded what craft they could. "Sylvo," for instance, sheltered in a house on which was registered a direct hit. He struggled out of the wrecked cellar, bolted down to the beach and started swimming. He boarded a boat just in time to hear someone say, "Sorry lads, you'll have to swim for it, we're aground." He swam!

The Welcome Home

There were many adventures such as these but we got along because the team spirit was grand and every one was willing to do anything. The welcome we got in England was marvellous and, believe me, we appreciated it. Now we have had a good rest, are fighting fit again and have caught up on our sleep so once more are prepared to get on with the knitting.

While waiting for another "basin of gruel" we still manage to enjoy ourselves. For a short time we played with a Thousand Squariel, getting the time for a 25-mile run down to 22 mins.—and that on a twisty Scottish road! Another D.R. (no names, Graham please) was seen blithely motoring along Princes Street, Edinburgh, in full war paint, kitbag strapped on behind—and a girl sitting on the top of the bag! It is only too true we are motorcyclists—not soldiers. But we get around!

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.

Royal Signals Comforts Fund "Shop"

Readers of THE WIRE will, no doubt, have seen on the receipt side of the Comforts Fund accounts a regular monthly entry of a goodly sum, briefly shown as " Proceeds of the Comforts Fund Shop," but I wonder how many of them realise how this money is raised.

On a recent afternoon I paid a visit to the Shop in question, which is conveniently situated opposite to Olympia in the Hammersmith Road, and was greeted on arrival by the lady on whose initiative and unbounded energy the establishment was first started, and is still being run.

It is a little difficult to make others visualise the scene, but perhaps if I say my first impression was that of entering a mixture between an Old Curiosity Shop and a Jumble Sale, I shall not be far wrong.

The contents ranged from " Objets d'art " such as old china and cut glass, through brass-ware and leather goods to old clothes and shoes, for all of which I understand there is a steady sale. Neither must I forget to mention the vast array of books, including many French publications, the latter providing great attraction for the French troops who are quartered " not many miles away."

Where, you may well ask, do all these things come from ? They comprise GIFTS from many good friends of the Corps. Unwanted trifles from the home, articles for which their owners have no further use, and, in short, anything which may attract the passer-by and produce revenue for the good of the cause.

Reading this may remind you of a number of things YOU could spare for contribution to this Bazaar of Bazaars. If such is the case will you very kindly pack them up and consign them to Mrs. G. D. Ozanne, Royal Signals Comforts Fund Shop, 67 Hammersmith Road, London, W.14, where they will be gratefully received and disposed of to the best advantage.

Other than " rent of premises " there are no overhead expenses, and the entire takings are handed over to the Royal Signals Comforts Fund.

Now what can one say about Mrs. Ozanne, who is responsible for this enterprise, and who is in attendance personally every day from early morning to late at night ? She, as well as the other ladies who have undertaken all this voluntary work for the comfort of Royal Signals personnel earn more than the gratitude of the Corps, but this is all we have to give them.

In the wintry months to come all those fellows who are provided gratuitously with " something woolly to keep the cold out " should think kindly of them all.

Diary of Events in the War

JULY 14TH TO AUGUST 10TH.

By E. W. S.

1940.

JULY 14TH.—Week's air losses on both sides stated as 13 British and 85 German aircraft destroyed, and 50 more Germans badly damaged. Prime Minister's broadcast states that we now have a million and a half soldiers and a million Home Guards under arms in Britain and intend to fight on without thought of surrender or negotiating for peace.

JULY 15TH.—R.A.F. continue attacks on German air and seaplane bases and other military objectives.

JULY 16TH.—R.A.F. raids continue. Italians stated to have lost 20 aircraft in recent naval action in Mediterranean.

JULY 17TH.—Highly successful air attack by R.A.F. on Ems-Dortmund canal. Enemy submarine sunk in Atlantic by flying boat.

JULY 18TH.—U.S.A. Democratic Party adopts President Roosevelt as candidate for third term of office at election in November.

JULY 19TH.—President Roosevelt accepts candidacy in noteworthy speech attacking dictatorship and renewing promise of aid to Allies. Hitler makes nebulous peace offer in speech in Reichstag. German air raid on convoy in Channel beaten off with loss of 10 aircraft. H.M.A.S. " Sydney " sinks Italian cruiser " Bartolomeo Colleoni " in action in Mediterranean.

JULY 20TH.—Lieutenant-General Sir A. Brooke appointed C.-in-C. Home Forces in succession to General Sir W. E. Ironside, promoted Field Marshal, and General Lord Gort appointed Inspector General for Training. Enemy attacks on shipping continue ; 21 of his aircraft shot down round British coasts.

JULY 21ST.—Successful R.A.F. raids on enemy oil tanks, naval bases and airdromes.

JULY 22ND.—Speech by Lord Halifax in reply to Hitler's peace offer. Admiralty announce new minefield covering southern entrance to Irish Sea.

JULY 23RD.—Second supplementary War Budget presented to Parliament. Government recognises Dr. Benes' committee in this country as provisional Government of Czecho-Slovakia. Parliaments of Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia ask for incorporation into Soviet Russia. Twelve German aircraft shot down in raids on this country.

JULY 24TH.—Fleet Air Arm machine torpedoes enemy supply ship in North Sea.

JULY 25TH.—S.S. " Meknes," carrying French troops and sailors being repatriated from England torpedoed by German motor boat in Channel with heavy loss of life. Twenty-eight German aircraft shot down round our coasts. Enemy attacks on shipping continue and five small British ships sunk.

JULY 27TH.—Men of 1906 class, 34 years old, register for service. Rumanian and Bulgarian delegates visit Hitler for discussions as to future developments in Balkans.

JULY 28TH.—British detain three Rumanian ships in reprisal for Rumania's anti-British action. Rumanian and Bulgarian ministers visit Hitler to receive his orders as to their foreign policy. First Royal Canadian Air Force fighter squadron arrives in England.

JULY 29TH.—Attack by 80 German aircraft on Dover beaten off with loss of 21 machines. Four others brought down elsewhere off our coasts. South African force arrives in Kenya. British Ambassador in Japan protests against recent arrests of British subjects on charges of espionage.

JULY 30TH.—Plans announced for British blockade of all western coast of Europe and control of all shipping sailing to or from it.

JULY 31ST.—U.S.A. prohibits export of aviation petrol except to American countries. Engagement in South Atlantic between H.M.S. "Alcantara " and armed German raider, in which both suffered damage. Announced that at least 240 German aircraft and 600 airmen accounted for in July.

AUGUST 1ST.—Enemy air raid causes casualties in Norwich. R.A.F. continue daily and nightly attacks on enemy military objectives. Two Italian submarines sunk in Mediterranean. Japan releases six out of thirteen British arrested.

AUGUST 2ND.—Large Canadian contingent arrives in Britain. S.S. " Highlander " destroys two enemy aircraft in North Sea. Arrangements made by Britain to buy 100 million bushels of Canadian wheat next year. Two Japanese arrested in London on charge of espionage.

AUGUST 3RD.—Lord Beaverbrook appointed member of War Cabinet. Australian drafts arrive in England.

AUGUST 4TH.—Resumption of Transatlantic air mail.

AUGUST 5TH.—Anglo-Polish military agreement signed.

AUGUST 6TH.—British Somaliland invaded by three strong Italian columns.

AUGUST 7TH.—Italians occupy Zeila on the coast of the Gulf of Aden and inland towns of Hargeisa and Odweina. Agreement signed between British Government and General de Gaulle's Free French forces for mutual co-operation in war on land, at sea and air. S.S. "Accra " sunk by enemy submarine off Eire coast.

AUGUST 8TH.—Heavy enemy air attack on coastal convoy repulsed with loss of 60 hostile aircraft ; our losses 16 machines and 2 small craft. Enemy E-boats attack and sink 3 small ships ; one E-boat sunk and another damaged. Pay of rank and file of all three Services raised by 6d. a day. Speech by Lord Linlithgow, Viceroy of India, announcing proposals for future government of India.

AUGUST 9TH.—R.A.F. in an air fight against two-fold odds in Libya destroy 15 Italian machines. British troops withdrawn from North China.

AUGUST 10TH.—Continued raids by enemy aircraft on our coasts and by R.A.F. night bombers against military targets in Germany and German-occupied territory.

HOME STATIONS

Yorkshire 1

1st Operators' Training Battalion

Administrative Wing

General.—Well, here we are again! "Tempus fugit," as they say. Time certainly does fly. It is pleasing to note the happy, smiling faces in the Administrative Wing now that leave has been resumed; true, the percentage is small, but we have hopes of an increase in the near future.

It is learned with regret that Sergeant Gavins is to leave the cook-house and be employed elsewhere. We wish him good luck in his new surroundings, and take this opportunity of congratulating Lance Corporal Cross, his successor, upon his recent promotion.

Entertainments.—The Administrative Wing certainly has some good talent, as was witnessed at the recent concert held in the N.A.A.F.I. I had the pleasure of being at a few rehearsals and, believe me, the "Operats" put the professionals in the shade. "Dr. Frankenstein" was again presented and, together with the "Shadowgraphs," are worthy of any touring company. Major Holwill was buzzing around as busy as a bee, and his partner in crime, Lieutenant (T.M.O.) Adcock, was responsible for the lighting arrangements. Many thanks are due to S.S.M. Wagner for his stage management and acting. No show would be complete without the attendance of the A.T.S., and to "Blondie" and her confederates we say thank you on behalf of the many men who enjoyed a pleasant evening's entertainment. It is rumoured that it is only a question of time before the "Operats" are on the "air"; may it be soon. They can rest assured that the good wishes of the Administrative Wing are behind them. Dances are still a weekly feature in the mess-room, and a happy time is enjoyed by all; as they close down the dance the good night melody lingers through the air, and so with that we say adieu and good night.

A. E. Hughes.

No. 1 Company

You read last month about the adventures of the 1st Teleprinter Rifles, and all the fun and games they had. Since then lots of other things have happened, the most commendable being, from the point of view of those who always find the blankets sticking in the "wee sma" hours, that the up-in-the-morning-early business arrives a bit later now.

Still, as you've already been told, there's a lot of fun to be had before the crack of dawn. Such as certain Sergeants and Junior N.C.O.s, whose P.T. days are nearly over, showing the lads how they should get down to their toes and the way to do the high kicking—and losing a lot of trouser buttons and wind in the effort.

But to get down to the continuation of the adventures of the Teleprinter Rifles. Their big day was when they took part in a mock battle against vastly superior forces from the other Companies—superior in numbers that is. The way the keyboard men donned their equipment when the alarm went was a revelation, and in a remarkably short space of time the convoy was under way. The drivers stepped on it with a vengeance and contact was soon made with the "enemy."

Weight of superior numbers made it necessary for one of those famous strategic withdrawals to be made, and this was performed in masterly fashion. It was, indeed, a great credit to the plan of campaign drawn up by our Company Commander, Captain Lang, and the able assistance given by C.S.M. Barber and S.S.M. Wagner. The way the lads withdrew, using every bit of natural cover and delaying the enemy all the time was splendid. Really, if that double-dyed rapscallion Herr Adolf Hitler had seen us he would have burned his Blitzkrieg plans immediately, sacked the Generals who haven't been shot, boiled Hermann down into grease to make soap so that he could wash his hands of the whole business, and cut his throat on an Iron Cross.

You may think we believe we're no small beer in this Company—probably you're right!—but, seriously, our Company acquitted themselves extremely well, and that's not our own personal opinion, but that of competent judges. The work of the men, and the way they understood the orders of their Platoon Commanders, showed that their training has done them the world of good.

You've got to come to the Signals for originality! The latest proof of this was when Lieutenant Shrimpton introduced M.T. —Mental Training—and offered the prize of an extra week's wages for a married man for answering ten simple questions. Simple questions, did I say? Too simple. They caught nearly everybody out. They were based on personal observation of things one passes every day, and everybody was really surprised at what they can see without really noticing it.

Only one thing was wrong about it. The prize, in the estimation of many, went to the wrong man. They think it should have gone to the bright individual who said that the Signals' motto is "S.O.B."

Now the raw recruits are wondering what the connection is between "Certa Cito" and S.O.B. They'll soon learn!

R. W. M.

No. 2 Company

Fairy Tales Number 1.—Once upon a time a bunch of mobile teletappers used to play soldiers for a couple of hours in the early morn and sleep it off till noon. One day some of them thought they had played so hard they might still feel sleepy after dinner. So they thought it best in the interests of the nation and the Unit to stay abed and sleep or read till tea.

So far so bad.

But one lad had his wife up from the country, so he told his Sergeant that he might as well spend the morning out in town with her as waste it in barracks. He, too, was doubtful about his fitness for work in the afternoon, but he had the right spirit —he was a trier—so he called out to the Sergeant, as he left the lines: "I may drop in during the afternoon."

He didn't manage to make it, but the moral of the story is—anyone can be somewhere on the right road, even if he is facing the wrong way.

Number 2.—Once upon a time there was a nasty old vulture. It thought it was an eagle, but it fed on excreta of all kinds and dropped its own all over the place. There were some little nightingales who used to sing—a sort of warble—when they saw the vulture coming.

For many moons it came regularly every night, and the nightingales made so much noise that people began to dislike their songs, although it was understood that they meant well. So the nightingales, noticing all the black looks in the night, closed their beaks, and sucked lozenges, and all the people were happy—just one or two, here and there, were occasionally wakened by the drop of the droppings.

In fact they forgot that such horrid birds as vultures had ever been created (by mistake), till one day—right bang in the middle of the day—when the people were all at dinner, champing their chops, and rending their rissoles, and making a great clamour, the vulture came, the nightingales sang and sang, and nothing happened. The stretcher bearers and the rescue man, and the fire pumpers, and all sorts of chaps who should have rushed out in case the droppings came down too hot and too heavy—well, they never rushed out at all—but continued with the "spotted dick" and mustard. Nobody had his wash-basin on his napper, nor even his gas cape at his side. However, the vulture was blown back home and the nightingales sang a

proper song of relief, but the masticating masculines never heard that song either; the Announcer said that "things had gone according to plan," and the Cook-Sergeant said that "anyway they hadn't left much" (though who "they" were I'm not quite sure.)

Well, the nightingales are staying with us again this winter (and we hope they won't get as hoarse as they did last year). Perhaps they will be able to have a rest before next spring, and everything in the garden will be lovely, and those droppings may produce prize potatoes all round the lines. The moral is that—a bird on the land is worth one in the Navy.

Quickies.—It is said that a certain young officer is as bucked with his promotion as a pen with two nibs.

All the best to Sergeant Sanley and Corporal Carrison, who have been sent away from us on promotion as knights in armour.

Welcome to S.S.M. Loudon, who has taken over No. 2 Section. May he never have to look for work!

When is the O.C. going to get HIS share of the smokes?

No. 3 Company

General.—The following is an example of what an individual can do in an emergency.

Promotions.—C.Q.M.S. Burrell, Sergeant Lilley and Corporal Glendinning on being substantiated are tendered hearty congratulations. There may be some more one day, but I am no prophet and it is a long road.

Killed in Action.—Brigadier G. E. Mansergh, C.B.E., M.C., Royal Signals. We should like, if permitted, to pay tribute to the memory of an officer and a gentleman. All ranks who served in Egypt Signals will have read of his passing with deep regret.

Arrivals.—These are too numerous to mention and the departures are in the same quantity. Anyway here, without distinction, we tender a warm reception to arrivals, and, if you know what I mean, the same to the departures.

Query.—What is this "Rubicon" we repeatedly see referred to in WIRE notes? There must be a Gipsy Smith somewhere in the Unit.

Advert.—Wanted a good scribe. Through the medium of this publication you can keep in touch with old friends and places. Anyone who thinks he can make a good job of journalism is invited to take up the pen for the sake of the Company.

Marriage.—We should like to offer commiseration to Signalman Nutt R., who was ensnared by Miss Edith Grace Marion Nicholls at Carshalton on 17th August, 1940. All the best, Nutt!

P. W. O.

Depot Battalion

Fanfare, Off.—Creative work is nearly always a protracted business. When the genius is poor and the inspiration meagre, it is apt to take four months for a set of WIRE notes to come into being. In which we apologise for the recording in August of events belonging more properly to the end of April.

Weather Notes (Censor permitting).—Spring leapt into being at the usual time—hedges blossomed, lambs frisked, and the Sergeant-Major mowed the office lawn of an afternoon. After that the summer came, the description of which we will not trouble the censor to delete: it is doubtless familiar to our readers. Now that the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness is upon us we pause to pray that at least the fair hopfields of Kent may be spared from the dark invader. A concomitant shortage of beer would be an insupportable addition to the burdens of taxation.

War News (Cens. perm.).—On the home front—nothing to report. O.R.s below the rank of Lance Sergeant laid kit for inspection by 09.00 hrs., 3.8.40. Married personnel living out of barracks laid kit in No. 0 Barrack Room.

Sport (C. p.).—This has been progressing favourably in all fields. With the advent of Len Hutton among us, cricket is well in the forefront, and scores are high. Perhaps the most outstanding match recently was at football, between Admin. Wing



But soon a wonder came to light
That showed the rogues they lied!
The man recovered of the bite,
The dog it was that died

reservists and the reservists of the remainder of the Battalion. The stakes (fluid asset or financial liability) stood impressively in 12 dark green bottles beside the pitch, under a heavy guard of regimental police and stalwart N.C.O.s. The fun was fast and furious, the game ponderous and grave. An exceedingly rotund member of the Battalion team kept getting himself mistaken for the ball. As he often fell over himself, rolling heavily on the ground, this was understandable. We forgot who won.

We also turned out a tug-of-war team. This pitted itself against one of the super-heavy Regiments of R.A., and lost. They claimed on return that the gunners had been practising against their guns, which wasn't fair, since the Signals had nothing heavier to practise against than D.IIIs—and even that was against Standing Orders. Of our charity we believed them and even credited the term super-heavy to the gunners as distinct from their guns.

Cultural Note.—Corporal: "What's your name?"
Recruit: "Williams."
Corporal: "Williams what?"
Recruit: "Williams R."
Corporal: "Williams R. what?"
Recruit: "Williams R. G."
Corporal: "———."



Come the three corners of the world in arms, and we shall shock them

Relations with Press.—Undying fame is ours. The officers of the 1st Depot Battalion have appeared in caricature in a centre page of the "Tatler," together with R.S.M. Stickley and Section-Leader Gallon (representing the A.T.S.). Miss Gallon is annoyed —not at the caricature, but because somebody said it was natural and somebody added that it flattered her. But such is the price of fame—obloquy and carping criticism.

Sausage Machine.—Recruits keep on joining the Army. It's odd the way the fact thrusts itself upon you in a depot. They tread down the hard-worn asphalt of the square, they learn which end of the gun to put the bullets in, they trip lightsome over the spotless floor of Q.M.S.I. Matthews' gym., and they leave here looking for the most part more cheery and in all cases more robust than when they came—for all the hard work that the intensive training is these days. They come in hodden gray or sports cars, but they scrub the same floors and they fraternise with quick naturalness. They have a visible alertness and sense of discipline, with a presence of bearing, when they go.

If it was Napoleon who said we were a nation of shopkeepers, it would do his present imitator no harm to see some of the goods in this window.

Crime Story.—Dastardly crime it was, too. The Provost Sergeant's dog bit one of the policemen. They have given the dog a tombstone worthy of his exploit.



He doth bestride this narrow world like a Colossus

Cut.—And so for the present we leave you. The restrictions on news and the scarcity of newsprint hinder us from writing more. For what more could we write that would not be invention of news where no news was; and this we will not do lest the reader turn on us with the baleful eye of accusation—

His honour rooted in dishonour stood,
And faith unfaithful kept him falsely true.

LFACKO.

Boys Training Company

The Company went on their summer leave on 30th July. For once in seven months peace and quietness reigned over the B.T.C.

Whilst the Boys were away, C.S.M. Tudor was posted to No. 2 (Line) Company. He has been with us since September last and his genial personality, or perhaps his sympathetic understanding, gained him the respect of all with whom he came in contact. His successor is the well-known all-round sportsman, C.S.M. Edge T., who has played in the United Services soccer team. He is also a noted billiards player. We all wish him the best of luck, and may his stay be a long and pleasant one.

Corporal Cook T. has also joined the Company recently. We all know his cool efficiency will be welcome by the Company Office staff, who are renowned for their clerical capabilities.

Our heartiest congratulations go to Corporal Murray A. on his promotion and hope his three colleagues will soon follow suit.

As you can guess, with the Company away, on leave, there is not much to say, so till next month, when we have all settled down again, best wishes from

JASPER POIK.

SPORTS NOTES

Swimming.—This was the first time in two years that the Boys' Company have had this form of sport and the entries were high and the swimming good. The results of the meeting were as follows:

BREAST STROKE—50 YARDS.—Over 16: 1, Boy Lane; 2, Boy Sinclair J. W. Under 16: 1, Boy Wolfe; 2, Boy Wride.

BREAST STROKE—25 YARDS—LEARNERS.—1, Boy Woolgar; 2, Boy Tilley.

FREE STYLE—25 YARDS—LEARNERS.—1, Boy Woolgar; 2, Boy Weatherley.

PLUNGING.—Under 16: 1, Boy Wride; 2, Boy Knight; 3, Boy Wilson. Over 16: 1, Boy Stevens; 2, Boy Lane.

BACKSTROKE—50 YARDS.—Under 16: 1, Boy Metcalfe; 2, Boy Smillie. Over 16: 1, Boy Neale; 2, Boy Froom.

DIVING.—Under 16: 1, Boy Grigg; 2, Boy Wolfe. Over 16: 1, Boy Neale; 2, Boy Sinclair J. W.

FREE STYLE.—Under 16: 1, Boy Lewis; 2, Boy Wilkes. Over 16: 1, Lance Corporal Boy Dunning; 2, Sergeant Boy Rabjohns.

LIFE SAVING.—1, Boy Neale; 2, Boy Lane.

PICKING UP PLATE.—Under 16: 1, Boy Knight; 2, Boy Dugdale. Over 16: 1, Boy Vallor (25 plates); 2, Lance Corporal Boy Dunning (21 plates).

OBSTACLE RACE.—Under 16: 1, Boy Swales; 2, Boy Wolfe. Over 16: 1, Boy Yallop; 2, Boy Sinclair J. W.

RELAY RACE.—Won by Workshop Boys.

Cricket.—A fixture was arranged against a Grammar School in residence nearby and the Boys' team won by 16 runs. The Boys' Company batted first, making 82. Lance Corporal Boy Hopkins, 34; Corporal Boy D'Hooghe, 30. The Grammar School replied with 66, Lance Corporal Boy Hopkins taking seven wickets for 20 runs. It is hoped to have a return fixture in the near future.

Against the R.A.M.C., the Company team lost by three wickets. The Boys' Company scored 64 and the R.A.M.C. 65 for 7. The match was on a matting wicket.

Recently Lance Corporal Smith A. of this Company has played for the Training Battalion and Lance Corporal Boy Hopkins for the Garrison. It is hoped that they will hold their positions in these teams.

Athletics.—In the Training Battalion Athletic Meeting the Boys' Company was well represented. The following were the results:

SPRINTS.—100 YARDS: 2, Boy Knight R.; 3, Lance Corporal Boy Brodie. 220 YARDS: 1, Boy Knight R.; 2, Lance Corporal Boy Brodie. 440 YARDS: 2, Lance Corporal Smith A.

880 YARDS.—2, Boy Harrison; 3, Lance Corporal Boy Roberts.

ONE MILE.—2, Lance Corporal Boy Perkins; 3, Boy Douglas.

THREE MILE CROSS-COUNTRY.—Time 16 mins. 40 secs. 1, Lance Corporal Boy Royle; 2, Boy Yallop; 3, Sergeant Boy Rabjohns.

LONG JUMP.—1, Lance Corporal Smith A., 19ft. 3ms.

HIGH JUMP.—1, Lance Corporal Smith A.

SHOT.—2, Lance Corporal Murray A. E.

UNDER 16 TROPHY.

100 YARDS SPRINT.—Time 11 4/5 secs. 1, Boy Hine; 2, Boy Moore.

440 YARDS.—Time 60 2/5 secs. 1, Boy Moore; 2, Boy Hine; 3, Boy Dadswell.

880 YARDS.—Time 2 mins. 22 4/5 secs. 1, Boy Moore; 2, Boy Christie; 3, Boy Bond J.

JAVELIN.—1, Boy Vickers (136 ft. 5ms.); 2, Boy Ford (119ft. 11ins.); 3, Boy Ham (106ft. 4½ins.).

LONG JUMP.—1, Boy Ham (17ft. 1½ins.); 2, Boy Ford (16ft. 3¾ins.); 3, Boy Knight L.

HIGH JUMP.—1, Boy Hine (4ft. 9ms.); 2, Boy Knight L.; 3, Boy Vickers.

SHOT.—1, Boy Ford (33ft.); 2, Boy Harding O.; 3, Boy Knight.

DISCUS.—1, Boy Ham (84ft. 2ins.); 2, Boy Sinclair J. C.; 3, Boy Froom.

The trophy is awarded to the Boy who, in the opinion of the judges performs the most outstanding event of the meeting. The trophy this year was awarded to Boy Moore, who completed the 440 yards in 60 2/5 secs. We all congratulate him on this fine effort and hopes he sticks to the good work.

OPEN EVENTS.

ONE MILE HANDICAP.—1, Boy Potts; 2, Boy Graveling; 3, Boy Weatherley.

ONE MILE.—Time 5 mins. 21 secs. 1, Lance Corporal Boy Royle; 2, Sergeant Boy Rabjohns; 3, Lance Corporal Boy Dunning.

JAVELIN.—1, Lance Corporal Boy Hopkins (124ft. 6ins.); 2, Boy Dwyer (121ft.); 3, Sergeant Boy Rabjohns (113ft. 9ins.).

Tennis.—The fixture against the School of Signals passed off successfully. The result was a win for this Company. The matches were all doubles and the Boys won all the sets as shown :

Lance Corporal Boy Hopkins and Boy Stevens ..	6—1
Sergeant Boy Rabjohns and Corporal Boy D'Hooghe	6—4
Lance Corporal Boy Hopkins and Boy Mills	6—4
Corporal Boy D'Hooghe and Boy Stevens	6—0
Sergeant Boy Rabjohns and Boy Mills	7—5

The next fixture is against the R.A.F.

DOOGY.

S.T.C. Wales

Depot Battalion

As an interlude from my usual words of comparative imbecility I should like to relate the probably unique experience of a close friend of mine. It would appear that close to this lad's camp "Somewhere in England" was a large town with enough varieties of entertainment whereby a visit thereto proved more than a normally welcome change from the general routine of army life. Until some days before the incident which I am about to describe occurred, the billeting area of the unit was diminished thus making this happy, so happy, land "out of bounds." Nothing loth, however, our friend, scorning this unexpected restriction on what had become a regular weekly visit, set forth for the "verboten."

Although it is true that the conscience of the rebellious schoolboy was certainly not non-existent, his senses were not impaired, the mind clear and his eyes piercing in their watchfulness. At the railway station of the destination, however, there were, unfortunately, two Military Police, who, by their unfairly suspicious regard of troops obviously on leave, were similarly keen-witted. Our comrade in arms was in a desperate predicament until, eyeing around in despair of a means of retreat, he espied a Company of infantry who had just detrained and awaiting the bloke i/c. The apparent futility of hope of escape must have temporarily rendered our hero slightly insane. Without a further thought he beetled up to the rear of the column which was just beginning to form and deftly removing his cap badge he slid into the provident blank file and ignored the stares of his newly-found companions in a manner comparable to a cove seeing his tailor at the end of Ascot week. Within a minute they were away and through the gates to freedom, or at least provided that stealth of exit from "column of route" could be achieved as successfully as the earlier manœuvre; he resolved to wait until they came to a corner and "lose" his cap. Nevertheless, further tragedy was in store! After not having deviated one degree from the course of over a quarter of a mile, they were suddenly "right wheeled" into a courtyard. Then the "halt" and "stand easy."

If ever people have talked of the "hot-headed Gaelic" surely a record in the opposite direction must now have been established by the chilliness of the blood frisking hither and thither in the lad's carcase. Shocks came like machine gun bullets and after scarce breathing space (even of the erratic type) up tootled the presumed O.C. "For Inspection Open Order March," upped by the crown and laurel leaves and then the agony became crucial. The three-pipper was proceeding up and down at a satisfactory pace, but when he glanced at the terrified interloper he halted more smartly than a member of a Depot troop on "Passing Out" Day.

"Where is your cap badge?" "Mislaid it, sir." "Sergeant-Major, make sure that this man obtains one before the next parade." Then he and his entourage walked on. "Company, dismiss!" The visitor came out of his nightmare sometime later like a cod fish out of its jelly, and when he returned eventually to semi-normal it was with the realisation that all the Company, including the Captain and C.S.M., must have been strangers to each other, and that, far more important, his feet had carried him successfully out of the barracks.

Two unusual events occurred this month. The more important was a Brigade Sports Meeting, and very successful, both in the

S.T.C. BAND



Drummer Harry Kehr



Let it go boys. Make it hot

variety of events and number of entries and the obvious keenness of the competitors and enthusiasm of the spectators.

I knew very few of the participants by name, so I hope that one of the other representatives has done a " write up " of the show. As an ordinary observer I liked the member of the A.T.S. who, in the eighty yards, shot out of the " trap " like Mick the Miller. I never " lay the odds-on," but had bookmakers been present and having seen the lass take the first heat by storm, this habit would have been broken in the final. And I should have " collected."

As a reminder of happier days a shooting-stick struck a cheery chord and the sportsmanship of one bloke, running the mile, who had the field " whacked to a frazzle " with a lap to go unnecessarily sprinted this circuit in the approved manner.

The other sporting event was not so vigorous ; it consisted of a snooker match against the Conservative Club. I regret to say we lost 5—2, but we put up a good show against very good players. For the benefit of our gourmet readers, the supper consisted of salmon sandwiches, lobster pates, veal and ham pie, cornish pasties, some excellent apple tart and—plenty of beer.

By the way, troops, what has happened to the letters ? Uncle Arthur is still here, bursting with words of wisdom and comfort

GLENDALOUGH.

"A" Company Depot Battalion

Introduction.—Well, here we are again, chums, and once more it falls to my unhappy lot to have to rack my brains, lose nights of sleep, interview hundreds of people (well, the C.S.M., anyway) and listen for gossip and loose talk in an effort to compile my notes for this month's WIRE. Once again I have a few photographs for publication (censor permitting), and hope they will bring back many happy memories to those of you who have passed on from " Somewhere in Wales."

General.—There is nothing startling to report. The Company is working hard, as usual, and turning out excellent squads.

Promotions.—We congratulate the following on their promotions : Promoted Corporal : Lance Corporals Fulton R. O., High W., Bell M. O. and Sunter F.

Engagement.—We congratulate Lance Corporal Vaughan S. on his recent engagement ; we thought he was going to be left on the shelf.

Courses.—Congratulations to Sergeant Spargo W. M. on obtaining a first class when he attended a Drill and Duties Course at Wellington Barracks. Nice work.

Entertainments.—We have been privileged with a visit from John Geilgud & Co., whose cast included Miss Beatrice Lillie and Miss Ivy St. Hellier, truly a spanking good show ; all enjoyed it a 100 per cent. Thank you, John.

A Depot Battalion dance was held in the ballroom on 6th August, where one and all, including many visitors and a spot of local talent, enjoyed dancing to the " Two Blues Band." Our M.C. behaved himself this time (ref. last month's WIRE).

Sports.—An S.T.C. Sports Meeting was held on Thursday, 8th August. Although the Company did not come out on top, we were represented in most of the events. Better luck next time.

Wives, Beware !—Officers and N.C.O.s are attending an offensive Training Course under the P.T. Staff. Ju-jitsu and all that. Look out, Mrs. ——— ; that puny-looking husband of yours will soon think nothing of your rolling pin. He's used to dealing with daggers now.

Poem.—

He's got a pass to Swansea,
  She's got a pass to Brum ;
A pity they're so far apart,
  Or are they ? Oh, what fun.

Things We Want to Know.—Is our " Q " joining the parachute troops ? We hear that he has been doing a spot of unconventional flying. Happy landings.

Careless Talk.—Who is the N.C.O. who sleeps under tables.

(JIMMY) F.

"B" Company Depot Battalion

Here we are again, always ready to talk about other peoples' business, and anything else that doesn't concern us.

We will start with " first things first " by giving away a few congratulations.

We think it must have been the moustache on Lance Sergeant Jackson's top lip that brought him the other chevron ; well done the R.A. Congratulations to Lance Sergeant W——, on having enough courage to bring his wife into the district ; he will have to watch his p's and q's now. It has been noticed that he does not visit the canteen much nowadays. I wonder why.

Some people are terribly slow, they hang around till the last minute of the day they are scheduled to go on leave, thus giving the impression that they would rather stay behind ; and, what ho, in the end they do.

We musn't forget to congratulate Signalman Andrews on the wonderful show he organised with our local talent. He must have worked hard. We hope we shall be hearing from him and his boys again soon, and especially so during the dark winter months that are to come.

We had some sports a few days ago. The Company was represented in every event, but owing to a bit of bad luck we failed to bring the cup back with us ; still, better luck *next time* (we hope).

By the way, gentlemen, Corporal Davies' cycle is no longer termed " our bike," for he wants it for his own use, for a change ; so N.C.O.s need quarrel no longer on whose turn it is to use it. Talking about " bikes "—the prices of second-hand grid-irons have risen tremendously, due to enthusiastic bidding from commissioned ranks.

N.A.A.F.I. profits have also risen sharply of late, doubtless on account of the recent permission given to N.C.O.s and men to earn " some pocket money " by helping local farmers " in their spare time."

Who was the N.C.O. who thought the C.O. was a fifth columnist while he was looking for his dog at 2100 hours round our trenches —poor dog. Nice work, eh ?

We see we shall be able to receive plenty of 4 x 2 now, as Tex is in the Stores.

There was Tex, Tex, reading books on sex,
  In the Stores, in the Stores ;
And he is Burns, Burns,
Always giving turns,
  In the Quartermaster's Stores.

It's the talk of the camp. What is ? This is ? No. 4 Section averaged 67 per cent. shooting marks on the range last month. " How's Zat ? " Well done, No. 4 Section. Any advance on 67 per cent. ?

Instructors are not failing to put the aggressive spirit into their men, and the men are doing fine. Each recruit is keen to come into close combat with the enemy, to show them what good stuff they are made of. They mean to win this " blessed " war, and, best of all, they are keeping a cheerful spirit.

Well, best of luck till next time.

JIM.

"Onecor" Signals

The above-named Company makes its somewhat belated entry into what has now become a " feature " in the life of the Corps. (Need I mention the WIRE.)

We believe that prior to the outbreak of hostilities, notes were contributed regularly each month, and having again commenced, it will be our endeavour to carry on the good work of our predecessors. So let's to business.

We must pass the first phase of our war existence briefly by merely stating our active participation in France and Belgium from September, 1939, and terminating at Dunkirk in June, 1940.

Since our arrival " Somewhere in England " we are striving to attain our former efficiency in Stores, Transport, etc., and the

" bhoys " of the various Line Sections have now qualified as fully experienced " loaders and unloaders." There is, however, still time and opportunity for individuals to study and be taught (under the eagle eye of a Welshman), with the ultimate object of attaining a higher rating and, of course, the "Ackers " attached thereto.

At present, our Camp, which is situated in the English countryside, proves an ideal spot to indulge in the life of an English country gentleman ; but one has not the time, and shall we say inclination, to indulge in the scenery, etc., after the many tiresome and arduous duties most of us are called upon to perform in this vital hour.

No. 1 Company

Arrivals.—We welcome the arrival of Captain F. C. Watts, M.M., to our Company, and we sincerely hope that his stay will be a long one.

Promotions.—Congratulations to Major W. A. Stripp on his promotion to mentioned rank.

The O.R.s' promotion has been varied and, in some cases, rapid, and it would take too much time and space to mention each individual by name. However, we must congratulate them all, not forgetting to offer our " shake " to C.S.M. (Shoey) back on obtaining a halo round his crown. No, not his head.

Departures.—It was indeed with regret that we parted with C.S.M. (Paddy) Parsons to No. 3 Company, and in this case it is certainly a definite gain for No. 3 Company. All the best, Paddy.

We have also parted company with Sandy Stewart, who has gone to see his " bonnie heather bell." Best of luck, Sandy.

Queries.—One wonders if the good old days (?) of gee-gees were with us if there would be such enthusiasm as is shown at present during the M/C Instruction should the steeds be changed.

Jews' Mail.—To Bovine Passer Gwillim. Last heard of scrounging in Singapore. " What about a line if they still run boats ? Freddy."

No. 2 Company

After many conferences, and, of course, much passing of the baby, it has been decided that we should make a definite effort to appear regularly in the pages of the Corps Journal. Well, here we are to make a start (with the Editor's kind permission) with very hearty greetings to all our old comrades, and also the many new Units now appearing in print. Although we have been absent from THE WIRE for so long we still take a very lively interest in our Journal.

You old stagers dotted around England would hardly recognise the Company now. There are many new faces, but we pull together and still keep up the old standard. Our Company Commander of the old Aldershot days has left us, and, though late in the day, we wish him the best of luck in his new Unit. The present Company Commander is well known to members of the Artillery Signal Sections of the old No. 3 Company.

Our operators have recently been on teleprinter training, but it has now finished, as the machines have been taken away for more useful purposes—or is it that they could not stand up to the strain ?

A Junior N.C.O.s' Drill and Duties Course is at present in full swing. The results up to the present are varied. Some now talk permanently in a loud voice, while others have recourse to throat pastilles of assorted brands. The two who put in secret training in the Company office should, we think, most certainly be placed outside the pale.

Being of a shy and retiring nature we think we have done fairly well for a start and trust that our readers will have patience with us for a while until we improve.

TWOCOY.

A.A. Signals, South-East England

Headquarters.

We have noticed that from time to time some of our contemporaries have endeavoured to attract attention to themselves by discoursing on the amount of work that they do. We scorn to employ such questionable advertising methods. But we mentioned the fact lest it be thought that our devotion to sport should imply a lack of acquaintanceship with the sterner facts of life.



We have again had some excellent cricket, winning two and losing the other two matches. The winning match against an R.A.F. team produced a very exciting finish. Our opponents lost their last two wickets in the penultimate over, leaving us the victors by one run. Our most recent game against Iver Club, although it resulted in our defeat by 20 runs, proved a most enjoyable match, and revealed two more promising bats. Out of our total of 103, Signalman Knapton and Signalman Soper produced 53 in an excellent fourth wicket partnership. Knapton compiled an excellent 40, while Soper claimed 23 out of our total.

Our friend St. Swithin seemed determined to show what he could do this year, but finding us completely indifferent to his efforts, he has relented, leaving us to enjoy some really glorious weather, during which the local swimming pool has proved a great boon.

We have recently enjoyed a veritable feast of music. We attended a concert (free, be it noted) in which the R.A.F. Band, the R.A.F. String Orchestra, and the R.A.F. Dance Band all appeared. It was a most excellent show and the organisers are to be congratulated on achieving such a well-balanced programme

This being the normal holiday season we are living in hopes because we have heard " rumours," but we shall see.

No. 1 Company

With warming rays of sunshine, August, the month of summer holidays, has descended upon us once again. Memories are fresh with recollections of past years when we sought and received of the pleasures of this month. August, 1940, finds us living in different circumstances. We have important work to do with a far-reaching objective, which when achieved, will give us the satisfaction of knowing that to be deprived of our annual leisure days has not been in vain.

In this part of rural England we have made a happy home and, besides carrying on with our work, we find time to associate

ourselves with other activities which have made our lot much happier.

Great interest was attached to the result of the recent Trade Board Tests. Anxious "students" were highly elated when their names appeared on the Daily Orders. Some of us who had never before associated ourselves with magnetism and electricity derived great interest from the course of instruction, and here we wish to voice our thanks to the officers who took the lectures for their keenness in helping us over our difficulties. Without such help, the high percentage of successes recorded would have been impossible.

Congratulations are extended to Lance Corporal Prior, Signalmen Brockington and Brown on having successfully completed a Course for Instrument Mechanics at the North-Western and Borough Polytechnics. Two other popular members of No. 1 Company now proceeding on different courses are Lance Sergeant Leedham and Signalman Wilkinson. They carry with them the best wishes of the Company for a successful period of study.

We take this opportunity of extending a welcome to 2nd Lieutenant C. B. Cox. We hope that his stay among us will be one of happiness and success.

When most people are talking cricket, our football enthusiasts are already preparing for the coming season. In the evenings they can be seen displaying their skill and energy on the football pitch, and if early indications are anything to go by, we can look forward to a very successful season.

Unfortunately, owing to many difficulties we have not been able to play our share of cricket this season. However, what little that has been played, has shown that with plenty of practice, we could have formed a very formidable team. We hope for better luck next year—if we are here.

Several exciting sets of tennis have been witnessed on the lawn of the local Rectory, while every Sunday afternoon Sergeant Batchelor sees that most of us take a swim in the local swimming pool..

On the entertainment side we nave not been neglected. Corporal Bingham and Signalman Calkin have gathered together a group of Signalmen who have exhibited rare ability at stage entertainment. Many a happy evening has been spent listening to their songs, verse and lyrics, and as their popularity has escaped beyond the boundaries of our Camp, they now find much enjoyment in entertaining members of the Forces often less fortunate than ourselves.

Our gratitude is also expressed to Signalman Perrins. His weekly shows of silent films have been a source of great enjoyment to us. We are looking forward to more.

When the clouds are at their darkest, nature can produce always a pretty picture. We can think of our garden as this: rich in fruit and vegetables, we are now quietly filled with pride as we see how amply we have been rewarded of the toils of our early days in Camp. The borders surrounding are beautiful to behold, and in this, credit is due to those who have devoted so much of their spare time to the care of the flowers.

We appreciate very much the introduction of the weekly twenty-four hours' leave, but we cannot very well express our joy at the re-introduction of a seven-days' leave. Many of us who have come from long distances will be visiting our homes for the first time in six months. We are looking forward to it; yes, and what is more, we are looking forward to the extra 6d. a day which will make our "vacation" all the better.

A.A. Signals, Scotland

Headquarters.

August.

This must indeed be the most exciting month of the war, so far—a year's war service behind us and a lordly increase of 3d. a day in consequence. This is likely to cause a momentary lull in the activities of the most persistent applicants for transfers, postings, trade boards and leave! In fact, there is greater rejoicing over 3d. earned (?) than is occasioned by the apparently already-forgotten "tanner" which is, we believe, to take the place of cheaper smokes.

We have been hearing quite a lot about old friends recently. No. 1 Company will probably remember "Andra" Loonie, who is now in the Navy, and who paid us a visit a few days ago. He brought news of Lance Sergeant Kirkland (now Sergeant-Cook), whose capacity for being gently firm gave him the confidence of all who worked with him. The barrack square still echoes to the commands of Lance Sergeant Milne J., who is at present, we hear, doing duty in Northern Ireland. Quite a lot has been seen, in the last few days, of "Smudger"—otherwise C.S.M. Smith R. M. T.—who was originally C.S.M. of No. 1 Company and who has now returned from the Field Force for temporary duty with a new formation in the vicinity. May we say at this point that we hear disappointingly little from those who have left us for new hunting grounds; there are many here who would like to hear from them occasionally.

Our enthusiastic Sports Committee still continues to find a large number of keen supporters. A return match with No. 2 Company has been arranged, and it is hoped that we will find ourselves able to rise to the occasion as nobly as they did on our visit. The Inter-Section Football League will shortly be finished; the competitive spirit in these matches grows keener with each game.

Four members of the Unit have just returned from an Instrument Mechanics' Course of Instruction. They are Lance Corporal Hinde F. and Signalman Harrower R., who have been recommended for Class II in their trades, and Lance Corporal Wynne H. S. and Signalman McCarthy J. P., who passed the basic training test—nice work!

ACK-ACK.

No. 1 Company

August.

Midway through the month we were very sorry to lose 2nd Lieutenant W. R. Burnett, posted to No. 3 Company. Although with us for a comparatively short time, he won our deep respect and our good wishes go with him. A few days later we welcomed 2nd Lieutenant J. R. Patullo, who has settled among us so readily that we now regard him as an old friend.

Recruits and men posted from other units continue to arrive and continue to be stunned, temporarily, of course, by the really delightful initiation which our old hands reserve for them. "Good heavens, old man, what on earth made you come to this place?" This question, delivered in a hoarse, secretive whisper, invariably produces an intriguing reaction, but the touching story of tragedy and disaster which is supposed to constitute our normal daily round is rarely swallowed whole.

Sport has given us so many good things that it is impossible to describe them all. Football enthusiasts experienced thrilling moments, while Unit Headquarters, after appearing safely beaten, gallantly forced No. 1 Section to a draw. No. 1 Section is now proceeding on its winning way, and a very steady and creditable way it is. Touchline critics are in splendid form, though fair-minded men complain about a certain gentle-voiced exponent of this criticism hurling advice at the players while he is acting as linesman. It is felt that this cannot be performed with dignity in shirtsleeves.

Recently, No. 2 Company entertained our Company football team and a truly great game ended in a satisfactory draw, six goals each. It is a matter of dismal regret that the writer of these notes was unable to join the fortunate little party which accompanied our team. The accounts of their extremely generous reception leave no doubt that our visit will long be remembered as one of the most pleasurable events of the year.

Another outstanding success was the tennis match with the local Command Training School. The Company won comfortably, but the most important aspect of the match was that it provided players and spectators with a thoroughly exhilarating and enjoyable time.

Recreation is naturally the foremost topic, but we sincerely hope that the foregoing will give nobody the impression that it is the only one which absorbs us. Eagerness to pass trade tests is more apparent than ever; there is more spare time spent swotting than is apparent to the eye, and we watch for the publication of results with just as much expectancy as we await the outcome of sporting events.

SASSENACH.

— Divisional Signals, Perthshire

It is regretted that it is such a long time since a contribution was sent to the WIRE by this Unit.

Many things have happened since our last notes, including a long stay in France, an active participation in the Blitzkrieg culminating with the evacuation at Dunkirk, and our safe return to England.

A brief survey of our movements since 28th April, 1940, may be of interest to readers.

We were pulled out of the line and sent to a small and peaceful village called Namps au Mont, where we were told that we were to spend six weeks in Individual Training. However, we were there but two days when we moved to Montevilliers, a small town outside Le Havre, where we were ordered to prepare our vehicles for embarkation. For what destination, we did not know, but Norway was a hot favourite.

Our vehicles got us as far as the quayside at Le Havre, when that move was cancelled and we were ordered away back to Namps to continue our Individual Training. We really thought that at last we had come to stay. A Telegraph School was fixed up in the Mairie and Courses were started for upgrading from N.F.R., Group E, and Class 3 trade ratings, which were attended by men of Nos. 2 and 3 Companies, brought in from their Sections, as well as by men of No. 1 Company.

In addition, a cottage was turned into a canteen, under the management of Lance Corporal Copeman and Signalman Anthony, a barber's shop was operated by Signalman Harrison, and a most exclusive-looking bath-house was built and maintained by Signalman Kingswood.

All went well for about three days until Adolf Hitler decided to start his Blitzkrieg, and then we did move. First to Belgium. This was accomplished in three stages, our final destination being just south-west of Brussels, where the Division held the line of the River Seine. We stayed there 48 hours and then back into France to Seclin. From here we moved to Vimy for the battle round Arras, where we became an undetached force under our Divisional Commander. From Vimy we successfully withdrew to hold the Messines Ridge covering the withdrawal of the B.E.F., and finally to Dunkirk. For these two operations the Division was highly commended, having inflicted severe losses on the German Army Corps which were attempting to cut the B.E.F. in two.

All moves were done at night without lights, and the speedometers on the vehicles showed that we had in all covered 2,000 miles.

There were, of course, some casualties, but we were very lucky in that there were but few. All those who were missing have rejoined us. It is with deep regret that we heard that the following had been killed: Signalman Joy, D.R. Section; Signalman Stone, I.B. Section; Corporal Bowen, I.B. Section. In addition: Signalman Andrews, D.R. Section; Lance Corporal Freemen, B Section; Corporal Hunt, B Section; Signalman Brant, B Section; Signalman Manlow, B Section; and Signalman Welch, B Section, were wounded, and we hope that by now they are well on the way to recovery.

On our return to England we were re-formed in Scotland and have now moved to another destination, where we are preparing ourselves for the battle to begin again.

We have, however, found time for a certain amount of recreation. There have been two splendid dances, organised by Corporal Gallaher and Lance Corporal Clasper. We hope that there are more to come, and, in addition, whist drives and concerts.

We have managed to procure two football grounds, or rather two grounds on which we can play at football, and an Inter-Section league has been started. It is hoped to augment this with a Cup competition and International matches, and also with a Soft Ball League.

Promotions.—These are too numerous to give them all. The major ones are as follows: A/R.S.M. Swatton T. is now Lieutenant (Quartermaster) in place of Captain P. A. Harding, who unfortunately had to leave us in France on account of ill-health; A/C.S.M. Toogood to A/R.S.M.; A/C.Q.M.S. Conyers to A/R.Q.M.S.; A/C.Q.M.S. Barnicot to A/C.S.M.; A/Sergeants Bray and Langham to A/C.Q.M.S.

Congratulations to them all!

— Welsh Divisional Signals

Training.—Two- and three-day schemes are now regular features in the training of this Unit and the open-air life in the country is a welcome change to city life and these weekly excursions are always voted a success.

Many major and minor problems are surmounted through the medium of these schemes as they are made as realistic as possible, and after they are over a conference is held, at which the " errors of our ways," if any, are pointed out. Needless to say, praise, where due, is also given and many valuable lessons are learnt in the conference room.

Leave.—That far away " mirage in the desert " has now proved to be a solid substance, and there are now smiling faces when the weekly leave list is published, and it is hoped that the whole Unit will have the pleasure of visiting their homes within the next couple of months without the fear of cancellation.

Congratulations.—To Sergeant (Chirpy) and Mrs. Finch on their marriage; also to Corporal Gus Shelley, the debonair D.R., on his forthcoming marriage which takes place on 20th August. It is hoped that he will not forget to take his despatches (marriage licence and ring) with him to church.

Departures.—It is with regret that we say " au revoir " to our two attached M.A.S.S., who have been sent to pastures new. We wish them every success with their new Unit.

Entertainments.—The W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess entertained the officers of the Unit on Friday, 9th August, and the Darts Tournament was won by the W.O.s and Sergeants for, I think, the first time in history. A thoroughly good time was had by all.

For the Information of All Officers.—Representation has been made to the City Council for the removal of a certain lamp post.

Sport.—SOCCER.—" D " SECTION v. " B " (CABLE) SECTION. A very keen game was enjoyed by the spectators and " combatants " when " Don " met " Beer " Section on 10th August. " B " (Cable) Section won by 6—3. It is whispered that a challenge is going to be thrown out by " Don " for a return match, only this time it is to be rugby, and " Don " breathing fire and vengeance threaten to literally walk over their opponents.

1st A.A. Bde. H.Q. Signals

After a long lapse, for which we apologise, a few notes are forwarded to tell the Corps we are very much alive and kicking.

Since the forwarding of our last notes from the B.E.F. much has happened to the Unit. I am very thankful to record that we came away from Dunkirk with only one casualty, Sergeant Tinkler stopping one that landed him into hospital for some time. We all trust that he is now fit and well. Each and all of the Unit pulled its full weight and it would be very difficult to single out any one member for honours. Although Sergeant Milligan deserves a handshake for pulling four of the lads out of the water when almost " done up " himself.

Pushed all over the countryside we eventually came together with the 3rd Holding Battalion. After a wash and brush up the various A.A. Units were sorted out, the 1st and 3rd retaining their status, the remainder transferring to other Units. It is not the same 1st of a year ago. A great number of the faces are new and the formation is somewhat different. Should the Editor find space a nominal roll is enclosed for the benefit of those who have moved to other Units.

We are now situated—well—we are in England. Slowly but surely moving into that state of efficiency for which the old 1st was noted. No doubt in the near future we shall receive the call and the 1st will be there as we were on 10th September, 1939.

With regard to our Editor's letter last month. Apart from the expansion of the Corps, what has happened to the Regular Units? I don't think we left any in Belgium or Holland! And what about the Indian Units? Although, perhaps, their notes *do* stand a chance of going astray. I should hate to hear " Haw-Haw " letting forth one night that they had sunk the WIRE. Well, what are YOU going to do about it? What about a bumper Christmas number and every member of the Corps to take a copy. After the " Spitfire " fund we will have the WIRE fund.

THIS MAGAZINE MUST NOT SINK.

Cheerio, chaps!

W. J. A. N.

STATIONS ABROAD

Hong Kong Signal Company

Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess

Victoria Barracks, Hong Kong.

4th June.

Introduction.—With the advent of May, such cooling devices as deemed expedient to the welfare of Mess members were duly introduced, most notably, " Iced Beer " and " Sweat Towels." Such is the way they have in Hong Kong.

There is very little of special interest to report for the month ; however, we haven't been idle (as the books (?) can prove). Things carry on steadily from day to day in the usual manner. During the month, our second engagement with the enemy (R.A.O.C.) resulted in an overwhelming victory for the " Mess "; evidently our change of tactics proved most valuable. Modesty prevents our issuing a detailed account ; casualties were very heavy in their ranks, anyway.

Later, we engaged the Fifth Column, from the Junior N.C.O.s' Mess, who, obviously acting on inside information, trounced the " Mess," good and proper, " in every respect " (ask Mr. Cooke). Nevertheless, we have withdrawn to our second line defences, according to plan, to discuss the next move. " Not too quick this time, Reggie."

Congratulations.—All members extend their heartiest congratulations to our Commanding Officer on taking up the duties of C.S.O., China Command. Also to Captain H. (Nottingham note), who assumes command of Hong Kong Signal Company. Nice work if you can get it.

Things We Want to Know.—If it is true that the " Loch Ness Monster " has taken up temporary residence in Repulse Bay waters.

Whether photography, indoors and out, is in any way hampered owing to black-out restrictions at home.

Whether it is permitted to operate a matrimonial agency during spare time in H.M. Forces.

Hebrew Mail.—To F-of-S. Thorpe, " Somewhere on the Sandy Plains," x267. " Can you hear me, mother ? "

Olga Holt, ex-P.D.S. " Still waiting. Charlie."

Finale.—Time marches on, so cheerio. With you again next month (in spirit) anyway.

DAKTAR, SAHIB.

Wireless Section

Hi, fellas ! R9s again. I wonder what ABY has to say about that. This month finds the Unit water polo team in the news. With the exception of Lance Corporal Hunt A, the team is the same formidable formation as last year. Corporal Ashford F., that well-known water polo chump—sorry, champ.—has since left us for brighter prospects in the U.K. How's it going, Fred ?

As a point of interest the above-mentioned formidable " Hookum " carried away every available trophy in the command last year. Incidentally, the swimming team also swept everything before them. Here is the present water polo team : Signalman Bennett ; Signalman Morgan T., Lance Corporal Hunt A. ; Corporal Bedford ; Lance Corporal Pitcher W., Lance Corporal Dignan (captain) and Signalman McCann J.

From information received, our new member, Lance Corporal Hunt, although an excellent swimmer, is new to the game and needs more practice in team working, but should flourish into a fairly good player, weather permitting (?).

Wedding Bells.—We don't know yet, but things are looking up, aren't they, George ? Leicester papers please copy.

Departures.—Hush ! By this time Signalman Marsden A. will probably be giving it big licks in Shanghai. Bungho, Alfie.

Other members of the Section who left us recently are : Signalman (Taffy) Thomas for Shanghai and Signalman Medford W. for Singapore. Medford, by the way, is a book fiend, so watch out. We wish them all the best in their new stations.

Levity Column.—Attention, grippers ! It has been suggested that a " Brotherhood of Grippers " be formed for the protection of professional stranglers. The question has arisen, " Do they need it ? "

A motto has also been suggested (with apologies to Mr. Ronald Frankau) : " Never do the dirty on a fellow Griponian. Try to be a decent sort of swine."

Mistress : " Do you know, I suspect that my husband has a love affair with his typist ? "

Maid : " I don't believe it. You're only saying it to make me jealous."

I bet she blushed some, and referring to blushes a mag. says : "A blush is a temporary arithma and a calorific effulgence of the physiognomy, ettigilized by the precipitation of the sesorum from a predicament of inequilibrium caused by sudden shame, anger, fear, humiliation or other emotions, resulting in a partial paresis of the vasomotorial muscular filaments of the facial, immediately become suffused with radiance emanating an intermediated precordia. Wow ! (You said it.—ED.)

Call of the Yidd.—Paddy Boyd, U.K. " Letter sooner than that. B.V.P."

A. Fish, ex Bulford. " Oh, why am I waiting ? Golding, 5699."

B. V. P.

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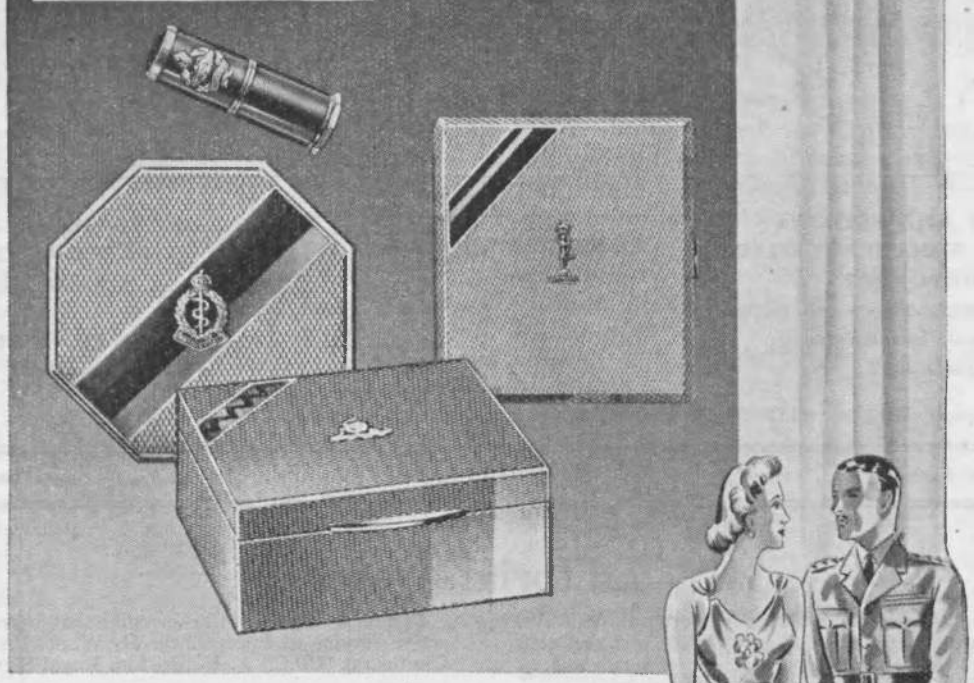
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Editorial Notes

Practical Help. We are indebted to a Corporal of Royal Signals serving in India for the following letter and feel that such a handsome gesture on the part of one of our youngest N.C.O.s deserves all the publicity we are able to give it:

———, India.
4th August, 1940.

DEAR MR. ———,

Signals Association, London.

Briefly, I wish to make an allotment to a war widow with two or more children, a real, good, genuine case.

I am to-day making an allotment to you of one pound per month, which I shall increase very shortly.

Please dispose of it in the best direction you think possible. I am taking the liberty of writing to you direct because I know I am placing the matter in most capable hands.

Thanking you very much.

Yours sincerely,
———, A/Corporal, Royal Signals.

We welcome " liberties " of that nature and will see that our correspondent's very generous war effort is administered in accordance with his wishes.

Obituary.—It is with deep regret that we record the death on active service of Pilot Officer H. W. A. Britton, eldest son of Lieutenant (I.P.C.) A. H. Britton, Royal Signals.

" Bill " or " Billy " Britton, as he was more familiarly known, was born at Crowborough in 1921 and many present members of the Corps will recollect having attended school with him in Colchester, Egypt, Catterick and Edinburgh. Having joined the R.A.F. Elementary Flying School at 17½ years of age, he was commissioned " Pilot Officer " within seven months and served in " Hurricane " Squadrons with the B.E.F. and Home Fighter Commands. He was killed a month after his 19th birthday, and full R.A.F. honours were accorded at the funeral, which was attended by Lieutenant and Mrs. Britton, together with officers and other rank personnel of his Squadron. Pilot Officer Britton's popularity was general amongst all with whom he came in contact, and those who remember him will wish to be associated with us in extending to Lieutenant and Mrs. Britton our deepest sympathy in their sad bereavement.

Unit Notes.—NEWS IS URGENTLY REQUIRED FROM EVERY UNIT OF THE CORPS BOTH AT HOME AND OVERSEAS. In his efforts to secure a resumption of regular contributions from his Unit representatives, the Editor of a

contemporary Regimental magazine recently made the following appeal :

" We cannot expect you to buy the Regimental magazine
" unless it is interesting and it won't be interesting unless
" you write in it, particularly those back from France."

It is not our customary practice to seek outside inspiration, but we do so unblushingly on this occasion in the hope that it may stimulate our own Unit Correspondents to GET BUSY and thereby help us to restore THE WIRE to its pre-war standard of excellence.

There must be many, for instance, whose experiences with the B.E.F. in France would be well worth récounting, and packed with interest for those of our readers who are outside the central sphere of operations.

Such articles may now be freely chronicled and there need be no apprehension on the part of would-be scribes on the grounds of censorship regulations.

No article is passed for publication until it has been thoroughly examined and digested, and should the necessity arise in any doubtful instance, we have facilities for seeking official advice and confirmation from the Department of Public Relations.

So send along your contributions and allow us to judge of their suitability. If acceptable they will be duly published, if not they will be returned to the writer immediately with our covering observations, but PLEASE SEND THEM IN.

Before the outbreak of hostilities there was a correspondent in every Unit of the Corps, who supplied us with accounts of that Unit's activities more or less regularly each month.

We should like to stress the fact that war or no war, air raids or no air raids, our motto also, like the whole country's generally, is " Business as Usual," but like our ancestors of old we cannot make bricks without straw, neither are we able to compile a monthly magazine of even a modest 28/32 pages unless we receive that co-operation in the form of news matter from all Units that we have been led to expect during the past 21 years.

Is it to be said by those following after us in years to come that Royal Signals could not carry on with the Corps Magazine and complete their record of events as they occurred because " they couldn't take it " ?

We know just how many units of the Corps there are to-day and what bulky news bulletins they could all contribute if they would.

We also assert, without fear of contradiction, that given the regular monthly news bulletins which Unit correspondents are capable of producing, THE WIRE would very soon resume pride of place among its contemporaries.

The Corps Magazine is nearing its 21st anniversary. We, and you also, want it to be a bumper number on that auspicious occasion, so, in the now famous words of a well-known industrial leader—

GO TO IT !

EDITOR.

Benevolent Fund Notes

Security regulations do not permit us to publish detailed particulars of Corps Units, but it is hoped that the following list of those formations who have already responded to the Colonels-Commandant's appeal for regular monthly contributions to the Corps Benevolent Fund will be found satisfactory for the purposes of identification.

The Administrator gratefully acknowledges receipt of the following :

Benevolent Fund (No. 2 A/C 1940)

BANKERS' ORDER SUBSCRIPTIONS from :

Captain L. Hayes.
Captain M. Hapburn.
Major H. M. Rand.
Lieutenant J. Anthony.
Lieutenant (Quartermaster) W. H. Hobby.
2nd Lieutenant G. H. Wootton Woolley.
2nd Lieutenant L. Hanson.
Lieutenant A. S. Crocker.
Captain W. Entwistle.
2nd Lieutenant A. R. Brookes.
Major C. V. Close.
Captain S. Williams.
2nd Lieutenant P. L. Dudgeon.
2nd Lieutenant T. B. Briden.

Benevolent Fund (No. 2 A/C 1940) (Unit list continued)

London Area Signal Company—August.
2nd Squadron, — Armoured Signals, Home Forces—September.
2nd Company, 4th A.A. — Signals, Home Forces—August.
2nd — Signals, Home Forces—August.
— Operators' Training Battalion, Yorkshire—September.
15th — Signals, Home Forces—September.
53rd — Signals, Home Forces—August.
—Holding Battalion, Yorkshire—August and September.
3rd Company, — Corps Signals, Home Forces—July, August and September.
Corps Signals, Derbyshire—August.
10th — Signals, Home Forces—July, August and September.
(E.A.) Divisional Signals—July and August.
1st Company, 61st — Signals, Home Forces—August.
46th — Signals, Home Forces—August.
5th — Signals, Home Forces—July and August.
4th Squadron, — Armoured — Signals, Home Forces—July and August.
General Trades Training Battalion, North Wales—August.
General Trades Training Battalion, Yorkshire—August.
Holding Battalion, Yorkshire—August.
1st Company, — L. of C. Signals, Home Forces—September.
S.P. and S.M. Areas Sections, Wilts.—August.
Signals, Thames and Medway, Kent—August.
1st Company, 11th — Signals, Home Forces—August and September.

UNITS ABROAD—

Kohat District Signals—June.
Signal Training Centre (India), Jubbulpore—June.
"A" Corps Signals, India—April, May and June.
Wireless Experimental Section, Abbottabad—June.
— Divisional Signals, Palestine—June.
Lucknow District Signals—May and June.
Southern Command Signal Company, India—June.

APPEALS dealt with :

1	Ex-N.C.O., London ..... Grant	£5	0	0
2	Wife of Signalman, Croydon ..... Grant	£2	3	9
3	Widow of Ex-W.O., Surrey ..... Grant	£2	10	0
4	Ex-Signalman, Lancaster ..... Grant	£2	10	0
5	Ex-W.O., Essex ..... Grant	£4	0	0
6	Signalman, North Wales ..... Grant	£3	0	0
7	Convalescent treatment for child of Signalman, London ..... Grant	£1	10	0
8	Wife of Signalman, Essex ..... Loan	£12	10	0
9	To the funds of " The British Red Cross Society and Order of St. John of Jerusalem " towards cost of " Comforts" and " food " parcels for Royal Signals Prisoners of War	£20	0	0

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

Brigadier Geoffrey Ernest Mansergh, C.B.E., M.C.

AN APPRECIATION

Many officers and men of the Corps who had served with him in peace and also on active service, heard with sorrow last June that Brigadier Mansergh had been killed in action. A friend had gone, and the Army had lost an officer of rare ability.

Geoffrey Ernest Mansergh was born on 31st January, 1893. His father and grandfather were both well-known civil engineers and it was natural that he should choose the Royal Engineers for his Army career. From Rugby he passed high into the Royal Military Academy and was Senior Under Officer. He was commissioned on 19th July, 1912, and joined for the Young Officers' Course at Chatham the following autumn. He chose Signals at the end of his time at the S.M.E. and came to Aldershot in June, 1914, for the Mounted Duties Course.

General mobilisation on 4th August, 1914, found him ready to join his field unit, "A" Signal Company. He took over and mobilised an Airline Section and came out to France with G.H.Q. Signals. It only took the week that we were in Le Cateau, while the Army was concentrating, for us to see that our very young officer would look after his men and horses and would very soon have a mastery of his technical work. For some days during the Retreat from Mons, Major Godfrey Faussett took him as his personal assistant and then placed him in charge of the Signals of the G.H.Q. Report Centre. This became known by its call sign—RCG—and the letters soon meant Geoffrey Mansergh and 2nd Corporal (A/Sergeant) Clark (now Major W. Clark), his Signalmaster.

During the advance to the Aisne on several occasions they opened up RCG behind the Cavalry screen and in front of the advancing infantry, who would come into a small town with all warlike precautions to find a small party of Signals placidly preparing a Signal office. On the Aisne, RCG became a Signal Centre and he remained with it at Braine-le-Comte. Then came the move to Flanders in early October.

G.H.Q. moved to St. Omer, where it was to remain many months. Mansergh was, for a short time, Adjutant of G.H.Q. Signals. Sir John Fowler, the Director of Army Signals, then took him into his own office and used him during the spring of 1915 to help Corps and Army Signals settle in as they came out from England. While on this work, he became widely known to Signals and won high regard. At the beginning of 1916 he left Sir John and went to the XVII Corps with Lieutenant-Colonel Clementi Smith and was promoted Acting Captain. His rank was made permanent on 26th June, 1916.

In the middle of September he came back to England and joined Brigadier Boy's staff at the Headquarters of the Signal Training Centre. He remained here during the summer of 1917 until going as Staff Captain for Signals to the A.A.G. for R.E. in the War Office. He took over a great deal of work in regard to Signals which, though properly belonging to the Adjutant-General's department, had been done in a branch of the General Staff. It was in safe hands.

After a six months' Staff Course he returned to France in September, 1918, and went through the final advance on the Headquarters of an Infantry Brigade. He remained with the Brigade until demobilisation.

During the war he was awarded the M.C. and mentioned in despatches.

He embarked for India in January, 1920, but to go to the Sappers and Miners for R.E. work. On the formation of the Corps, he had some little difficulty in inducing his commanding officer to allow him to transfer, but he eventually aucceeded and went to the Signal Training Centre at Jubbulpore. Then followed a tour of Regimental duty with the Indian troops of the Signals, with whom he was very successful.

He returned to England to go to the Staff College, where he remained the two years. He had barely joined the 3rd Divisional Signals at Bulford in January, 1927, when he went off to Shanghai for the remainder of the year. He was promoted Major on 15th February, 1927. In Shanghai he had a complete grip of the Signal situation and was one of the outstanding personalities of the Force Headquarters.

Four years of staff work then followed, two as Brigade Major at the Signal Training Centre, and two as an G.S.O. II in the Signals branch at the War Office. With the changes in organisation and the increase in the use of wireless, he had a full time. He helped to lay the foundations on which the Corps went into the field.

During the summer of 1932 he was with the 1st Divisional Signals at Aldershot and went to Egypt in October. In this country he did the rest of his regimental duty. He was promoted Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel on 1st July, 1933, and substantive on 14th February, 1935. He remained in command of the Signals in Egypt until November, 1938. This was a critical time in the Near East and Signals had constant calls made upon them. Their success was due to his alert mind and organising ability.

On return to England, he was promoted Colonel and appointed A.A. and Q.M.G., 1st Division, on 15th December, 1938. He was soon faced with many administrative problems beyond the normal on the creation of the Militia, problems which he solved smoothly and without fuss, while at the same time preparing the Division for active service.

On the outbreak of war, he was soon over in France and remained with the 1st Division for some months. He was then selected as Brigadier for A. and Q. duties with the II Corps. All the administrative arrangements for the advance of this Corps into Belgium fell to him. The story of the next three weeks yet remains to be written. The British Expeditionary Force was brought out from the beaches of Dunkirk and La Paune. The Commander II Corps was in charge of the later stages of this operation and to Brigadier Mansergh fell again the administrative work. He himself was at Dunkirk and he stayed to the end. He was killed on 2nd June on board the destroyer that was bringing him back to England.

His work was recognised by the award of the C.B.E. on June 1st.

Of his professional ability there was no question. His early promise was fulfilled. He had a complete mastery of modern Staff Duties. He was not marked out for early promotion, as many of us had hoped, perhaps because his first spell of Staff duty happened to be on Corps work. His appointment on the administrative side appealed to his sense of order and brought into play his practical knowledge. He had a very clear style on paper, with a beautiful handwriting. His logical mind and keen intelligence would have made him an equally fine General Staff officer.

Those who have served with him in this Corps know of his equal mastery of Signals. He knew what his men and his equipment could do, and by his care for both, he saw that they did not fail. He was ever proud of the way in which the young non-commissioned officers of the Corps could take responsibility. He trusted them as he himself had been trusted in 1914. There come to mind his pleasant tales, told with pride and affection for the Corps: of the detachment in the Western desert and the local Sheik; of the station in Cyprus; of neutral Signals on manœuvres giving a hungry umpire breakfast; of the station at Alexandria and a "scrubbing" signal to the Royal Navy.

Geoffrey Mansergh had great personal charm and, with it, quiet firmness. He had a delicate wit, with which to adorn a tale or on occasion, to give edge to a reproof. He was the best of companions, with a due appreciation of the pleasant things of life, and kept a warm affection for his friends. Above all he had that quality of intellectual integrity without which a man's judgment in the wider issues is nothing worth.

J. S. Y.

Royal Signals Comforts Fund

A violin in excellent condition has been presented to the Comforts Fund by a kind friend of Royal Signals. Applications for this instrument are invited, and the Committee propose sending it to the first candidate who can furnish them with sufficient proof of his musical capabilities and give an assurance that such a handsome gift will be properly taken care of. Apply, stating full particulars, to the Honorary Secretary, Royal Signals Comforts Fund, 95, Belgrave Road, London, S.W.1.

A Challenge.—We are asked to give publicity to the following challenge, which has been issued by the wives of Royal Signals in the Edinburgh area :

" To aid Royal Signals Comforts Fund we are :

" 1. Holding a WHIST DRIVE early in November, coupled with a small SALE OF WORK.

" 2. Raffling a large dressed doll. The manager of one of the largest Edinburgh Stores is allowing this to be on show in the Store tea rooms, where tickets may be purchased at the cash desk.

" We hope to send the Fund a really worth while sum in November and, allowing for our results not being available for publication until the December issue of the Corps magazine, we mention our activities and suggest that other Centres may feel disposed to enter into friendly competition ' for the good of a very worthy cause.' "

The Committee gratefully acknowledge receipt of the following:

	£	s.	d.
Signal Training Centre, North Wales (collecting box)		16	0
Signal Training Centre, Yorkshire (proceeds of Band Concert)	50	0	0
Proceeds of Comforts Fund Shop	12	0	0
Mrs. Scott Watson		3	0
Mrs. G. H. Haswell	10	0	0
Staff of Records Office, Royal Signals (monthly)	7	0	0
Mrs. Hare (collecting box)		17	6
Mrs. A. J. Harris's Work Party	5	0	0
Mrs. French	1	10	0
Thames and Medway Signal Company	1	5	3
Mrs. Heymann's Work Party	1	0	0
Signal Units, Rawalpindi	12	13	3
Peshawar District Signals	5	19	4
D.C.S.O., Army Signal School and Southern Command Signal Company, Poona	3	8	0
Sergeants' Mess, S.T.C., Jubbulpore	8	0	0
Corporal's Room, S.T.C., Jubbulpore	1	10	0
Unit Subscriptions, Jubbulpore	2	10	0
P.R.I., S.T.C., Jubbulpore	3	0	0
Mrs. Tayleur	5	0	0
Lance Corporal Haswell	2	2	0
Mrs. Holmes		7	0
Royal Signals Mess, Aldershot (monthly)	2	6	0
Mrs. Instrall	1	0	0
Mrs. White		18	3
Kohat District Signals (monthly)	2	5	4
C.S.O. and Staff, Northern Command (collecting box)		8	0
R.E. and Royal Signal Mess, Columbo (proceeds of Dance and Concert)	10	0	0

The Year's War in the Air

During all the war's first winter it almost seemed as if fighting in the air, like that on land, had not seriously begun. It had been expected that the first weeks after the outbreak of hostilities would be marked by furious and incessant bombing of Britain and France by massed enemy squadrons which it would tax all the efforts of the Allied air and ground and civil defence forces to prevent becoming decisive. There was, in fact, nothing of all this. The air war began to seem as unreal—" phoney " as the Americans termed it—as that everywhere else. It was so only in appearance.

One duty, monotonous and unspectacular, yet of vital importance, carried out by the R.A.F. all through these dull and dreary months was that of convoy escort and protection, and to the patient and practical performance of this task was due in considerable measure the immunity of our mercantile shipping from any serious aerial attack. The much-criticised leaflet raids on Germany, too, whatever their effect may or may not have been on the morale of those subjected to them—which can be estimated with accuracy only in the light of fuller information after the conclusion of the war—at least furnished the crews taking part in them with invaluable night-flying experience and a knowledge of enemy territory which was to prove its worth during the subsequent intensification of the air war.

This period of intensification began with the German invasion of Norway in April, 1940. In the ensuing operations the R.A.F., operating 300 to 400 miles distant from its home bases and without any land footing in Norway itself, was at a grave disadvantage as compared with the Luftwaffe, which was able to work from much closer at hand and had established itself in the few available Norwegian aerodromes in the first days of Germany's treacherous surprise attack on that country. Great gallantry and resource were shown by the British fighter squadrons which, from such aerodromes as could be improvised in the area still left in possession of the Allies, managed to make head against superior hostile forces sufficiently to render possible the safe evacuation of our troops first from Andalsnes and Namsos and then after the capture of Narvik, from that port and Bodo. But the campaign as a whole must be written down as an Allied failure, and it finished on a suitably tragic note with the sinking of the aircraft carrier " Glorious " and the loss on board her of many of these aircraft and personnel which had borne the brunt of the work in the previous operations.

The opening period of the great hostile offensive against France was also one of stress and strain for the R.A.F. The Luftwaffe enjoyed a great numerical superiority over the French Armee de l'Air and our own air contingent with the B.E.F. combined, and to compensate as far as possible for this, the R.A.F., which had already sent to France more squadrons than France had either asked for or been promised, had to reinforce these to so heavy an extent as seriously to weaken the strength of the defence of Britain. Indeed, during the few weeks that the operations in France lasted our air assistance to our ally was more than doubled ; yet, so far flung was the fighting area and so furious and unremitting the pressure of the enemy, that our fighter pilots, in order to make head against him, had to operate from dawn to dusk, carrying out half a dozen or more flights and fights a day, always against heavy odds. It was in a large degree due to this comparatively small number of men and machines, usually operating far out of sight and knowledge of their comrades of the Army, that the latter owed their escape from complete destruction at the hands of an overwhelmingly superior foe ; had the Luftwaffe reigned as supreme over the western skies as it had before over those of Poland and Norway, then Dunkirk would have been the graveyard of the B.E.F. and not the scene of its almost miraculous rescue.

One highly satisfactory feature of this otherwise ill-starred campaign was the individual superiority asserted by our men and machines over those of the enemy. In many a battle against overwhelmingly heavy numerical odds this was conclusively proved time and time again. It was in numbers, not in quality, that the R.A.F. were inferior, and once this inequality could be rectified, as was gradually being done daily, the balance of victory in the air war would certainly tip gradually to our side. The mounting scale of aircraft production at home and in the Empire, the rising tide of aid from the United States, and the

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS AT A SIGNAL TRAINING CENTRE



INSPECTING THE SCHOOL OF COOKERY

progress of the Empire Training Scheme for pilots and air crews, gave good hopes that this numerical inferiority of ours would soon be a thing of the past.

The Empire Training Scheme, organised in Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, was so well under way by mid-summer, 1940, that the first contingents of Dominion and Dominion-trained pilots were already in this country, ready to take part in the battle of Britain then about to open. The flow of American-built aircraft was already coming in high and increasing measure. Our own home rate of machine production was in excess of that of Germany and was steadily rising; so was that of Empire-built aircraft. All these various sources of supply, many of them sited in areas far out of hostile reach and invulnerable to interruption, guaranteed us a huge reserve of aircraft built and crews trained under peaceful conditions not available to the Germans.

With France forced to lay down her arms and Italy in the war on the German side, the stage was now set for the battle of Britain. The opening of the German attack, however, was long and unexpectedly delayed; and that delay was undoubtedly in no small part due to the yeoman part played by the R.A.F. bombers in hampering and hamstringing the large and complicated machinery of preparations for it. Germany's petrol supplies, communications and aircraft factories; concentrations of troops; aerodromes and docks and canals—all were daily and nightly assaulted with persistence, vigour and widespread success. Heavy loss, delay and destruction were inflicted on the enemy and the respite thereby secured proved invaluable for the completion of our preparations to meet the oft-heralded invasion, the chances of the success of which grew less and less with every day thus lost to the foe.

At length, in mid-August, Germany's long-awaited large-scale air offensive, the necessary prelude to any attempt at sea or land attack, began. It is still in full swing as these words are being penned, so that the writer is in the difficult position of having to describe a battle in mid-course. But its main outlines and results so far are reasonably clear, and it may be summed up briefly as a definite and costly defeat for the Luftwaffe, which for the first time in its history has encountered a foe not too unequal in strength to it to put up a fair fight.

In this article we are not concerned with events subsequent to 3rd September, the first anniversary of the outbreak of war, and are, therefore, covering the first part only of the battle of Britain. In the series of air attacks during August, the Luftwaffe opened with a series of heavy massed attacks, designed to break down the resistance of the R.A.F. by sheer weight of numbers. These were one and all disastrous failures; its own losses both in men and machines were far heavier than ours, and as the object of the offensive remained unachieved, all these casualties were to no purpose. There followed a period for rest and re-organisation, marked only by reconnaissances and sporadic raids by single machines or small groups; then, towards the end of August, there commenced a spell of smaller scale attacks on divergent lines or at separated points, with the apparent purpose of confusing and eluding our defences and inflicting widespread damage on military and industrial targets. These, of course, could not be invariably repelled, but the few that reached their objectives from time to time achieved nothing

IN THE NORTH OF ENGLAND



HER ROYAL HIGHNESS INSPECTING THE GUARD OF HONOUR

more than local importance, and the table of enemy losses continued at a steady, and from his point of view discouraging, figure. The casualties of the R.A.F., always much below those of the Germans, were further diminished in proportion by the fact that, as fighting usually took place over Britain or British waters, a good number of our fighters, though their machines were lost, lived to fight another day, while any member of the more numerous enemy crews who escaped from the destruction of their aircraft fell into our hands as prisoners. Thus the general ratio of relative losses of the two contending forces, though in machines reaching the very satisfactory figure of three to one in our favour, was fully six to one in the matter of personnel. During the brief period of air battles in August the German aircraft lost totalled fully 1,000 and in personnel more than twice that figure, while the compensating results, of which these heavy casualties were the price, were from the military point of view negligible.

Far more effective, as well as far less costly, were the efforts of our own bombers which operating mainly by night, almost invariably eluded or braved the hostile anti-aircraft defences and struck home hard and often at the many sensitive spots of the German war machine, from the aircraft and munition factories in the interior of the Fatherland to the invasion facilities and preparations in the ports facing the British coasts from Norway to south-western France. Indeed both in attack and defence the R.A.F. as early as the end of August had proved itself more than a match for the vaunted and formidable Luftwaffe. Proof of this was given when early in September the latter had resort to the night bombing on a considerable scale, of which its leaders had always doubted the efficacy and for which it was but imperfectly trained, and gave up any more than a propaganda pretence of aiming at or hitting purely military targets. This, rightly envisaged, can only be regarded as a confession on its part of weakness and impotence to fulfil the role allotted to it in the combined plan of campaign against Britain, which Hitler had designed to strike her to her knees and finish the war this year with a decisive Germany victory.

The R.A.F., at the end of this first twelve months of war, can therefore look back with pride on its record, whether of its steady bombing of Germany and German-occupied territory or of spectacular combat against enemy bombers and fighters, and look forward with confidence to the future, when great increases in aircraft strength and in trained personnel will enable it to establish and maintain definite and permanent superiority over the whole war area from the North Cape to Central Africa. The day of that superiority will prove to be the dawn of victory for our cause.

The Year's War at Sea

The net result of the first year of the war at sea has been to establish and ratify the supremacy of British naval power. Herein the future historian will undoubtedly find one of the main causes, and indeed the prime condition, of our eventual victory, for without that supremacy Britain could continue neither to fight nor to live. Its achievement and maintenance is an abiding miracle for which we can never be too grateful to the seamen, naval and mercantile, who have wrought it.

The German naval authorities have during the past year staged four separate assaults upon our sea power. Unable, owing to the weakness of their battle fleet, to organise a surface attack, they resolved before the outbreak of war to rely on the expedient which had served them so well in 1917 and 1918, and make their main effort against our maritime commerce. U-boats were sent out before the end of August, 1939, when the war was scheduled to break out, and posted on our nearer ocean trade routes, while the more distant of these were to be attacked by surface raiders, for the maintenance of which supply ships were also dispatched or arranged. In these first days of war, before the convoy system could be organised, our sea commerce was highly vulnerable, and it is not surprising that the attack upon it met with considerable, though never alarming, success. In two weeks twenty-seven ships of a total of 31,000 tons were sunk by enemy U-boats alone; but from then onwards our counter measures began to take increasing effect. Convoy was becoming more and more utilised, defensive armament was being rapidly mounted on all merchant ships, and the counter offensive against the U-boats was being pursued with mounting vigour. As our mercantile losses fell off, the total of German U-boats known to have been sunk began to swell to crippling proportions, and within a month the German submarine war against our trade had proved an ignominious failure. Nor, despite one or two spectacular episodes, such as the torpedoing of the aircraft carrier "Courageous" and the battleship "Royal Oak," did the enemy U-boats succeed in effectively reducing the fighting strength of our fleet.

The first result of this failure was to cause the German naval authorities to turn the brunt of their efforts against the less well protected shipping of neutrals, with the object of frightening it off the seas and so cutting off Britain's maritime trade at the source. This had some initial results, as was only to be expected; but the principal one was to cause neutral vessels to seek refuge more and more in the security to be found within the British convoy system. The ruthlessness and lack of respect for all dictates of international law and humanity shown by the German U-boats in the course of this campaign did great moral damage to their cause in the eyes of world public opinion. For this the small material gains can hardly have compensated, since this attempt to cut off British trade at the source proved vain from the first.

So matters stood in mid-November, when, after throwing out many dark hints of fearful things to come, Germany began to use her so-called "secret weapon," the magnetic mine. As in most of her new devices, she was merely copying and improving upon the novelties of other people, but, though our Navy was familiar with the principles of the magnetic mine, it was not until one could be secured intact and examined, at great personal risk to the examiners, that all its secrets were laid bare and suitable counter measures could be devised to demagnetise shipping likely to come into contact with it and so render it innocuous. Meanwhile, a number of merchant vessels, most of them belonging to neutral countries, had been sunk by these magnetic mines before the adoption of general preventive measures relegated them from the category of a menace to that of a mere nuisance.

Meanwhile the threat of the surface raiders had also been successfully dealt with; all had been driven from the seas to seek refuge in their home ports, save one, the notorious "Graf Spee" which, brought to battle and defeated by three smaller British cruisers off the mouth of the River Plate in South America, scuttled herself rather than face her foes again.

With the opening of 1940 there began the fourth of the German series of attacks on our shipping—the attack from the air. Here again losses were inflicted, ships sunk or damaged, and casualties caused. But the results not only bore no relation to the high-flown claims daily put forth on the German wireless, but failed in any way to reduce the strength of the merchant marine at Britain's disposal. This, thanks to captures, additions of Allied craft and new building, is actually greater than at the outbreak of the war a year ago. Nor was the daily ebb and flow of traffic to and from the ports of this country seriously interfered with, while the growing expertness of our anti-aircraft gunners on both naval and merchant ships took an increasingly heavy toll of their assailants as time went on. Like its predecessors, the German attack by air proved itself expensive and indecisive.

In April, 1940, there opened the Norwegian campaign, in which Germany paid for the capture of a small and defenceless country, which had never harmed her, by the sacrifice of so much of her surface fleet as to put it out of her power ever seriously to dispute Britain's control of the sea. This crime had been carefully prepared for long beforehand, and the invaders were at sea even before we had begun to carry out our threat to mine Norwegian territorial waters against misuse by enemy shipping, which was the ostensible pretext for the German attack. In the course of this campaign Germany used her fleet purely and solely as an adjunct to the operations of her land forces. She left destroyers in Narvik, hundreds of miles from any possible support, she launched warships against heavy shore defences, and she distributed her naval forces among widely separated fiords all along the Norwegian shore; and for all these transgressions of the principles of naval war she paid heavily. One battle cruiser and one pocket battleship were severely damaged; three of her small force of cruisers, and thirteen destroyers were sunk; and her losses of U-boats and smaller craft were in the same proportion. It is true that the Royal Navy also had its losses, particularly in the period of the evacuation of our expeditionary force in May and June; but though these included an aircraft carrier, two cruisers, and seven destroyers, they were both relatively and absolutely less serious than those of the enemy, and left our own naval preponderance not merely unimpaired, but actually increased.

Following the rape of Norway by Germany came those of Holland, Belgium and France, from all of which our troops, after doing magnificently against heavy odds, had perforce finally to be withdrawn. In this task, as well as in the thorough and systematic destruction of all facilities and installations in the evacuated harbours of these three countries, the Navy performed its part to perfection with supreme skill, coolness, and valour. But for its efforts and devotion to duty, the Army must have been lost to a man, and the peril to Britain, left alone to face two mighty foes after the collapse of France, would have been dire indeed. One of the Navy's most ungrateful yet vitally necessary tasks was the putting out of action of the fine warships of our late Ally, whose Government, in submitting to the dictate of the conqueror, had left them at his disposal for use against us. Our Fleet, however, saw to it that only a damaged remnant of these fell into German hands.

The entry of Italy into the war, so far from tilting the scale of power at sea against us, enabled our Navy to add to its laurels. Only lack of opportunity prevented it inflicting in the Italian fleet more serious losses even than those actually caused, which were heavy enough, considering the preponderating balance of strength on our side in the Mediterranean area. No portion of the Italian fleet yet encountered has ever stood to fight, and the efforts of their air force to revenge itself on our ships for their increasingly bold and effective enterprises have been uniformly unsuccessful. Italy seems, indeed, highly unlikely to be of much assistance to Germany in the object of wrestling from us command of the sea, in stopping the flow of the maritime trade, by which we live, to and from our ports, or in striking off the stranglehold of our blockade, the effects of which both will feel more and more as the months pass.

Thus the balance sheet of the war at sea at the end of twelve months shows as highly favourable to Britain and her surviving allies. In a national war such as this, sea power is not only one of the root factors to victory but a condition of continued survival. In the fact that we have it and have deprived our foes, not only of it but of any hope of seriously disputing or regaining it, lies one of our surest earnests of future triumph.

Diary of Events in the War

AUGUST 11TH TO SEPTEMBER 4TH.

1940

AUGUST 11TH.—Air battles over Channel end in repulse of Germans and destruction of 67 of their aircraft as against 26 of ours.

AUGUST 12TH.—Enemy attack Portsmouth and Isle of Wight, losing 39 machines as against 9 of ours. Some civilian losses and damage, but no military objectives hit.

AUGUST 13TH.—Enemy air force attack Southampton and other south coast towns in still greater strength, losing 78 aircraft

(to our 11) with no results worth mentioning. Australian Defence and Air Ministers, Chief of Staff and Vice-President of Council killed in air accident while on way to Canberra.

AUGUST 14TH.—Air attacks of less intensity on our south coast result in loss of 31 hostile aircraft to three of ours. Heavy R.A.F. raids on aircraft and munitions works and aerodromes in Germany and aircraft works in North Italy meet with considerable success. Naval action between two British destroyers and force of German E boats and armed trawlers ends in flight of enemy with loss of two vessels. H.M.S. auxiliary cruiser " Transylvania " torpedoed and sunk.

AUGUST 15TH.—Heaviest enemy air attack of war to date delivered against south-east and north-east England and Channel shipping. Little but local civilian damage caused. Enemy lose 180 aircraft; R.A.F. 34 only. Empty parachutes dropped in various areas of England. Italian offensive in British Somaliland with force of two divisions makes slow progress against heavily outnumbered defenders.

AUGUST 16TH.—Heavy enemy attacks on Eastbourne, Thames Estuary, and London outskirts. Seventy-five of attacking aircraft shot down as against 22 British; damage resulting from raids only local and casualties few.

AUGUST 17TH.—Quiet day in air, with only local and sporadic hostile raids. President of U.S.A. and Prime Minister of Canada meet to discuss common defence of North America against Nazi attack and proposal for long lease to U.S.A. of naval and air bases on British territory.

AUGUST 18TH.—Enemy air offensive resumed in great force against London area and aerodromes and harbours in south-east England. Enemy lose 144 machines and R.A.F. 22 only. U.S.A. and Canada agree to set up permanent joint board on defence.

AUGUST 19TH.—Enemy air activity much diminished. R.A.F. raid Italian aerodromes in Abyssinia and aircraft works in Northern Italy and Western Germany. Evacuation of British Somaliland completed without heavy pressure or loss.

AUGUST 21ST.—Sporadic hostile raiding causes little damage and few casualties; 13 enemy aircraft destroyed. Agreement reached between Rumania and Bulgaria for cession of Southern Dobrudja to latter country.

AUGUST 22ND.—Germans carry out unsuccessful artillery shelling of convoy in Straits of Dover and later fire on land targets, bringing swift and heavy retaliation. R.A.F. continue bombing of military targets in Western Germany. Little enemy air activity over Britain.

AUGUST 23RD.—British artillery and air forces carry out heavy retaliatory fire against hostile batteries on French shores of Channel. R.A.F. continue heavy and effective raids on Germany and bomb Bomba harbour in Libya, sinking four Italian warships. Germans raid London suburbs, causing some damage but few casualties.

AUGUST 24TH.—Enemy air attacks on London and south-east coast driven off with loss of 52 hostile machines to 19 of ours. Tension between Italy and Greece becomes suddenly acute.

AUGUST 25TH.—Heavy German raids on London and Portsmouth cause some damage and casualties. Fifty-five enemy and 15 British machines shot down. R.A.F. raid Berlin and other military objectives in Germany and German-occupied territory.

AUGUST 26TH.—Series of powerful enemy raids from Thames Estuary to Hampshire driven off with loss to enemy of 47 aircraft and 15 to ourselves. Bombs dropped on territory of Eire.

AUGUST 27TH.—Quiet day in air over Britain, but R.A.F. bombers carry out effective attacks on military targets in Germany and Italy. French territory of Chad in Central Africa declares its adhesion to General de Gaulle's free Frenchmen.

AUGUST 28TH.—Enemy attacks renewed in great strength by day and night. Twenty-eight German and four British aircraft destroyed in course of series of battles. R.A.F. raid Kiel and Wilhelmshaven and aircraft works near Turin. Meeting of Ribbentrop and Ciano with foreign ministers of Hungary and Rumania at Vienna.

AUGUST 29TH.—French Congo and Cameroons declare for General de Gaulle. R.A.F. raid Berlin again. More hostile attacks on Britain, in which respective air losses were 11 to 9 in our favour.

AUGUST 30TH.—Large hostile air forces renew raids on South Britain and lose 62 machines to 25 of ours. Rumania forced by Axis Powers to cede to Hungary two-thirds of Transylvania.

AUGUST 31ST.—R.A.F. raid Berlin in heaviest attack of war; enemy lose 85 aircraft to our 37 in series of raids on Britain.

SEPTEMBER 1ST.—Germans lose 25 aircraft to 15 of ours in air battles over south-east England. Ship carrying British children to Canada torpedoed; all children rescued.

SEPTEMBER 2ND.—R.A.F. raid Berlin, Munich, and other German cities with great effect. Fifty German machines shot down in air fights, 20 of ours lost.

SEPTEMBER 3RD.—Agreement announced between Britain and U.S.A., by which 50 American destroyers are handed over to us in exchange for 99 years lease of bases in our territory along east coast of America from Newfoundland to British Guiana. Germans lose 23 machines in air battles. French island of Tahiti in Pacific declares for General de Gaulle.

SEPTEMBER 4TH.—R.A.F. bomb enemy aerodromes, bases and battery positions on Channel coast and shoot down 56 hostile machines over Thames Estuary, themselves losing 17. Hitler makes speech at opening of German Winter Relief Fund and utters more threats against Britain.

THE LINE OF LEAST RESISTANCE

Your voice of highest frequency
So very, very dear to me
Your every half wave of compression
To me's beyond all comprehension
But half your wave of rarefaction
Gives me the utmost satisfaction,
In fact the timbre of your voice
Does make my very heart rejoice.

Should it along the wire be leaking
While you at t'other end are speaking
I'll clap an amplifier to it
At every fifty miles renew it;
Should it, perchance, come through distorted
An equaliser will restore it,
Should it come through a superphantom
T'would sound as lovely as an anthem.

But stay! a filter's been forgot,
A low pass, or a high pass, what!
Sub audio telegraphy
To trap the lower frequency
Condensers offer low impedance,
Conductors offer high resistance;
But which resists and which impedes,
The highs and lows of frequences?

Methinks your voice well modulated,
By oscillators generated,
By amplifiers restored,
Through carriers and filters poured,
It would my very soul inspire
With love, as hot along the wire
'Tis carried through to my receiver,
Where I await, impatient ever.

But lo! as I lift my receiver
My head well bent, my ear so eager,
The only sound that I can hear
Which wafts along the wire so clear
Is, " Have you finished? " " Have you finished? "
" No, I have not," I shout in anguish,
But all I get is deadly silence,
I jiggle up the thing with violence,
And at long last give up the fight,
And so, my dear, I think I'll write.

COY. ASST. SHORT, A.T.S.

For
" GAZETTE NEWS—OFFICERS "
See page 288

STATIONS ABROAD

Signal Training Centre (India)

Jubbulpore.

May/June.

The Hedge.—Our apathy of earlier months has become transformed: the old indifference to war progress in Europe has blazed into passionate concern, shown each and every time a loud speaker is turned on. The most eagerly patronised is that of the Sergeants' Mess—bounded from the remainder by a privet hedge; nevertheless, there appears above the hedge a series of shining eager faces with mouths agape, cutting even meals in their thirst for news. Walking away at the conclusion of each bulletin, wistfully pensive. But that is for a very brief moment. Again in the bungalow, there breaks forth a peace-shattering blatter. Peters—that mine of inaccurate information—is beseeched for news. The noisy Haylock tells how he'd command the warring army. Graham and Ashley (Castor and Pollox) remain mere commentators—noisy ones withal.

Indeed has war come to India. Continuing to revel in creature comforts and enjoy luxuries undreamed of in England to-day, yet our mental serenity is somewhat shaken. THE WAR: Norway—Churchill supersedes Chamberlain—the Low Countries invaded—Belgian capitulation—Paris evacuated—Italy's entry—Petain's Peace Appeal—each breath-taking climax more stirring than the last.

Thus we of the S.T.C. survey the struggle, feel its repercussions and sometimes are constrained to wonder when!

Life meanwhile flows smoothly, uninterruptedly onward. Comings and goings, parades and inspections, a Corporal manages to marry, we hold a dance . . . !

Having essayed this difficult tract of country we may continue with the vast, unalterable normal.

Comings and Goings.—This extremely familiar feature is in danger of becoming overtaxed. The recurrence of a well-known mechanical whirr and drone, unending, monotonous, awoke us to the fact that Signalman Smith R. was again with us, bringing with him (or was he brought) Signalmen Sewell and Jacob. Their stay was brief and they have passed onward to Trimulgherry. Came Corporals Kerry and Holder, Signalmen Gentleman, Richardson N., Till and McKirgan, all from various Indian stations. They were duly welcomed and have fallen into their appointed niches so that scarcely a word is heard from them.

We were paid a flying visit by a departed member—Geoffrey Bateman—and the S.T.C. was "lit up" for a few days.

On 1st June the —th Fitters' Course for members of other Units assembled. They were Corporal Moore, Lance Corporal Moir, Signalmen Allen, Roberts, Finnigan, Ashmore and Humphries.

Gone, gone for ever are Sergeant Powell, the Biles Bros., Signalmen Grivoel, Hudson and Grant. Good-byes to all.

The last "Owl" Squad to qualify are now posted en tout, taking with them Reedman, Ryton, Nulty, Ewing, Hayde, Crummey and Elder. With these goes much hockey talent.

Very sadly we wave farewell to Corporal "Major" Jones, leaving us for an "unknown" destination.

The Ladder of Fame.—Promotion is so excessively rapid that hand-shaking and congratulation becomes a tiring business. For the first time in print, however, we proffer congratulations to the W.O. and three N.C.O.s recently commissioned. To each this is the culmination of a long, varied and eminently successful Army career. Our good wishes are unanimous.

On 15th June Sergeants Tant, Lynam and Mitchell; Lance Sergeants Leith, Keighley, Bliss, Hooper, M.M., and Yeadon; and Corporal Harding attained their ranks substantive and otherwise.

Signalman Godfrey was awarded the presentation silver-crested whip as the best all-round man of his squad and is now appointed Lance Corporal. We wish him the very best of luck.

There is much twittering below as to who next shall leap upward, plus computation, amongst the promotees as to "What shall I be by Christmas?"

Nuptials.—The wedding of Corporal Hayes to Miss Dorothy May Lincoln (not unknown to readers of these columns) created a mild furore in the S.T.C. Married at the Garrison Military Church, Jubbulpore, on 3rd June, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, with best man Corporal Young, come specially on leave for the job. Leaving after the ceremony, beneath an archway of Flags, Army, Signalling, Blue and White, the party proceeded to the Corporals' Room, where the reception was held. This room had not beheld a brighter, gayer scene. The billiard table groaned



beneath the weight of gifts; the side-tables beneath the abundant food and the guests beneath what they had eaten and drunk. A merry milling throng it was with the newly-married pair as its focal point, upon whom it poured endless congratulations, wishes and advice.

We'll describe no more. The photograph will tell you so much more than these poor words. Meanwhile our sincerest wishes for Corporal and Mrs. Hayes's future.

Interlude.—The spirit of inquiry manifested by Signalman Sook is admirable, albeit touching. He asks, his eyes lambent with sincerity, "Is the Military Veterinary Hospital the Jubbulpore counterpart of the Chelsea Pensioners'?"

Solemnly, gentlemen!

EYE WITNESS.

YOUNG BERT COMES TO INDIA—III.

Detailed for Fire Piquet duty, Young Bert became a fireman for a week. He was pleased to see his name in Company Orders and drew mental pictures of himself tearing through the Cantonment on a stream-lined, umpteen horse-power engine to the thrilling accompaniment of clanging bells. He saw himself clambering up extending ladders, tomahawk in hand, to rescue rajahs' daughters imprisoned in their blazing seraglios. He saw monster flames, tested acrid smoke, heard the steamy hiss as thousands of gallons of water stabbed at the roaring, crackling inferno.

". . . will parade at the Quarter Guard Room for Fire Drill under the Regimental Provost Sergeant at 06.15 hrs.," said the Order. And when the guard turned out for Reveille, young Bert was there, his cheeks still radiant with the Blighty bloom, his puttees regimental to a turn, his eyes alight with anticipation.

" This," said the Sergeant, " is our fire engine." Young Bert blinked. He saw a red-painted trough on iron wheels. He blinked again. It was still there.

The Sergeant was speaking once more. " Two of you get a grip of that handle and the rest hang on to the ropes. Now—take it easy there—bring her gently down the slope. Good. Now over into that field. At the DOUBLE ! " With a clank and grind of metal the engine gathered speed, skimming lightly over the sandy ground.

" Now," said the Sergeant to Young Bert, when they had halted, " you are No. 1. Your job is to unscrew the cap marked ' Delivery,' screw on the female end of a length of hose, run it out in the direction of the fire, fix on the nozzle and hold tight."

Nos. 2 and 4 and several No. 3s were detailed, and at the word " Go ! " they were off their marks like so many Olympic sprinters. Young Bert stuck the nozzle in his belt and ran out a length of hose. No. 2's head and shoulders disappeared inside the red trough, where he seemed to be doing something highly technical. No. 4 performed a juggling act with the standpipe and hydrant. The No. 3s were rushing across the field, unrolling hose, tightening joints.

In three minutes the whole contraption was ready and in six more the water had reached the far end, where Young Bert proceeded to sprinkle the flowers outside the Guard Room with the tenderness that only Young Soldiers know and the accurate aim that betrays a recruit just through his weapon training course.

The Sergeant was satisfied. " You can break off now," he said. " If you hear the alarm at any time just double up to the Guard Room ek dam."

Two days later Young Bert was wrapping himself in a maze of plugs and cords at a practice switchboard when the duty trumpeter sounded the Fire Call.

Leaping to his feet and turning a half somersault, Young Bert extricated himself. With the bells of every Tele 110 in the lecture room ringing wildly and two lengths of loose cord flapping about his bare knees, he was making a bee-line for the Guard Room.

In a few seconds he was retracing his steps, this time attached to the red trough by a taut length of rope. To Young Bert and the rest of the fire engine party the road seemed as crowded as Oxford Street on any afternoon. There were A.T. carts loaded with hay, tongas carrying children home from the B.A. school, pagri-ed D.R.s chugging along one after the other at regular intervals, two-miles-a-day bullock carts with bells tinkling lazily and sundry nondescript umbrella-carrying wallahs with their women proceeding on foot in single file to somewhere else in India.

Miraculously one and all evacuated the path of the oncoming fire engine, which swayed and bounced, now on two wheels, now on four, with Young Bert hopping two paces, running three, then flying five, as the rope jerked with varying energy.

At last the perspiring party stumbled to a standstill outside the Central Technical Store. As coolly as the sun would let them they set about their task. Within the appointed time limit of three minutes they were prepared for action, the pumping gear was manned and the water turned on.

All eyes were fixed on the advancing wave as the first length of hose began to swell and the swelling crept towards the trough. A miniature fountain of water spurted from a leak. The Sergeant stepped forward and pressed a finger over the hole.

Young Bert looked at the store. To all appearances it was a very cool place, but Young Bert saw licking flames melting the iron bars, making the wet cells dry. He saw thousands of pounds' worth of wireless sets going up in smoke. He gripped the nozzle resolutely and braced himself for action. The water filled the trough and sixteen I.O.R.s began pumping with great gusto.

Suddenly the nozzle in Young Bert's hands sprang to life. It thrust upwards and Young Bert went with it. Up and up it went until he was on a level with the roof of the building. The water gushed in a glistening parabola towards the sun-scorched tiles. Young Bert curled his legs round the hose and waited for the next move.

The Sergeant, who had been taking care of the leak, removed his finger and Young Bert floated gently down to earth.

Young Bert now suffixes his number, rank and name with the initials " B.F."—Bara Fakir—claiming that he has solved the secret of the Indian rope trick.

He is also busy studying Isaac Walton's " Compleat Angler," with the dual purpose of gate-crashing the select ripples of the S.T.C. (I.) Angling Club, and, more important, qualifying for the appointment of B.O.R. i/c Suction when the Fire Piquet practises from a jheel.

YOUNG GEORGE.

22nd July.

Scribes.—Most-talked-of event in Jubbulpore this month has been the Company Commander's Essay-writing Parade. On the 13th we got out our mighty pens and for two hours attacked the enemy with ink. The subject set was, " The Progress of the Second World War from its Inception to the Present Date." It was the sort of subject everybody has something to say about, and they certainly said it. The finished efforts revealed that we had spent a considerable part of our off-parade hours keeping track of contemporary events in Europe with the aid of the radio and Press. Some essays discussed the war from the tactical point of view, some from the historical angle, some praised the Allied generals, some criticised them; but one thing they all had in common. You can guess what that was. We will content ourselves with observing that certain things were written about certain gentlemen in certain countries that would certainly lead to certain dire consequences for the writers if they lived in certain countries.

Umbrella-Time.—The monsoon season has opened half-heartedly this year, and although the Quartermaster has busied himself issuing sigris and charcoal they have not yet come into daily use.

Comings and Goings.—Recent arrivals include Corporals Hobday and Roake and Signalmen Bell J., Bell F., Feakes, Wright J., Harlow, Connelly, Crompton, Hookway, Baker, Jewiss, MacGillivray, Birkbeck, Phillips, Trower, Erby, Lloyd and Kinge. Bara salam to them all. Lance Sergeant Bliss left us with two " tapes " and returned from a short course wearing three. Signalman Wright E., one of the militiamen, has made the grade as a Draughtsman III and departed northward. We wish him luck.

??? Rumour is widespread about what is happening in the Signals Theatre on several evenings of the week. Sounds of music and singing drift along the corridors of the Institute and at intervals a voice familiar to thousands of ex-Catterick men thunders, " Bearer ! " Can they be rehearsing a new show ? We hope so.

Stores.—A parcel arrived a few days ago from an arsenal. It contained two tins of metal polish and three reels of cotton. Now what do you know about that ?

Extra.—" Extra ! Extra ! ! Hitler Says He's Sorry ! ! ! Read All About It ! Extra ! " A youth with a bundle of newspapers under his arm was parading through the bungalow shouting the " news." It was one of the irrepressible Young Berts. Here is " Young George's " monthly report on the adventures of S.T.C. militiamen.

YOUNG BERT COMES TO INDIA—IV

" Anybody here with ' Civvy Street ' clerical experience ? " (The Sergeant-Major's voice).

There was silence.

One of the first " tips " a recruit gets from the old soldiers is **never to volunteer for anything.** But youth rarely heeds the wisdom of age and experience. The silence was but momentary. Young Bert led the affirmative chorus. He got the job . . . Temporary Additional Acting Unpaid Clerk in the Company office.

It was a pleasant change from flag-bashing and key-tapping. There was a cheery, make-yourself-at-home atmosphere. Even the Sergeant-Major abandoned tradition and smiled at Y.B. Every day on the stroke of eleven a cup of super char was set down at his elbow. New recruits crept stealthily through the door and addressed him as " Sir," and on one occasion he got a " beezer " of a salute from a young soldier who thought he was the Adjutant or something.

He could try out his newly-acquired Urdu vocabulary on pagri-ed peons who drifted in and out with mysterious looking documents. " Darwasi band karo ! " he would call after them. " Yih chitthi Pay N.C.O. ko lo," he would say to his own peon, who understood English much better ; but it was amusing to make these strange noises and exciting to find them intelligible.

Y.B. smiled inwardly at many incidents, as when a Colonel told a Captain to remember something and the Captain surreptitiously tied a knot in the corner of his handkerchief.

His first job—Amendments—consisted of sealing thumb and forefinger firmly together with best Stationery Office gum and spending the rest of the day trying to pull them apart. If in the interim he managed, with his left hand, to scissor a few pages into small strips and convert a few full stops into semicolons he had done well.

He was promoted to the dignity of Despatch Clerk. He enjoyed signing for incoming despatches with an impressive flourish of red or blue pencil ; but his patience was sorely tried by the O.C., who seemed deliberately to avoid signing most documents until tiffin time, when Y.B. was snowed under by the consequent accumulation in the " Out " tray. " What a life," he would sigh as he trudged to the messroom after nearly everybody had eaten and departed.

The Corporal i/c Office let him type a few letters. He was so impressed by the important-looking reference numbers at the head of each draft that he decided to adopt a similar system when he wrote to Agnes.

" Darling love," he began, " Ref. my YB/Z/27/524 of 20 Aug. 40. What about expediting a reply ? Receipt of your XXXXX of 25 May 40 is ack. and contents noted . . ."

The O.C. had a bell-push on his table. One ring summoned the Sergeant-Major, two the Corporal, three Young Bert. Every time the bell rang the whole office staff were on their marks and rearing to go. Buzz ! . . . The Sergeant-Major half rose from his chair, ready to drop back at the second Buzz ! . . . which brought the Corporal to his feet, only to subside at the third Buzz ! . . . when Y.B. pushed back his chair with a great clatter, scattered papers, pencils, books in all directions, borrowed the Corporal's comb for last-minute preening, hoisted his hose-tops to a modest level, straightened his belt and dived into the inner sanctum. Invariably the O.C. did not look up from his work, just said, " Get that letter away quickly," and Y.B. was back at his desk.

Then, just when Young Bert was beginning to get everything " on a working basis," a qualified clerk came to take over and, still blushing modestly at the Sergeant-Major's words about " Helping his country in her hour of need," he went back to the key.

YOUNG GEORGE.

Sport.—Topic of the moment is rugby. After a number of enjoyable and not unsuccessful fixtures with a team of Odds and Ends and various Companies of a local Scottish infantry battalion, we are now preparing for the Cup competitions. Two XV's have been entered for the " Harwood Little " Cup and one for the " Eduljee " Cup.

The S.T.C. (I.) Inter-Company Football and Basket Ball League competition begins this week.

The Nerbudda Vale Hunt paperchases, held twice weekly during the rains season, are being well attended.

The golf course, now as green as an English meadow, is still a great attraction to most, in spite of the risk of being caught in the rain a mile from shelter.

August.

In General.—Many factors contribute to a brief issue of WIRE notes for August. There has been a dearth of humorous instances —classic examples of our fellow creatures " putting their foot in it " in a big way.

" Young Bert's " monthly tale of doughty doings will no longer lighten, lengthen and otherwise bolster up this column, for " Young Bert "—the intrepid Signalman Addicott—has left us for Poona, to be employed in the D.C.S.O.'s office there. He has promised an occasional continuation of his hero's history, but he now feels, so he tells me, wholly out of touch with Militiamen, whose military careers he so cleverly epitomised.

The principal cause for brevity, however, is that the really interesting events of to-day are not open for discussion. Movements, expansion, promotion, re-organisation, all come into the " Careless Talk " category, which, as the posters so familiarly exhort, cost lives ; which is a pity, for these events are history in the making, and are worth recording. (Are you a Chatterbug ?)

In Particular.—Come to us, during July/August, are Sergeant Penny, Corporals Roake, Styles, Hobday and Welsh, Lance Corporals Melhuish and Mancy. Signalmen Dickson and Finnigan, originally on a Course here, are now posted to the S.T.C. (I.) permanently. Signalman Frost we congratulate on obtaining his transfer after a trying probationary period.

Gone are Sergeant Welsby, Signalmen Taylor, Wright and Nevay. (Signalman Addicott has already had mention.) Vale.

The Baton.—Although the doings of higher ranks are closed subjects, we should like to mention the appointment to U/Lance Corporal of Signalmen Kinge and Friend, and proffer congratulations.

Sporting.—We are now more than halfway through the rugby season. There have been some fine games, in which we have shone ; others where we were not so lucky. We reached the final of the Harwood Little Tournament, but were defeated, 6—3, after a hardly contested game against the 2nd Battalion, K.O.S.B. We had held the Harwood Little Cup for one season.

A detailed account of S.T.C. rugby will appear in our next issue of notes.

EYE WITNESS.

Corps News—Officers

Extracts from "The London Gazette"

[War Office, 30/7/40]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS

EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS :

Sidney Walter Nugent Jarvis (136858) to be 2nd Lieutenant, 26/6/40.

Cyril Bernard Cox (141116) to be 2nd Lieutenant, 8/7/40.

John Ford (139428) to be Lieutenant (Quartermaster), 1/7/40.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Lieutenant-Colonel W. P. Doyle (50464) at his own request, reverts to the rank of Major whilst employed during the present emergency, 4/7/40, with seniority 7/6/1939.

Major (Quartermaster) W. S. Catleugh, T.D. (33892), relinquishes his commission on account of ill-health and retains his rank with permission to wear the prescribed uniform. 31/7/40.

[War Office, 2/8/40]

REGULAR ARMY.

The undermentioned Colonel (temp. Brigadier) is granted the rank of Major-General, 1/7/40 :

A. C. Fuller, O.B.E., A.M.I.E.E.

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Lieutenant T. Sewell (12848) (from Lincoln Regt.) to be Lieutenant, 1/8/40, retaining his present seniority.

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS :

R.S.M. William Henry Grinter, (143889) to be Lieutenant (Quartermaster), 5/6/40.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Lieutenant E. J. Hunter (93511) relinquishes his commission on account of ill-health, 3/8/40.

[War Office, 6/8/40]

The King has been graciously pleased to approve of the undermentioned awards for gallant and distinguished services in

action in connection with recent operations in Norway :
MILITARY MEDAL.
No. 2360418 Signalman Louis Mammone, Royal Corps of Signals.

REGULAR ARMY.
Colonel (Acting Major-General) R. Chenevix-Trench, O.B.E., M.C., relinquishes the acting rank of Major-General and is re-granted the temporary rank of Brigadier, 23/6/40.

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS :
Cadet John Allen Speares (143008) from 151st O.C.T.U. to be 2nd Lieutenant, 13/7/40.
Sergeant Arthur Coates Newton (143871), Royal Signals, to be 2nd Lieutenant, 7/8/40.

TERRITORIAL ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS.
2nd Lieutenant T. G. Little (50193) relinquishes his commission on appointment to a commission in the R.N.V.R., 20/6/40.

[War Office, 9/8/40]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
The undermentioned Cadets from Officer Cadet Training Unit (ex-Gentlemen Cadets, R. Mil. Coll.) to be 2nd Lieutenants, 20/7/40 :
Arthur Reginald Brooke (140298).
Fabian Allan Llewellyn Terrey (140299).
EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS :
Lieutenant Ivor Churchill Pool (141467) to be Lieutenant, 22/7/40.
The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants :
John Rennie Patullo (141633), 17/7/40.
James Edward Keddie (141578). 18/7/40.
Harry Gibbons (141881), 19/7/40.
Charles Walter Smith (141768), 22/7/40.
Edgar Charles Wilson (141892), 22/7/40.
C.S.M. Thomas William Wilkins (143884) to be Lieutenant (T.M.O.), 16/6/40.
C.S.M. Albert Edwin Luke, (143388) to be Lieutenant (T.M.O.), 10/7/40.
The undermentioned Cadets from 151st and 152nd Officer Cadet Training Units (Signals) to be 2nd Lieutenants, except as otherwise stated, 3/8/40 :
Bernard Bradshaw (140922) to be Lieutenant.
James Taylor (140844).
Denzil Baring (140845)
Jack Beer (140921).
Robert Stewart Campbell (140846).
William Porteus Chalmers (140847).
Geoffrey Clement Dodwell (140849).
William Ronald Gordon Hencher (140923).
Hilary William King (140924).
John Lugton (140925).
Frank James Hilton Mitchell (140848).
Felix John Clewett Pole (140926).
Frank Ernest Warner (140850).
Robert Walter Alexander Anderson (140851).
Harold Charles Stevens Berry (140852).
Ernest Henry Bugg (140853).
Andrew McTurk Cook (140927).
Albert Neville Griffiths (140928).
Gordon Harvey Henderson (140929).
Frank Wilford Holder (140854).
Alan William McNeile (140930).
Derrick Herbert Maxwell (140931).
John Harold Partridge (140932).
Stanley Read Pennington (140933).
Edward James Reid (140855).
John Nod Shearme (140934).
Ronald Sidney Stephens (140935).
Paul Vincent Nesfield Strange (140936).
Sidney William Trill (140856).
Christopher Henry Cumner Walker (140937).
Philip Herbert Derrick Webb (140938).
Robert McNicol Callum (140857).
Sydney Arthur Lincoln (140858).

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
2nd Lieutenant D. A. J. Place (88269) resigns his commission, 28/7/40.
Captain G. K. S. Edwards (62840) at his own request reverts to the rank of Lieutenant whilst employed during the present emergency, 29/7/40.

[War Office, 13/8/40]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
Lieutenant-Colonel G. Tayleur on completion of tenure of service as Regimental Lieutenant-Colonel remains on full pay (Supernumerary), 14/8/40.
Major R. H. R. Steward, O.B.E., M.C., to be Lieutenant-Colonel, 14/8/40.
Captain P. R. Wainman, B.SC., is placed on the h.p. list on account of ill-health, 7/6/40.

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS :
The undermentioned to be Lieutenants :
C.Q.M.S. Albert Edward Hollingshead (143922), 7/7/40.
C.S.M. Phillip Ernest Orton (143921).
R.Q.M.S. Thomas Henry Ball (143920).
C.S.M. John Reginald Brett (144009) to be Lieutenant (Quartermaster), 22/7/40.
C.S.M. Arthur George Victor Spencer (144008) to be Lieutenant (T.M.O.), 5/7/40.
C.S.M. Albert Henry Holness (144007) to be Lieutenant (T.M.O.), 25/7/40.

[War Office, 16/8/40]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS :
The undermentioned to be Lieutenants, 17/8/40 :
W.O. Cl. III George Alexander Weedon (143938).
Sergeant George William Hatfield Cox (143939).
The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants :
Hector Graeme Mappin (141303), 14/5/40.
Richard Robert Michael Milbank de Belleroche (135297).
Ernest Kumar Rosher (139438), without pay and allowances, and is granted the unpaid acting rank of Major, 10/6/40.
Roderick George Maitland Kirby (139432), without pay and allowances, and is granted the unpaid acting rank of Captain, 18/6/40.
John Michael Comley Vivian (139443), without pay and allowances, and is granted the unpaid acting rank of Lieutenant, 18/6/40.
James Innes Logan (142237).
R.S.M. Arthur Reginald Johnson (143628) to be Lieutenant (Quartermaster), 3/8/40.
R.S.M. John Ewart Thomas Ivey (143617) to be Lieutenant (T.M.O.), 28/7/40.
R.S.M. Wilfred Nicholson (143616) to be Lieutenant (T.M.O.) 30/7/40.

[War Office, 20/8/40]

The King has been graciously pleased to approve the undermentioned awards for gallant and distinguished services in action in connection with recent operations :
THE DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT MEDAL.
No. 2318534 Warrant Officer, Class II (Company Sergeant-Major) Ronald Thornhill Lundie, Royal Signals.
No. 2321944 Sergeant Percy David Legge, Royal Signals.
THE MILITARY MEDAL.
No. 2321428 Sergeant Charles Alfred Turner, Royal Signals.
No. 2319198 Corporal William Mitchell, Royal Signals.
No. 2588065 Corporal John Taylor, Royal Signals.
No. 2319714 Lance Corporal Peter Costigane, Royal Signals.
No. 2593498 Signalman Stanley James Morris, Royal Signals.
No. 2329075 Signalman Ignatius Rowland-Jones, Royal Signals.

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS :
2nd Lieutenant S. B. L. Somers (133401) relinquishes his commission on appointment to Royal Marines, 5/8/40.
Sergeant Stanley William Mills (132397) to be Lieutenant, 15/6/40 (substituted for notification in the "Gazette" (Supplement), dated 14/6/40.)
The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants :
2nd Lieutenant Maurice Holberton Shearme (23188), 1/7/40.
Harold John Herbert (142120), 8/7/40.
Donald Alfred Thomas Lee, M.B.E. (142129), without pay and allowances, 8/7/40.
Arthur Alexander Pollard (142135), 8/7/40.
John Walter Saunders (142138), 8/7/40.
Cecil Hugh Williamson (142144), 8/7/40.
Ernest Roy Sealey Winter, B.SC. (142145), 8/7/40.
Joseph Alexander Scott Wright (141471), 15/7/40.
Donald Hampden Ward (141991), 29/7/40.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
Lieutenant A. J. S. Mackenzie (66733) from Green Howards to be Lieutenant and retains his present seniority, 1/6/40. (Substituted for notification in the "Gazette" (Supplement), 31/5/40.)

The Birt



(1) It may be deep, but Despatch Riders don't care. In any case it is jolly fine practice

(2) After a few weeks of training under expert tuition the raw recruit performs like an expert. (4) No marks are lost for footing! The main thing is to get through with that despatch.



Up in a Northern Command is the father and mother of all Despatch Riders. The Signalman who is destined for such duties goes there as a man—very possibly not even a motor cyclist—and he comes out after a course of training a fully fledged despatch rider. In days gone by the recipe may have been, " take a civilian who can sit a motor cycle, give him a uniform and a mount, and then you have a D.R.," but to-day it is different He must be given a highly specialised finish that will enable him to fit accurately into the scientific military machine.

The Beginning

Recently a " Motor Cycling " representative was permitted to make acquaintance with the system of training for the Royal Corps of Signals which is normally carried out for the entire Corps. Up to the present it has frequently been necessary for Signalmen, who had no previous motor cycling experience, to be trained as Despatch Riders and consequently the twelve weeks' course of instruction makes provision for a thorough introduction into the methods of obtaining the best results from an engine and two wheels. During these weeks of training a large amount of time is devoted to development of riding ability and even those who have thought themselves accomplished motor cyclists have frequently found that they had much to learn in order to prepare for getting over the ground under any conceivable conditions. Lectures also take up a substantial amount of time, being devoted to motor cycle theory, to Army organisation in general and to the specialised side of despatch riders' duties. All the work is carried out in accordance with a fixed time-table so that the pupil makes steady progress through the various departments from the beginning.

When our representative was present those in the early stages of the work were to be seen trying out their skill on training machines, whilst those who had progressed further were tackling advanced training on mounts of full Army calibre.

Having once ascertained that the rider can master his machine under normal conditions, the next thing is to give him confidence in difficulties. Can he correct a skid ? That is what he must learn to do at the next stage, and to accomplish this the riders are put on a specially prepared skid trough, which is a muddy track that can be systematically waterlogged. The surface is practically all greasy mud, with a few hummocks to add variety, and here—if a man is to ride at all—he quickly acquires a sense that enables him to correct the machine even when it persists in hectic side-stepping. By the time the fifth week has come round the recruit has acquired the confidence necessary to charge up a steep hillside that is covered with wet grass.

Quite expert scramble riders might well be daunted by one of the slopes that figures in the time-table for the seventh week. A long, muddy field-path with a gradient of one in three, it offers no real grip, but, nevertheless, man after man negotiates it unfalteringly. Having reached this stage of the proceedings, even the formerly raw motor cyclist is ready to go anywhere and the natural enthusiasm for trying out skill on even rougher rough stuff has to be severely checked, for not only is the endeavour to do a " wall of a house " act risky to the men, but it may also result in severe damage to the machines.

Towards the end of the course, sections are doing training runs or actually carrying despatches over distances up to 200 miles. Night riding is also included in the curriculum and they may, for instance, spend the complete night on a journey round the Lake District, at the same time making a special study of

irth of a D.R.

What's it like in the Army? Many Motor cyclists are Wondering. Here a Special Correspondent Tells of the Life Enjoyed by a Despatch Rider in the Royal Corps of Signals During his Training



(3) A greasy, grassy slope figures in the training course. It would be no walk-over for an expert but these D.R's tackle it with confidence

map-reading. Apart from hill-climbing and cross-country work there must be practice in negotiating water splashes or flooded roads, whilst motor cycling under difficult conditions when wearing gas masks is another art that must be acquired.

Scarcely less interesting is the theoretical side, instruction being given to small classes in charge of trained N.C.O.s. First there is a syllabus of the course and a talk on the Highway Code. Then comes an explanation of Army routine and customs. The novice is next instructed on his duty when taking over a machine and how its tools and general condition should be checked. He learns the proper methods of cleaning down, details of how the motor works and the manner in which the necessary equipment functions. Further study is given to the electrical system and the care of batteries. Of particular interest on the military side are classes on Army organisation, such as the arrangement of the various Headquarters, the place of the Signals Service, the question of authorised abbreviations and the recognition of the various arm-bands or badges of rank.

Many Tasks

Of course, in the Army, there is no such thing as dropping in to a wayside garage and asking them to check the machine over, or to diagnose some half-apparent fault. If a difficulty arises the D.R. must know what is the cause and must be able either to effect a repair or to describe the trouble in technically correct language. It is to this end that the extensive training in motor cycling theory is directed.

On the military side, too, there are many points that must be thoroughly observed before the D.R. reaches the required state of efficiency. Let us take a few at random. He must check the documents he is carrying against the advice docket so that he is sure he has the required number. He must take thought to prevent any despatches falling into enemy hands if it appears likely he will be captured. He must observe and report on troop movements or other information acquired during his travels, and although he is a despatch rider, he must be trained to take over counter clerk's duties in the Signals Office when necessary. Even for the expert motor cyclist there is a vast amount to learn, but the experienced rider has the advantage of being able to press on more quickly with his theoretical studies.

After what father has told you about the Army in 1914, it will not be surprising if some doubt exists regarding living conditions in the Army to-day! Of course, constant hot water, wardrobes, electric washing-up machines, and so on, cannot follow the troops everywhere, but living conditions at Training Quarters are a revelation to the layman.

The men turn out in time for breakfast between 7 o'clock and 7.30 a.m., and by 8 o'clock are preparing their machines for the road. Behind the scenes, in the kitchens, everything appears clean and fresh, and it may be stated from experience that they are fully comparable in this respect with the "works" of the average multiple cafe. As the men feed in messes of twelve

there are no long waits for food, as soon as any dozen are ready (not necessarily the same dozen at each meal) the food is brought in and one of the men serves it. There was nothing of the "stew on tin plates and your rice pudding dumped in the remains if you are lucky" about the arrangements I saw. The dining-room has bright enamel-topped tables for twelve and a pile of clean plates for each course stood at the side.

Fine Meals

In the kitchens hung a schedule of the meals for the week, and typical menus showed tea, bread and butter, porridge, sausage and egg for breakfast; roast beef, roast potatoes, peas, steamed marmalade pudding and white sauce for dinner; salmon and lettuce, bread and butter and tea for tea; soup, meat and bread for supper. Dinner is available from 12.30 p.m., tea from 4.30 p.m. and supper from 6.30 p.m. Mechanical devices of various kinds are in evidence in this department, there being electric washing-up machines, also a special machine designed to "extrude" butter or margarine in neat pats of the type favoured by restaurants.

Huts of the old and new type were also inspected by the "Motor Cycling" man. The rooms contain eighteen beds for the men and a separate cubicle for the N.C.O. in charge. In the old dormitories there is a locker over each bed and equipment is arranged beneath it, a chart on the notice-board showing the manner in which uniform and kit should be hung to secure the neatest effect. The new huts are arranged similarly, but it was noticed that each man had a wardrobe instead of a locker and rack, whilst in the washrooms there were plenty of basins with constant hot and cold water.

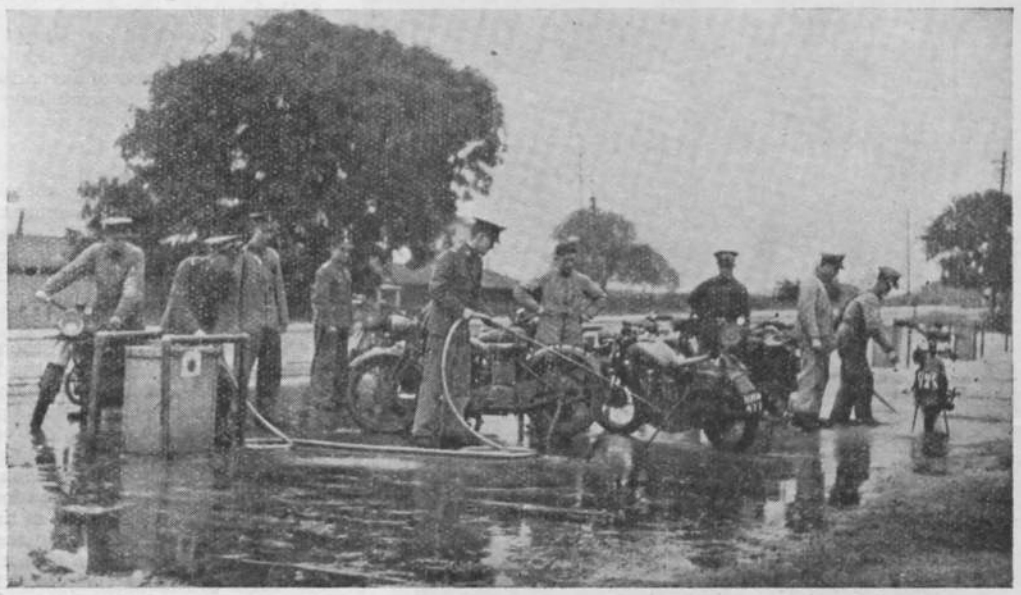
In the new section a covered way connects various huts with bathrooms, etc. There is ample electric lighting throughout. The work of each hut is carried through on a communal basis, the N.C.O. allotting each man a task out of the necessary work—one, perhaps, will be required to light fires, another will polish the benches, and so on.

"Naffi"

A final call was to see the canteens—commonly known as "Naffi" (which is the more or less authorised abbreviation for Navy, Army and Air Force Institutes)—and here, in one section, there was a billiard room, with reclining chairs grouped round the fire and a powerful radio set playing. Along a passage was a writing and reading room and at the farther end of the building was an extensive canteen, at the far end of which room a curtained platform was testimony to the frequent concerts that are held on the premises.

Are the boys enjoying it? Naturally, with plenty of opportunity for sporting motor cycling, most of them are getting a kick out of life and some are frankly finding conditions less arduous than they expected. However, there is no hankering after long-continued enjoyment of the "every modern convenience" of Training Quarters, and there are those who are metaphorically straining at the leash to get into active service of some kind. Already there are men who hope to join the Royal Corps of Signals Display Team which has built up such a reputation by its motor cycling acrobatics. Of course, there is no Display Team now. That is for the piping days of peace, but it is clear that when the Display comes to be re-formed there will be keen competition to obtain a place.

Meanwhile, these motor cyclists are keenly working towards doing their share in bringing those happy days a trifle nearer.



After the day's work is over comes the job of cleaning down. A concrete wash, with water towers, is available for this.

HOME STATIONS

Yorkshire 1

1st Operators' Training Battalion

Administrative Wing

Arrivals.—Once again we take this opportunity to welcome into the fold the undermentioned new arrivals: Armourer Staff Sergeant Shrubb, Driver (H.T.) Shorey, Signalmen Miller, Jones, Street, Connell, Yardley, Brown, Butterley, Cross and Wright. May they stay long enough to bask in the hospitable and cheery friendship of the Administrative Wing.

Birth.—And now for another arrival of a different type. Yes it is; the stork has paid a visit to the home of A/Lance Corporal and Mrs. Nursaw, and has left a bouncing baby girl (sorry it's not a boy, but keep hoping). To the happy couple, heartiest congratulations!

Promotions.—It is always pleasing to come across ambitious people and see them climb the ladder of fame. Each promotion in the army is a step in the right direction, and it is a pleasure to congratulate the undermentioned N.C.O.s and men upon their recent promotions and appointment: Lance Corporals Ratnage and Bailey to A/Corporal, Signalman Parry to U/Lance Corporal.

Weddings.—Despite the present situation, "our lads" are still carrying on as usual, and it is nice to congratulate so many of the Administrative Wing on the recent embarkation upon the sea of matrimony. May the future years deal kindly with them and their respective wives, and may joy and happiness follow them throughout their married lives. As I hope to be joining them in the near future, I shall have to find a few tips on how to treat the wife when she is in a nasty mood; so you married men—watch out! The now happily-married couples are: Sergeant Whyte I. to Miss E. K. Brooks, Corporal Derrick to Miss E. Shears, Signalman Saunders to Miss N. L. Spruels, Signalman Houldsworth to Miss M. B. Boyle, Signalman Muir to Miss B. Walkinshaw.

Entertainments.—The ever-popular dances are still presented each Monday night. Dancing seems to be increasing amongst the lads in the Administrative Wing; only the other day I saw "Popeye" trying a few steps out in room 11, so ladies beware! The Jarvis brothers also have paid a courtesy call up to the "Hall"; or is the beer up there good? Yes, the boys are getting prepared for the oncoming dancing season, despite the "threatened invasion." So much for dancing.

The P.R.I. and T.M.O. have got their heads together again in preparation for the forthcoming Unit concert. Shush! It is whispered that some of the Garrison "upper ten" are coming to view the lads "humble efforts"; they will not be disappointed. I have had the pleasure of seeing a few rehearsals, and, believe me, the show will be a "knock-out." I am sorry that I cannot give you a preview of the show, but by the time this issue has gone to press, the show will just be due for release. Needless to say, S.S.M. Wagner is licking some of our local actors into shape. Jimmy Hescott will still be yelling for his "shilling"; maybe the P.R.I. will pay the debt, who knows? But the real credit of the show is due to the men behind the scenes, the humble scenery painters, Signalman Taylor and his two fellow artists. To them we say thank you for such a splendid piece of work.

Well, time marches on, and I am orderly cook; so I will get the lads' tea ready. Cheerio!

A. E. H.

No. 1 Company

Trust the barrack room orators of No. 1 Company of the 1st O.T.B. to find new subjects for debate. Latest topic is "Fatigues versus Ironsides." This problem, we must hasten to explain, was the sequel to the sharing of "Ironsides" duties with another Company. Needless to say there were smiles all round—in No. 1 Company, of course!—when news of the re-arrangement came through. But those grins waned noticeably when some of the fatigues were "presented" to personnel with the other hand! Yes, the price of release from this column is a spell of fatigues. Which is the baser of the two evils? "Other ranks" are still wondering. A discerning trainee has graduated fatigues into four categories—heavy work, work, light work, and very light work.

It is not necessary to enlarge upon the statement that Friday always was the most cheerful day in the Army. Nor is there need to comment on the assertion that that day is anticipated with added zest since the advent of a welcome "rise" for the Forces. No doubt the extra 3s. 6d. will result in the introduction of some personal comforts and luxuries previously foreign to army life, though in what varied forms it is not yet possible to suggest. We have heard it prophesied that some of the less attentive trainees will invest the extra cash in private tuition by N.C.O.s in the weeks immediately before trade test, but that is so far unsupported by actual evidence.

Single men, at any rate, have definitely resolved to become more thrifty and there are several instances where married men —previously impecunious for varying periods of the week— are making determined efforts to set aside small, though not insignificant, sums for the morrow. May their patience and endurance hold good!

Outstanding events during the last two weeks, nevertheless, came as a surprise at that. Even Dame Rumour did not do justice to the occasion, for the "important personages" who it was whispered—at the eleventh hour—were visiting the area turned out to be Their Majesties the King and Queen. No. 1 Company paraded in full force and voice to take part in the welcome, and there was keen rivalry for the loudest and longest cheer. That the lads must have taken full advantage of the opportunity of expressing their loyalty was evidenced by a later announcement of a half-day holiday. Which revelation constituted a second welcome surprise that aroused in barrack rooms another round of applause equally sincere!

F. G. M.

No. 2 Company

Arrivals and Departures.—Three squads have arrived and started training. Three squads have stood (and sat) their test for BIII, and departed.

Quite a horde surged into "O" Section from other Companies and 14 more flowed in to-day. This Section is now nearly 80 strong, but we only have the same staff for it as for a training squad of 20.

If Hitler couldn't cross the Channel, there has been quite an invasion across the "Rubicon." The Transpontine Companies have sent us S.S.M. Hunt, Lance Sergeant Smith F. and Lance Corporal Taylor C.—and a little bird tells us that a full Sergeant is coming shortly.

Not to be outdone, we have passed Corporal Arnold across the beck.

Sergeant Boulton has been posted south to a warmer climate. (There is considerable evidence that for the last week it has been jolly hot!)

Well, for intake and outgo—to each and everyone—good wishes and all the best!

Our new "Charlie Ink" has been with us for nearly a couple of months, and he has stirred us up. Now we are settling down, like a bottle of ink. What with him, and the Creed, and the C.O.'s new block programme, training has really got cracking again—and the spice of life is putting pep in the pudding.

The Tired Tims and Fretful Freds have kicked at the pricks,

and groused at the goads, but they are getting used to it. Maybe in a few years they will learn that hard work and lots of it never killed any man, but that dodging the column and running always with the brake on will ruin the constitution of anything and anybody.

Promotion in the Unit has had a jerk. Age, service, and seniority are not in future to be given more than their share of weight in deciding promotion. " The best man for the job " is now the rule. Our peacetime " campaign " here last winter has vanished ; we are now much nearer the front line, and only the best will be good enough to smash Hitler—quick.

So it is up to everyone who wants to do his bit to want one stripe or another, and to do his best to earn it, every day and every way. " It is better to bust than rust."

There has been much attention paid to " savings " this month, but everybody sat tight till the " ciggy sixpence " rolled up, a fortnight late. (Pity they haven't got the C.I.—and his wrist watch—to tickle up their punctuality.) Now the problem is " To make ' Spitfires ' or smoke ; to blow ' Hurricanes ' or froth." And another for debate : " If we conscript men, why not conscript cash ? "

Things We Want to Know.—Do the lads like camping out ?

Are squads in their third week called "Apostles " because then they become closest to the " Creed " ?

What's the difference between a " fool " and a man who does one " foolish thing " ?

Do chaps who want posting want pasting ?

Is Corporal Lace getting his new job because he got Q1 on his recent Course ?

How do you turn a toothbrush moustache into tin whiskers eight inches across ?

TWOCOY.

No. 4 Company

After hearing the tales of men returning from leave (few though they be—the men, not the tales), we begin to wonder whether the army, so far as this part of the world is concerned, is not the safest place after all.

Now that leave has been resumed (we hope) after a brief cancellation, we are back to the state of wondering whether we shall just get No. 1's or just miss it. It certainly doesn't pay to entertain any hopes too early in the day. Maybe the two patient " Macs." will get a look in now.

We are glad to welcome back into the fold the N.C.O. who was so misguided as to career round the country knocking his head on the tops of lorries. He looks none the worse.

Unfortunately S.S.M. Grocott has had to go in dock—for a few days only, we hope. May he have a speedy recovery.

Our congratulations go to Lance Sergeants Parris and Smith F. on their well-deserved promotions. We were sorry to lose the latter to No. 2 Company, who, however, obliged by " swopping " him for Corporal Arnold, to whom we extend our greetings.

Corporal Smith J. (these Smiths !) is also deserving of a pat on the back on the successful manner in which his late squad passed their BIII without one failure, especially in view of the manner in which training appears to have suffered in the last few hectic weeks. Nice work, "Smudger"! We hope that your new squad will emulate their example.

We hear that the N.C.O. who is taking the P.T. Course is losing weight at the same rate as Goering is losing planes. Perhaps it is as well that the Course finishes this week. Oh, well, he can take it.

I see that the weather is showing a very abrupt change now—sure sign that the local winter is approaching. We hope that there will be some coal flying about by the time this sees the light of day.

" 'Ear nowt, see nowt, say all."

Boys Training Company

General.—Back once more from a rather hilarious leave to the peace and quietude of this countryside ! Free from bombs and other " Nazty " things, we find that the well-known traditions are being steadily upheld by the weather prophets, who still find no difficulty in forecasting local conditions. (This is' no official secret.)

Those who arrived back by the last train were treated to a hair-raising drive to camp by Sergeant Horstead and his super-charger, well known in Boys' Company.

One Boy literally crawled into camp looking rather fed up with life. It appeared that the local celebrities had clubbed together and presented his mother with £5 (five pounds) with instructions for it to be used for his COMFORTS. Unfortunately, his mother was of the opinion that the comforts supplied by the Boys' Company were sufficient to satisfy his needs and promptly deposited the said £5 with the local Spitfire Fund !

Training.—Sergeant Smith has arrived back to duty and has once more taken over the task of initiating the Workshops in the use of various implements. This is now under a strict syllabus.

Arrivals.—S.S.M. Copp has been attached to us from No. 2 Line Company. He is an ardent hockey player and although our present hockey team is invincible, he will make a very useful addition.

Sergeant Overington has also joined us on posting from Administrative Wing to take the place of C.Q.M.S. Warman.

It is hoped their stay will be a long and pleasant one.

Things We Would Like to Know.—(1) Who asked his instructor how fast the 9 set went ?

(2) Who said that he used to smoke 40 cigarettes and 2 ozs. of tobacco per day ?

Answer to (1) Two hours' fatigues ; (2) He's been to Punky.

Jews' Mail.—To Smudger K. " Has the cost of living affected your financial standings ? Mac."

HOPPY.

1st Depot Battalion

Shadow Factory.—Our aircraft production is now soaring towards its top limit. The factory started in a small way with one wooden aeroplane. That's all it was—just a wooden aeroplane ; nothing highfalutin' about it. It was duly rigged up on its posts, pulleys and wire, and a man pulled it along the length of its travel. This was primitive, crude. In fact, the man (while looking up at the aeroplane and walking along) once tripped and fell over himself. The aeroplane hovered uncertainly and then stopped in mid-air. After this the Weapon Training staff advertised for an experienced Aircrafthand, Ground Duties.

Our Expert on Aircraft Design said unkindly that the machine resembled no known type of plane. To this the factory replied that it was very like a Botha. What's more, nobody here had seen a Botha, so a Botha was quite the safest thing to call it. Further even to this it was always possible to fall back on the statement that it was a new type of German craft. (As, on its return journey, the aeroplane had to be pulled backwards through the sky, it was thought probable that only the very latest type of German machine would be capable of this trick of flying backwards.)

Thus the Shadow Factory became an enemy plant, producing plane after plane for the Germans—dive bombers and troop carriers, mostly. At present it is engaged on a Junkers Ju. 52, with the cutest little swastikas and crosses all over it. We are sure that our weapon training squads will feel the outmost enthusiasm in aiming at it.

We commend our little effort to the notice of Lord Haw-Haw.

Sport.—This is a great stand-by. When there is nothing else to write about we can always turn out a chatty little sports note.

Willow the King has been deposed—or as near as damn it deposed. Football has come into its own, Baghdad Lines played Somme Lines and were beaten 2—0.

Air Raids.—All this has been censored. As there wasn't a grain of truth in it, this doesn't matter much anyway.

Entertainments.—Our fairy godmother is doing us proud these days. We have weekly talkies in the Canteen which are often quite recent pictures and always good pictures. For this we have E.N.S.A. to thank. The quality of the pictures and sound is extraordinarily good.

Further giddinesses are whist drives, concerts (Unit talent and E.N.S.A.), and neighbouring dances.

Messing.—This has improved recently. For tea the other day we had a bar of chocolate issued to each of us, with the bland assurance that it was the generous gift of a certain firm. At least, that's what the Messing Officer said when he appeared on his balcony in response to the cheers of the soldiery clustered around his office in gratitude and ill-suppressed emotion. Alas for our simple faith in human nature: the next day it was discovered that the cases had been delivered to us in error and had actually been destined for a local café. The café and we are eyeing each other askance at the moment, each waiting for the other to make the next move. Ourselves, we feel "ten times more confident" of ultimate victory.

Stop Press.—Our Intelligence Agent comes hot-foot with the news that one of our aircraft has suffered damage. It was seen heading for the coast with smoke pouring from its tail and port engine. Not that we ever believe anything our Intelligence Agent tells us. So we investigated for ourselves and found that the man had, as usual, exaggerated grossly—merely one of the supporting wires had broken and the plane hung limply in the air at an unscientific angle. The Germans will probably get hold of this and distort it in their propaganda. But are we down-hearted? Yes, a little bit—somebody's pinched the ladder we use for carrying out maintenance on our air route.

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1st Holding Battalion

We must again apologise for the absence of our notes from this column for the last month. Our only excuse is that there is often little in the affairs of a Holding Battalion which is of general interest to members of the Corps.

We have to record the departure of our late Commanding Officer, deeply regretted by all with whom he has come in contact. We feel sure that all who have known him during his many years of service will join in wishing him the best of luck in his new job. We understand that, after a period of unwilling idleness, he is now seeing that the country gets what it needs to win the war.

At the same time we welcome most heartily his successor, who needs no introduction to the "old sweats" and who is already completely one of us. We need say no more.

We would like to congratulate our late Adjutant on his translation to a higher sphere. We gather that he has already acquired the authentic G.S. tone on the telephone, not to be confused with the dialling tone, which is lower pitched and less querulous. His successor with us is an old friend who has readily stepped into the shoes of his compatriot, and has cheerfully exchanged the care of our stomachs for the safeguarding of our morals.

The Q.M. has been kept about as busy as usual issuing new stripes, and we congratulate the recipients of them.

Postings in a Unit of this kind are so much the order of the day and of every day that it would be superfluous to talk about them.

During recent weeks the local attractions have been within the reach of all in their turn, so that our Unit social activities have not been exceptional. The weekly Unit Dance, however, continues to be well patronised by all ranks, the more so since the Unit Dance Band has been reorganised and is now well equipped with instruments and music. The Band had the distinction of performing at one of the regular dances at the Officers' Club on a recent occasion, and their services have been in demand for other local functions.

The W.O.s and Sergeants have been the hosts at several well-attended dances in their Mess, which have been made most enjoyable for all concerned. No difficulties with the black-out deter the local inhabitants from coming to make the most of the excellent entertainment provided.

Our concert party is about to put on a new show, and the worst will be known by the time these notes appear in print. Lively speculations have been caused by the fleeting appearance during black-out hours of foreign-looking persons of all sexes, while rumour has it that the Entertainments Officer, unable to obtain an ear-trumpet by local purchase, has been making tactful enquiries for the addresses of old ladies in the district, with a view to requisition.

The football season has opened for us with a league match against —— O.C.T.U., which resulted in a draw. For this result we have largely to thank 2nd Lieutenant Gomm, who succeeded in scoring for us, although heavily marked by the opposing side as our star performer. Our opponents had good reason to know his worth, as until recently he was a member of their own team. Teams change rapidly in a Holding Battalion, but we have the nucleus of a side which is ready to take on all comers. We are looking forward to certain friendly fixtures in the near future, both at football and hockey.

In conclusion, we wish the best of luck to all who have passed this way, and a hearty welcome to all who may come here.

1st General Trades Training Battalion
No. 2 (Line) Company

We doubt whether modesty will be accepted as an excuse for so long hiding our light under a bushel or a mechanised cable-layer, so perhaps we had better not try to make one.

It is a little over twelve months since we stood on the Battalion square and sorted ourselves into a Company, absorbing regulars, reservists, T.A., and militia into one composite war machine. Since then the process of receiving new squads at one end and passing them out at the other with a store of useful knowledge

acquired and ready to put into practice has proceeded smoothly, in spite of the various flaps that arise now and then.

We have been fortunate enough to live most of the time in the new militia huts, and very comfortable they are. Well-sprung beds for the majority, hot and cold running water, showers, central heating, a drying-room, and so on.

Most of us by now have had an opportunity of making a close study of the main features of this part of the country, and the vigilant patrol just before dawn has a particularly fine view from our commanding position perched on the high ground on the southern perimeter of this camp. We are still hoping to see members of Goering's suicide squads alighting near any of our reference points. A little further east, beyond a well-known town, stands an imposing building which, after careful scrutiny, is recognisable as a house that was intended to be one of rest and refreshment. Its brief career in that capacity was cut short like many other things by Adolf the Hustler. Those who seek to enter its former hospitable doors must now produce better reasons than hunger or thirst. On the horizon further east again, some intriguing little specks may be seen at sunrise. It is some months since these were the subject of speculation and report on the part of new patrols privileged to see the sun rise at its earliest. By now most of us have taken a turn or two at it, and are aware that these specks perform a more useful service than a hint to change one's brewer.

On the whole the weather has been pretty good to us, and the long white winter has been followed by quite a number of sunny days, though the thermometer has not risen very high in these parts. We have made good use, we hope, of the long hours of daylight, training ourselves to be more agressive than is usually required of Signals. It is an inspiring sight to see the lads doing a bit of overtime, after a good day's work laying cable along the country lanes. Revived by the cookhouse tea, they sally forth in F.S.M.O., and perform various novel evolutions. These may take the popular form of opposing teams simulating friend and foe. You may see unusual movements among the gorse bushes, and stealthy figures creeping from one to another in the effort to evade their vigilant comrades defending an imaginary line. All kinds of original ideas are tried out. Some can only succeed once, such as a section of gorse bushes moving across a football ground. One enterprising member of an attacking force dashed up and down inside a fir plantation making a noise like one platoon. The N.C.O. in charge of the defending section hastily called for reinforcements, and surrounded the wood, out of which eventually emerged one breathless and bedraggled man. One way and another we quite enjoy this spare time devoted to preparing to cope with one or other of the surprises that Adolf may think he has in store for us.

We had some quite successful Company sports one sunny sabbath afternoon early in May, when the ground was at its best, and the " wives " produced their summer frocks.

The winners of the various events were as follows, and though most of them have long since been posted away, they may like to be reminded of the few sunny days that followed the long winter they spent here :

100 yards, Signalman Wright D. ; Discus, Signalman Arthur ; 880 yards, Signalman Davis O. ; 220 yards, Signalman Tearle ; Shot, Signalman Carter G. W. ; 440 yards, Signalman Sutherland ; High Jump, Signalman Lock C. ; Three Miles, Signalman Hawkins D. J. ; One Mile, Signalman Hawkins D. J. ; Hurdles, Signalman French ; Javelin, Signalman Wood R. ; Long Jump, Signalman Wright D.

There were many entries and some close finishes. We are trying out likely footballers now and hope to raise a team or two. A little mild interest is being taken in the gentle art of boxing, which we hope may have a cumulative effect.

To get away from all this and that is easy, when we have the time. A few minutes' walk down the road, particularly handy for " Signals," is the theatre, where, since George Formby and other front rank entertainers gave it an initial impetus, E.N.S.A. has provided a continual stream of good entertainment, for which everyone is extremely grateful and will be more so as the days get shorter and we grope about in the black-out.

Our " Dig for Victory " department has not been neglected, thanks to the efforts of R.S.M. McBride, Corporal Alexander and others. Quite a lot of potatoes and green vetegables have found their way to the cookhouse as a result of this campaign. The rather sombre path between the militia huts has been brightened by a charming rock garden which has provided a splash of colour for several months. When digging the virgin soil a good deal of rock was unearthed for which this attractive method of disposal was arranged.

Well I expect the " in " tray is filling up again. I know there is still some room in the waste-paper basket, so I'd better go along and attend to it.

Here's wishing all the best from present to past members of No. 2 Line Company, via the oldest inhabitant.

No. 3 (Workshops) Company

Having been asked to write these notes, I take up my pen in the spirit that has made England what it is to-day. I first thought when I accepted the responsibility of scribbling these few lines, " Here's an opportunity of getting in a good ' tick.' " Since then I have realised that there is such a being as the censor—visions of a large blue pencil, wielded by authority.

We have said good-bye to Sergeants Honeybourne H. (Bones), Price J., Wood G. S. and Corporal Bristow A. S., who have left us for Armoured Divisional Signals. What will Layburn do now without its Gay Lothario ? Anyone desirous of following in Alfie's footsteps, please apply to the writer, who will supply the full " griffin." Signalman Darrall P. has also gone to rejoin his old Unit, the 48th Divisional Signals. Others, too numerous to mention, continue to arrive and depart with clockwork regularity, the former outnumbering the latter by two to one.

Promotion in this Company has recently gone all " haywire," all upward movement having been suspended, with the exception of the appointment of quite a large number of " ersatz "—sorry, Local Unpaid Lance Corporals (may they never look back).

All ex " rats " who knew him will be pleased to know that Lance Corporal Pavey F. J. (Pigler) has undergone a trade test at the Ordnance Workshops with a view to transfer to the I.A.O.C.

Congratulations to Corporal Bill Craine on his recent marriage to Section Leader Stanton of the A.T.S. All the best, Bill ; a long life and a merry 'un. Since this happy event took place, Bill has decided to continue in the service for a further twelve months, having recently completed his pontoon. Of course, this has nothing to do with the fact that there is a war on, he likes the army too much to think of going out—yet.

Corporal " Dally " Duncan rejoined the Company after having completed a short Gas Course in the far distant south. Show us your blisters, Dally. Did they tell you all about our old friend, Arthur ? Is it true he gets in your pay book and wipes out your next of kin ?

The burning question of the day. What is leave ? Is it " x "—the unknown quantity ? We hear rumours about it from the outside world, but with us it is more elusive than the proverbial Field-Marshal's baton ; in fact, judging from the letters one receives from one's family, anyone would think that we don't want leave. Is it some rare and mysterious disease to which, owing to the rigorous climatic conditions under which we serve, we are immune ? Who knows ; maybe at some future date some of us will be posted to a place where we may become enlightened.

That's enough for a start. More next month.

A. S. E.

S.T.C. Wales

Headquarters.

History is made ! For the first time the stronghold (or should it be stranglehold ?) of the S.T.C. is mentioned in the WIRE.

Notes this month will be confined solely to introductions all round. Our merry little crew is in the capable hands of Captain G. Thomson (B.M.) (Tientsin Signal Section please note) and Captain J. H. A. Hallett, M.M. (S.C.), who joined us " way back " from 3rd Divisional Signals.

Our office staff is composed as under (much to the dismay of Battalion Orderly Rooms !). W.O. 1 (Buck) Taylor is our Superintending Clerk—the guy that coined the phrase " Good stuff in little bundles " certainly had something there. Looking after the demands of " G " Branch is Sergeant Cordell, Ex R.A. (and boy, do we know it !). Wearing the frown of all those connected with " Q " work is Lance Sergeant Methven, who has taken upon himself a wife since joining this Centre. Some guys want all the worries ! Trying to unraffle the mysteries of " A " Branch (both of 'em) is Corporal Ormond. (N.B.—Don't shoot the " A " bloke, he's doing his best). The Central Registry is cared for by Lance Corporal Al Pullen; rumour has it that on receipt of a letter addressed " Intelligent Officer," our zealous Registrar returned it marked " Not Known." Last but by no means least is our Returns expert Lance Corporal Morbin, universally known as " Pubs." We do, however, point out that the nickname was acquired through close association with the publications side of the business, and not through his love of the local brew !

Love of " free speech and self expression " is curbed by the presence of the fair sex (oh, yes, no show would be complete without a Judy). Section Leader Ffoulkes-Griffiths, Volunteer Cattell, and Volunteer Roberts are the " little gals " who add the softening touch and aid and abet us in our various nefarious dealings.

That, folks, introduces the brains of the whole concern. A solemn promise is given that future notes will prove of more universal interest, but even at the wildest of parties the pain of introduction must be borne.

BIMBO.

2nd Operators Training Battalion

We open, with becoming humility, by apologising for past lapses. Nobody seems to know exactly why our contributions to the WIRE suddenly went " dis," but we can assure you of one thing—it won't happen again !

This particular month being the anniversary of the war, it seems a good time to review our Battalion record. If it were possible to give full details of our achievements, the facts would make impressive reading. But the Gestapo, unfortunately, are also keen readers of the WIRE and we must confine ourselves to a few general observations.

Firstly, the Battalion premises have grown a helluva lot during recent months. New training huts have sprung up everywhere like mushrooms and new equipment has been installed with astonishing rapidity. (Talking of huts, many chaps have been puzzled by the new structure which is now taking shape on a site not five miles from Battalion H.Q. Some said that this massive edifice was destined to be a super-cinema. Others claimed it to be a new Store, specially built to " Busty " Stalley's specifications. However, as events have shown, they were all rather wide of the mark.)

Coming back to serious topics, we must not forget to record the immense amount of work done by the Battalion in building fortifications and strengthening local protection against air attack. To every man who lent a hand in this job (even if he was only an "Assistant Filler of Sandbags ") we say : " Good work ! "

Since the first batch of trainees passed out, a regular avalanche of trained Operators has poured from the Battalion, and high praise is due to all concerned in the instruction of recruits, from the C.O. and the C.I. down to the humblest Lancejack. As for the trainees themselves—well, as the Americans would say, " they're tops ! "

Yes, Operators' Battalion has quite a lot to be proud of, in its own quiet way, and when the time comes for Britain's land forces to go into action we are confident that our " graduates " will do credit to the " old school."

And now, having said our little piece, it is time to relinquish the stage to those venerable and learned gentlemen—the Company correspondents. O.K., scribes, get cracking !

Administrative Wing

Apart from one or two changes in staff there is nothing sensational, or even particularly interesting, to report.

It is several weeks now since we said good-bye to Sergeant " Tosh " Allen. We regret his departure, and we hope that his new assignment is proving congenial. S.S.M. Cook—as pleasant a W.O. as you'd wish to meet—has now stepped into the shoes vacated by " Tosh " and already ranks high in our estimation (6ft. 6in. to be precise).

The bulk of our staff, we are glad to say, remains constant. " Busty " Stalley (who supplies much of the bulk) is still with us—an outstanding figure of a man and a capable Q.M.S. to boot. "Aggie " Weston, his smiling storeman, also manages to survive. "Aggie's " affection for the Company Store is touching in the extreme. He can't bear to be away from it. He even sleeps there !

The Pay Office continues to " pay its way " under the command of Corporal Cowan, ably assisted by Lance Corporal Bradley and " Tosheen "—the glamour girl with the Eton crop. If " Tosheen " ever had to leave us, all our Unpaid Lance Corporals might cease to bother about coming in for " big pays " ! (They don't get them, anyway !) Incidentally, the said Lance Corporal gained his promotion about six weeks ago. Congratulations !

In surveying the Company cadre, I mustn't forget to put in a word for our dashing Company Clerk, Lance Corporal Arthur (" Sheik ") Biggs. The other week, at our Battalion Dance, I happened to overhear a scrap of conversation between Arthur and a male friend. " You can't tell me anything about girls," this friend was saying cynically ; " girls are all alike." " Yes," replied Arthur, absentmindedly, " girls are all I like, too ! "

" Taffy " Barton—variously known as " Despatch " and " Officers' Claims "—is also worthy of a par. " Taffy " holds rather unorthodox views on the war, but his native fighting spirit is indefatigable. He assures me that, by bombing Welsh soil, Hitler has signed his own death warrant. Being a Londoner, I make polite reservations !

The weekly intake of recruits is still very substantial, and the " Nursery " never suffers from a shortage of new faces. I'm afraid there isn't very much I can say about this branch of "Admin.," because most of them are " here to-day and gone to-morrow." However, to show that these " guests " are not forgotten I am writing a special epic poem in their honour and hope to publish it (D.V.) in next month's issue. (Don't miss this amazing feature ! Order your copy now !)

Well, playmates, that's all I'm going to inflict on you this month, so cheerio until next time. Good hunting !

KEN.

No. 1 Company

August.

Hullo, chums ! In spite of our recent " WIReless Silence," we are still " Operating," and very much alive. Like all hedgehogs we have good points—even in Wales. Beer remains good (?), the " Clipper " remains in port, and the A.T.S. continue to prove pleasant company.

There have been a few shuffles in our staff just lately.

Mr. Parker who came to us from No. 3 Company, has now become second-in-command, and we hope his stay with us will be both long and pleasant.

We also welcome a new S.S.M. to the Company fold—S.S.M. Honor, V. C. J.

Departures.—Mr. Clarke to " Somewhere in England." All the best, sir ! Sergeant Birkett E. to warmer climes. We all wish you the best of luck, Eric. Let's know how you get on if your Unit is civilised enough to be represented in the WIRE. Lance Corporal Everitt F. has left us to draw again his weekly pay packet. Happy days ! Lance Corporal Ellis T. to a Holding Battalion. All the best ; don't forget One Company !

Jews' Mail.—To Scholfield (Ex-22), nr. " Somewhere in Blighty." " Haven't forgotten you. Writing soon ; bluepencil busy. D.V."

For Sale.—Large Battalion of good second-hand brown shirts, slightly soiled. Or would exchange for half-dozen brand new Signalmen.

Stop Press—Sports Special.—8th August was Sports Day in the S.T.C. There were both Company and individual entries. Congratulations to Signalman Morrish L. F. (O.S. 34) for pulling off a double in winning both the high jump and the long jump. Also to Signalman Stovell J. T. for taking second place in the long jump. O.S. 25 (representative tug-of-war team) pulled well, but met tougher guys than themselves. Everybody still thinks, though, that they would have done better if they had gone the " whole Hog (g) " !

September.

General.—Owing to a slight technical hitch over which we had no control, our August notes failed to reach the editorial chair. So to square things up we are publishing the two lots of notes together. You lucky people !

Life staggers on in its usual manner and training, we are happy to say, proceeds apace. " Raw 'uns " come and Operators go—and brow-sweating Instructors start all over again. Dit-dit-dah-dit . . . ad infinitum.

The climate here is so invigorating nowadays that, scarcely has dawn broken, when straight soldier-like forms, resplendent in two or three stripes, appear from all corners of the camp and proceed to gyrate about the parade ground whilst a hoarse voice directs thus : " Turning to the right by numbers."

Oh, yes, our N.C.O.s are full of beans nowadays !

Arrivals.—The welcome mitt is extended to S.S.M. Malvern, who joins us from the 2nd Holding Battalion.

Sergeant Smith from Administrative Wing. Already an old friend of ours, so he's not exactly a new-comer !

We also welcome the new faces which periodically keep the Company up to strength from the " Nursery."

Departures.—Lance Sergeant Keating into the Unknown. All the best, Pathrick, me bhoy !

Sergeant Evans to the " Nursery " (they must be in need of a matron).

Agony.—To Davie Calder of " Somewhere near Somewhere Else." " What about a line ? Ain't you got 2½d. ? Busty."

Talepiece.—The story is going round that Michaelangelo's painting of Moses has been removed from Paris and taken to Berchtesgaden. Nazi leaders wondered why Hitler should want this particular picture—till a guard, looking into Hitler's room one day to see if all was well, found the Furhrer on his knees before the painting, saying pleadingly : " Now, dear Moses, tell me how you got across that strip of water."

That's all for now, chums. My typewriter's run dry.

ONECO.

No. 3 Company

Howdy, folks ! This is " Texas " calling, on a wavelength of 99 gas-meters.

In spite of Adolf's threatened blitzkrieg, we are still enjoying quiet and tranquillity up here in Welsh Wales. No. 3 Company office still stands where it stood, unbombed and undismayed, while inside everything is peace.

The work of the Company goes on unabated. Operators are being turned out with the regularity of sausages from a machine. Sorry, lads, I shouldn't have mentioned sausages. I know they touch most of us on a sore spot.

To give you some idea of our Company as constituted at present I am setting the following facts on record :

Captain J. E. Woodward is our O.C., 2nd Lieutenant R. K. Bryden is our second-in-command, and our C.S.M. (an old friend of Corps rugby and four-legged animals fame) is C.S.M. Harbury W. H. The latter has just gorn and got himself " hooked up." Congratulations, " Bill " !

C.Q.M.S. Garden is our quarter bloke (and he doesn't like sugar in his " burgoo," thank you), while S.S.M. Mallett is i/c training. Lance Corporal " Pip" Richards is our Company Clerk and your correspondent is Orderly Corporal.

There. That gives you some idea of the " cast," doesn't it ? (I won't attempt to name the " villain," you can figure that out for yourselves).

Things We Want To Know.—Who left the wireless set on in the Company office " when all had fled " ?

Can you wear " ammos " with blues ?

Why has the pay bloke in Administration always got a worried look on him ?

Who was the N.C.O. that came into camp in a Northants Yeomanry overcoat ?. .

Who is the fellow who always wants to change his P.A.D. night in the Orderly Room with someone else ?

Why is a certain N.C.O. trying to " flog " his tennis racket ?

Apology.—This is my first contribution to the WIRE from No. 3 Company, and unaccustomed as I am to public speaking, I've had a bash. I hope, therefore, that you will look upon my indiscretion with a kindly eye.

Ta-ta !

TEXAS.

No. 4 Company

Although no notes have appeared for some time, we are still functioning and turning out our regular quota of first-class lads.

Numerous changes have taken place since our last bulletin. Ivor Cox has left us for " a different sphere of life." Good luck, Ivor ! Our O.C. has been transferred to another Company—after being with us since the formation—and we hope that his new surroundings will be as happy as those he left.

Another old face has gone in Sammy Grattage. Good luck, Sam, in your new sphere with the old boys of No. 4 Company—and don't let us down. Lance Corporal Ellis (" Echoelastical Jack ") has also departed, to the Depot. We miss you, Jack, and your humorous ways.

A welcome is extended to our new O.C. and also to S.S.M. Parsons, lately arrived.

Sport.—Congratulations to the lads on winning the S.T.C. Sports Cup on 8th August. It's only a little 'un, as cups go, but it gives us a big kick to turn the tables on No. 3 Company, the previous holders.

King Football will soon be with us and we are looking forward to a season as successful as we enjoyed last winter, although we hope the weather will not repeat itself. Keep your snowshoes handy, lads !

Ode.—Mary had a pair of skates,
Went on the ice to frisk ;
Wasn't she a silly girl
Her little *

Congratulations.—To Corporal Kenny on joining the merry band of matrimonial martyrs. A pleasant ceremony was performed by our O.C. in presenting a suitable gift, and Ken suitably replied.

The Last Laugh.—Young Karl Schmidt, while flying his Junkers for the Fatherland one day, was sent spinning to damnation by a British fighter. His bereaved parents were eventually informed and so, being a religious old couple, they inserted the following notice in a local German newspaper : " Pray for the soul of Karl Schmidt, called by God to a Better World."

The next day they were arrested for criticizing the Nazi regime.

FARMER.

2nd Depot Battalion

Signature Tune : " This is my first attempt so please be kind."

Although this is the writer's first appointment as a WIRE scribe he has had considerable journalistic experience, having contributed regularly to the births and classified advertisement column of the " Little Muddletwaddle Annual."

The highlight of the past month was the visit of the Corps Band ; one of our " Company wallahs " has, I believe, dealt with this topic at great length, but it was such a jolly fine show, chaps,



MEN OUT OF UNIFORM (I)
(With apologies to "Men Only")

that it can bear extra mention. Sunday, 25th August, was, undoubtedly, a red letter day and will go down in the annals of camp history; the church parade was a grand and impressive show, even the A.T.S. and the local company of Home Guard responded magnificently to the strains of the Regimental March Past. At the saluting base was the Lord Lieutenant of the County. In the evening the band obliged with a concert, and versatility was the keynote of the whole show. "Rhapsody in Blue" was rendered in such a manner that even the great Paul Whiteman had just cause to feel envious.

"Turning out of Recruits" goes on unceasingly—this month's bouquet goes to the "Turners out of Recruits" who are doing a fine job of work. Our Senior squads can now slope arms, present arms, order arms and accept alms with the best of 'em. (N.B.—The Senior squadites aren't the only ones fully proficient in the latter movement.)

We now boast a brand new and imposing guard room. It is rumoured that there is running water, h. and c., and central heating in each "room," furthermore the service is reputed to be good. Of course, I'm not speaking from experience—yet.

Heartiest of hearty congratulations go to Lance Sergeant Methven for attaining the rank mentioned, to Lance Corporal Ormond on dropping the Lance and to Signalman Pullen for picking it up.

The talent of the Centre have got together and are giving a concert at the local cinema on Sunday, 15th September. Judging by past performances of our Centre theatricals it should be a real top-notch show, the proceeds go to the worthiest of worthy causes—namely the Red Cross Society.

We'll report the success of our venture in the next lot of notes.

HAVE YOU JOINED THE SIGNALS ASSOCIATION?

"A" Company Depot Battalion

General.—This month our Unit have been very fortunate in having a visit from the Corps' Band. They were with us for one short week only, but during that time they gave us entertainment that will live long in our memories. On Sunday, 25th August, 1940, they gave the overworked element (i.e., Corporals and below) a grand concert in the ballroom. Many visitors were present and one and all enjoyed the show. On Monday, 26th, by kind permission of Mr. Hibberd we were privileged to have a "jam session" in the Mess Room during the lunch hour. We noticed the messing staff were quick on the uptake, we had cheese for tea. On Monday evening the Band played at a concert for the "higher-ups" in the Sergeants' Mess; from accounts that "leaked out" it seems to have been a very merry evening.

A Battalion route march took place on the following Wednesday morning. It was good exercise and a treat for the residents. The salute was taken by our Brigadier who appeared well satisfied with our turn-out. Nice work, lads.

Marriages.—Two good men have accepted the "life sentence" in the past month. Our "Quarter," C.Q.M.S. Bain A. J., more commonly known to his friends as "Jock," was married at the local church to Miss Violet Bailey, of Woore, Cheshire, on 24th August, 1940.

DEPOT WEDDING BELLS



L/Cpl. and Mrs. Tony Withington



Mr. and Mrs. "Jock" Bain

Lance Corporal Withington A. S., of Battalion office, was also " spliced " in the same church to Miss Beryl Coombe, of Birmingham, on 17th August, 1940. To these two brave men we wish every happiness, and in the words of an old saying, " May all your troubles be ' little ones '."

Stranger than Fiction.—Who was the Sergeant Major who, when paying out one Friday, said to the Corporal assisting him, " Not much left, old man, here's thirty bob, I'll owe you five " ?

Jew's Mail.—Will Hank Tucker, ex 1st Divisional Signals, write Spargo, " A " Company.

More next time, cheerio.

(JIMMY) F.

Yorkshire 3

3rd Operators Training Battalion

Leading the life of gentlemen of leisure compared to the not so distant hectic weeks of daily if not hourly alarums and excursions, No. 3 Operators Training Battalion has a sharpened appetite nowadays for its primary job of turning out " bashers " of keys, flags and teleprinters.

As compensation for the grievous disappearance of hand blisters and sleepless nights, there have been two outstanding features of late—in chronological order, the drum-head service in which the whole S.T.C. took part and the visit of H.R.H. The Princess Royal.

The drum-head service was inspired by the visit of the Corps band which, with the townsfolk and weather clerk, rose nobly to the occasion. The local council was represented by the Mayor himself. The band made a big impression during its welcome visit, both for smartness of turn-out and performance. The open-air performances were very popular and the Sunday evening concert in a local cinema was the best attended that has yet been held in the town.

Her Royal Highness's visit came the following week, before the shine went from brass and the blanco from haversacks. The Battalion was on its toes and a comprehensive display was given which allowed our visitor a thorough insight into the training which attracted her customary keen interest. Her much appreciated congratulatory letter which followed was ample testimony to the work being done.

So much for the " on parade " side. Sport, despite obvious difficulties has made great strides. Inter-company games and matches with local teams have been numerous and some fine play has been seen, particularly from some of the more recent arrivals. Tennis, helped largely by the Council's generous provision of free courts on Sundays, has also proved popular with inter-Company rivalry keen among enthusiasts.

Quite a break has been made, by the way, with tradition in this respect as the town is a non-Sunday games spot. Swimming and water polo, despite altered facilities attract large numbers. Football is, in the nature of things, still finding its legs just as the legs are still finding bruises, but promise of some fine games is high. Stout fellows of the packing sort look forward to having a rugby team on the warpath.

The scrum is not, however, the only place where, apparently, heads are to be used. The response to evening classes has been so high it has been suggested that before the winter is out parades will be taking place in cap and gown—Sergeant-Majors, of course, looking for chalk dust on the sleeves. Classes range from foreign languages and history to maths and electricity and wireless.

It will be unfortunate if the lads prove too good learners, however, for it may deprive us of such contributions to the strength through joy movement as " a plate is said to be positively charged when it contains an excess of proteins." Obviously part of the new subject of electro-dietics.

A man with talent like that should be put on the trail of the dustbin which has caused so many grey heads in the northern environs—surely not too foreign devotees of euscapylus.

R. E. S.

No. 3 Holding Battalion

Well, here we are, still in Yorkshire in spite of a deuce of a long journey, especially long for the D.R. who lost his way !

It seems a long way back to the day seven months ago when a small body of pioneers stood blinking in the sunlight by the sea. In those days we were quite a small holding, in fact, more like an allotment than anything (one for you Bill A.). But now ! Crikey, we're more like a film story cattle ranch. Our London representative has been working very hard lately, and the variety we have, too—an exchange manned by a Scot, Welshman and a Cockney. We go for pleasant walks in the country each week-end, part of the hardening process, you know. You ought to hear Sergeant Major Baker hardening his heart in between hardening his arteries ! Quite pleasant, really, it's the last twenty miles that kill. So far nobody has fallen out, but the story of Signalman Woods walking sixteen miles in the afternoon to see his girl was greeted with a certain scepticism. Now they've made it more interesting by getting us up in the middle of the night to go and walk about in the country. Can't see the scenery though, that's a drawback. Can't see each other sometimes, as witness muttered imprecations in the darkness. We also know an officer whose idea of a pleasant stroll is to take a dozen silent Signalmen down a cliff that leans out at about sixty-five degrees, then across a wet field on their hands and knees, up a stone wall about twenty feet high (it looks like 200 when you have to jump down the other side and see a yawning ditch at the foot), then through a stream, up a slope of loose shale and finally cross country over a succession of four-foot stone walls. And you should have heard what he said when the last man's boots squeaked a little, " Go on, shout like hell and tell 'em we're all coming ! What we want is silent movement ! " Well, we might as well be hung for a sheep as a Lamb and admit that silent movements wouldn't be possible. Talking of creeping about in the dark, who was it said, " If you see anything with white on it shoot to kill "?

We must admit that all this is doing us a power of good. Makes us fit and alert and so on. You ought to see us watching the Gas N.C.O. Every time he comes out with his hands in his pockets the Sergeant-Major automatically posts a sentry, and everybody puts on his respirator.

Last month we flung wide our gates and gave a party to the local populace. Lots of 'em came. Very pretty they looked, too, neatly attached to Signalmen. A good time was had by all, especially in the neighbourhood of " Aunt Sally " and the place where a voice could be heard saying " Here you are." " Bust a balloon and win a prize." " Three balls each, no charge " ! That reference to three balls made it sound just like home. There was one of those trick golf shot affairs, too, where you could say, " Of course this is much different from being on a real links " every time you missed a shot. Did the A.T.S. Sergeant resent being asked if she was killing snakes with her golf club ?

The Corps Band did us proud, too. Thanks very much ! We got quite a kick out of saying, " Our band, y'know."

The local Mental Institution has taken us to its heart and gives us a concert every week, with refreshments. It's quite untrue to say that the staff eye some of us very sharply now and again though.

The personnel changes so rapidly here that Company Sergeant-Majors have a continual headache and a nasty way of referring to " bodies." Still, never mind, nearly everybody enjoys his stay with us. The air is quite good and they get no end of healthy exercise walking home seven miles from the nearest town when they miss the last bus. Even the man with the shortest stay on record said he was sorry to be going. He came in on the 10.40 and went out on the 11.17.

Unfortunately we have had to say good-bye to the C.O. in the past few days. Life in a Corps Signals will seem quiet and peaceful to him after this universal stores sort of existence. Good luck to him, though. He's bound to see lots of us again some day.

Our new C.O. hasn't expressed any opinion yet. Still, he hasn't seen all of us so far. When he has a full strength parade, Administration Wing with its cooks (in elastic-sided boots) and odd " Employed " men, should provide him with a fertile topic of conversation, and what of the section that consists of an R.Q.M.S., five C.O.s, a Sergeant, four Corporals, three Lance Corporals and seven Signalmen.

The chief instructor's staff have been coining some new collective nouns, " A stupid of students," " A lousy of linemen," and " A trial of D.R.s."

That is the end of most of the activities news, dear listeners, here are a few personal messages :

Will Corporal Taylor please classify all products that can be honestly described as rubbish ?

Who was it said, " Pass down your rifle, I'll catch it," and very nearly did catch it—on the ear ?

Who presented the M.T. Corporal with undying fame by having a special recitation said for him from the stage ?

Tailpiece.—His daily mien is clerky and polite !
The sure despatch of each return
His daily task his main concern.
His suaveness, his efficient brain
Withstand unmarked war's awful strain.
At work he is a martinet,
You see, he has his heart in it.
But gad ! You ought to see him out at night !

A.A. Signals, Nottinghamshire

After an absence of two months we are again submitting a small effort in the hope that it may be of interest. Should there be any criticisms from within the Unit, the writer would be glad to interview the critics with a view to appointing one of them as the Unit scribe.

The decision again to grant privilege leave of seven days was welcomed by everyone and even caused King Sol to smile joyfully. The leave and sunshine was thoroughly enjoyed by those fortunate enough to get away before the concession of privilege leave was again cancelled. To those who were unfortunate we express the hope that the concessions will soon be restored and that they may then enjoy a well-earned brief respite from duties.

Arrivals.—We were pleased to welcome Captain T. C. Loveday back to the Unit, this time as O.C., No. 1 Company. The following officers have arrived from the A.O.E.R., and we hope they are surmounting without difficulty the present trials and tribulations of army life : 2nd Lieutenants H. Gibbons, D. H. Ward, J. T. Smith, C. E. Sutton, D.C.M., M.M., E. Parkin, D.C.M., and G. H. Fairbairn, M.C.

Departures.—As might be assumed after reading the foregoing list of arrivals, there has been a number of postings from the Unit and probably some more to come. Captain J. W. Grieve and 2nd Lieutenants E. T. Price, G. Pirrett, E. J. Reeve and A. Cook have already departed and we wish them success in their new Units.

Commissions.—C.S.M. Danks C. has been commissioned as 2nd Lieutenant, and we offer him our congratulations and best wishes.

Promotions.—Congratulations to Captain L. H. C. Grafton on his promotion to a captaincy. This is the only promotion for the officers in this Unit since our last notes.

The list of promotions amongst Other Ranks is again too numerous to give in full, but premier honours go to Corporals Shillito A. and Lazenby T. A. upon promotion to Sergeant.

O.C.T.U.—Our sympathies go to Corporals Faulkes G. H. and Lance Corporal Roper W., who left us as cadets in June last. To be returned on medical grounds within a fortnight of the conclusion of the Course seems particularly hard.

The following have recently departed for O.C.T.U.s and we with them success : Sergeant Mundell G. G., Lance Sergeant Nilsen R., Signalmen Barclay G. C., Beaumont K. G., Burton A., Clancy P. J., Dearling T. B., Heath P., Hill J. G., Jarvis F. B., Lees A. M., Lofts F. C. N., McKay A. T. and Smith D.

Return to Industry.—This is a new feature and our losses have been quite heavy. We regret their departure and may they be happy in their new surroundings. Up to date the following have departed : Sergeant Farnsworth T. A. E., Lance Sergeant Farthing J. W., Signalmen Dean G. E., Elliott E., Ellis A. K., Fenner J. L. H., Havern J., Prior H. N., Stubbins G., Thomas I., Tomlinson A. W. and White R.

Concert Party.—No. 1 Company has formed a concert party and its inaugural effort has already been introduced to a crowded audience. Unfortunately the sirens twice disturbed the performance, but otherwise the show went without a hitch and was thoroughly enjoyed by all. The talent discovered was in some cases of a very high standard and some happy evenings are awaited with anticipation.

Gems or Otherwise.—Imagine the R.S.M.'s face when in desperation he asked one of the " awkward squad " where he had been educated and received the terse reply, "At school, sir."

A candidate for an O.C.T.U. vacancy in reply to the question as to his knowledge of languages, written or spoken, answered, " English—written and spoken."

H. S.

A.A. Signals, South Wales

This will be about our fifth attempt to write our first article for the WIRE, since events seem to have moved so swiftly that each earlier effort was out-of-date before completion. We should like, however, with the Editor's permission, to retain our original pun to the effect that we hope our column may become, in due course, a pillar of this institution.

All of us were extremely sorry recently to lose our O.C., Major B. H. French, but we are none the less pleased to welcome his successor, Captain A. B. Harnden. An earlier loss was that of 2nd Lieutenant N. B. Rymer, who had been with us " enduring all things " since the old Terrier days of twice-weekly evening turn-outs, though this blow has been to a large extent alleviated by the acquisition of Lieutenant A. B. Diplock.

True indeed was the poet's observation that " the old order changeth yielding place to new." This fact must have impressed itself of late (particularly during the changing of the guard !) upon our former C.S.M., no less respected now in his new capacity as Lines Officer, Lieutenant E. M. Kelly. The vacancy he left has been amply filled by one of the foremost of our old-time N.C.O.s, who now becomes Sergeant-Major J. W. Eason. In congratulating him on his promotion, may we express the hope that he will continue to " look to his laurels " and keep up the tradition of his line. For though we are but little more than one year old, we have indeed a tradition—which might mean anything !

Our original remarks about the highly successful dramatic presentation with its A.T.S. chorus and fearsome " voice-off," and about our strenuous sporting activities have been obliterated by the relentless march of time. Queen Anne, alas, is dead ! We can only trust that our similar functions during the coming season will present interesting reading material for future issues.

As our tame rhymester is anxious to claim the remaining space to air a monthly grievance, we leave you, for the present, to his tender mercies.

IRONIC RATIONS.

Memories often find conception
In some form of trivial weight ;
Thou indeed art no exception,
Lying lonesome on my plate :
For thy countless colleagues clustered
Swim before me as I swoon ;
Bathed in visionary custard,
They leave—one solitary prune !

The First (London) Ack Ack's

When these war-time notes were first contributed to the WIRE our association with actual operations was of a somewhat indirect character. We could not, and still we cannot, say very much about the nature of our job in this Ack Ack Division. But, with the end of the first year of the war we have experienced a distinct change, and we can declare that our contact with operations is decidedly more direct. Air raids have made us, well, darn busy, but we are glad that we have been able to do more than keep ahead of the work entrusted to us. In accustoming our ways of living to the conditions imposed by the enemy we have, too, found ourselves surprisingly well seasoned and thoroughly hardened to our tasks.

Some of us can relate stories of narrow encounters with bombs, machine-gun bullets and shrapnel, but we still find time to see the humour of even the grimmest situations. Not the least amusing concerned an M/T Driver who came back to H.Q. with his vehicle somewhat damaged and calmly reported that he had collided with a Heinkel bomber. In fact, he said that he had ditched it! We were trying to imagine how he had managed to take to the air in a 30-cwt. van, when he explained that he had turned a corner rather quickly and ran into the aircraft which had crashed on the road.

Indeed, the morale of those men who can now describe themselves as "old soldiers" and of those who have more recently joined forces with us must be definitely discouraging to our opponents.

Social activities have been well maintained and the need to "get together" even more than before has been well realised by our officers. The Brompton Dugout, maintaining its high place in our affections, has been the scene of several enjoyable entertainments in recent weeks, the efforts of Unit artistes being strengthened at times by welcome professional talent.

On 16th July the stars of the evening were Joyce Grenfell and Harold Lindo (then about to join the R.E.s), in a popular return visit, supported by Signalman Ward, who played the violin brilliantly, the Rev. R. F. V. Scott, who led some jolly community singing, and Lance Corporal Lomas, Signalman French and Driver Bowles in snappy piano syncopation, with drums. This show included a sketch by Lance Corporal Lomas, in which 2nd Lieutenant Prescott excelled as a detective.

On 30th July the programme included Doris Hartley, "the banjulele girl," an E.N.S.A. entertainer, Volunteer Maudling, soprano, Signalman Blackman, in impressions of Lord Haw-Haw, Signalman Woodward, baritone, Signalman Blackburn, whistler, and some more piano novelties by the Lomas-French-Bowles trio.

The show of 13th August was an orchestral concert with members of the Unit orchestra and the band of the Grenadier Guards, the latter by kind permission of Lieutenant-Colonel G. Miller, M.V.O., M.B.E., L.R.A.M., their director of music. The combination, suggested by Corporal Pope, and ably conducted by Band-Sergeant G. W. Draper, was highly successful, and the programme of light music performed was highly appreciated. Interludes were provided by Mr. Everett-Moore (brother of the Unit's Major Moore), who proved a clever conjurer, and by Lance Corporal Lomas and Signalman French at the piano.

Thanks to the enterprise of Signalman Huggett, an excellent concert party show was given in the mess hall on 21st August, by Joe Barnes' "Barnstormers," a merry band of artistes who have been voluntarily entertaining the troops in many parts of the country.

Our First Broadcast.—Some members of the Unit had the honour of performing in an "Ack Ack, Beer Beer" programme broadcast from the Brompton Dugout on 9th September. A creditable show was put over in spite of decidedly unfavourable conditions. A few minutes before the start, after the artistes had been selected, that "banshee wail" caused some of them to make a dash for duty positions—while the entire audience vanished!

The B.B.C. announcer made a gesture of despair and appealed to those who remained to help him to carry on. A rapid rearrangement was made and everybody waited expectantly (with a new audience of canteen helpers and passers-by who had entered the crypt for shelter. At last, somewhat late, the opening announcement was made, and we did our bit in the main programme.

First, that ubiquitous trio, Lance Corporal Lomas, Signalman French and Driver Bowles, delivered two of their piano syncopation numbers with rhythmic accompaniment, their smoothly played items being Fats Waller's "Alligator Crawl" and Billy Mayerl's "White Heather." Then came a delightful Irish song by Signalman Forwood, accompanied by Signalman F. E. Woodhouse, this combination being very effective. Finally, Signalman Blackburn, assisted at the piano by Signalman French, whistled a popular medley of choruses. Aircraftman Long (R.A.F.V.R.), and Signalman Woodward were chosen to broadcast, but lack of time prevented their taking prat.

The falling of sundry bombs in the vicinity seemed not to disturb the concentration of the performers, and the microphones were so placed that none of these explosions caused as much as an intruding thump. The show went on! Reception was good, although some listeners gathered the impression that the broadcast was "off" because the Forces programme had earlier been faded out. The broadcast was arranged by the Unit Chaplain, Rev. Bryan S. W. Green.

Another concert somewhat marred by the same "banshee" took place at the Dugout on the following evening, when Lance Corporal Lomas (piano solos), Section Leader Muriel Allott (songs at the piano), Volunteer Long (soprano), and Signalman Williams (unexpectedly a baritone, as well as a pianist), gave a brief but appreciated impromptu show.

Wedding.—Yet another A.T.S.—Signals wedding has taken place, the happy pair being Signalman Ward A. J. F. and Volunteer Gobert A. R., who were married on 7th September, at Holy Trinity Church, Brompton, by the Unit Chaplain, the Rev. Bryan S. W. Green, with Signalman Woodhouse F. E., F.R.C.O., at the organ. The Unit was well represented at the ceremony, the company including Company Assistants E. M. Ironside and M. M. Hemelryk, and the Commanding Officer.

Sport.—In the field of sport, numerous activities have been pursued. The most outstanding performance was that of No. 1 Signal Office Section, members of which succeeded in winning first and second places in all the events for which they entered at a sports meeting held in Cassiobury Park, Watford. As this meeting was open to Units of all arms, our men have every reason to be proud of their achievement.

Promotions and Appointments.—Recent promotions and appointments include: OFFICERS—2nd Lieutenant A. I. L. Ripley appointed Temporary Captain. N.C.O.s—Sergeant: Bowman R. F.; Lance Sergeant: Blakeley A., Carr J. and Perry E. W.; Corporal: Abbott A. C., Goan V. R., Frost A. E., Gibbons C. W., Haynes N., Jennings K. F., Nimmo W. H., Richardson R. L., Smith R. J., Spelling J. V., Weeden E. E.; Lance Corporal: Carroll R. A., Cruchley E. A., Hogg S. W., Jenkins F., Mansell A. H., May E. C., Nevill K., Suckling R., Wright J. H. J.

Corps Signals, Derbyshire

"H.Q." Company

General.—Folks will be surprised and Heaps will be Payned to see these notes in print.

Most of the Unit now feel quite old soldiers, having acquired ratings, vaccinations, T.A.B.s, leave, some bald patches here and there, and a zest for P.T. at 6.30 a.m., since their sojourn in Derbyshire and feel well able to face their ultimate role for which they have suffered so much.

Marriages.—Congratulations (slightly premature) to Signalman Hawke A. H., who should be safely in the clutches by the time this is in print. Ginger Folks hardly comes under this heading, but he got himself engaged three months ago and is now "sweating." Do we offer condolences or congrats.?

Departures.—Among others, too numerous to mention, we have lost a very old friend, who will be sadly missed by many of us, in the departure of our Quartermaster, Lieutenant F. H. New. We wish him the best of luck in his new hunting grounds.

Sergeants' Mess.—A very successful dance was held on 7th September. The officers turned up in full strength and we had a most enjoyable evening, which it is hoped to repeat in the near future. Sergeants Vollans and Greenman are to be congratulated in their efforts, although whether it was for the benefit of the Mess members or the bevy of damsels that surrounded these two is open to question.

E. G. F.

No. 1 Company

The first news from a comparatively young company will no doubt be scanned with blase disregard by those members of the Corps whose service extends right back to the remote days of mobilisation but, as the barmaid said to her offspring, "Everything has to have a beginning." So here goes.

Consisting mostly of extremely handsome young men with a leavening of "old sweats" the Company has spent a hectic summer scramble with black boards, bare boards and trade boards. The intricacies of the cable layer now cause no alarm, whilst the infallible accuracy of our map reading ensures that no vendor of alcoholic liquor goes without patronage. This state has not been arrived at without a deal of hard work on the part of all ranks. Rifles have been dropped at the wrong moment, hammer shafts have found themselves in sorry shape and poles have found themselves at the most spectacular angles.

There are still a few ingenious specimens in the Company; for instance, there is a young man who insists that the resistance of D.8 is 14 volts to the mile. Another one thought that a plane with black crosses on was an ambulance for black troops.

A good many of our numbers have hastened to avail themselves of the marriage allowance—reader, my mind is not on mundane things—two of the chosen who have walked the plank this month are Sergeant Hendry M. and Signalman Collins D. Jolly good luck to them and may their allowances not remain static. Please note my patriotic fervour.

Courses have rendered our N.C.O.s as competent as we would have them be and the latest to return from three weeks intensive torture is our Channel Islander, Corporal De Carteret. Covered with bruises and glutted with P.T. he is now fitted to have a compensating revenge on his fellows, friends and enemies alike. Easy on the "Hands Down," Corporal!

In the realm of sport we have pulled our weight in the Unit. A recent boxing tournament against the R.A.O.C. resulted in six wins, five of these k.o's by our Company representatives. At swimming and water polo we have provided the major part of the talent. Nothing untoward about all this, for, after all, this is the Linemen's Company. Bite hard on that one, all you procedure hounds! And here's to "Der Tag" when Hitler will choke on meat loaf.

DUX DECIES.

No. 2 Company

Well, here we come up for the first time, everything "Urgent and Immediate" and constantly looking for those who can't see us—yet.

Everybody here is happy, we hope, especially with the thoughts of spending a few days on leave which has just started. We have all been promised seven days' leave, provided the war lasts long enough for the list to run out.

Sport is plentiful in our spare time, but so far we have had no time in which to prepare a fixture list.

Arrivals.—Plenty.

Departures.—Very few, only those who go to the "Tomato" house for a "rest."

Marriages.—Several. We wish them the best of luck.

Promotions.—Again plenty. Everybody in this Unit should be N.C.O.s, as they have all got one ambition but several ideas.

Query.—Who was the Sergeant who got 14 days C.B. and £2 fine?

Training is in full swing and everybody is out to gain more money by obtaining higher ratings. On the whole they are not too bad. They certainly keep up the traditions of the Corps.

Personally I have only one grouse. Why did they select me to act as scribe for this Company when there are plenty of journalists and inventors knocking about.

Well, here's luck till the next time.

BUSTY

No. 3 Company

It is with fervid apologies that the concoction of solicitors, labourers, artists and pimply adolescents who make up No. 3 Company timidly enter your columns.

Since most of us have never seen a copy of the WIRE, our apology is understandable, but since we are a comparatively

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Advantages of a modified tuned anode circuit for short-wave work, which has proved to be superior to the usual RF intervalve transformer, are explained.

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RF technique in medicine is probably more important than in any other non-communication application, and many of the misconceptions concerning the effect of RF currents on the body are cleared up in this article.

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new Company we hope this ignorance on our part will either be forgiven or blamed on to your " Sales Staff."

Like most Companies we have our troubles and our Sergeant-Major, but for the most part we have successfully rallied round, learnt the army lingo and adapted ourselves to the new conditions.

Since we are only just getting over our " first impressions " of Army life, it would be better not to resurrect sore points ; after all, for a chap who formerly had a good job, to have to peel spuds . . . well it's . . . that is . . . it was. But now, even spud peeling holds no horrors for the new product of No. 3 Company. Pallid cheeks are changing colour. Early morning P.T. is no longer the signal for scores of Signalmen to hastily search themselves for ailments in order to evade what was formerly an arduous task. We are proud to say that we can now run, jump, sweat and swear with the " rest of 'em."

As for our officers we are doubly fortunate (stop nudging me), since they run and jump with us, apart from accustoming themselves to lecturing to a diversified crew.

We have a first-class football team—well, nearly first-class. Hidden talent is beginning to emerge and we hope that for your next copy we shall have overcome any individual modesty and by reason of, thereby unleashing a further supply of talent, we shall be more intimate and more discussive.

In conclusion, we should, perhaps, tender our congratulations to Major Waters on his exhibition of high jumping (not to be confused with that mental phenomena of the same name), to Captain Edmonds on his recent appointment, to . . . but we could continue endlessly. Eulogising, for example, the inimitable and popular Mr. Haslehust or the prowess of Lance Corporal Arnott as an all-round athlete, but since we want a Company of " all-round " men and not just exceptional individuals, we will refrain from further eulogy.

S. S. S.

Welsh Divisional Signals

Training.—Training is proceeding apace, and Divisional Exercises have been cropping up at an average of one a week, much to the gratification of all ranks, who, like everyone else, are anxious to be " up and doing."

With the winter months coming on, preparations are now being made for indoor training, and also a series of lectures on interesting subjects are being thought out, so as to enable anyone sufficiently interested to attend in the evenings, and thus " kill two birds with one stone," i.e., improvement of mind and an interesting (and cheap) evening spent.

Night school classes are also being arranged for anyone who wishes to improve their knowledge and so be better prepared for their return to " Civvy Street."

Entertainments.—The weekly dances are still being ably supported by the ladies of the city and the gay lotharios, gigolos, high steppers and " what have you ? " of the different barracks of the district.

At the last weekly dance, the proceeds were handed over for the " Spitfire " Fund, and the sum of £10 was raised. Our thanks go out to the willing band of helpers who every week work hard to make our dances a success ; also to the band, who willingly gave their services free for the " Spitfire " Dance.

Sports.—Judging by the enterprise and enthusiasm shown by the recently formed Sports Committee, the 53rd are going to be well catered for in the sports line this coming winter. The soccer trials have revealed some sound material, and there should be no difficulty in putting a very strong team in the field. The rugby fans are also being looked after, and with " Big Boy " Saxon pushing like a steam roller, the fifteen are likely to give a good account of themselves.

Indoor sports are receiving the attention of the Committee and altogether the lads should not want for lack of recreational facilities.

Congratulations.—To Major K. G. S. Llewellyn and Mrs. Llewellyn, Sergeant (Chirpy) and Mrs. Finch, and Corporal (Gus) and Mrs. Shelley, on their recent entry into the Matrimonial Stakes. The military members of the above teams can now, it is presumed, be said to be " under starters (i.e., wife's) orders."

To Chirpy and Gus.—Now, don't forget, lads ! Hurry to the pay clerk and make out a V.A. for that extra 6d. per day like good boys.

5th Divisional Signals

Life has been going on very much the same since our last notes and indeed we feel ourselves lucky to be in such a perfect spot. The days have been filled with the usual Signal Office reliefs, guards, duties and courses which have included an Upgrading Course for Class II tradesmen, an N.C.O.s' Wireless Course, and a Junior N.C.O.s' Course.

During the week ending 31st August, we made an effort to raise funds for our Winter Comforts. The comforts are being made by the wives of the Unit who are here with us. They assemble once a week for knitting and our job is to help raise money for the purchase of the wool.

On Friday, 30th August, a whist drive and social was held in the Town School, by kind permission of the headmaster, who as also very helpful in arranging for the provision of card tables and cards. After the whist drive the social was opened with a song by Signalman Percival, who was accompanied by Lance Corporal Grant at the piano. There followed dancing, and songs given by Miss Dolly Bain and Miss McFarlane, which were much appreciated. The evening finished with dancing to what we hope will be the nucleus of a Unit Band (Lance Corporal Grant (piano) and Signalman Frewer (drums)) accompanied by the all-male chorus of Corporal Hardy, Signalmen Lawton, Percival and one or two others !

On Saturday, 31st August, a carnival dance was held in the Drill Hall. About 160 people attended and enjoyed dancing to the Savona Dance Band. In addition to the dancing there were raffles for a bottle of port, presented by the Sergeants' Mess, and for a clock, presented by Sergeant (now Lieutenant) Crosley. Both evenings' entertainment resulted in £10 12s. 6d. being collected for the Winter Comforts. Our thanks are again due to Corporal Gallaher and Lance Corporal Clasper who arranged and ran the whole thing.

Football.—The Section League, with " M " Section and L.A.D. at present leading, has reached the half-way stage mark, all Sections having played each other once. Return matches are about to follow. Two Unit representative matches were played during August. The first game, v. The 2nd Wiltshire Regiment, whose team included D. McCulloch (Scotland and Brentford) at centre-forward, ended in a draw 5—5. the equaliser being scored by us in the last few minutes. A good game, play being made difficult by a strong cross-wind.

The second game, v. The Ammunition Column, R.A.S.C., was lost 4—1.

A football competition for the Dunkirk Cup, played on the knock-out system, is now being decided. At the time of writing one match has been played, in which " L " Section beat " B " Section 3—1, after an interesting game, the score at half-time being 1—1.

Promotions and Appointments.—These are still too many and quick for all to be mentioned in these notes. However, we do offer our congratulations to the following, who have been granted emergency Commissions : Sergeants Strachan J. N., Stirk A. and Crosley E.

Also to Signalman Lobb, one of our specially enlisted D.R.s, on his selection for and posting to an O.C.T.U. preparatory to taking a commission in the Royal Armoured Corps.

Advertisements !

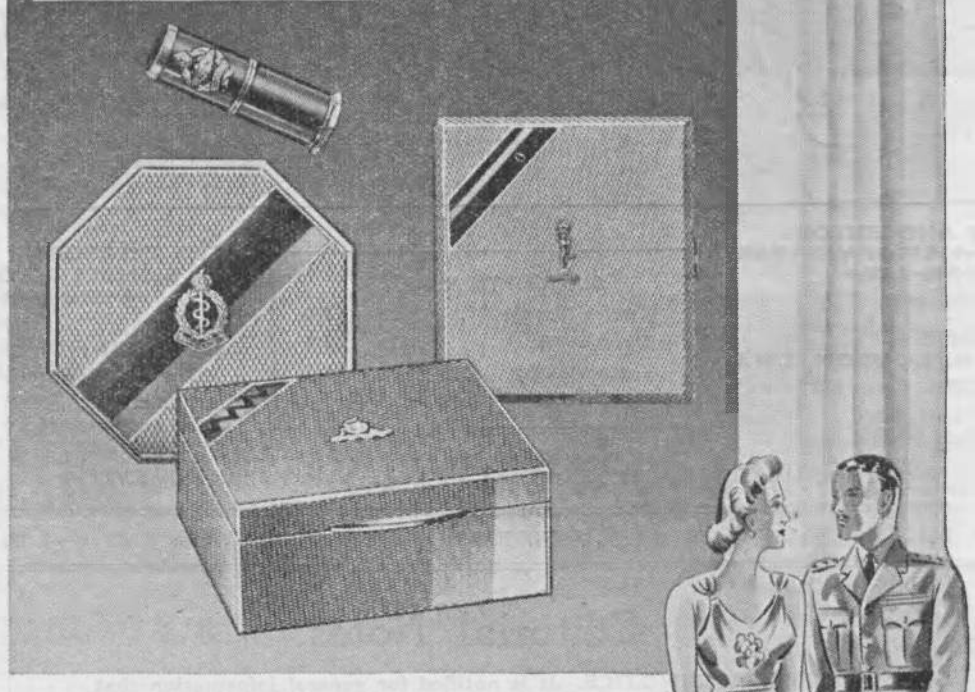
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VOL. XXI.—No. 249 NOVEMBER, 1940 PRICE—SIXPENCE

Editorial Notes

IMPORTANT NOTICE.—It is notified for general information that in consequence of severe structural damage caused by enemy action, the Headquarter Offices of Signals Association have been moved from 95, Belgrave Road, London, S.W. 1, and are now temporarily situated at:

801, Hood House, Dolphin Square, London, S.W.1
(Telephone: Victoria 3800, Extension "Hood 801")

All correspondence intended for:

"Signals Association,"
"Royal Signals Benevolent Fund,"
"Editor, 'The Wire,'"
"Royal Signals Comforts Fund,"

should be addressed accordingly until further notice and NOT to 95, Belgrave Road.

Unit Contributions to the Corps Magazine.—Although the response to our recent appeals for magazine "copy" has been most encouraging we are still patiently awaiting news from the big majority of R.Signals Units both at home and abroad, whose monthly "Notes" and "Articles" are conspicuous by their absence. For the benefit of those who may not have received a copy of the August publication, we repeat hereunder our "Open letter to All Ranks of the Corps" in the hope that it may achieve results which have not yet fully materialised. To those who have already responded we tender our grateful thanks, particularly London Corps Signals whose six page contribution included in this issue is greatly appreciated.

OPEN LETTER
TO
ALL RANKS OF ROYAL SIGNALS

THE CORPS MAGAZINE.—With the object of restoring THE WIRE to its pre-war circulation an appeal has recently been made to all ranks of the Corps asking them to resume that active co-operation and support which was temporarily broken by the outbreak of hostilities and the departure of a considerable number of our original subscribers for service with the British Expeditionary Force.

With the return of the B.E.F. to this country there are no longer "despatch" and "delivery" obstacles to contend with, and there are many serving with Royal Signals to-day who, if they do not wish to receive the magazine themselves, would be glad to know that a monthly copy is being sent regularly to their relatives and friends at home.

It is also probable that the war-time personnel of the Corps includes many who are not yet aware of the magazine's existence and they also may be regarded as potential subscribers if the publication is brought to their notice.

Despite the many difficulties that had to be overcome in the early days of the war, no break in the continuity of production has as yet been necessary and so long as the demand for it exists, and 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 provide the regular monthly news bulletins and to supplement such articles with snap-shots, group photographs, and 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 as long as a REGULAR supply of news can be maintained it will enable the Editorial Staff to continue with the production of an hitherto unbroken record of Corps History.

There are also many new Units of the Corps who have not as yet been represented in our news columns and to them we extend a cordial invitation to collaborate at the earliest possible moment.

The latest official ruling regarding production is briefly as follows:

1. War Office hope that Service and Regimental Journals will continue to be published, but it is of paramount importance that they should contain no information which may be of the slightest use to the enemy.
2. Each Editor will act as his own censor and will be held personally responsible for all matter appearing in his publication.
3. No articles may be published upon any of the following topics without submission to higher authority:
   - (a) Military subjects of a contentious nature.
   - (b) Modern tactical doctrines as accepted in the Army, or tactical theories.
   - (c) Modern weapons or equipment in possession of Great Britain, or her allies.
   - (d) Plans for the expansion, equipment, or mechanisation of the Army, or any part of it.
   - (e) Preparations for Home Defence or for operations abroad.

At first sight, the above may appear to be a formidable array of "Don'ts," but actually they concern us very slightly as we rarely, if ever, embark on such serious and momentous topics.

The chief object of our Corps magazine is to chronicle a record, in lighter vein, of each Unit's domestic activities and to provide readers with a monthly publication dealing with Corps matters of "personal" rather than "technical" interest.

It should be remembered that THE WIRE is YOUR publication and is what YOU care to make it.

For a number of years up to the outbreak of hostilities it had a larger circulation than any of its contemporaries and contributed a considerable annual revenue to the funds of the Corps Association, which is doing such good work among your comrades both past and present.

The need for that financial support to Association Funds is now greater than ever. Yet, despite the fact that the Corps is at full war strength, our circulation figures have dropped by 50 per cent. in the last ten months and the majority of our present subscribers are those serving in Units overseas.

Many of those fellows are "off the beaten track" and out of the limelight. They are anxious for Corps news and anticipate delivery of the magazine each month for tidings of their friends in other Units, particularly those situated in the centre of operations.

Their keen disappointment may be imagined when the magazines arrive and they find that the particular Unit contribution they had hoped to peruse is conspicuous by its absence.

It is only recently that we had further proof of the magazine's popularity when we distributed free copies throughout the hospitals to all Royal Signals wounded casualties. Those copies were contained in parcels of miscellaneous gifts from Royal Signals Comforts Fund and the following is a typical extract from many of the letters of thanks subsequently received:

"It was all greatly appreciated, especially THE WIRE, which I had not seen for many months and have since read from cover to cover."

It has been stated at the commencement of this letter that the Central Committee have every intention of continuing production of the magazine "as long as there is a demand for it," and it is for YOU to make that decision.

You can answer that question at once by completing an Order Form and sending it in to the Editorial Office with your covering remittance without delay.

Like the Corps itself, THE WIRE has always been in the front line. Are you going to keep it there? Or are you going to let it be jettisoned at the critical moment through lack of interest?

IT IS UP TO YOU!

THE EDITOR.

Benevolent Fund Notes

Security regulations do not permit us to publish detailed particulars of Corps Units, but it is hoped that the following list of those formations who have already responded to the Colonels-Commandant's appeal for regular monthly contributions to the Corps Benevolent Fund will be found satisfactory for the purposes of identification.

The Administrator gratefully acknowledges receipt of the following :

Benevolent Fund (No. 2 A/C 1940)

BANKERS ORDER SUBSCRIPTIONS FROM :
Major G. H. Walmisley.
Captain A. Sones.
2nd Lieutenant L. H. Horn.
2nd Lieutenant J. C. Green.
2nd Lieutenant W. M. Buchanan.
Major B. J. Milnes.
Captain R. C. C. Palmer.
Lieutenant F. B. Carrodus.
Lieutenant (Quartermaster) C. F. N. Marshall.
Captain J. G. Potter.
Captain J. F. Prideaux.
2nd Lieutenant G. C. Paget.
2nd Lieutenant R. G. Schuster.
Major The Viscount Malden.
Major J. S. Judd.
Major The Hon. S. S. Maxwell.
2nd Lieutenant G. F. B. Grant.
Lieutenant-Colonel L. F. Messell.
2nd Lieutenant R. H. Priestley.
Lieutenant-Colonel W. C. Buchanan.
Captain H. W. V. Thomas.
2nd Lieutenant D. R. Thompson.
Major P. R. Mann.
2nd Lieutenant J. Boyd.
Captain F. V. Price.
2nd Lieutenant R. C. R. Oliver.
2nd Lieutenant W. J. Bayliss.

Benevolent Fund (No. 2 A/C 1940) (Unit list continued)

2nd — Signals, Home Forces—August and September.
— General Trades Training Battalion, Yorkshire—September.
— Holding Battalion, Yorkshire—September.
— Divisional Signals, Home Forces—August.
3 Company, — Corps Signals, Home Forces—September.
— Divisional Signals, Home Forces—August.
Officers' Mess, — O.C.T.U. Yorkshire—September.
— A.A. Divisional Signals, Home Forces—Donation.
— Holding Battalion, Yorkshire—September.
1 Company, — Divisional Signals, Home Forces—September.
— Armoured Divisional Signals, Home Forces—September.
— Operators Training Battalion, Yorkshire—October.
2 Company,— L. of C. Signals, Wales—September.
— Divisional Signals, Home Forces (Donation from Officers).
— Divisional Signals, Home Forces—Donation.
3 Squadron, — Armoured Signals, Home Forces—August and September.
2 Company, 5th — Signals, Home Forces—August and September.
2 Company, — A.A. Divisional Signals, Home Forces—September.
Signals Thames & Medway, Kent—September.
— General Trades Training Battalion, Wales—September.
Details 4th — of — Signals, Wales—September.
1 Company, — Divisional Signals, Home Forces—October.
"J" Section, — Infantry Brigade Headquarters, Home Forces—October.
1 Company, — Divisional Signals, Home Forces—October.
— Corps Signals, Derbyshire—September.
UNITS ABROAD—
Malta Signal Company—April.
— Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Risalpur—July.
Waziristan District Signals—July.
Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron, India—September.
Wireless Experimental Section, Abbottabad—June.

APPEALS dealt with :

			£	s.	d.
1	Signalman, Kent	Grant	5	0	0
2	Wife of Signalman, Wales	Grant	2	10	0
3	Mother of Signalman (Deceased), Leeds	Grant	3	0	0
4	Wife of Signalman, Newcastle	Grant	2	0	0
5	Ex Signalman, Liverpool	Grant	5	0	0
6	Wife of N.C.O., Sussex	Grant	2	1	2
7	Wife of Signalman, Gateshead	Grant	4	0	0

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

Royal Signals Comforts Fund

Change of Address.—The attention of all concerned is drawn to the opening paragraph of Editorial Notes in this issue giving detailed particulars of our new address.

The Comforts Fund recently had the honour to receive a most generous donation of woollen garments from H.R.H. the Princess Royal. Included among the garments were two pullovers knitted by Her Royal Highness.

The 3rd S.T.C. has sent a further contribution of £50 to the Central Fund, proceeds of a concert given by the Corps Band. For this splendid assistance the Fund is greatly indebted to Captain J. Armstrong who made all arrangements for the concerts.

The Comforts Fund " owing to enemy action " has transferred its headquarters to 801 Hood House, Dolphin Square, S.W.1, where premises have been most kindly placed at the disposal of the Committee.

The Comforts Fund Shop has also been damaged but Mrs. Ozanne is carrying on.

During the last few days the Committee has despatched some 30 parcels to Units and it is anticipated that a further 40 will go off very shortly. This will dispose of practically all the stock that has been collected during the summer, which it is thus hoped will be cleared from London without loss—a matter which has been causing the Committee grave concern of late. The parcels have been sent to all Units who have applied to the Comforts Fund Depot. If there are any Units still requiring " comforts " which have not applied, will they please do so giving a private address to which the parcel can be directed. In the case of small Sections an indication of the strength is a great help. The Committee regret that owing to lack of staff, individual requests from members of the Corps, cannot be dealt with direct. All applications should be made through O.C.s of Units, Companies or Sections. If Units who require comforts and who are accessible to London will call at 801 Hood House, Dolphin Square, to collect their things it will be a great help, and if the visit is preceded by a telephone call to Victoria 3800, Extension Hood 801 it will ensure the parcel being ready.

Included in many of the parcels despatched will be found khaki Turkish towelling, cut in lengths. This, owing to its absorbent qualities, is intended for scarves for D.R.s.

Units requiring musical instruments for their bands should apply to the Comforts Fund who might be able to put them in touch with a source of supply.

The names of several ladies who have undertaken to form Branches of the Ladies' Guild of Workers for the Comforts Fund have been received. It is hoped that Units who have not yet appointed their Corresponding Members will do so shortly so that work parties may start with the least possible delay. A great number of woollen garments will be required this winter if the Corps is to be adequately accommodated.

	£	s.	d.
Major H. J. F. White (Contents of Collecting Box)	1	10	0
Major A. E. Morrison	2	0	0
Malta Signal Company	6	4	0
Proceeds of Comforts Fund Shop	12	0	0
Staff of R.Signals Records Office (Monthly)	8	10	0
Mrs. M. White	2	9	6
Waziristan District Signals	7	2	8
Staff of Inspection Department (Monthly)	3	0	0
Miss Banham		5	0
Mrs. A. E. Osborne	5	0	0
Officers' Mess, Jubbulpore	15	0	0
Units Subscriptions, S.T.C. (I.)	4	0	0
Corporals' Room, S.T.C. (I.)	1	0	0

Mrs. Whately	1	0	0
Officers' Mess, 18th Divisional Signals (Quarterly)	3	6	0
3rd Signal Training Centre (Proceeds of a Band Concert)	50	0	0
Officers' Mess, Aldershot (Monthly)	2	7	0
Thames & Medway Signal Company	1	5	0
Mrs. Jack's Work Party	1	6	0
Staff of Inspection Department (Monthly)	2	0	0
Mrs. A. J. Harris's Work Party (Collecting Box)	1	9	6
— Divisional Signals (Proceeds of a Dance)	2	15	1
Miss Whatley	1	1	0
C.S.O. Scottish Command (Proceeds of Collecting Box)	1	0	0

Corps News—Officers

Extracts from "The London Gazette"

[War Office, 23/8/40]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS :

The undermentioned to be Lieutenants, 24/8/40 :

Sergeant (Acting C.S.M.) Lanza Eric Watterton (143965).

Sergeant (Acting C.Q.M.S.) Henry Herbert Clare Henning (143964).

Sergeant Walter Harry Lamb (143956) to be 2nd Lieutenant, 24/8/40.

The undermentioned cadets from 152nd O.C.T.U. to be 2nd Lieutenants, except as otherwise stated, 17/8/40 :

Arthur Hugh Costen (143552) to be Lieutenant.
Robert Alan Benstead Brown (143553).
John Petrie Hamlyn (143554).
Ronald Stanley Roberson (143555).
Francis Philip Yateman (143556).
Gerald Arthur Bloomfield (143557).
Laurence John Birch (143558).
Jack Edgar Budgen (143559).
Arthur Chapman (143560).
Harry Collins (143561).
David Edmunds (143562).
Maurice Vernon Lockett (143563).
James Cormac McFadyen (143564).
John Marcellus Morris (143565).
Neil Poppelwell (143666).
George Sandilands (143567).
David Solomon Wolff (143568).
Ian Robert Inglis Galbraith (143569).
Colin William Newberry Lang (143570).
George Edwin Bernard Morris (143571)
Frederick Ernest Watson (143572).

TERRITORIAL ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Captain H. J. Snodgrass (25483) relinquishes his commission on account of ill-health, 24/8/40.

[St. James's Palace, S.W.1, 27/8/40]

The King has been graciously pleased to give orders for the following appointment to the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire for gallant and distinguished service in the field :

To be additional Commander of the Military Division of the said Most Excellent Order :

Colonel Courtenay William Fladgate, late Royal Corps of Signals.

[War Office, 27/8/40]

The King has been graciously pleased to approve of the undermentioned awards for gallant and distinguished services in action in connection with recent operations :

THE MILITARY MEDAL.

No. 2587675 Corporal John Henry Bennett, Royal Corps of Signals, Territorial Army.

No. 2313222 Lance Corporal Edwin Bennett, Royal Corps of Signals, Supplementary Reserve.

No. 2589489 Lance Corporal Bernard Tresham Hardy, Royal Corps of Signals, Territorial Army.

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Lieutenant-Colonel M. F. M. Parkes, M.C. (11424), retires on retired pay, 25/8/40.

The undermentioned 2nd Lieutenants to be Lieutenants, 26/8/40 :

M. S. Hancock (73072).
D. T. W. Gibson (73073).
A. L. Galloway (73074).
D. G. Jones (73075).
J. C. Garlick (73077).
C. H. Golden (73078).
P. E. S. Mansergh (73079).

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

2nd Lieutenant V. S. Swift (88286) relinquishes his commission on account of ill-health, 28/8/40.

[War Office, 30/8/40]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

The undermentioned Captains to be Majors, 30/8/40 :

E. J. H. Moppett (27991) (with pay and allowances of Captain, 30th August to 23rd October, 1940, inclusive).
R. T. H. Gelston (27976).
2nd Lieutenant A. L. Fayerman (94644) to be Lieutenant, 3/7/40.

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS :

C.Q.M.S. Walter Sidney Anderson (134883) to be Lieutenant (T.M.O.), 3/7/40. (Substituted for notification in "Gazette" (Supplement) dated 2/7/40.

2nd Lieutenant E. M. Wagner (135814) from R. Fus. to be 2nd Lieutenant, 31/7/40, and retains his present seniority.

C.S.M. Eric Arnold Thomas Marchant (146134) to be Lieutenant (T.M.O.), 7/8/40.

The undermentioned Cadets from 151st O.C.T.U. to be 2nd Lieutenants, 24/8/40 :

Michael Duke Dudley (143148).
Godfrey Edward Symons (143147).
James Richard Wilson (143146).
Clifford Eytognne Fox (143145).
John Stuart Freeston Gill (143144).
Edward George Goscombe (143143)
Martin Kepple (143142).
Michael Harry Leese (143141).
Anthony Edgar Ranger (143140).
Robert William Rogers (143139).
John Paget Trease (143138).
Christopher Thomas Wade (143137).
Anthony John Hallowes (143136).
Herbert Hollely (143135).
Kenneth Newell Westbury (143134).

[War Office, 3/9/40]

The King has been graciously pleased to give orders for the following appointments to the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire for distinguished services in the field :

To be additional members of the Military Division of the said Most Excellent Order :

Captain (temporary Major) Herbert Austin Penn, B.SC., Royal Corps of Signals, Supplementary Reserve.

The King has been graciously pleased to approve of the undermentioned awards for gallant and distinguished services in action in connection with recent operations :

THE MILITARY MEDAL :

No. 2321359 Lance Corporal Douglas Burke, Royal Corps of Signals.

No. 2566406 Signalman William Cotton, Royal Corps of Signals.

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

The undermentioned Lieutenants to be Captains, 1/9/40 :

E. C. R. Blaker (53657).
G. S. K. Maydon (53658).
A. C. R. Steed (53659).
F. P. Rickard (53660) (with pay and allowances of Lieutenant, 1/9/40).
P. A. Duke (53661).
T. G. V. Stephenson (53662).
A. L. Atkinson, B.SC. (62965).

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Captain J. H. A. Patton, M.C. (48900) from R.U. Rif. to be Captain, 9/8/39, retaining his present seniority. (Substituted for the notification in the "Gazette" of 8/8/39.)

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS :

R.S.M. Arthur Reginald Johnson (143628) to be Lieutenant (T.M.O.), 3/8/40. (Substituted for notification in "Gazette" (Supplement) dated 16/8/40.

The undermentioned to be Lieutenants, 4/9/40 :
Sergeant Abram Stirk (143976).
Sergeant John Norton Strachan (143977).
Lance Corporal (Acting Lance Sergeant) Eric Thomas Crossley (143978).
The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants :
Gerald Scott Sessions (144087), 28/7/40.
John Taylor Smith (142826), 5/8/40.
Harry Paul Mitchell (144144), 12/8/40.
Sergeant James Ernest Messenger (143975), 4/9/40.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
The notification regarding Captain C. H. Howarth (58973) in " Gazette " (Supplement) dated 5th July, 1940, is cancelled.
Major J. T. Dunbar, D.L. (25713), late T.A.R.O., to be Hon. Colonel, 4/9/40.
GENERAL LIST :
Lieutenant C. M. Harrison (56413), from T.A. General List (Charterhouse Sch. Contgt. Jun. Div. O.T.C.), to be Lieutenant, 24/7/40.
2nd Lieutenant R. H. Pott (65976), from T.A. General List (Stowe Sch. Contgt. Jun. Div. O.T.C.), to be 2nd Lieutenant, 25/7/40.

TERRITORIAL ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS.
Lieutenant-Colonel and Brevet-Colonel R. E. Colman, O.B.E., T.D. (25404), at his own request reverts to the rank of Major whilst employed during the present emergency, 1/9/40.

[War Office, 6/9/40]

REGULAR ARMY.
Colonel (Acting Major-General) R. F. B. Naylor, D.S.O., M.C. (19402), to be temporary Major-General, 6/9/40.

REGULAR ARMY SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS.
2nd Lieutenant N. R. Williams (69495) (from R.A.S.C.) to be 2nd Lieutenant, 20/7/40, retaining his present seniority, and the War Subs. rank of Lieutenant.

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS :
The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants :
Alfred Taylor Speechly (144624), 3/7/40.
2nd Lieutenant Andrew Reid (144223), 6/8/40.
Lieutenant Thomas Fulton Clarke (142902), 7/8/40.
R.S.M. Harry Joseph Samuel Collins (146727) to be Lieutenant (Quartermaster), 16/8/40.
Lieutenant A. W. Holt (130249) to be Lieutenant (I.P.C.), 11/7/40.
The undermentioned Cadets from 151st and 152nd O.C.T.U. to be 2nd Lieutenants, except as otherwise stated, 31/8/40 :
Andrew McCullagh Paterson (145806) to be Lieutenant.
Myles Henry Arbuthnot (145439).
Jack Devine Hills (145781).
Frederick Roger Hue-Williams (145440).
Richard Anthony Cooper (145782).
James White Dalgleish (145441).
Edmund Saunders Dewick (145783).
Arthur Thomas Dean Dibsdall (145442).
Kenneth Finney (145443).
Brian Arthur Gomm (145784).
George William Holbrook (145444).
Kenneth Mole (145785).
John Vincent Warner (145786).
Douglas Wood (145787).
Alexander James Aitken (145788).
William Cairns Brown (145789).
Kenneth Clough (145790).
John William Elston (145791).
Peter Vernon Guy (145792).
Francis Tracey Kelly (145793).
Joseph Kidd (145445).
Walter Henry Litt (145446).
Malcolm Gilbert Luker (145447).
John Albert Poxon (145794).
John Alfred Robinson (145795).
James Ritchie Scobie (145448).
Robert Coltness Stuart (145449).
Gilbert James Norris Tait (145450).
John Hildyard Tate (145796).
John Harris Taylor (145451).
Frank Allen Wainwright (145797).
Ernest Blackley (145798).
Basil Sydney Duke (145799).
Peter Hadland (145800).
Ronald Frederick Jenkins (145804).
John Gordon Bostock McCallum (145805).

TERRITORIAL ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS.
The surname of Lieutenant-Colonel and Brevet-Colonel R. E. Coleman, O.B.E., T.D. (25404) is as now stated and not as notified in " Gazette " (Supplement) dated 3rd September, 1940.

[War Office, 11/9/40]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS :
C.S.M. Francis Edward Lockyer (146956) to be Lieutenant (Quartermaster), 15/8/40.
C.S.M. Charles Edward Storey (147077) to be Lieutenant (T.M.O.), 21/8/40.

[War Office, 16/9/40]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS :
C.S.M. Victor Edmund Deamon (147188) to be Lieutenant (Quartermaster), 21/8/40.
The undermentioned Cadets from 151st O.C.T.U. to be 2nd Lieutenants, 7/9/40 :
Albert Arthur Bay (148326).
Robert Cairns Blakiston (148327).
Lionel George Brown (148328).
Robert Clive Coles (148329).
Richard Clayton Corrie (148330).
Richard John Moreton Goold-Adams (148331).
Peter Ronald Hoskins (148332).
Rupert Charles Langham (148333).
Samuel Rata (148334).
Alan Gordon Simpson (148335).
Walter Arthur Tunnicliffe (148336).
Christopher Dodsworth Walker (148337).
Dennis Frederick Watton (148338).
John Osmond Buchanan (148339).
Kenneth Lawrence Dobby (148340).

[War Office, 19/9/40]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
Major (Quartermaster) C. H. Manton, M.B.E. (33404), having attained the age for retirement, is placed on retired pay, 15/9/40.

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS :
The notification regarding 2nd Lieutenant A. H. Babb (110706) in " Gazette " (Supplement) dated 4/6/40 is cancelled.
The undermentioned to be Lieutenants :
Lieutenant William Edward Harry Kennedy, M.C. (31282), 12/8/40.
R.S.M. Charles William Clarke (147465), 18/9/40.
W.O. Cl. II Percy William Phillp (147462), 18/9/40.
Lieutenant P. H. Rolfe (93556) from General List and retains his present seniority, 18/9/40.
C.S.M. Percy Charles Green (147380) to be Lieutenant (Quartermaster), 26/8/40.

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS.
2nd Lieutenant (War Subs. Lieutenant) J. F. Mudie (70520), from R.E., to be 2nd Lieutenant, 1/9/40, retaining his present seniority and the War Subs. rank of Lieutenant.

[War Office, 23/9/40]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS :
The date of appointment of Lieutenant (Quartermaster) J. Ford (139428) is 27/6/40 and not as notified in " Gazette " (Supplement) dated 30/7/40.
The undermentioned to be Lieutenants, 21/9/40 :
R.S.M. Alfred Harvey (147166).
Sergeant (Acting W.O. Cl. III) Eric Fairclough (147167).
Sergeant (Acting C.Q.M.S.) Franklyn Desmond Thorpe (147168).
Sergeant Bernard James Bryan (145438).
The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants, 21/9/40 :
Sergeant Clifford Danks (145877).
Gunner Roderick Ernest Parsonage (147464), from R.A.

HOME STATIONS

Yorkshire 1

1st Operators' Training Battalion

No. 1 Company

By the time this passes through the printer's hands, No. 1 Company, 1st O.T.B., will have settled down to the winter. Steps were early in hand to ensure that after " business hours " an enjoyable time will be had by all. Inspired by the O.C., a movement was set afoot, as a result of which there may be, by this time a thriving debating society and other communal adjuncts to barrack room efforts to speed the winter hours pleasantly. At any rate, games and pastimes are being investigated at the time of writing and who knows but what in a few short weeks we shall be so enamoured by life as it is with the 1st O.T.B. that we shall dread the prospect of departure !

One of the new games recently introduced and which was widely popular was a variation or rather an exaggeration of the ordinary reveille. This game—best played by twenty or more players—has not so far drawn a single vote in the suggested winter sports list. In its new form there is much to be said for it, however, that it becomes a game of chance. Briefly, the new version is that after the first " wakey, wakey " warning, a second and surprise one is paid by a senior officer. The winner of the game is the man who takes his leisure—without his desserts !

Talking of entertainment, a party of trainees who spent part of a recent Sunday morning on the Square were thinking of " taking round the hat " when a large and interested audience of personnel from another company fringed the arena. Cynics say the show was well worth paying to see, anyway.

While on the subject of shows, it is well worthy of mention that No. 1 Company talent, marshalled into an excellent production by S.S.M. Wagner, continues to brighten not only the life in the Camp area, but further afield, and recently a concert party performed with no little success at a cinema in a distant town. As a result, a considerable sum was added to a Spitfire Fund.

During " business hours," of course, No. 1 Company continues as before, though certain innovations contemplated for the benefit of the trainees near the end of their Course are to be put in hand immediately.

One personal note—a welcome to 2nd Lieutenant Bruce.

F. G. M.

No. 2 Company

Sport.—The past month has seen our recreational and competitive games going from stength to strength. Our boxers, ably coached by Lance Corporal Roberts, acquitted themselves well, both in Inter-Company trials and in the Garrison Knock-out Competition—Holding Battalion v. 1st O.T.B., which the latter lost by the narrowest of margins.

In the field of soccer we find it by no means an easy task selecting Company teams from an enthusiastic crowd of about eighty players. Our budding Lawtons and Matthews find it hard to understand why their services have not so far been utilised. The Company is well represented in the Battalion team, there having never been less than five of our players selected.

Judging by the recent displays in hockey trials, we feel that we shall shortly be fielding a team to take on all comers. If our men will only give Corporal Bond plenty of passes we are bound to win. He has modestly admitted it himself.

During the next few weeks we mean to see what we can do in the baseball and swimming lines. The former should provide ample opportunity for squaring things up with our pet N.C.O.s, although in the latter we may suffer from reprisals. On the other hand, with a little serious tuition from the Corporals' Mess we ought to shine in the water. (A certain censorship has hitherto somewhat suppressed the information that our Corporals outswam our Mons adversaries !)

Entertainment.—Some most successful Unit concerts have taken place lately, towards which our Company has contributed its fair quota of talent. The Unit Band is voted by all, the best we have yet turned out, and together with other players, we are proud to have supplied the band leader—Signalman Duncan —from our Company, to say nothing of possessing our own composer who, we believe, is now working far into the night producing a " No. 2 Company March." ("A *march* is at its best in *music* form, sir ! ") At the time of writing, considerable activity is taking place with the production of a new play, " French Leave," and in this also, with Lance Corporal Jones taking matters in hand, No. 2 Company is well to the fore.

Duties.—We welcome the arrival of Lieutenant Shrimpton on our staff, although it is said that some men, with a knowledge of his past activities, live in fear and trepidation lest he be seized with a desire to sally forth with them to dig up roads and river beds, mix concrete, or erect sandbag fortifications which no tank on earth could shake. " Iron constitutions in good Ironsides " seemed to be his motto, and the hotter the day the better.

A welcome is also extended to Lieutenant Burke, who has recently joined us, and " O " Section is going with a bang. This Section not only likes to be seen, but heard. We wonder whether their parade ground activities have anything to do with the issue of those nifty little appliances on white string ! The achievements of some of our W/L Squads are worthy of note, and in particular that of Squad No. 23, under Corporal Doris. This Squad had a hundred per cent. pass.

Strange to Relate.—Slowly I woke—the echoes of our electric alarm clock were dying away and the duty blokes were already pulling down the P.A.D. roll-top shutters. I pushed back the W.D. blue eiderdown which was tickling my neck, and then, black-out being complete, the ultra-violet lamps and infra-red heaters were switched on. Everyone was now on his bed for the daily dozen minutes of ray-pickling, which (as the Doc. had prophesied last winter) had kept out plagues and pains, and keeps us sunbronzed all over.

Then out popped the Corporal from his bunk. " Stand by for B.B.C. Reveille," he hollered. Six pips announced 06.15, and with the usual jolly " Good morning," the P.T. expert cracked off into the ten minutes of jerks which really waken you up, and give you a proper appetite for the bacon.

As soon as P.T. was over, and a charming feminine voice started a cheery chat, interspersed with marches and waltzes and tunes we all sang to, our side of the room made up their beds and collared their brooms to clean up bed spaces—it was Eastsiders turn to go first to baths and shaves.

At seven o'clock we fell-in outside, and singing the usual breakfast hymn of " There is a happy land " (with the usual variations), pranced into our warm and gaily decorated mess room.

I thought how different it was from the tales of the first few years of the war, when the barmy B.B.C. hadn't discovered that only shirkers and night workers can afford to stay abed after 06.00 hours each day, when their reveille programmes started with doleful ditties and dull dirges at half-past six and physical jerks began after half-past seven, just as our veterans—recruits then !—were moving up on to parade.

I slipped as I sat down in my place for breakfast and hit the floor with a " wump."

Then I woke up properly !

Q. Q. Q.

No. 3 Company

Biggest story of the month deals with the transfer of C.S.M. Jones, formerly of this Company, to the appointment of R.Q.M.S.

By the time these notes appear in print I am fairly confident that the word "Acting" will have been taken away, and R.Q.M.S. Jones fully substantiated in his new post.

S.S.M. Costick has taken his place as C.S.M.

Congratulations to both on their well-deserved promotions.

Those members of the 1st Div., Rawalpindi, maybe can remember a fairly young Corporal who used to give his orders in the fine old traditional manner some twelve years ago. Well, its the same fellow who has now taken over here.

Everyone has to make a start in this promotion business and already Signalman Gaskin has had his new rank of Lance Corporal substantiated. He's a quiet, conscientious sort of fellow. At the moment he's handling the instruments store, and already we've noticed that "dis" signalling lamps have ceased to be issued.

Lance Sergeant Scott has been promoted to Sergeant. His squad recently took their Group "E" and nearly every one passed with fairly high marks. Sergeant Scott is now in charge of the Creed apparatus.

In case you know Corporal Downie, you had better be told he is a Corporal no longer. He's a Lance Sergeant now, a fitting reward for the hard work he has done.

Tragedy overtook the relatives of Corporal "Speedy" Osborne. They were recently bombed, but have since moved to a safer area. He has just passed off his squad with their B.3 and their figures have brought a feeling of satisfaction to all in the Company.

For procedure the top was 98% and the average 82%; reading and sending were the same high standard. Signalman Tye got the top figures. Congratulations—Tye and Corporal "Speedy"

During the past few days two very strange faces have been seen around these lines. Covering their bodies with battle-dresses with immaculate creases down the centre of their pants, very brand new stripes adorned both their arms, and they've got an atmosphere about them that simply spells the word "newness." And that's something very seldom encountered here.

A few enquiries elicited the information that their names are Brown and O'Kines.

Apparently they were here before, and found the air so much to their liking they have come back to stay as instructors. One of them intends to get married in a few days' time. He is Lance Corporal Brown, and he's just taken over Sergeant Garrett's squad, the venerable Sergeant having retired from the Army this week. To both we say "bon voyage."

Another Lance Corporal hopes, permission being granted for him to be absent from his duties, to get married in the near future. He is Lance Corporal Whitehead, who has taken over Sergeant Scott's squad. If leave is granted him, then the ceremony will be performed at Wrexham; if not, he'll make the best of what this locality has to offer. Lady's name is Phyllis Martin, and she comes from Canterbury.

Two young U/A/Lance Corporals have gone the way we all go after this Section has finished with us. They joined the rest of the Signal's men at the Holding Battalion one day this month.

It's a tough job being an unpaid Lance Jack. All the kicks come their way, and very few of the half-pence. That these two managed to perform their duties and still retain the affection of their squad is mute testimony to their capabilities.

Being in the next senior squad due for promotion there was quite a lot of controversy as to who was getting the coveted stripes. Some said I was, but I did a Beaverbrook and let the rest of the lads know just what I intended to do if one did come my way.

Seems to me there cannot possibly be any decline in our birthrate. We have two Corporals who expect telegrams any day giving them the news that they have become "daddies." One is Lance Corporal Smith, who spends most of his time telling recruits all about a ten-line universal and other instruments. The other the redoubtable Glendinni, the full Corporal who has the arduous job of compelling our squad to read and send morse.

Recent transfers include S.S.M. Hunt to No. 2 Company. Now his powerful voice can only be heard very faintly in our lines.

Another departure was that of Sergeant Hatton. A tall, angular expert operator who seemed to delight in pushing the words up to their maximum and making his squad read them by the sheer weight of his personality.

One other laddie has been posted, Signalman Ingram.

N. U. J.

SPORTS NOTES

The football season opened with a bang, and so far I have seen nothing which tends to make me in the slightest way discouraged with the super football team we have in this Company.

Unit matches played so far have resulted in us coming out on top. Scores were: R.A., 3—1; R.A.M.C., 20—1; and the O.C.T.U., 5—4; G.T.B., 6—0. A friendly match with the G.T.B. for 2nd team elevens resulted in a score of 2—1 in our favour.

Rugby has started off with a swing, too. The first match, a scratch affair consisting of "O" Section v. The Rest, ended in a comfortable victory for The Rest. It turned out to be the sort of match one usually expects for the season's first game. There is, however, a distinct promise of a really excellent fifteen.

A soccer match 'twixt the Boy's Cadre and ourselves proved quite a good, sporty, clean game. The result was a 6—1 victory for us.

The high spot of the match was when Lance Corporal Hufton attacked our goalie, a really brilliant rugby player, only to find the ball whizzing away from the goal as a result of a severe hand off! Even at that Lance Corporal Hufton didn't succeed in beating our unorthodox goalie with the kick.

As mentioned in last month's WIRE, a scheme has been started whereby promising young boxers are given every encouragement to further their interests in this sport. We have managed to get together a Unit Boxing Eight, and they have already given excellent accounts of themselves by their fights with the Holding Battalion's not so novice-like Eight, in the Garrison Inter-Novices' Boxing Tournament.

Superb displays of real scientific work were given by Signalman Cinnamond in the terrific fight he had with the Holding's Lance Corporal Pickering. In all the years I have been connected with this sport I have seldom seen such superb skill displayed.

Thanks to the men of our own famous Gestapo, we are able to give the young bloods of the Company as much training as possible. These fellows, although so few to handle the amount of work they have to get through, yet manage to find time to come over to the Gym. and put the gloves on with the youngsters. As the nights pass by they have the satisfaction of seeing the raw ones turn into quite respectable boxers. Thanks, pals.

No. 4 Company

There has been plenty of activity in the Company this past month, and there is more news about our Ironsides doing their bit at ——. When the tactical exercises were first begun on a Sunday it was looked upon with disapproval. Then, as time went on there appeared to be great approval on this movement. This called for enquiries to be made, and it was found that there was a bumper tea awaiting to be served after their strenuous work. This gives good reason now why C.S.M. Stevens insists on the whole Company doing their bit; and good reasons, too. What do you think, chums?

We send our congratulations to C.S.M. Cosstick on his promotion and I am sure his new Company will appreciate his position.

S.S.M. Grocott has returned to the Company and we hope this time to stay put, and help us along on our way to break records in producing 100% Squads. This calls for congratulations

to No. 22 Squad and the N.C.O.s concerned. Well, boys, keep up this record and keep the old flag flying.

We send our congratulations to Lance Corporal (Horace) Crossley on the addition to his training worries (a boy). Look out, chaps, you will be hearing a new saying if I am not mistaken and it won't be his fault. (Oh, boy !)

Time marches on and with it comes our troubles of relations and friends being left homeless in certain areas, and I am glad to relate that No. 4 Company are the pioneers to a good resolution and that is, " Help those that give us the spirit to carry on." The collection came to the grand total of £1 10s. 0d. Good show, boys ! Keep it up.

Our N.C.O.s saw the swimming season out by holding a sink or swim competition. Our noted Lance Corporal Spencer came to the rescue and the result came to a draw.

Cheerio, boys, more next time.

GIP.

Administrative Wing

General.—Well, chaps, here goes. I have had this one on my mind for ten days or more. Who is the sweet young thing in " O " Squad who asked the Guard Commander where the tea towel was, so that he could dry his mug ? Before this war is over he will reconcile " Certa-Cito " with S.O.B.

Now that winter nights are drawing near the Administrative Wing are looking forward to the " Coal Ration," and I am afraid that we will all become " Stop at homes."

I would like to thank Driver Patey, through these columns, for making such a good Company Gardener. Many have undertaken this job, but only " Swede " has made a decent job of it. Keep it up, Swede !

Arrivals.—Once again we welcome new members to the hospitality of Administrative Wing. May they stay long enough to enjoy it. They are : W.O.2 Jones, Signalmen Richards and Gill.

Promotion and Appointment.—A/Sergeant Hatton to Sergeant, U/Lance Corporal Jones to A/Lance Corporal.

Entertainments.—Now that winter is drawing on there is plenty to do to prevent the lads becoming bored. The concert party has great plans for the forthcoming season ; numerous Spitfire Funds will no doubt benefit by their humble efforts. I have heard it whispered that Lance Corporal Jones is preparing that well-known farce, " French Leave."

A short time ago I attended a meeting called by Major Holwill, who asked for local talent. I was surprised at the hearty response to the call. I don't think S.S.M. Wagner would have any difficulty in presenting a different show every week if he took the material in hand. The clay is there, it only requires moulding. I think if these lavish scenes were cut out and a few more short, sharp turns were put in they would be appreciated a bit more by the boys.

Major Holwell has assured us of his full co-operation personally and via the P.R.I., and, of course, we could not do without the ever-smiling face of Lieutenant Adcock (T.M.O.) as regards lighting arrangements.

Dances are still a weekly feature, and Signalman Duncan and his boys certainly excel themselves, but another band has yet to be heard, not a dance band it's true, but it never fails to entertain ; of course, I am speaking of Jock Muir and his accordian band. You should hear them, they are the goods.

Well, folks, until next month, cheerio !

A. E. H.

1st General Trades Training Battalion

No. 1 (Line) Company

Arrivals.—At last this Company has decided to take up its stand in THE WIRE.

We welcome to this Company S.S.M. Mayo, from 38th Divisional Signals ; also S.S.M. Russell, from 2nd Divisional Signals. May their stay be a pleasant one.

Appointment.—Congratulations to Corporal McDiarmid on his appointment to Lance Sergeant. We sincerely hope to see Archie's name mentioned in the marriage column in the very near future.

Demotions.—We regret the undermentioned were unable to hold tight enough on the next rung of the ladder. Sympathies we offer up to Sergeants Pfeiffer and Overington. Also to Corporals Biggs and Woolgar. (" Gone with the Wind.") The burning question now is, when is George going to C.Q.M.S. Third time lucky, George !

Departures.—Our dear old S.S.M. Edge (" Toc ") has left us to renew his youth in the Boys' Company. Trusting the toes of his boots are still polished in view of the regulations as regards dubbin.

Marriages.—Corporals Biggs and Woolgar and Lance Corporal Golds have decided that penny buns now cost twopence, and have taken the plunge. We extend our heartiest congratulations to them. May all their troubles be little ones.

Football.—Football is now well under way, thanks to the expert guidance of our " Q " bloke (C.Q.M.S. LeCocq).

Snooker.—We sincerely hope that Corporals Barlow and Teasdale will soon improve a little with their snooker, as " Tenners " are apt to make one's throat sore if smoked regularly. A little " check top side " on the white is needed, Tom ; otherwise you will never know the taste of a " Players."

General.—Through THE WIRE we send our best wishes to all old members of this Company. We are still teaching the lads that an OHM is a unit of resistance, instead of the place they have left behind.

The topical marching song of No. 1 Line Company at the moment is " Jeepers Creepers."

Who are the Sergeant Majors who thought they could run the Company Office and found that the A.T.S. have a habit of swinging on the ears of C.S.M.s.

No. 2 (Line) Company

" Thing upon thing " has prevented us writing these notes till the last moment, and now they are rather scrappy, I'm afraid. And there's not much one can say really because everything of interest is " secret," though why half the things that are labelled so, need be so, is also presumably a secret. It is beyond the ordinary intelligence.

We are just beginning to realise how fortunate is the lineman who trains during the summer months. The rigours of a Yorkshire winter will soon be upon us. Starting out in the early morning in fog, rain, frost or snow is rather apt to cool the ardour of instructors and instructed, but it breeds a hardy race of linemen, let us hope. Tents are beginning to look a bit bedraggled, and the sites are becoming muddy ; those of us who live in buildings are lucky, though the tents will soon be struck and the inmates in more comfortable quarters. And there are some very comfortable ones nearing completion. The culinary arrangements would gladden the heart of the fussiest epicure. So good luck to those who take them over.

Nothing very exciting has happened during October, or if it has we have missed it. In fact there is rather an ominous silence these nights, and it is a long time since that sentry sent out an armed party after a moth in a searchlight beam.

So we have to make our own incidents, and succeeded in creating a little stir the other night. We arranged a mock battle, six platoons attacking and six defending a line after dark. The attackers decided to use tear gas and smoke bombs, both of which were so effective that a report reached Brigade H.Q. to the effect that some noxious substance was in the air. The origin was at that time a mystery. However, it blew over and an explanation was forthcoming.

We have been manœuvring a good deal with the Home Guard, to our mutual benefit. They seem quite able to account for preliminary parashoots on their own without much difficulty. Their keenness is amazing. They think nothing of standing up to their necks in a river disguised as bits of driftwood or overhanging branches if an objective may be reached that way. They have ingenious ways of blending themselves with the

surrounding countryside which, of course, they know intimately. An innocent-looking hen-house on wheels drawn by an ancient cart horse may easily contain a dozen armed men. The wooden horse of Troy and the Scarlet Pimpernel aren't in it. There are plenty of surprises in store for Adolf's emissaries.

If any readers know of moderately-priced second-hand wireless sets, we should be glad of a few for barrack-rooms.

We are looking forward to the dance season with more than usual interest, because some new arrangements are in hand for better accommodation. The chief snag remains the difficulty of reconciling black-out-cum-ventilation.

Best wishes to past members of No. 2 Line Company. Come up and see us if you're round this way.

No. 3 (Workshop) Company

Here we are agin ! 'Shops Company calling the outer world ! Life in this backwater continues pretty much the same as usual, there being little or no change lately—except that it gets dark much earlier, but this I believe is due to circumstances over which we have no control—or else——.

We welcome the arrival of Captain E. L. Smith-Masters, our new O.C., from No. 2 (Line) Company, and hope that his stay with us will be a long and pleasant one.

We also extend our welcome to Lieutenants E. T. Crossley and J. Mills ; may they never regret coming amongst us.

By the time this appears in print Lance Sergeant Manley E. C. (the one and only Charlie, better known in his capacity as sleeping partner at "Annies ") will have left the fold for " civvy street," having been urgently recalled by the authorities to help them out of the mess into which they have fallen in his absence. So that, all in all, we should shortly see some action on the home front ; output should be doubled in as many weeks, and then woe betide " Jerry."

Promotions.—Nil. (Nuff sed !)

Things We Should Like to Know.—Why is it that Sergeant " Snub " Pollard has stopped going to a certain Wednesday night dance ? Has it anything to do with the fact that for once he didn't win the spot prize on his last appearance there ?

Does the new manager of the local estaminet (Annie's) find any difficulty with the present rationing scheme ? What about it, George ?

Who was the member of the local O.C.T.U. class who asked the instructor if an iambic pentameter was the third valve in the No. 11 Set ?

Tailpiece.—The C.O. was paying one of his frequent visits to the Lecture Rooms. On entering one particular L.R. (no need to specify which one) during the temporary absence of the instructor, the C.O. asked a few questions concerning the activities of the various members of the class, and on receiving satisfactory replies, turned to go, but, pausing in the doorway, he said, quietly, " I should wake that man up at the second table before the Sergeant comes back ; he might not like it."

A.S.E.

No. 4 (M.T.) Company

Introductory.—The saying goes, " Better late than never," so we hope that readers will forgive the long silence from this Company, and we promise that in future notes will be more regular. Now that we have got that off our chests, here goes.

Arrivals.—These are too numerous to mention, their stay in this Company being so short and sweet. But although we cannot mention them all by name, we sincerely hope that their stay with us will be a happy one.

Sergeant (Taffy) Davies, late "A" Corps Signals, arrived to take over the difficult job of Company Quartermaster to this Company. Stick it, " Q " ! You are one of the " Poverty Street Crowd " now.

Departures.—C.Q.M.S. Vine back to No. 3 (Shops) Company after a short stay with us. So you couldn't stick it, eh, Jimmy ?

We are very sorry to lose Sergeant (Wally) Hammond A. E. on being posted to a spot " Somewhere in England." Good luck to you, Wally, from all your pals. Don't forget the band you left behind, Bud, the next time you have a tootle on your sax.

Another " old-timer," Sergeant Lindsay (A.P.) to the A.P.M. Staff. Their gain is our loss.

Courses.—Lance Corporal (Mickey) Rooney A. has had a Physical Training Course at the Garrison Gymnasium. What we want to know now, Mickey, is : Do you still wear the striped jersey as a pyjama jacket ?

Marriages.—Driver Castleman to Miss Doris McCleave, at Shoreditch, London, on 13th October, 1940. Let us hope that the No. 13 is your lucky number from now on. Congratulation from all the Drivers of your Section. Now then, all you " Cads " who are always going to a neighbouring town, what about it ? Remember, this marriage racket is one way of getting " rich."

Another one to take the plunge was Signalman Smith A. to Miss Ruby Lightbody, on 12th October, 1940, at Richmond, Yorks. All the best to you both from us all.

Births.—Congratulations to Corporal Daish R. on being the proud parent of a fine bouncing daughter, Ann. Oh, Ann, if only you knew him as we do. Also Driver Simpson R., a daughter. Seems as though competition is running high around these parts. We understand that the fathers are standing up to the extra drain on their pockets rather well.

Entertainments.—The evening amusement side of this area is sure looking up these days. What with cinema shows, concerts (these supplied chiefly by E.N.S.A., to whom we are most grateful), and the usual " Sheiking " at the counters in the N.A.A.F.I., we find that our off-duty moments are well and truly catered for.

A concert held in the Institute on Wednesday, 9th October was arranged and produced by Driver Allen A. A., ably assisted by Driver Cairns and members of the A.T.S. Band arrangements were skilfully conducted by Signalman Hodsdon. A great show, and a grand time was had by all.

The Corporals' Mess had a dance in the Dining Hall on 19th September. Our Commanding Officer (Lieutenant-Colonel P. D. H. F——, Royal Signals) and officers of the Battalion were present. Members of the A.T.S. and W.A.A.F. were also with us, causing many heart throbs amongst the Junior N.C.O.s. The music was splendidly supplied by No. 4 (M.T.) Company Band, under the leadership of Sergeant (Wally) Hammond A. E., and which contributed largely towards the success of the evening.

The best of luck to all.

FOURCO.

1st Depot Battalion

Always Pushed but Never Absent.—It is borne in upon us that these notes will be too late for publication in November. A spot of leave has supervened, the giddy whirl of events sucked all thoughts of WIRE notes into its vortex and a merciful oblivion. As one of my literary predecessors has so aptly put it, " Not I but my affairs have made you wait."

Fiscal Policy.—This is getting tighter. Pay Clerks may come and go, but the eternal struggle goes on for ever. The new regime under which the Battalion Cadre groans is represented by a pay clerk who wears spectacles and has worn away his teeth ; he sits in unapproachable solitude and a cloud of acrid smoke, rumbling a delicate chant : " I can't give you any more, any more than I do."

Above his door is inscribed : " Abandon hope all ye that enter here," and " Fools rush in where angels fear to tread," also " Gather ye rosebuds while ye may." This last would indicate, apparently, that the aspirant would be more profitably employed in collecting the rosebuds herein beforementioned, and is thought to be the new and enlightened army's polite improvement on the rejoinder, " Run away and play marbles."

Money, it is said, is the root of all evil. Ah, how pure and innocent we shall grow ! Bah !

Empire Air Route.—This correspondence is now closed.

Sporting Life.—Football gets wetter and muddier. We can't tell you whom we have played or where, so there's no point in telling you how much we won by. We wouldn't tell you, anyway, if we had lost. De sportuis nil nisi bonum.

Tax, Postage, Evasion of.—Susty, 044, wishes to hear from Col. Blimp (ex-India).

Weather.—Is issued in accordance with established local tradition. What Keats said about this season of the year is quite well known ; what we think about it wouldn't get printed.

Britain's Newest Secret Weapon.—We are given to understand (on the reliable authority of the referee himself) that at a certain football match a player approached him with an ingratiating smile and the request, " Would you look after my teeth, please ? " The referee, bewildered but obliging, popped the dentures into his left breast pocket and absorbed himself in the game. Thereafter he went home. That night his wife slipped out of bed (it was Friday) and systematically went through his pockets. In the left and right trouser pockets she found respectively a piece of billiard chalk and a bottle opener. The right breast pocket produced a pay book, a couple of 108's and some dog-ends. At the left breast pocket she gave a sudden, frightened screech. Her husband sprang out of bed and dressed the wounds.

The next morning a recruit entered "A" Company Office and asked for Sergeant ——'s teeth ; the referee had to inform him that they were still embedded in his wife's pilfering fingers. There was such a flutter ! The squad was due to pass off that Saturday morning and they couldn't understand a word the Sergeant said to them. (This was just as well, since it would only have hurt their feelings.)

We therefore warn any would-be invader, and we warn the defenders of German-occupied territory.

Do's and Don't's for Young Beginners.—Don't, if a sentry, shouts " Halt ! Who goes there ? " reply " Florence Nightingale with a bag of chips."

Do, if you have let slip such an inappropriate and tactless remark, remind yourself that " there is an heroical vein of mankind that runs much in the soldiery." This may comfort you.

Join the Army and See the World.—Conscription for service by age groups has made a notable difference in the appearance of recruits seen en masse. Recruits these days are not nearly so obvious ; they are older and more mature in appearance—not, as they used to be, callow and gauche ; they no longer have to be watched continuously, nor do they specialise in doing the silly things that so aptly dub them " goons." Signalmen of the cadre possibly alone resent this change, for the barriers of class distinction and social superiority as between cadre and recruits are now no more—nor even is the difference between trained and untrained soldiers so readily discernible. It has been suggested that the cadre should wear a distinguishing badge. Ourselves we prefer that the recruits, as all green things of the field, should bear the mark. And we proffer, with all humility and respect, the following method of distinction :

"And for dyeing of your hairs, do it thus : take a pint of strong ale, half a pound of soot, and a little quantity of the juice of walnut-tree leaves, and an equal quantity of alum ; put these together into a pot, pan or pipkin, and boil them for half an hour ; and having so done, let it cool ; and being cold, put your hair into it, and there let it lie ; it will turn your hair to be a kind of water or glass colour, or greenish ; and the longer you let it lie, the deeper coloured it will be—but let it not be too green."

Atque Vale.—I must regretfully inform my large circle of fans that further notes from the Depot Battalion will be penned above another signature. Hounded from this Unit, I shall seek refuge in an adjoining Unit, where they don't know me—yet. And so I leave you, scholar ! My spirit is exhausted and so, no doubt, is your patience.

LFACKO.

Boys Training Company

General.—Since last month's literary effort we have something to report which has never yet occurred in the history of what is now a dilapidated remnant of a once proud " F " Company. Owing to the increasing demand for " rookies " and the fact that none of these aforesaid reptiles have yet arrived, our dominating body of husky, hairy he-men have diminished and consequently the conspicuous gap has been filled with members of the O.C.T.U.

So far they have not caused us any form of inconvenience, except that our Reveille is earlier, to provide time for both breakfasts. This has naturally caused quite a controversy, as can well be imagined, and had it not been for that brilliant body of men, our dear N.C.O. Boys, I am sure members of the Rajah section would have mutinied. This movement, however, was effectively nipped in the bud.

Education.—Members of the Company who still require subjects for that ever-striven-for achievement—namely, Army First Class Certificate—have already sat for their examination. Since the standard of papers was considered very easy (ahem !) we feel sure that many more lucky lads will be able to swing the lead. We wish you the best of luck and hope the examiner recognises the writing of his long lost son.

R.I.P.—A few Boys have taken a proverbial step up and are now Signalmen. They are : Lance Corporal Boys O'Connor and Perkins, Boys Brown and Morgan. We wish them the best of luck and quick promotion in their new Units.

Things We Want to Know.—When is the Company Band going to perform at the " Gaiety " ?

Who was the N.C.O. that the girls of the A.T.S. chased home and where did this N.C.O. pick up a black eye ?

Which member of the Company Office gets his ears pulled regularly by a member of the A.T.S. ?

Auf Wiedersehen !

HOPPY.

SPORTS NOTES

There has been a great change in our sporting line in the last few weeks. Four groups have been arranged and are named respectively : " The Killers," " The Terrors," " The Crusaders," and " The Queens." There is great rivalry between these teams. A graphical chart is kept of the progress of the groups and the team with the greatest number of points at the close the season is presented with a cup. (Up, the Crusaders, it is already ours !)

Hockey.—Our hockey team has been at work again and has, as usual, kept up the Company tradition in beating the Battalion team by 4 points to 1.

Rugby.—This popular sport is in full swing, under the supervision of Captain Bickmore, and the result is we have a fine team capable of challenging anyone. Fixtures have been arranged against many teams, including Barnard Castle School, St. Peter's, and Ampleforth. The team has already beaten the O.C.T.U. by 8 points to 5.

Soccer—Congratulations to Boy Martin on being selected to play for the Battalion.

Cross-country.—This health-giving sport has now been started again, under the supervision of the one and only Corporal Blades T. We hope that the picked team will carry on the traditions of the Boys' Training Company.

HOPPY.

Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess

After a long period of silence (necessitated, of course, through much hard work !) it has been decided to appoint a WIRE correspondent. (Note to Editor : Do I get any fee for this ?) The job was ladled out to this unfortunate scribe with the helpful advice of " Get on with it or else ! " Well, they've only themselves to blame.

Item 1.—The Mess having been very skilfully redecorated by Sergeant Shaw, it was decided to hold a Mess warming dance. So great was the attendance that the walls have bulged. A running supper bar was run, serving all tastes, from tongue and tomatoes to the elite to tripe and onions for those of the "Wimpy" class.

Item 2.—We wish the best of luck and good fortune to the following on their posting to other Units : C.Q.M.S.s Warman

and Manning, Sergeants Hammond, Challis and Wood A. E., and Lance Sergeant Manley. We also welcome Sergeant Davies to this Unit, and hope he will enjoy his stay in this delightful health resort.

Item 3.—The scribe has now collapsed from his mental efforts.

Note.—Watch next month's issue for a thrilling account of pig's trotter eating contest. No holds barred.

S.T.C. Wales

Depot Battalion

Hi-ya, blokes! Here's Bimbo back to blue you! Actually the breezy salutation belies my honest (?) feelings somewhat. The jolly little weather clerk seems to have forgotten that there is such a thing as sun and consequently the proverbial " pussies and puppies " have been pouring down to welcome Mother Earth. In short, my dear readers (both of you), it's raining. The sorry trend to this moan about the weather is that it invariably stays fine until after duty. Not to-night, Josephine—too wet!

The appropriate thing to do now would be to get out my flat-bottomed barge (humour) and sail forth in search of news; the absence of the F.B.B. makes this impossible, but, nevertheless, I'll paddle forth and see " who's to be done " in the Orderly Room. In this sanctuary of the ungodly an atmosphere of gloom prevails. You see, we've lost the "Adjee," Captain G. H. Starr; he's departed for " far, far greater fields to conquer." More power to your elbow, sah.! In his stead we welcome Captain J. D. T. Brett and extend to him the " mighty mitt." We feel sure that your stay with us will be a pleasant one, sir. (Smug, ain't we?). The rugger fans who bemoaned the fact that in Captain Starr we were losing a good performer, can breathe easy once again, because, if my memory serves me correct (it has been known to), his successor is no mean force on the rugger field.

The venture of an outside concert, mentioned in last month's notes, went over really big. Long before the curtain was scheduled to rise, " the powers in charge " were forced to disappoint a clamouring multitude by displaying the " House Full " placard. Our concert party justified the faith put in them by the local residents, and rendered a really spanking, top-notch show. Hats off to all those concerned. Personally, methinks the B.B.C. could do many a worse thing than take a toddle round these 'ere parts, complete with mike and all.

We in the wilds of Wales are certainly upholding the prestige of the Corps on the sports market. Our football " wallahs " put the sock in soccer. To date we have only lost one match, which is a jolly fine performance on an average of two games a week. The most notable of our successes is a 14—1 win against the R.A.F. Took the wind out of their propellers that time all right.

Now for the human element. The behaviour and general demeanour of one of our Senior N.C.O.s has been the cause of much speculation amongst the underlings. Sometime ago he was espied looking into a jeweller's window with one eye and squinting at his accumulated wealth (through weeks of abstinence) with the other. Although nothing has been said in " Official Quarters " it is the belief of many that he DID buy that engagement ring. How about it, Fudge?

To save time, paper, and lots of other things, the bally-hoo from H.Q., S.T.C., is being embodied in these ravings. The kick-off is on a congratulatory note; the congratulations go to Captain G. Thomson on attaining the rank of Major, and, with a long slide down the banister, to Lance Sergeant Methven in getting the " L " out of it.

Since the last erratic epistle one of our number, namely, Lance Corporal " Pubs " Morbin has been and dunnit. Yes, my dear reader, you've guessed it—he's single no longer. After taking an envious peep at the new Mrs. Morbin, we proffer our heartiest congratulations to " Pubs "; but being a " Bunk Mate " of the latter, I tender condolences to the " Missus." Golly! but how the man snores.

Ssh! It is whispered that in our midst there is someone who thinks that Prince Rhas (I gotta hoss) Monolulu is a fairy godmother in disguise. Nuff sed!



L/Corporal and Mrs. Morbin

Legend has it that " Enough is as good as a feast," so, as the bloke said to the leeches, " So-long, suckers! "

BIMBO.

"A" Company Depot Battalion

General.—We are sorry to lose Captain W. J. Drake to Administrative Wing, and welcome Lieutenant St. Clair Douglas as our new second-in-command. We wish Captain Drake all the best in his new duties, and express a hope that Lieutenant Douglas will soon settle down in his new job.

Although many of our new recruits are of the married status, and many have families in the danger areas, which breeds cause for much anxiety, they have settled down very well in their new life in the Service. The older hands are still working hard, and are keeping up the good traditions of the Company. To those who have passes-off recently, we wish all the best.

We hear on good authority (an A.C.I.) that the inventory of the Company may be changed somewhat in the near future. Many of the present Cadre will be very sorry to say good-bye.

Up to the present we have always been friendly rivals of " B " Company, but when " Jim " as he calls himself put out a challenge, we will soon take up arms. 67% indeed! In the first place we don't believe you; mind you, we ain't calling you a liar, Jim, but we just don't believe you. We never brag about our shooting, but, of course, since you challenge us, we CAN show you up with an average of 68% Section. Even then we were at a great disadvantage. You see out of the Section that shot, 12 men shot at the wrong target, 20 men missed the target altogether, there were 16 men on Guard, 25 men on Att. C. (1st T.A.B.) and 25 men on the R.S.M.'s fatigue party. So I don't think we can grumble at the result. Any advance on 68%? (I wonder.)

Promotions and Appointment.—We congratulate the following : Corporal C. W. Barnes appointed Lance Sergeant ; Lance Corporals Tute W. J., Foulkes E., Mercer P. and Farnen W. promoted A/Corporals. Nice work, fellows !

We are also pleased to note that " Pinkie " is now paid.

News Flash.—A certain clerk is going, or hopes to be going, to the War Office as a draughtsman. We hear that he has a good knowledge of electric fans, doors and windows, so he ought to make good.

Poem.—

HERE'S TO THE CADRE.

Here's to the C.O. and his boiler suit,
Here's to his concerts, don't throw any fruit,
Here's to his car, some say it is loot,
Here's to the Cadre.

Here's to those two known as " Jack " and " James,"
Here's to the shake on hearing their names,
Here's to extinguishers, what fun and games,
Here's to the Cadre.

Here's to those stalwarts, known as D.I.s,
Here's to their lingo when they blast someone's eyes,
Here's to commands such as " On the left, size,"
Here's to the Cadre.

Here's to " Mac " of P.T. renown,
Here's to romance, the talk of the town,
Here's to love, in which he's upside down,
Here's to the Cadre.

Here's to the " Quarter," of cycling fame,
Here's to a soaking and buckled-up frame,
Here's to the lesson he learned from the same,
Here's to the Cadre.

Here's to " Brassy " and his car of sorts,
Here's to the wreck which was once called a " sports,"
Here's to it anyhow, as long as it snorts,
Here's to the Cadre.

R. O. F.

Well, chaps, that's all I can think of for now, so all the best. Till next time.

(JIMMY) F.

"B" Company Depot Battalion

Here we are again ! Like a bad penny, we always turn up—even if we were missing last month.

Our Office Clerk has never forgiven me for not mentioning his promotion in our last issue. Well, " Dicky," here it is at last.

Corporal Dickson H. J. S. has worked hard for his other tape—he deserves it. There is also Corporal Fernihough W. H. and Lance Corporal Sharp N. W. to congratulate ; especially Lance Corporal Sharp, whose foot is now on the first rung of the ladder. Keep it up !

Our O.C., Captain D. K. Pilkington, has left us. We were sorry indeed to lose him, and we wish him success, wherever he has gone, and in whatever he undertakes.

We welcome, in his place, Captain Freer-Ash, whom we can assure of happy co-operation from our N.C.O.s. We also welcome him as a father to our happy family, as we in " B " Company are. We hope that your stay in our midst, sir, be it long or short, will be a happy one.

" Esprit de Corps." This phrase has been introduced to our Company by our new C.S.M., namely, and none other than, B.S.M. Abbott H. S., M.M. We really aren't quite sure of the meaning of this phrase, but we are told by an high authority that the opposite meaning is " ———, Jack ; I'm all right."

B.S.M. Abbott is revolutionising things. " Hurray ! " We welcome you, Sergeant-Major ; your wit keeps us alive ; and we as N.C.O.s appreciate that little " conflab " we had together on your arrival. You can be assured of nothing less than our best. (We don't really believe what they said about you at the concert.)

I see we have lost " Tex " from the Stores. What's the reason ? Is it that every time we go there we find a black spaniel guarding the 4 x 2 ? The beast's eyes seem to say, " Lay off, or I'll bite." Whose dog is it, anyway ? Surely it doesn't belong to the " Q."

Who is the Senior N.C.O. who thought that the sand-dunes were in his tour when on duty ?

We have noticed a certain N.C.O.'s new front teeth ; I suppose they do offer support to the top lip when one's wife lives in the district. It's just too bad that you can't live out, old man ; our sympathies are with you.

Everybody enjoyed Lance Corporal Davis's monologue, given at one of our Local Talent Concerts. By gum, Jim, you don't suffer from stage fright, do you ? Well done, anyway.

There doesn't seem much more to talk about now, so " Here's to the next time."

JIM.

Yorkshire 3

3rd Operators Training Battalion

The last of these notes was occupied largely with he visit of the Corps Band, so that if too great mention is made of it again there will probably be danger of air raid sirens being drowned by howls from those not so fortunate as to receive two visits in so short a time.

At the moment the return visit is in the future, by a few days, but it occupies such a large space that it would be impossible to omit it. Once again the town is as eager as the troops, and the local Mayor is showing all the hospitality for which his " province " has become renowned among the troops.

He and the Mayoress are giving a ball in the Town Hall, at which the Corps Band is providing the music and from which the proceeds go to the Corps Comforts Fund. A " bill " of artists in keeping with the occasion is also due, so can you wonder if 3 S.T.C. practically eats and drinks " band " at the moment ?

With this example in front and a first-class reputation to live up to, the Unit Dance Band is getting into its old-time swing again. It makes regular appearances at army concerts and dances and certainly shows no signs of the failing to live up to the hard work put into it.

If this is devoted so largely to entertainment put it down to the black-out now stretching well into both ends of the day ; but other competitors before the 500-watt limelight come from No. 2 Company.

There, the concert party with the name suggestive of a tommy-gun squad is making quite a name for itself. First shining their light rather hesitantly behind the bushel of a Company show, " The Racketeers " are now doing so well that they might be now termed " The Lighthouse Keepers."

They first tested for " radiation " with a new tapping as the guests and entertainers of our good friends at the Tramway Social Club and are now intent on paying off debts to several more of the local citizens.

On the sports side, the grass scarcely had time to stretch its limbs so recently snipped by the lawn-mower until it was pounded down by studded boots—and to good purpose, too. Both the rugger and soccer teams have been carrying a lot in front of them, although the former in their most recent match had to bow 8—16 to 3rd General Training Battalion.

One thing which seems to be lacking so far is a table tennis team. Judging by some of the play seen in the more-than-excellent recreation room there should be little difficulty in raising a first-class team there alone.

One of those little incidents which keep life bright even in the " dampest " of constantly damp weather. A good lady, whose house overlooks a parade ground was extremely interested one drill period in the slow march. So interested was she in the performance, carried out in neatly trimmed ranks at the " slope," that she stopped two Lance Corporals when the parade was over to ask if " that was used for creeping up on the enemy."

It says a lot for Signals training that the two retained their composure perfectly till at least 20 yards had been put between them and their interlocutress.

Depot Battalion

We have been very lazy with our notes these past few months, but now that we have dug ourselves in for the winter (we hope) we will be able to resume contact with our contemporaries. Life has been pretty active since we left our health resort, and we have been likened to the wandering gypsies, and there was talk once that we were going to adopt that well-known tune, " The Wandering Vagabonds " as our march past, but that is fast receding into the dim past. We are now preparing ourselves for the job of once again holding up our heads amongst the best in the land and to return to the days when we were able to turn out the boys as they should be turned out, and to combine work with sport and play. Now that the winter months are once again with us, football has come into its own. We hope as time goes on to extend our activities in this sphere and to regain the reputation that we once held.

The weekly dance is still one of our main forms of entertainment. This is reinforced with concerts, either from outside or by local talent. We held one such concert a few weeks ago in aid of the local Spitfire fund, and this under the energetic influence of our Entertainments Officer, 2nd Lieutenant D. A. St. J. Hollis, proved a huge success.

On the evening of 12th October, the W.O.s and Sergeants of the Depot Battalion, S.T.C., both officially and unofficially opened their Mess. Duly at 7 o'clock (or rather 19.00 hrs.) the guests, which included Brevet Colonel C. H. Walsh, D.S.O., M.C., Majors Lazenby and Bell, and twelve other officers arrived. The first warming was performed by H.M.S. " Sherry," as purchased by Sergeant Jack Mudge, better known to some as the Gestapo-man. However, the President and Sergeant Osmond, our cookery expert, soon decreed that dinner should be served, and we duly took up our positions behind chairs in the dining room, and just in case we had forgotten who we were, cards with our names on were put on each man's plate.

Sergeant Osmond and his confreres are to be congratulated on their excellent cooking and choice of menu, which was as well thought out as it must have been difficult to procure these days. Also congratulations to the President and members of the committee for the excellent turnout in general.

After dinner various toasts were drunk and everyone spent quite a long time autographing other people's menu cards and wondering where their own was.

We then filed into other rooms, where Sandbag Joe, who had enjoyed his dinner even though the menu had confused him a little, gave an exhibition of how to play draughts without losing too often. Sergeant Jock then put on his act of naming the Wizard of Oz, which caused much " earty " laughter. But when he kept insisting that Lieutenant Halliday was the Adjutant Sergeant " Ticky " Willis and C.Q.M.S. Norman H. considered, and rightly, too, that bedtime was Jock's time.

Finally all agreed that the House had been well and truly warmed, most of its occupants being over-warmed, and we went on our way rejoicing and wondering which Sergeants' Mess we could warm next.

SEXTON.

"A" Company Depot Battalion

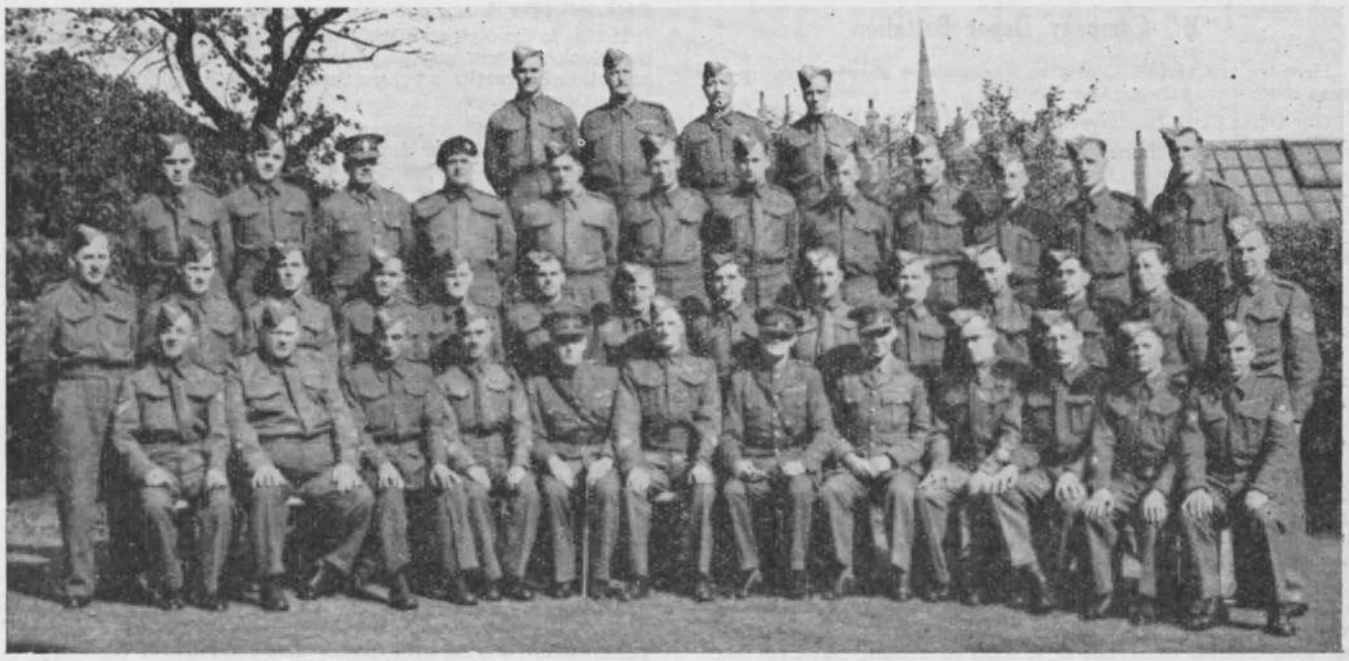
Now that we are back amongst the loving and tender arms of the Depot, after enjoying a brief spell of solitude, we can resume our notes on the life which we are at present leading.

Much has happened since our last notes appeared, although we have not yet lost our reputation of who is the best Company and why is " A."

Football has once again come into its own, and although up to the moment we haven't anything to boast about it won't be long before we get it properly organised, and are once again able to hold our own with the best.

We have lost two of our best D.I.s in Sergeant Bott W. J., who has passed into the arms of the Holding Battalion, and Sergeant Cockerton, who has proceeded to one of our brother Companies; also Corporal Wright, our Chief Clerk, who has joined the " Q " Branch. Our best wishes go with them, and we hope they will be as successful and happy as they were with us.

3rd S.T.C. DEPOT BATTALION



Senior Officers, Warrant Officers and Sergeants

Congratulations.—Hearty congratulations to C.S.M. Kennedy J. on being promoted to C.S.M.; Sergeants Godley, Hall and Baker on gaining full rank; Lance Sergeants Stewart and Leyland on their rise to the senior rank; and Corporal Edwards and Lance Corporal Nash on their having a bit more weight to carry about.

Arrivals.—We welcome to our Company Corporals Collins and Merrick, Lance Corporals Foot, Firmin, Stenhouse and Broad. May their stay with us be as happy as any they have known.

SEXTON.

London District Signals

"London District Signals" Proves Itself—One Year's Development.—The scene in the Drill Hall one evening recently can justly be described as one presenting an animated appearance. Colour and sparkle abounded, and all was revelry and joy. Swarthy Don R.s flitted around with perspiring operators, whilst gallant officers exchanged an idle word with the charming wives of N.C.O.s. The interested observer, having had his honest sevenpence wrested from his grasp by the indefatigable barman, may well have wondered what this mixture of Roman saturnalia and boat-race night in peace-time portended.

It was the officers and men of the L.D.S. with their wives and friends, celebrating in their own simple little way the fact that this was the first anniversary of the commencement of the Unit. That same observer would have been more than interested had he known that just a year ago, one sergeant and four other ranks only had been banded together under the imposing title "London Area Signal Section."

Since that date a year ago, strides have been made. Within a month an officer, a warrant officer, three sergeants and —— other ranks had been added to the strength. The following month saw a change of title to "London Area Signal Company," owing to the still further increased numerical strength. By July, 1940, the Unit numbered over —— with —— officers, —— warrant officers and —— sergeants. Shortly after the title was changed to "London Area Signals," and to-day, "The London District Signals" has numbers still mounting although excluded by the censor.

It must be very difficult for the recruit to realise that it is only a matter of months since such imposing personages as those who rap out commands on the Square were in precisely the same position as he. That is not true in every case, of course. Just after the commencement of the Unit, a party of 31 "old crocks" from the First London Divisional Signals arrived at the —— of ——. This party included such well-known names as Gover, Buttle, Hale, Denby, Guyennette, Muir, Northcott, Weyman and "Tiny" Willis. To what dizzy heights will they eventually soar? Seventy-two "immatures" from the 5th Corps shortly followed, but the noise at night proved too much for the "old crocks," and 36 were returned to —— with compliments and thanks.

Then the "Catterick Boys" arrived. Looked upon with awe by the "old crocks" and the "immatures," they were paraded about the —— of —— as being THE THING. Ever since, the growth of the Unit has been mainly due to direct enlistments, with one or two exceptions, such as the arrival of a well-known pipe sergeant-major from another Unit.

One day a PERSONALITY arrived. There was no doubt about it. Everyone, including the officers, were undoubtedly shaken. That "extra something" simply exuded from him; it exfoliated from within. R.S.M. Wells had arrived in the guise of a modest operator. From that day forth the Square was to assume its real significance, and to-day it is regarded as a "holy of holies."

Thus has the Unit grown. To those of the original London Area Signal Section it must be a continual source of interest to watch its changes, and those who are more or less recent arrivals will watch with the same interest its future development.

Greetings from Free France.—"The personnel of the Army of Free France send to their comrades of the London District Signals their hearty salutations. They are happy to be here and to continue to fight side by side with their English friends. They remember that their fathers fought shoulder to shoulder with your fathers, and they will say now, as they said in 1914 to 1918—'On les aura!'"—Lt. Jean Hesse, Personal Aide-de-Camp and Representative in England of General de Gaule.

This message was passed on, with the aid of an interpreter, to an L.D.S. representative at a function recently held at ——, when our fellows fraternised with French sailors and soldiers.

PHYSICAL TRAINING AND RECREATION

General.—Physical training plays a great part in the life of the London District Signals, and with the arrival of Sergeant-Instructor Rendell G. W. we expect great things. At present the organisation is in its elementary stages, but with the continued hard work on the part of the instructors, successful results, it is hoped, will be realised.

Arrangements are being made, and the equipment and apparatus gathered together for gymnasium work this winter. It is hoped that the Drill Hall will be available for this purpose, where ranks can do voluntary P.T. and gymnastics after duty. We are fortunate enough to be able to use —— Athletic ground most mornings of the week, and it is felt that the men are not only finding the regular exercise and games beneficial, but that they are actually enjoying them.

Hidden away in his P.T. office, Sergeant Rendell has been quietly manufacturing medicine balls of a most superior nature. Soon these queer, but nevertheless useful shapes, will be brought out in the daylight, making P.T. lessons more interesting. Stick exercises are to be introduced, and Q.II is reminded to keep a careful stock of its broom-handles.

Lance Corporal Masters, who started the ball a-rolling has just completed another three weeks' Course, and no doubt we shall notice many new improvements. Lance Corporals Putnam and Turner, our two instrumentalists and inseparable "twins," are also to attend similar courses. We can rest assured that they will return full of zest, putting new vigour into P.T.

Men are reminded that we have a good supply of varied kit which can be borrowed on application to any of the instructors, who are only too willing to assist keen sportsmen and P.T. enthusiasts. It is no trouble for them to change into P.T. kit after duty.

Basket Ball.—One of Sergeant Rendell's first jobs when he arrived was painstakingly to mark out and paint a basket ball pitch. It has been used fairly frequently, but it would be more encouraging to see larger numbers participating after duty. It is a most fascinating and energetic game, combining swiftness and brainwork. Perhaps it is the lack of acquaintance with the game which accounts for the small number of players. However, an inter-Section Tournament is to be held, and this will undoubtedly bring to light, to the majority, the advantages of the game.

Unarmed Combat.—Most people who attend the P.T. parades now know something about unarmed combat and its uses, and it is intended to increase this knowledge.

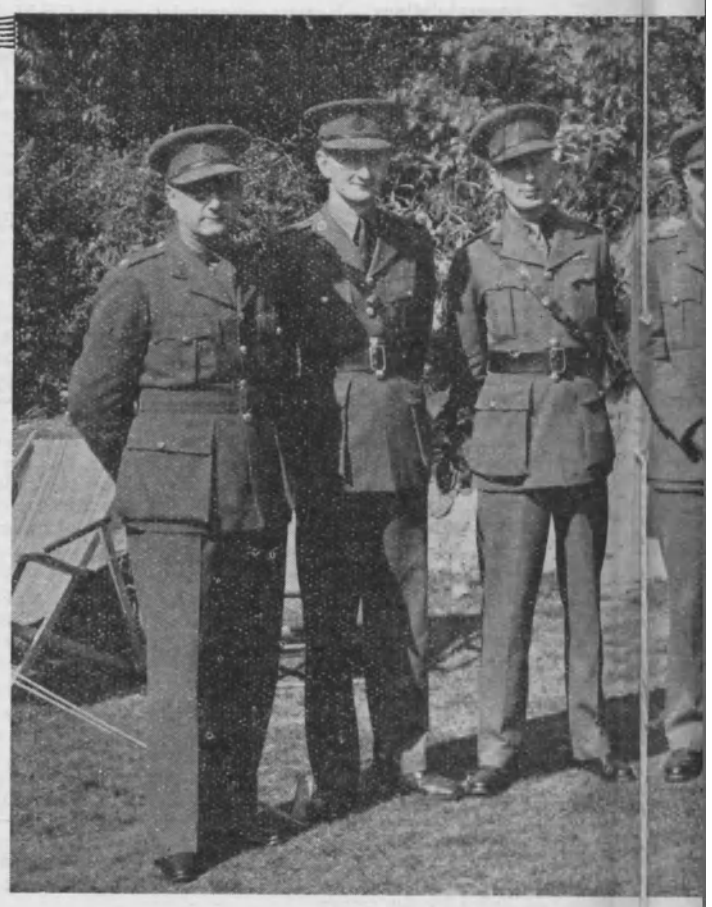
"Round the House" Football.—Two very exciting games of "Round the House" football have been played and it is presumed that everybody taking part enjoyed it immensely. The Commanding Officer captained one side on one occasion, while Captain Calvert led the other. Several of the other officers also took part, and the enthusiasm reached a high level.

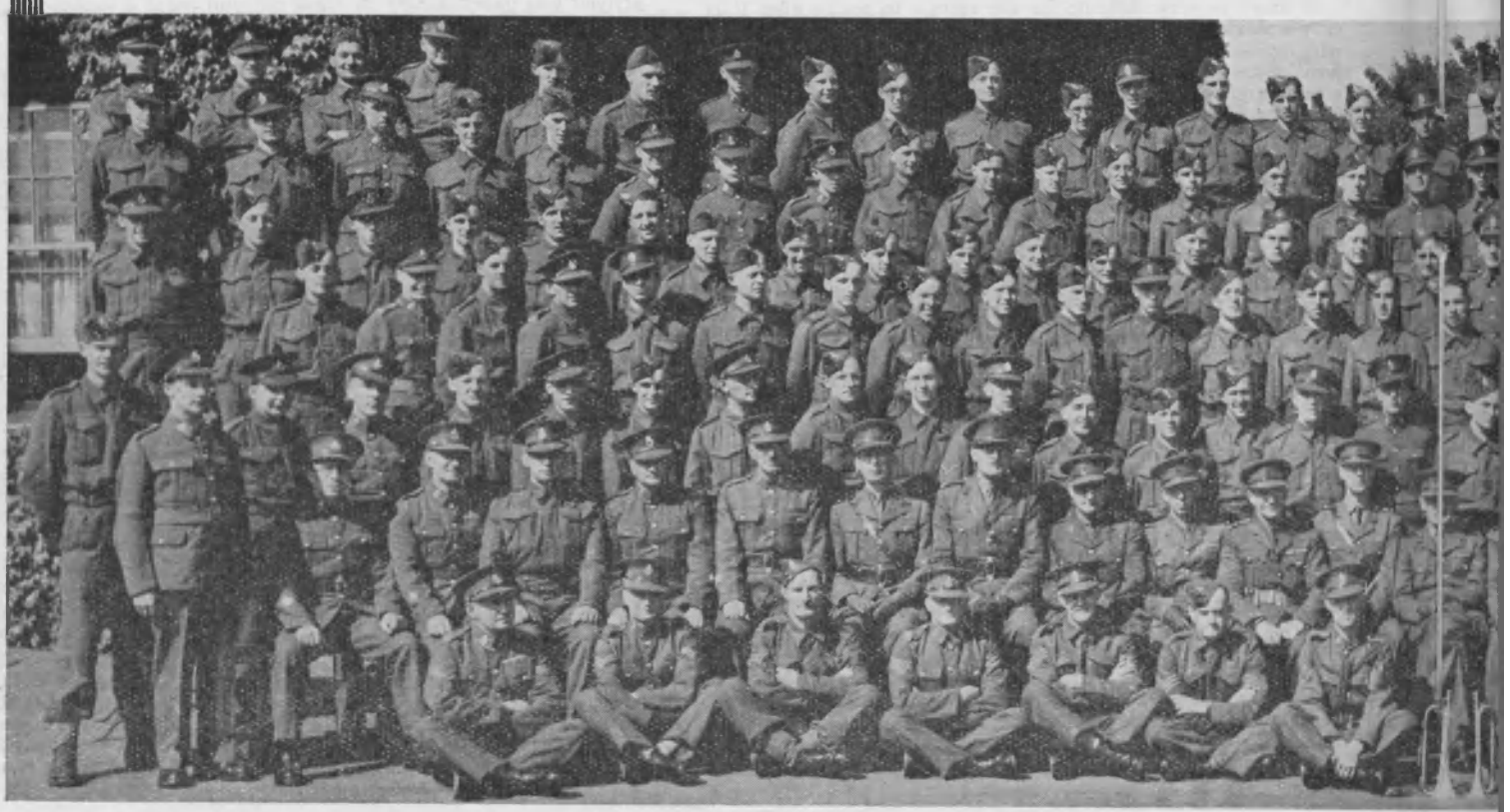
Anti-Gas Obstacle Training.—An interesting obstacle course was set out and arranged under the careful supervision of the instructor in the indoor Riding School. The purpose of this instruction was to get the men used to travelling over rough ground and possible obstacles in the event of an attack by gas. The surrounding proved ideal, and on the command "Gas!" the competitors with their respirators at the alert had to complete the course wearing face-pieces.

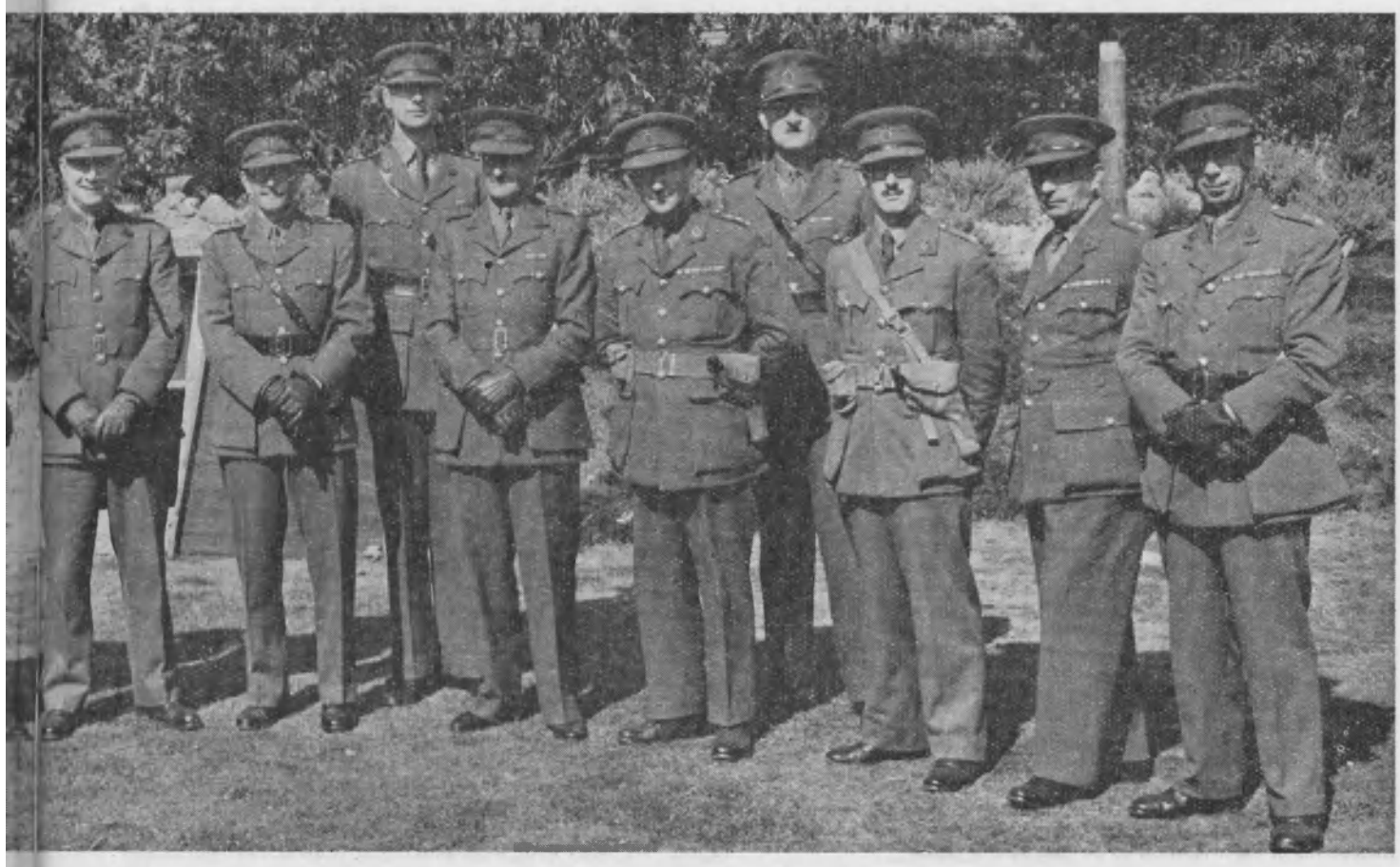
Football.—Arrangements for football are progressing most satisfactorily, and already several soccer players approaching first-class standard have been discovered, mainly through a nine-a-side tournament held on the Square.

Each Section took part, the games lasting half-an-hour each way. Headquarters' Section found a red-hot centre-forward with a rasping shot in either foot in Signalman Udal. His style is reminiscent of Drake of Arsenal, although he is not so clumsy; and he can use his head. Signalman Brand of this Section is a

LONDON DISTRICT SIGNALS









sparkling outside-right, and of the prolific number of goals scored in the few matches of the tournament, the majority came from the combination of these two players. With Signalman Marshall in the defence breaking up the most promising movements with his timely tackling and sure kicking, the Section carried all before them and won the tournament almost with ease. Almost, it must be stated, for in the first match, the Operators, playing only eight men in the second half, held them to a 3—2 result. Having overcome this first hurdle, however, H.Q. found the rest comparatively easy, and romped home with such wins as 6—2, 6—1 and 5—1.

All the talent was not confined to the winning team, however. The Drivers found a fast-moving inside-right in Driver Dixon. There was no fancy stuff about him, but he was hard at it all the time, and two goals in particular which he scored will long be remembered by those who saw them. One, a terrific shot, was taken when it seemed almost impossible for him to reach the fast-travelling ball, and the other, a 20-yard " sizzler," left the 'keeper helpless.

For the Linemen, Signalman Buttle played a steady, hard-working game at centre-half, and the Unit buglers teamed up again as a sound pair of backs.

Signalman Marder worked a number of openings for the Operators' forwards, playing at inside-left, and fell back to clear his line time and time again when hard pressed. Signalman Underwood would cause no surprise if, one fine day, he came home with a good crop of goals to his credit.

One afternoon a practice match was held at Hampstead Heath. Sergeant Tucker really enjoyed himself in goal, using hands, fists, elbows and feet to keep his charge intact. The nose of one of his backs could afterwards bear testimony to the fact that as a goalkeeper, the Sergeant was a first-rate scrapper.

A football is always available in the Guard Room for anyone desirous of practising on the Square. It is pleasing to see that a number of men have availed themselves of this advantage and have arranged games and shooting practice on their own initiative.

The rugby code has not been forgotten. Fixtures and teams are in course of arrangement, and a number of men have availed themselves of an invitation to be taught the game.

Cricket.—Thanks to a great extent to Major Rodd and the R.A.O.C. eleven under his command, a very pleasant, if not particularly successful series of matches, was played in the latter half of the season. We were seldom able to call upon our strongest side, except, fortunately, for the match at Lords, but in August we were strengthened by the arrival of E. R. Conradi, the Cambridge blue. His 81 at —— against the Police was mainly responsible for a fine win a few minutes before time, after the Police had declared. The side was captained by Signalman Johnson A., a former Blackpool player, when available, and on the other occasions by Signalman Greene H.

Lords was looking at its best on 9th August, for our match against —— Police. Johnson won the toss and we batted first. Conradi and the captain put on 63 for the third wicket and the innings was finally completed for 166, leaving the Police ample time to get the necessary runs, especially as their side included Lee, the Somerset opening batsman. For a time things went well for the Police and 96 runs were on the board for the loss of three wickets, but a sudden collapse followed and five wickets fell for the addition of two runs. The ninth wicket managed to play out time, helped by a slight delay in moving the barrage balloon which swung behind the bowler's arm.

We were glad to notice the C.S.O. and our Commanding Officer in the members' stand, and also Mr. Hodge, our Medical Officer, who has taken over the job of Sports Officer to the Unit.

Scores: L.D.S., 166 (Conradi 55, Johnson 32); Police, 105 for 8 (Portwain 26, Lee 25). Match drawn.

Four matches were played against the Ordnance on the —— Ground, three of which were lost and one drawn. The Ordnance won the first match of the series fairly easily in spite of a noble effort by C.Q.M.S. Reece, but the second match was a closer affair, the Ordnance winning by 17 runs. For the Signals, Johnson took five wickets for 28 and Platt four wickets for the same number of runs. The third match was drawn, rain stopping play. The main feature of the Signals batting was a useful stand for the second wicket by Signalman Goddard and Signalman Carmichael, the latter of whom, a useful left-hand bowler, also took three wickets. The final match, played to the accompaniment of machine guns overhead, was mainly notable for the fine all-round display of Signalman Buttle, who, besides taking six wickets for 37, and scoring 28, rounded off his performance with the hat-trick.

Three matches were played against Police teams, two against the local police and one at —— against the —— Row Police. The first match, against —— Police, resulted in a win for the Police. We gained our first victory of the war against the —— Row team at —— Police College when, after the Police had declared at 138 for 7, E. R. Conradi (81) and Marsh (30 not out) knocked off the runs a few minutes from time.

GAFFER IN THE L.D.S.

It started all along of some gert fule wot called 'isself moi frien'. Y'see some forty year ago come next dung-spreadin' oi first started reportin' our village tournyments fer the county kronikle, an' oi may say sa there were few accounts loike moin as were printed. The Editor 'isself told oi as much.

Well, when oi saw all the young fellers of our village a-jinin' up, oi says to moiself, " Gaffer," oi says, " you'm only 83 come next Michaelmas, you mun do your bit." So up oi comes to London, and on account of moi service in the Croimea, or one o' them little to-dos, the Commanding Officer of the L.D.S., bein' a decent sort o' feller, said 'e'd overlook as 'ow oi wor a little over-age, an' 'e signed me on as a lineman.

All wor goin' foine until a few days ago, an' oi rack'n as oi were well in the runnin' for moi stroipe. Oi were that smart on parade that none o' the other fellows in moi section could keep pace wi' me—in fact, so far as oi could see, they couldn't keep pace wi' theirselves. Wat's more, oi'd learned all their dirty songs, an' oi do say as oi were 'avin' a foine toime, runnin' up an' down telegraph poles, takin' bits o' wire 'ere an' there, an' bringin' 'em back again.

Then that there Sarjint Rendell comes bargin' along, interruptin' our 'appy little loife, interducin' a lot of daft games and tournyments. 'E arranges a game o' all-in football on the Square, an' just afore the game, goes an' catches 'flu, so that there were no one to referee it. An' this was where that feller " Strawberry " wot oi'd always thought to be a foine cove proved 'isself a voiper in the boozum. 'E let on wot oi'd told 'im in secret—that oi once were a sportin' journ'list, an', of course, oi know'd all about football. Wot 'e didn't let on was that our village 'ad a code all on its own.

'Owever, on the day afore the match, oi wor sittin' smokin' moi ole clay in the mess after tea, when along comes the C.O. " Gaffer." 'e says, quiet-like wi' that noice smile o' 'is, " You've prob'ly 'eard as 'ow that twerp Rendell 'as gawn an' took 'flu. Well, ole " Strawberry " were a-tellin' me when we were out ridin' along the Row the other day, that you know'd all about footer. So oi rack'n as you're just the feller to ref the match. An' remember, oi'm captinin' one soide, and ole Shearmey-boy the other. May the Lard 'elp you if 'is soide wins." An' with that, 'e said, " Cheeroh, Cocky ! " an' walked out without so much as givin' me toime to say, " 'ere, 'old 'ard ! "

Next day, there was both o' them teams—twenty-foive a soide—a-waitin' for me on the Square, so oi blows moi whistle for them to start. " Not 'ere, fathead," yells out Capting Calvert, " We starts over at the blinkin' M'nagerie," So we all moves over there, an' oi blows moi whistle agen.

Next thing oi know'd was that both teams were on top 'o me, an' somebody's elbow was jabbed smartly in moi weskitt. It's a wonder oi didn't swallow moi whistle. When oi come round. the m'nagerie was deserted, so oi gets painfully to moi feet, an' 'obbles off to foind the teams. Oi foinds them in a 'eap at one end o' the Square, and rushes up to where they were. Oi'd no sooner got there than they all rushes up to the other end, and then there was a big cheer, an' everybody stopped playin'. Oi went up to see what was the matter, 'an' someone told me as Lt. Shearme 'ad scored. Remembrin' wot the C.O. 'ad told me, oi said, " No 'e 'asn't; 'e was off-side." Then oi blew moi whistle for 'alf-toime.

Oi goes up to the C.O. an' pats 'im on the back. " Ow was that, sir ? " oi says, beamin', expectin' to see the customary pleasant smoile. Instead, a ferocious scowl greeted me, and the C.O. growls, " You pore mutt, 'e kicked it in 'is own goal . . . ! "

Well, oi'm still waitin' for moi stroipe, an' oi've bin on sanitary duty ever since. Which only goes to show—don't tell no secrets to no snakes in the undergrowth loike that there " Strawberry."

G'bye all,

GAFFER.

Warrant Officers' and Senior N.C.O.s' Mess

The Mess is now going very strong in attendance. I don't know whether it is because the place is more " homvfied," with the added attraction of three bee-eautiful machines, or whether lady friends are keeping indoors on account of this so-called " Blitz."

We started running Wednesday Socials, and the first four or five were very successful. But nowadays, the members' lady friends just can't get here. Still, I think " Titch " Reece is glad in one way, because, after all, he still has his drums to play with, and, of course, "Alec " will always oblige if there is any buckshee beer to be knocked back. "Alec " and " Steve " seem to be the best of pals lately. Pity really, because we used to enjoy the quarter of an hour's good laugh when these two got together. Perhaps " Johnnie " has been giving them some P.A.D. chat. They say that " Curly " Tucker is still murmuring " Warm again ! " and that Forsyth's favourite is " Roll on ! " I haven't yet found out what these sayings mean, but that's neither here nor there.

I have heard it whispered that "Alex " intends to run his " Fido " at the local track. He seems to be fattening it up (no, not for Christmas !). Anyhow, " Fido " might be made favourite if he is entered with the Commanding Officer's dog and " Maxie."

I am looking out for an old visor to present to old Jock Ritchie, as he seems to be in the wars lately. Concrete and battle bowlers seem to keep on looming up before him.

We would like to see some old mess pals of the 1st London Division drop in for a few beers if they are ever passing through the district.

More scandal next month.

EDDYDON.

Headquarters Section

Despite bombs, land mines, and other subtle forms of Nazi propaganda, the activities of the Headquarters Section have been carried on unabated throughout the Barrage and the Blitz. Just what those activities are is a deep and deadly secret, which we are not allowed to reveal, but in authoritative circles we have heard the view expressed that nothing could be finer than the way in which certain members of the Section, with a magnificent disregard for their own personal safety, stumble through hails of shrapnel and bombs—not to mention the hazards of the black-out—to the security of our strongly fortified and blast-proof canteen.

In the words of " 1066 and all that," this is considered to be a GOOD THING.

The entertainment level of the canteen has reached a new peak since certain respected members of the " Upper Ten " found new and unexpected billets for their darts. Nevertheless it fell to the lot of a modest member of the Section who had sampled well the local brew, to hit the bull of a target he obviously could not see.

This is considered to be rather a POOR SHOW on his part.

Nevertheless, the thanks of the Unit are due to our C.O. who started the canteen, and to Lance Corporal Woods and his two henchmen who run it.

This is thought to be a VERY GOOD THING.

The —— Buildings Look-out, for a time manned exclusively by our Section, is continuing its activities. (But, oh, when winter comes !) Some of its members are suffering from astracervicitis (star-gazers' neck), but all is well, for Lance Corporal Turner has discovered a new planet, to be named Johnstonius Sergentius Barragi, after the Great Man whose activities made the discovery possible. Lance Corporal Turner has, in consequence, adopted a new crest for his trumpet, " Per ardua ad astra," which means " Women and children first."

This is considered to be a DOUBTFUL THING.

Of our other activities, the censor will allow little to be revealed. Suffice it to say that the Orderly Room continues to slumber peacefully in front of the fire despite all Adolf's deluges of hate, while there were recently seven nervous breakdowns inside a week among Unit Office clerks suffering from exhaustion, overwork and pneumonia.

This is considered to be a VERY DREADFUL THING.

In conclusion, the Unit Office has suffered a sad bereavement by the departure of its famous twins. Signalmen Broome and Rayner have emerged from their perambulators and Lance Corporals Broome and Rayner have departed with nice new stripes and our best wishes to the new offices of Nos. 3 and 1 Companies respectively. (What have Nos. 1 and 3 Companies done to deserve such a thing ?)

We are not sure whether this is a SAD or CRUEL THING.

" Certa Cito ad Canteenum."

Rumour Has It (Dr. Goebbel's inside information).—That the Watsham Bomb-shop is shortly to open a new branch. (Have you sampled our nice new line in parachute mines, unexploded, yet ? Definitely the latest thing from Krupps.)

That Quarter Muir has found the whole Unit to be in debt and is going on leave as there is nobody left to pay.

That the Adjutant has discovered a 1914 Accidents File and has forwarded it to the British Museum (to use as they think fit).

That Signalman Windibank had a very, very good leave.

(Our congratulations to Signalman Windibank on his recent espousal.)

That Signalman Maule has in two months—

Licked 7777777777 labels.
Sent 7777777777 letters to the wrong people.
Is shortly to receive his C.1 rating for such meritorious and devoted service.

That Sergeant Hammerton is shortly to start on his 7956th Nominal Roll of the Unit. The other 7,955 looked quite good at first, too !

That, having covered everything else within sight, Lance Corporal Putnam is embarking on a long-term programme of wall-balancing at 57, —— Buildings.

That Signalman Harvey has lost his scissors and is now doing better than ever before with a lawn-mower.

That the author of this is either going to get a transfer in a hurry, or is going to spend the rest of his army life making out his own charge sheets.

OPERATORS

Attendances on parade of late have, on occasion, been strongly reminiscent of the tale of the ten little nigger boys. Once or twice there has been some doubt as to whether two ranks and a marker could be attained.

Signalman Hooper, one of the latest recruits, has gained for No. 2 Section the height record—beyond a shadow of doubt. Little editorial confidence, however, is placed in the veracity of the tale going the rounds that when the C.S.O. last inspected the school, he asked Hooper a question, and after being answered, told him he could sit. Upon hearing, which Hooper told him in aggrieved tones that he was already seated. Likewise no credence can be given to a report concerning Signalman Murray, who following a generous diet of his native " food " has an extremely genial expression. It is stated that, having been placed on a charge for wearing his normal expression, he is about to undergo a face-lifting operation to rectify matters.

Congratulations are due to Sergeant Cowan who has lately acquired a daughter, and who, incidentally, is developing a pretty technique with a pram. Also we should like to congratulate Signalman Hothersall who ceased to be " captain of his soul " some short time ago.

Rumour has it that Signalman Smith G. R., one of the most glamorous of the Section, is in danger from female souvenir hunters on these occasions when he shows himself to his public.

The " Moustache Glorious " in possession of Signalman Kirke is in excellent fettle, and flourishing like " the green bay tree." This does not necessarily mean that he is in any way comparable to the other members of society who resemble that remarkable tree.

Despite numerous attempts to interview Signalman Williams J. R., who has lately gone to ——, we have been unable to contact him, as whenever our representative called, he was resting.

A correspondent wishes to know whether it is a fact that it is impossible to pass out as a B3 Operator without a sound knowledge of Cookhouse Procedure.

It is believed that Lance Corporal Hurst is still somewhat shaken by the fact that when he was Guard Commander last, the command to proceed to the Guard Room too quickly followed the command, " Guard Commander take post," with the result that not only did the Guard get a very sporting start to the Guard Room, but much of the effect of the Corporal's execution of the first command was lost.

It may be of some use to recall to the notice of those of No. 2 Section who are a trifle hazy about them, a few procedure signals not found in Vol. 5, but in common use :

OO five times : " Time to break off, Sergeant." Mostly used at a few minutes to eleven.

$\overline{\text{VE}}$ twenty times : " This key is no darned good."

A prolonged and staccato series of dots may indicate an erasure. It also confirms the impression of the key given by $\overline{\text{VE}}$ twenty times.

Signalman Conradi is to be confirmed in his high office as " Chief Key Adjuster."

LINEMEN

A lorry full of dirty but brazen-looking youths enters the barrack gates. Draped in overalls and webbing equipment, they descend from the vehicle and disappear round the parade ground to their barrack rooms. Later, washed, and looking somewhat cleaner, they are eating and talking together in the men's mess.

Such a scene can be witnessed most evenings of the week, and everybody knows that it is the Linemen returning after another day's strenuous work. Under the fatherly eye of their N.C.O. they leave barracks before morning parade most days, and do various jobs around the —— area. They enjoy their work, ee many strange happenings and meet queer people.

Important lines are being laid from gun posts, telephone exchanges and underground dug-outs. Units stationed within the —— area are getting to hear of the London District Signals and their good work through the Line Section. These cheery lads get on very well with whomsoever their jobs bring them into contact. Some of their acquaintances even go so far as to provide the hot water for a nice cup of tea of an afternoon.

When not out on line work, they usually (and unfortunately) click for the majority of fatigues. But they console themselves with the thought that they are the only men who can do a real fatigue and do it properly. Do you want coal-men ? We have them. Are you thinking of moving in the near future ? Just let us know. Furniture removing is right up our ally, or so Q.II seems to think. Think of any important regimental duty you like from orderly runner to bath-house attendant, our record shows that the lineman has done it at some time in his career.

Seriously, however, many efficient jobs have been done about the barracks. Every month more lines are laid linking up one office with another.

Gradually the Section is coming to the fore in Unit affairs. Older members of the Unit have only to recall the concert produced last winter under great difficulties, to see how true this is. How original and entertaining it was, how clean were the jokes, how varied the artists and how versatile !

There is one outstanding feature in the Section. That is the close comradeship of its men. It is noticeable how they do most things together ; how they sing on a route march or on the lorry. Surely it is more of this which we want to see.

The Linemen are reaching for great heights, and we feel sure that the day will come when other members of the Unit will be clamouring to the C.O. for transfers to this Section.

" We may look ragged and funny,
We haven't got a barrel of money,
But we're marching along,
Singing a song,
Side by side ! "

DESPATCH RIDERS

With the coming of dark evenings comes the not very pleasing prospect of long runs in the rain and stormy weather. It is stated with confidence, however, that we D.R.s can take it. It is assuring to reflect that during the past sunnier months, we have been in strict training preparing ourselves for the winter months.

It was a pretty sight to see us all doing voluntary P.T. at 05.30 hours each morning under our own P.S.I. Prettier still was it to see us receiving recompense for our efforts—a glass of orange juice from the loving hands of Sergeant J——, the pace-maker. How touching it has been to see those same tender hands with the silky touch, undressing, washing and powdering the lads who said that for the good of the cause they would turn in at 9 p.m. for at least four evenings per week. They can now sit back and quote the well-known words of Lance Corporal Masters : " You TOOOO can have a body like mine ! "

Should we congratulate Harry Forsyth on obtaining his discharge ? We will not commit ourselves, but let it suffice to wish him every success in his new sphere of life. He will be greatly missed.

Our grateful thanks are extended to Lieutenant M. H. Shearme, who has so generously provided us with a wireless set, which will be installed in the rest room at the N.S.O.

We note that owing to the increased price of production, the makers of aluminium paint have decided to postpone further production for the duration. No doubt this will cause untold agony in the Corporals' Room. (One guess only allowed !)

We are asked to say that a certain member of the Sergeants' Mess has been subjected to numerous inquiries as to the reason for the presence in the barracks of a specie of the canine tribe generally associated with bright lights and Tote doubles. Further, we are asked to state that the Sergeant will, in future, ignore all little slips of paper which have been passed to him surreptitiously during the past week or so, generally on the early morning parade for brekker.

The D.R.s wish to pass on their thanks to Signalman Conradi —who has added colour to our cricket team—for the many bright knocks he made for us during the past season. Next year we should have a very formidable team to challenge all comers.

Things We are Asked.—Why is it that the signal lamp outside the new Signal Office is allowed to swing merrily in the breeze during the day, and at night, when its light is most looked for it is taken into the Signal Office and stored until morning ?

When is the new drill order for D.R.s coming into force ? Mounting motor-cycles by numbers ! Wha !

— Sub-Area Signal Section

As an almost self-contained Unit, the Signals of the —— Sub-Area are progressing rapidly. We have formed our own entertainment, social and games club. On Saturday evenings, dances and parties are growing in popularity, so much so, in fact, that it will soon be necessary to limit the attendance of members' friends. That this branch of activities is so successful is due to the untiring efforts of Signalman Neale and his assistants.

Another side of our activities may be found in an enthusiastic nine-a-side barrack square soccer team, under the captaincy of Signalman Bools. We challenge any team from the London District Signals. It has been suggested that we are a little rough.

Is there a table tennis team in the Area which has a high opinion of its powers ? On behalf of his team, Signalman Dunston offers a challenge also.

Our congratulations to Corporal Small, who has left us to join an O.C.T.U. We wish him every success.

Congratulations to Signalman Guilford on his recent marriage.

Truth is indeed stranger than fiction these days. We applied at the Quartermaster's Stores a short while back for equipment and we got it ! Heil, Hale !

A visitor inspecting the quarters of the Despatch Riders here would be intrigued by an amazing contrivance designed, we suspect, by a Mr. Heath Robinson. A clock is wound up and the alarum set. At the pre-arranged hour before dawn the machine commences. A small electric urn is switched on. When the water boils, it pours itself into a waiting pot. The current then switches itself off, an alarum bell rung and the electric light switched on. There is even enough water left for shaving. Nobody here would be in the least surprised if the contrivance laid an egg.

This month's " Fairy " story ! Signalman Fairhead was sufficiently unfortunate to discover that his house had been razed to the ground by a bomb, when he went home on leave. He promptly investigated in and around the crater. A policeman, noticing his action, inquired what the heck he thought he was doing.' " Fairy " is reported to have retorted that he was looking for his missus. We hasten to assure our readers that Mrs. Fairhead was later discovered unharmed and not in the crater.

Have you ever been hit in the back by a bomb ? Signalman Sellers of the Drivers' Section has been too close to such an experience for his comfort. He was driving along when he suddenly received a severe jolt from behind. He found that he had been hit by a large Bomb Disposal wagon which was bearing a distinctly ominous-looking unexploded bomb.

The Electrician Signallers and Fitters are very happy since they have been presented with a nice new charging plant. The Fitters, however, are sometimes a little wistful when they think of the days spent in contented contemplation of the mysteries of the inside of a charging engine. It is touching to watch Signalman Elson lovingly grooming his engine each morning.

Lance Corporal Clarke has left the select circle of men who spend their time in attempting to get into wireless communication with the unknown. Lance Corporal Clarke has joined the ranks of the Signal Office Superintendents. Congratulations !

Our wireless stations have found it very difficult to pass traffic during the last few weeks, due to strong electrical interference. Every electric motor and apparatus for miles around has been tracked down and experimented upon, but without any success. In despair, we eventually called in the Post Office engineers, who tracked down the offending motor for us. It proved to be an electric hair clipper used in a barber's shop only ten yards from the wireless station.

— Corps Signals

General.—Notes from this Unit have been noticeably absent for some time, but we hope now to send in our contribution each month.

Since the last contribution most of our members have finished a long stay in France by evacuation safely to England.

It was with regret that we said good-bye to our Commanding Officer so shortly afterwards. We wish him all the best in his new appointment. To our new Commanding Officer we extend a hearty welcome and assure him of our most faithful co-ordination.

Promotions.—Congratulations to Captain L. C. Udell and Captain H. R. Watts (R.A.M.C.) on being promoted to mentioned rank.

The O.R. s promotions have been very numerous and in many cases rapid. To mention each individual by name would take far too much time and space. However, we offer our congratulations to all.

Engagement.—We offer our congratulations to 2nd Lieutenant J. Shaw on his recent engagement.

Departures.—These have been very numerous and we wish them all success with their new Units. Our congratulations to Captain E. T. Davis on being promoted to mentioned rank just prior to leaving.

Sport.—We have been very active in this respect. Our main sphere of interest to the present has been in soccer. The Unit and Section matches have been very numerous and interesting. We must congratulate the Unit team on being undefeated to date, in spite of some very hard games.

Our activities have not, however, been confined to soccer alone and our hockey team has done exceptionally well on several occasions. We also hope in the near future to turn out a rugger team and feel sure that it will live up to the standard set by our other teams.

Entertainments.—Several Unit dances have been arranged so far and they have all been extremely successful and entertaining. We hope to be able to run more of these in the near future.

— Command Signals, Yorkshire

So far WIRE readers have not been aware of —— Command Signals, and as the Unit has now been in existence for some months, these first notes are somewhat in the nature of an historical prelude.

The nucleus of the Unit was No. 2 Company, —— Army Signals, the journey from Spa to City taking place early in June. During the summer months the Unit gradually expanded to its full establishment, and to-day the fully-fledged formation is a well-organised and efficient Unit, "—— Command Signals," but " Second to None," as one of our officers put it.

Naturally these are very busy months for everyone, especially for the clerical staff, who were often handicapped through lack of office equipment and stationery. (" Please let me have some pen ' knibs,' " indented one W.O.) Major C. L. Wicks, in relinquishing his command to Lieutenant-Colonel R. W. M——, paid tribute to his staff in a valedictory notice.

Unfortunately the Unit has had to be decentralised, owing to a lack of suitable accommodation. In certain billets hot water, only comes out of the tea buckets, and a certain Corporal F. who is quite an exponent of personal hygiene, was shocked to see the " tide-marks " just above his finger tips one morning.

A bath is one of the events of the week, but the powers that be still affirm that " Cleanliness is next to godliness," and to counter-balance we are using lots of green blanco, so that we don't altogether lack finesse !

And then, of course, if you have to go on a Drill Course just after Reveille (aperetif pour le petit dejeuner), the cold grey light of dawn is kind to the dingy complexion.

Spotlight.—Talk about the social whirl ! We're not selfish—we broadcast ! Yes, sir, the other day four members of our orchestra radiated on a coast-to-coast hook-up in the Home programme. In addition, the " ensemble " has played at cinemas and canteens, and we believe they get one day's " E.D." per week to answer their fan mail. They even ousted the Corps Band the other week, when, after the big church parade, they played at a sherry party which was honoured by Her Royal Highness The Colonel-in-Chief.

Sportlight.—Of course, the event of the soccer season was the match between the Officers and Sergeants. (Laugh ? I was thirsty !) So you see we DO have energetic officers.

Bouquets.—One officer and two other ranks have been awarded distinctions for their fine work with our Expeditionary Forces. 2nd Lieutenant A. R. Dyce was decorated with the M.B.E. by His Majesty at a recent Investiture at Buckingham Palace, while Signalmen Mammone L. and Watkinson L. H. both received the M.M.

A certain popular subaltern is now Captain and Adjutant. Congratulations !—to the tune of " Pippies from Heaven."

You will all be aware, no doubt, of Records' latest and strangest conception. We mean the " Fun Game " commonly known as the " Y " List. Well—the moans you have been hearing of late are not the usual " Wailing Winnie " (raid siren to you), but " Howling Hutch," harassed and humid with his daily batch of convalescents.

Obituary.—To his many friends in the Corps, the announcement of the death, as the result of an accident whilst in the performance of his military duty, of Signalman Mammone L., M.M., will come as a great shock.

Louis, who was one of the original Militia, vintage July, 1939 (and very prouud of it, too), fulfilled the popular conception of the dashing Don. R.—irrepressible of spirit and gaiety, and our sincere sympathy is extended to his young widow.

AMANUENSIS.

— A.A. Brigade, H.Q. Signals

I was really enjoying a nap when a loud voice remarked, " He was talking about writing notes all the morning." Without saying a word I quietly arose and wandered down to the Orderly Room and besought the kindness of the O.R.S. to allow me the privilege of pounding the typewriter. Here now you will find some interesting items that occurred during last month.

On 14th September a dinner and dance was held to commemorate the landing of the B.E.F., 10th September, 1939. A spot of leave was the cause of my absence, but the general report was that a good time was had by all. The C.O. must be congratulated on the excellence of this entertainment in such a short time and as usual his generosity was well to the fore in supplying the " liquids " for the evening.

The Unit wish to congratulate Captain R. White, Royal Signals, on his promotion.

Serious work has not yet come the way of the Unit, but it is on record that we move to " somewhere in England " and get into harness once more. By the time these notes appear we hope to have settled down in our new surroundings. The Unit, although very small, has produced a fairly good soccer team. Several games have been played with the R.A.S.C. An account of one practical game is given in detail :

A football match was played on Tuesday, 1st October, between the Unit team and a side from a local lights training school. The match was played " somewhere in England," the Unit being represented by the following team : Signalman Donnelly ; Lance Corporal Shaw, Corporal Foxford ; Signalman Beck, Lance Corporal Harkins, Signalman Carmichael ; Signalmen Cooper, Parish, Everson, Rouse and Robson.

The game was played in a friendly spirit and the " Lights " took advantage of the strong breeze, and soon took the lead, which they maintained for the whole of the first half, leading at the interval by 3—1. In the second half, however, the Signals suddenly remembered their motto, " Certo Cito," and swiftly and surely equalised. Rouse, Everson and Parish were the men who were responsible for getting us " through." Parish was very thrustful and clever and seized every opportunity of getting the forward line on the move. His goal was a picture. Everson and Carmichael also played well, and in fact the whole side thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The score of 3—3 was considered a fair one, but goalkeeper Donnelly must have been wistfully thinking of the A.T.S. girls stationed with the " Lights " when he let that " soft " one through with compassion. Our friends the Service Corps were again to the fore in providing the referee, and as usual M.S.M. Powles managed the game in his sporting and unbiased way.

On Thursday, 10th October, Brigade Staff organised some sports, results of which are appended. It will be noted that the Unit took third place in every event. There was only three teams running. Sergeant Darby (" Syd ") is to be congratulated on gaining his third " chev." His unfailing cheerfulness, in spite of Brigade H.Q.'s stern front and nasty reminders, does little to mow down his resolutions.

We would like to know what orders Signalman Lewin has prepared for his land girls. Congratulations to the Sergeant-Major and his committee for their entertainment every Saturday.

In Lighter Vein.—A corporal married a typist on a Saturday. They had no time for a honeymoon. On Sunday she prepared his dinner. For the first time in her life she cooked a chicken. When the corporal was about to carve it, he gave it a sharp look, and said, " What did you stuff it with, my dear ? " " Oh, it didn't require stuffing, Jack," she replied brightly, " it wasn't hollow."

George had been called up with his group and was made officer's orderly. He was told that his duties would be to get up at 4 a.m. each morning, clean out the Mess, do as he was told, and give no back answers. " Righto," said Geordie. "Aa can manage that. It'll be jist like bein' at home with the missus."

Cheerio, chaps !

W. J. A. N.

SPORTS RESULTS

OBSTACLE RACE.—1, Private Perry (R.A.S.C.) ; 2, Bombardier Taylor (H.Q., 1st A.A. Brigade) ; 3, Private Collins (R.A.S.C.).

TUG OF WAR.—Result of three pulls—Brigade H.Q., 2 ; Royal Signals, 0 ; R.A.S.C., 1.

RELAY RACE (three teams).—1, R.A.S.C. ; 2, H.Q., 1st A.A. Brigade ; 3, Royal Signals.

BOAT RACE.—1, R.A.S.C. ; 2, H.Q., 1st A.A. Brigade.

CHAIN OF COMMAND RACE.—1, R.A.S.C. ; 2, H.Q., 1st A.A. Brigade.

SACK RACE—OPEN.—1, Bombardier Taylor (H.Q., 1st A.A. Brigade) ; 2, Signalman Hill (Royal Signals), Private Ferguson (R.A.S.C.) ; 3, Lance Corporal Perkins (Royal Signals).

POTATO RACE—OPEN.—1, Captain Henderson (H.Q., 1st A.A. Brigade) ; 2, Private Pollard (R.A.S.C.) ; 3, Pte. Williams (R.A.S.C.).

A.A. Signals, South-East England

Headquarters.

We have now entered upon the winter season and are in the process of adjusting our activities accordingly.

Firstly, we have embarked on an ambitious soccer programme and indeed have played our first match against the R.A. We found our opponents a bit too strong, losing by 6—1. We acknowledge their better ball control under the rather tricky conditions, but we feel that we were unlucky to lose by such a wide margin. However, this is only the first match and we shall improve.

We also hope to get some badminton and rugger for those who are interested, which, together with darts, should keep us occupied in our leisure moments.

At the "Attery" the popular social evenings have been resumed with some whist drives and we are sure that we can look forward to many more enjoyable parties at Vine Lane.

We should like to mention here that we do some work occasionally, but we do not refer to it, partly from a proper sense of modesty and partly from the fact that we regard this as a social column and it should, therefore, contain only matters pertaining thereto.

We cannot conclude this screed without offering our congratulations to Corporal " Bert " Pink, who has lately joined the ranks of the Benedicts. We wish him and his bride the best of luck and every happiness.

No. 1 Company

During the past few weeks there has been little time, and still less inclination, for the frivolities which characterised our earlier participation in the current emergency. Gone are the months of waiting, when the dangers of *ennui* were offset by all sorts of crazy festivities in the canteen and elsewhere.

Yet there is mingled with the general air of expectancy in these parts a certain lightheartedness which shines through all the grim realities of aerial warfare. The troops are essentially on the alert, and in good spirits.

One recalls the occasion when Signalman Wineberg, the doyen of our fire-fighting force, solemnly left the breakfast table to deal with a blazing frying-pan in the cookhouse. The Company arose as one man and cheered.

There is the memory of that very trying line job, which entailed long hours of work, when every fresh effort was doomed to failure, and it seemed that the objective would never be "through," and a dozen weary men kept up a constant patter, each capping the other's wisecracks while doing all that was demanded of him.

While there is constant evidence of lively spirits, we survey the moving scene no longer through the newspapers and the radio set in the local pub. We have seen the battle in progress above us and some of the destruction that has resulted from it. We have sympathised with comrades returning from a brief period of leave to tell us of the ruins they once knew as "home." And we know that we must be ready to "go to it."

Even so, we have had our moments of relaxation and we still manage an occasional dance or concert. An impromptu Stag Party served to celebrate the first anniversary of the calling out of the Unit. Beer was reduced to half-price for the occasion and many of those present greatly enlarged their repertoire of unusual songs.

Our concert party has increased its popularity in the district and has performed before several neighbouring Units. The last visit was brought to a premature close just after the interval, Signalman Ainsworth, the conjuror, having apparently produced a high-explosive bomb too close to the audience to be comfortable.

Dance enthusiasts are more persistent, most of these events being carried through to the end with no more drastic variation than a few additional intervals, nearby trenches being used for enforced "sitting out."

"Souvenir-hunting" has been adopted with enthusiasm as the latest hobby. Pieces of shell splinter and empty cartridge cases are predominant in such collections, while it is no unusual experience to find a Sergeant earnestly persuading a crowd of onlookers that the scrap of twisted metal in his hands is the most vital component of a Junkers 99.

There is no time to get tired of the company we keep. Recently we found fifty new faces among us and had scarcely become acquainted when thirty of them departed for a sojourn in a neighbouring county. Then a party of fourteen new-comers arrived, while recruits drift in by two's and three's.

Many interests are concerned with such movements. The party of fifty revealed a complete football team of high standard, and it is hoped that at least some of them will remain to assist our own team during the coming season. The party of fourteen yielded a violinist and a drummer who were enlisted into the dance band before they had spent twenty-four hours in the Camp.

One officer has left us and was last heard of in splendid isolation somewhere in the North of England. Another has joined us from No. 2 Company.

In other respects life continues to run on more or less normal lines. Signalmen Raby J., Raby W. J., Garvey and Wickham have been married, doubtless after having exhausted every other and less drastic method of obtaining leave. Sergeant Leedham has returned from a Drill Course with a host of new ideas, which he is painfully imparting to the uninitiated. Gardening still claims a few loyal devotees, who threw up their hands in horror when a Signalman, on hearing a strange whistling sound in crescendo, dived headlong into a handsome bed of asters. Which seems somewhat suburban, whereas the place is more aptly described as "truly rural."

No. 2 Company

We must offer our sincere apologies for the break which has occurred in the compilation of these notes, but the strenuous life which most of us are leading at the moment does not permit of much time for writing. However, we have managed to collect a little information regarding the life and leisure of the Company which, we hope, will interest those old friends who may read these paragraphs.

All Sections of the Company have had their share of excitement but the last few months have thrown a very large burden on our Line Maintenance Section and they have carried on with their customary good spirit. They have found the secret of continuing work with pleasure, and D.A. bombs and all the other frightfulness of the Boche cannot daunt them. It is no uncommon sight to see these stalwarts arriving back to Camp in the "wee sma'" hours, tired but happy and clasping to their bosoms mysterious packages and bulging sandbags. It is never polite to enquire the nature of the contents and the Orderly Officer very wisely looks the other way. However, they firmly believe that an apple a day keeps the M.O. away!

The Operating Sections, on the other hand, have had their moments and their honours have been no less important. The long moments of tedious waiting have been forgotten and they really felt that their job is now worth while. No longer can they read a "Penguin" a night and write those long and descriptive bulletins to their girl friends. Gone are the days when Signalman Ager could regale his team mates with the latest Cab Calloway number; nevertheless, he finds an outlet for his talents in entertaining the A.T.S. in the shelter trench during the periods when discretion is the better part of valour.

The Training Section has produced many useful additions to the Company strength and the social side has benefited to a very large extent.

We have been very fortunate in gathering together a number of first-class instrumentalists to form a Dance Orchestra for the winter months and although at the time of writing we have not had the opportunity of hearing them in public, we know from the amount of practice they have been putting in during their few leisure moments that we are in for a treat.

A new Social Committee has been selected and already two soccer teams, a hockey team and a boxing team are in full swing. Cross-country running also has its devotees as well as a small section who find amusement in an occasional game of golf. These superior folk are mostly from beyond the Border, and at the moment their main concern is to find a course where the green fees and charges are nil.

It is rumoured that a movement is on foot to enlist the aid of a certain Section Officer who hails from Orkney and whose propensities in this direction are well known. This officer has recently been on detachment and has returned with a marked improvement in his accent, due, we understand, to the efforts of some female student evacuees from a famous London hospital. The exact nature of the treatment has not been divulged, but we have no doubt that time will tell.

The irrepressible Pope has lately been observed performing with brush and scrubber in the Dining Hall, and the result is indeed praiseworthy. It is to be hoped that those people who have endeavoured to impress their finger-prints and footprints so indelibly on the walls will refrain from doing so in future. Scotland Yard may appreciate their efforts, and many of these examples may be in their collection already, but we don't.

The C.S.M.'s livestock continues to thrive and there have been a number of additions in the last few weeks, including some ducks in various sizes and colours. Their origin is a mystery—they appeared in the night, but it is a curious fact that the garden next door also contains some fowl of similar species! However, the fence has been repaired now.

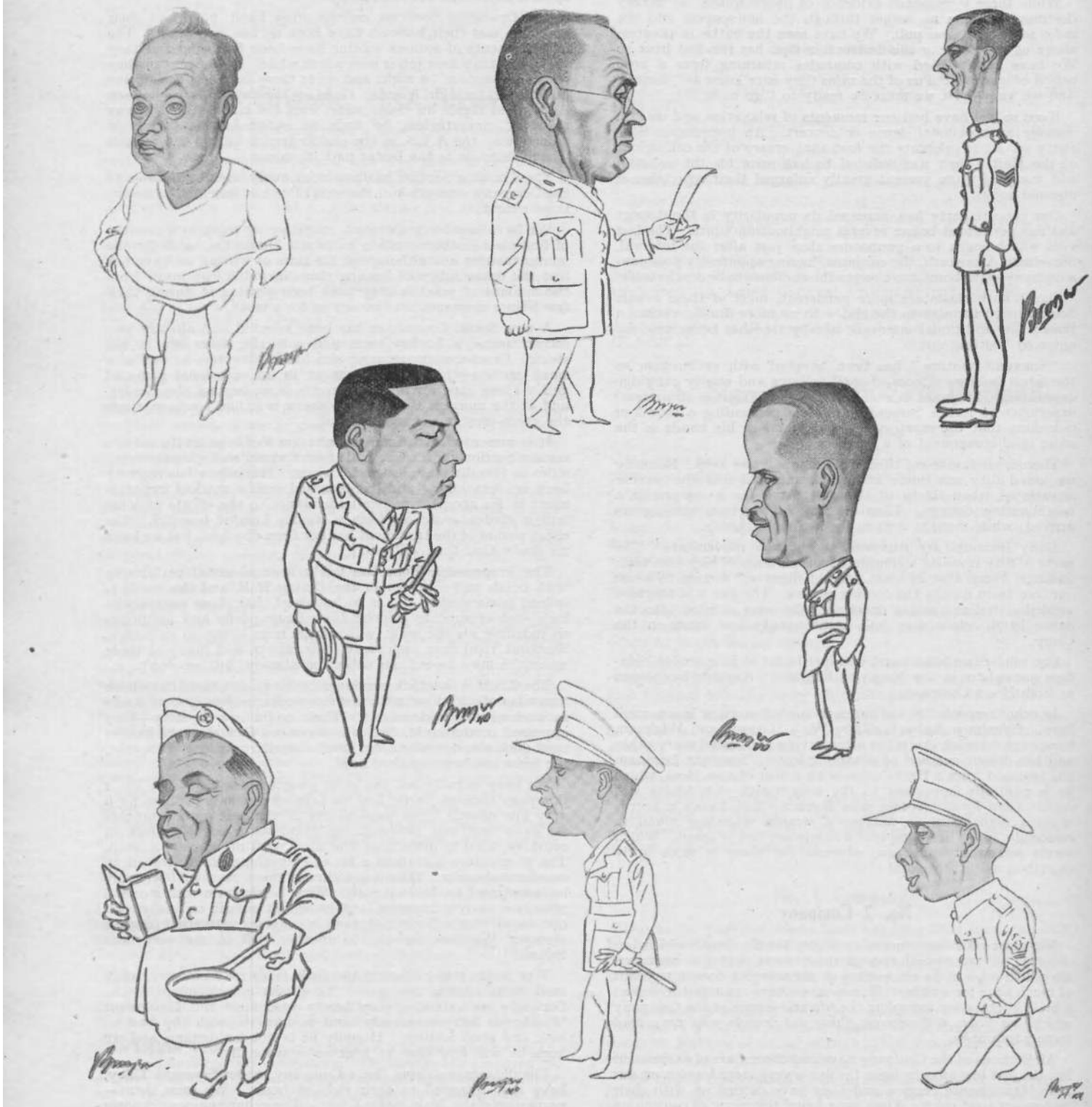
We have recently had the great pleasure of a visit from No. 1 Company Concert Party, and we take off our hats to them for a very fine effort. They gave us one of the best entertainments we have had, and although the Hun, with his usual lack of courtesy, tried to disturb us, the show went off without a hitch. The programme contained a bit of everything, and included an excellent conjuror. If he is not already there, he should certainly be transferred to the Pay Staff. What he can't do with a pound note is nobody's business, and he would almost certainly rival our own Orderly Room Sergeant in juggling with other people's money. We look forward to another visit in the very near future.

War brings many changes and fresh faces are seen daily, while more familiar ones disappear. To all the new members of the Company we extend a very hearty welcome. 2nd Lieutenant Winchester left us recently, and to him we wish the best of luck and good fortune. Happily he is not far distant, and we hope he will find time to visit us occasionally.

The detachment from No. 1 Company, under Sergeant Tidey, have now returned to their rightful home. We miss them—particularly the Male Voice Choir. These harmonious (?) souls would sing on the slightest provocation, sometimes in Welsh,

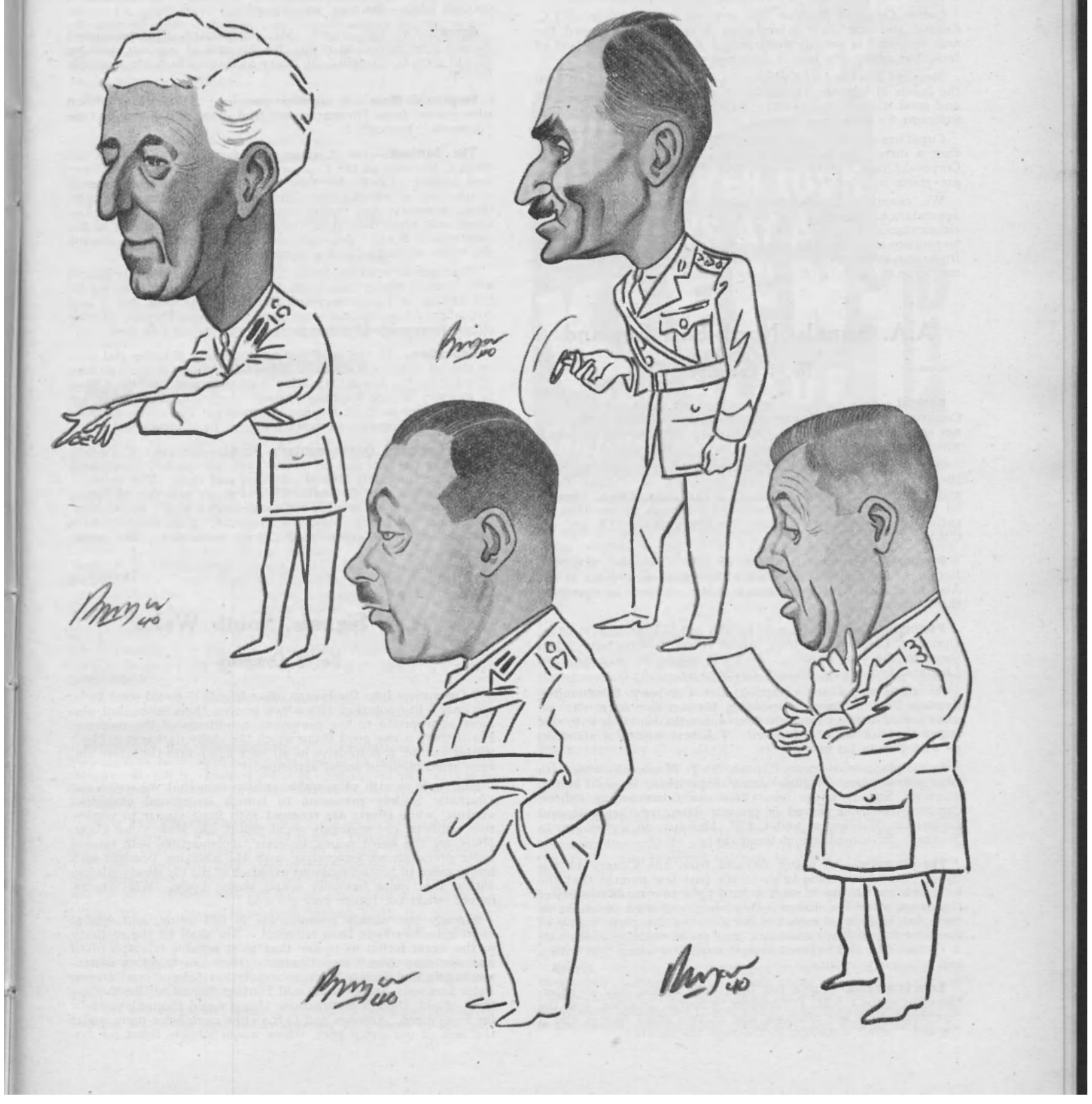
A.A. SIGNALS, SOUTH-EAST ENGLAND

IMPRESSIONS BY SIGNALMAN L. T. BOWYER



THE C.S.O. AND HIS STAFF

MORE IMPRESSIONS BY SIGNALMAN L. T. BOWYER



the result being a cacophony of sound only eclipsed by the local barrage.

A number of promotions have occurred, and our A.T.S. are earning pin money by sewing on a new crop of unpaid lance stripes. Our heartiest congratulations to Signalmen London, Fretton, Davey, Searle and Le Suer on their achievement.

Lance Corporal Rodgers has left to commence an O.T.C. Course, and our latest information is that he has passed the first test, and is settling down well. We wish him the best of luck, but regret the loss of his cheery companionship.

Sergeant Hartford and Corporal Creighton have both entered the bonds of matrimony and must receive our congratulations and good wishes. Apparently the normal perils of war are not sufficient for these two warriors.

Cupid has also had a shot at the M/T boys, and it would appear that a direct hit has been registered on the Section N.C.O., Corporal Orriss. Our correspondent informs us that the banns are going up shortly.

We cannot conclude these notes without expressing our appreciation of the efforts of our A.T.S. Under the most adverse circumstances they have never failed us and how they manage to prepare and serve the meals with the continual interruptions from our most inconsiderate enemy will remain one of the mysteries! We take off our hats to them.

A.A. Signals, North-East England

No. 1 Company

General.—So much activity has marked the progress of this Company in the past few months that no apology is offered for not cataloguing in detail at this date the outstanding incidents which have agitated the conscience during this period.

Operational activities are quite mild affairs compared with the burning questions of Orderly Sergeants, of "fatigue men" and the finding thereof—certainly a Company Axis! Despite all the efforts of Corporal Bailey (not always appreciated we gather), "fatigue men" are still the bogey of the O.S. and the C.S.M.

Personal.—Congratulations to R.S.M. Troman, R.Q.M.S Bolton and C.S.M. McEvoy on attaining their present ranks. Also to R.S.M. Broadhead and R.Q.M.S. Robson in squeezing the "pips."

Postings.—Farewell and good luck to 2nd Lieutenants Dunstan, Donnelly, Lane and Stewart, whose recent posting have taken them to the four corners. In their places we welcome 2nd Lieutenants Rodgers, Mallett and Mickler.

As these notes are compiled, our Company Commander, Captain P. J. Robson, is spending his last few days with us, after a stay of approximately twelve months, and it is with real regret that we bid him farewell. The best wishes of all ranks go with him in his new sphere.

In his place we welcome Captain N. J. Woodcock, who, with twenty-five years' Regular Army experience, is well known wherever Signals foregather. Like our Commanding Officer, Captain Woodcock served in pre-war days, together with 2nd Lieutenant Middlemiss and C.S.M. McEvoy, in a well-known Northern Divisional Signal Company.

The Recruits.—So many recruits from the County of the Broad Acres have come to us in the past few months that the local lads are having to wage a hard fight to remain masters of their own, a famous, dialect. In passing, one must comment on the splendid type of recruit coming to the Company, many of them having brilliant academic and professional qualifications in civilian life, and without exception all "mucking" in with a zest which is refreshing.

Entertainments.—Little has been done in the way of entertainment since C.S.M. ("Smudger") Smith departed, but the Sergeants' Mess are planning one or two small dances and a "splash" affair sometime in the next few months.

Incidentally honourable mention must be made of the artistry of Signalmen Wooderson (compere and songs at the piano), Kennedy A. songs at the piano) and Forster W. (piano, electric guitar, saxophone and flute)—three recruits who have brightened many a dull hour since they came to us. There seems talent enough to justify the formation of either a dance band or a concert party—the war permitting!

Sports.—On the sports side, Lieutenant (Quartermaster) Robson has agreed to make this his special concern, and we should soon be enjoying the many facilities which are available locally.

Sergeants' Mess.—A burning question: If Sergeant Welch were parted from Tommy, would that chest of drawers become "Connon" property?

The Canteen.—The Company is fortunate as regards its Messes, the men of the Company having done themselves very well indeed. Credit for this must be given to an energetic committee, of whom Lance Corporals Fogg (chairman), Taylor (hon. secretary) and Stokes must be mentioned in despatches. Good as is their own Mess, only the ever-present threat of the inevitable "B.252" prevents some of the Seniors from sharing the many amenities of the Canteen.

That spot of vital importance, the Cookhouse, formerly known as "Charley Minns' Snack Bar," has recently been enriched by the arrival of Lance Sergeant Bradbury, one time No. 3 and No. 2 Companies (in that order), and Signalman Mynott. Double chins are guaranteed in one week!

Education.—In the past few weeks, many N.C.O.s and men in the off-duty periods have taken advantage of the facilities afforded by the Local Education Authority and the War Office, in the way of free Evening Classes. Approximately thirty are taking classes in Book-keeping, Economics, Elocution, English, French, and Spanish, to name some of the subjects.

The Company Quartermaster's Stores.—Sergeant ("Push") Longstaffe has now arrived in the "get-rich-quick" department to combat the rising tide of vouchers and chits. The question of responsibility for the multitudinous stores with the ball being passed from one to another with a dexterity which would bamboozle an "All Black" causes a headache. Still, rumour has it that somebody is going to be lucky some day. We hope!

That's all.

JAYBEE.

A.A. Signals, South Wales

No. 3 Company

"Once more into the breach, dear friends" would seem to be not only a fit quotation with which to open these notes, but also most appropriate to the prevailing conditions of the moment. For if there is one good thing which the chilly darkness of bleak winter can do, it is to drive us all back again into the warm and cosy atmosphere of social activities.

And so it is with pleasurable anticipation that we watch our Dramatic Society preparing to launch its second ambitious venture, while efforts are renewed with fresh vigour to vitalise that stillborn and strangely silent infant, our Male Voice Choir. Many are the weird noises, however, incompatible with normal toilet preparations, emanating from the ablution benches each frosty morn to furnish ominous evidence of the life slowly stirring within that quite basically sound young body. Who knows, indeed, what the future may portend?

Already our weekly concerts are in full swing, and several great successes have been recorded. Nor shall all the modesty in the world forbid us to say that most notable triumph of all was our very own Camp Concert. Here our budding instrumentalists, our Private Warners and Arthur Askeys, our Carusos, Peter Dawsons, and even an odd Durbin, flourished like the bay trees of old, though contrariwise they proved themselves to be far from green. Officers and O.R.s alike came once more under the lash of our camp poet, whose unquenchable thirst for far-

fetched puns found no obstacle even in the names of Captain Harnden and Lieutenant Diplock. What a glorious finale, too, when fully three-score Welshmen all well and truly filled with "the old, familiar juice," joined in such community singing as to make the practised vocalisation of Lieutenant Kelly seem as soft and still as "the voice that breathed o'er Eden."

Our football fans have also begun to flutter quite a while since. A good start has been made by both codes, and the strength of each team has been supplemented by the arrival of several enthusiastic new intakes. An interesting programme lies ahead, and our players remain quite undaunted by the formidable array of renowned exponents often to be discerned amongst the opposition.

In conclusion, our pet poet wishes to remind you, in spite of all the above, that there is still a war on.

Salute the Royal Signals Corps
Each time a Jerry crashes;
Their arms are sore with semaphore,
Their eyes see dots—and dashes.
Steadfast and grim they serve beneath
Their emblem, "Certa, Cito,"
And clenched of teeth prepare a wreath
For Adolf and Benito.

— Armoured Divisional Signals, Gloucestershire

General.—It is with these notes that this Unit makes its debut in THE WIRE.

We are a completely new Unit and it was on 8th September, 1940, that we officially came into being, but it was not until about the 15th of that month that we began to take any definite shape.

The nucleus of the Unit arrived at its present destination on 17th September and have since been preparing the way for the others who are to come.

This party consisted of: Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel J. J. D——, Royal Signals; Second-in-command, Major E. D. Good, Royal Signals; O.C., No. 1 Squadron, Major R. J. Moberly, Royal Signals; Adjutant, 2nd Lieutenant M. H. Arbuthnot, Royal Signals; Quartermaster, Lieutenant (Quartermaster) A. C. Eastes, M.M., Royal Signals; T.M.O., Lieutenant (T.M.O.) E. V. Andrews, Royal Signals; R.S.M., R.S.M. Rigden W. J.; R.Q.M.S., R.Q.M.S. Trew J.; S.M., No. 1 Squadron, C.S.M. Smith J.; C.Q.M.S., C.Q.M.S. Warman E. A. W.; O.R.S., Sergeant Strype H. E.; and about 100 N.C.O.s and other ranks.

We are in a very pleasant and quiet spot, and except for the occasional "whoom, whoom" at night have not seen or heard of a German aircraft.

Promotions and Appointments.—Congratulations to the following, who have stepped up the ladder of fame to rank as shown: R.Q.M.S. Trew J., C.S.M. Smith H. W., C.Q.M.S. Galbraith A. C., Lance Corporals Hinton W. A., Wallbridge W., Purnell G. and Warren G.

Sports and Entertainments.—We have made favourable headway in support of a Unit football team. Finding talent was no hard task, until a supporter of "Raith Rovers" and another of "Wolves" claiming they were representatives of the "pro." type were "tried out." They proved to fans that their style was the 90's. (Bissett and Tull for sale—cocoanut or a windmill.)

Two friendly games have been played, with the following results: v. Supply Depot, R.A.S.C., 1—2; v. Air Ministry, Civilian Team, 4—3.

Both Sports and Entertainments Committees have commenced operations, and in the very near future we will be swinging along in the good old Corps style.

W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess.—Unfortunately we are having to find the lay of the land before forming up a more or less permanent Mess, but as a temporary measure we are able to find home comfort in the "White Hart," somewhere in England. (We take our own plates and mugs.) In future notes we will endeavour to subscribe more generously to THE WIRE.

All the best to old and new formations.



— Welsh Divisional Signals

Training.—It appears as though we have said "au revoir" to the weekly Divisional Exercises, now that the winter months are creeping upon us, but it is hoped that the weather will be kind so as to enable these exercises to be continued, at least, once a month. Many valuable lessons are learned through the medium of Exercises, and we can always do with this kind of lesson, especially these days.

Programmes are all drawn up for winter training, and by the end of this Individual training period it is hoped that the Unit will be 100 per cent. efficient in tradesmen.

Promotions.—Heartiest congratulations to Major J. B. Senior on his attainment of that rank. Congratulations to Lance Sergeants Bovey B. C. and Morris R. L. on their appointment to that rank; also heartiest welcome to the W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess.

Departures.—It is with regret that we record the departures of Major J. B. Senior, 2nd Lieutenants R. S. Trevelyan and J. Angear, and we trust that it will not be a far distant day when we shall be together again; anyway, for the present we shall say "au revoir" and may your signals always be R.NINER.

Sports.—At last, after many postponements, and disappointments, the Badminton Club is well under way, and a wealth of talent has come to the fore. Two clubs have been started, one for officers, and one for O.R.s, and it is anticipated that later on in the season, tournaments will be arranged with outside clubs.

STATIONS ABROAD

Signal Training Centre (India)

Editorial.—Hatches, matches and despatches are at a premium since my arrival here, which was only recently. Matches—nil. Cupid apparently has been feeling the pinch since the present situation started and has been content with the " Slings and arrows of outrageous fortune " which he has been slinging across the water from England. Well, it won't be long now. The Jemadar sweeper said so and, well, all you India wallahs will know that his " griffin " is correct. Despatches have been fairly numerous and almost everybody is feeling rather warm (sweating) on going to some place or other. We wish them all luck in their new spheres of life. Hatches—we congratulate Sergeant and Mrs. Adkins on the birth of a son at the B.M.H., Jubbulpore, on 6th August, and Sergeant and Mrs. Farlow on the birth of a daughter at B.M.H., Jubbulpore, on 26th August. Sergeant Farlow is also to be congratulated on now having to be called " Q." The other promotions and appointments are far too numerous to mention and we will be content by congratulating all concerned and trusting that their good fortune will never desert them. I can hear them now saying " What good fortune ? I earned mine." O.K., perhaps you did, but good luck anyway.

Sergeants' Mess.—Let me see. It is nineteen years ago when I was last—and first—here. Most things have improved ; the fittings, garden and lawn are one hundred per cent. better, but one thing, one animal and one man have remained just so.

THE THING. The Mess sign board is still the same design around which so much controversy raged in the good old days. Yes, this piece of three-ply, with its misplaced commas, caused much bitterness. C.S.M. —— insisted that " W.O.'s and Sergeants' Mess " was correct, but young Lance Sergeant ——, full of new dignity, was most emphatic that if the W.O. was to be favoured like that, why should we not have a board like this : " W.O.s', Staff Sergeants', Sergeants' and Lance Sergeants' Mess." The argument petered out, and honour was satisfied by shifting the offending comma " one pace " right, but still the board is wrong, for " The Sergeants' Mess " is, of course, the official designation.

THE ANIMAL. The pop wallahs' bullock has not improved on his grand daddy, for he stops on the same spot, at the same time, goes through the same antics, and gets the same volume of applause, especially if he " doesn't."

THE MAN. Old No. 1 Bearer has developed a " Bonifacey " spread, but otherwise is the same model of efficiency and discretion, has the same belief that gesticulations can be so much more eloquent than words, and has the same unerring instinct regarding all the members fancy for alimentary lubrication. He also knows " how much lemon or water (if any) " you want, without being loquacious about it.

A hearty welcome to all those new members who to-day, 30th August, joined us from the Corporals' Room.

BEMARS.

Corporals' Room (although they don't need so much room nowadays).—Since last contributing the scribal pen has reached a different hand, so may I express a sincere hope that you will find the following notes as interesting as those of the past. The effect of the Indian Army expansion scheme is very apparent here, and our strength has considerably increased during recent weeks. The " Grippers " Cup has once again been withdrawn from the seclusion of a dark, dusty cupboard, and won outright in one fell swoop very soon after the arrival of the trophy holder.

Our Monsoon Carnival Ball, held in the Regimental Institute on 10th August, was highly successful and the new floor proved vastly superior to its predecessor. The object of these dances, which we hope to run monthly, is to raise a sufficient amount of money to pay our guaranteed monthly subscription to the War Comforts Fund, and, should the dance not prove a financial success, we have all agreed to put our hands into our own pockets to make good any loss.

In these days of rapid promotion, it is extremely difficult to make special mention of each individual. Our congratulations are extended to each fortunate person, and to those who have gone to the Sergeants' Mess we wish the very best of luck, but would like to add that we are very sorry to lose two of our musicians, who have on many occasions given us extremely pleasant musical evenings.

General.—The rainy season is drawing to a close now, so we should soon be having our billiard table reclothed. The question of a new piano for our room is also receiving attention.

In conclusion, just two extracts from instructors' diaries. Having had the principles of electricity explained by the water analogy, a member of an Indian Ranks E.S. Course was shown a piece of copper wire, and this is what followed :

Instructor : Now this piece of copper wire is a conductor, isn't it ? "

I.O.R. : " Yes, Sahib, but where is the water ? "

Instructor : " What would you do if undiluted sulphuric acid were to fall on your hand ? "

I.O.R. : " Hand cut off, Sahib."

As there are no encores, I must say cheerio, and on behalf of the Corporals' Room, wish you all the very best of luck for the future, wherever you may be.

JEW.

From the Bottom of the Ladder (Ed.).—Hello, folks ! This is Signalman Haylock J. H. (John Henry) calling you for the first time. I have taken over the duty from " Young Bert "—i.e., Signalman Addicott—who has left us for the office of the D.C.S.O. Southern Command. Although I haven't the same touch as " Y.B. " I shall endeavour to make these notes as interesting as I possibly can.

The arrivals have been too many to mention individually, but to all the new-comers we extend a warm welcome, and hope that their stay here will be a happy one. To all those who have left us we wish God speed and all the luck in the world. Mention must be made of those who have left the ranks for training as Officer Cadets and we hope to see them soon as " One pippers." Among the arrivals we welcome one from another arm of the service, viz., Private Frost, who has found that the life of a Signalman is a happy one. We may be rather premature in congratulating those Signalmen who have gained the dizzy ranks of U/Lance Corporals, for they are all elevated according to recent orders and we hope that they will still be " going up."

SPORTS NOTES

Soccer.—Quite a number of games have been played during August, including a seven-a-side tournament, which is becoming quite an attraction.

v. R.A.M.C. (friendly)	Won	2—1
v. " F " Company (friendly)	Won	6—0
v. " F " Company (league match)	Won	3—0
v. G.I.P. Railway (friendly)	Lost	0—2
v. R.A.M.C. (friendly)	Won	2—0

By defeating " F " Company in the league match, "A" Company won the Inter-Company Football League. The final results are as shown below :

	Played.	Won.	Lost.	Drn.	Goals. For.	Agnst.	Pts.
"A" Company ..	3	3	0	0	8	0	6
" F " Company ..	3	2	1	0	6	7	4

Rugger.—In the final of the Harwood-Little Cup we were defeated by the K.O.S.B. by 6 points to 3. In the first round of the Edulji Cup we managed to beat the " Odds and Ends " by 8 points to nil, after a draw. In the replay a well-kicked penalty by Captain D. J. G. gave us the first three points. A brilliant solo effort by Lance Corporal Milligan enabled Corporal Roake to score a try, which was ably converted by our captain. In the final of the Edulji Cup we were beaten by the K.O.S.B. once again by the decisive score of 11—0. Cheerio—JOHN HENRY.

Having come to the conclusion of this preamble I join with the contributors from the various walks of life in wishing good luck to all members of the Corps in whatever station they are.

MAKEM.

Diary of Events in the War

SEPTEMBER 5TH TO OCTOBER 19TH, 1940.

SEPTEMBER 5TH.—Prime Minister speaks in Parliament on situation in tone of restrained confidence. R.A.F. action over Germany as far east as Stettin ; Berlin bombed again. Thirty-nine German machines shot down as against 20 of ours in air fighting over south-east England. Our Mediterranean Fleet bombards Italian Dodecanese Islands and sinks two motor torpedo boats.

SEPTEMBER 6TH.—Disorders in Rumania following loss of territory to Hungary, leads to abdication of King Carol, Iron Guard taking over Government. R.A.F. raid military objectives in Berlin, Munich, and many other German cities and towns. Germans raid London area, losing 45 machines as against 19 British.

SEPTEMBER 7TH.—R.A.F. renew attacks on Berlin and other German cities. German counter raid on London, heaviest of war so far. Considerable damage done ; 100 German machines shot down.

SEPTEMBER 8TH.—Heavy German air offensive against London begins with intensive night bombing on East End, Dockland, and Central areas. Preliminary daylight attacks beaten off with loss of 99 hostile aircraft to 22 of ours. Some 1,600 civilian casualties and damage to property caused. R.A.F. raid enemy transport in Channel ports and industrial centres in Western Germany. Convoy of strong reinforcen ents sent through Mediterranean reaches Egypt unmolested.

SEPTEMBER 9TH.—Second heavy and prolonged night raid on London with promiscuous bombing ; fire started, buildings and road and rail communications damaged and 1,700 civilian casualties inflicted. Attempt to follow up night raids by daylight attacks defeated with loss of 52 German machines. British submarines sink three Italian supply ships in Meditteranean. French authorities in India declare for General de Gaulle.

SEPTEMBER 10TH.—Renewed enemy night raids cause more widespread damage ; bomb lodges near St. Paul's Cathedral. 1,800 civilian casualties caused. R.A.F. raid industrial targets in Berlin and other German cities.

SEPTEMBER 11TH.—Preparations for enemy invasion begin to reach climax. Night bombing of London resumed ; Buckingham Palace hit. Daylight raids repulsed with loss to Germans of 90 aircraft, a quarter of the total engaged. Berlin again raided by R.A.F., together with other targets in Western Germany, German-occupied territory, and the Channel ports.

SEPTEMBER 12TH.—Heavy anti-aircraft barrage keeps off bulk of raiders from Central London during night ; casualties among civil population total about 200 only. Berlin and other cities in Germany again raided.

SEPTEMBER 13TH.—Prolonged night attack on London causes more damage and civilian casualties, but only on a reduced scale. Sporadic daylight raiding follows ; bombs dropped on Buckingham Palace and Houses of Parliament, and in Downing Street. Little damage done. R.A.F. continue intensive attacks on enemy targets in Germany, France and Low Countries.

SEPTEMBER 14TH.—Enemy night raids mainly confined to outskirts of London ; towns in Midlands and South Wales also attacked.

SEPTEMBER 15TH.—Enemy follow up sporadic and indiscriminate night raiding with series of heavy daylight attacks. Severe defeat inflicted on him with loss of 188 machines against 25 of ours. Two more bombs dropped on Buckingham Palace.

SEPTEMBER 16TH.—Heavy and effective R.A.F. attack on shipping and barges at Antwerp.

SEPTEMBER 17TH.—Gale in Channel disperses hostile shipping disposed for invasion and forces it to seek shelter in port. Civilian casualties since September 1st stated at 10,000, the bulk of them in London.

SEPTEMBER 18TH.—Prolonged air attacks by night do considerable damage in Central London. Daylight raids driven off with loss to enemy of 46 machines to 9 of ours. R.A.F. continue heavy attacks on enemy targets.

SEPTEMBER 19TH.—Night of promiscuous bombing followed by quiet day. Navy bombards Italian bases on Libyan coast and in Dodecanese Islands.

SEPTEMBER 20TH.—Enemy air activity during both night and day on somewhat reduced scale. H.M. Submarine " Sturgeon " sinks German transport near Denmark with large number of troops aboard.

SEPTEMBER 21ST.—Enemy raiders largely kept away from Central London by improved methods of defence. Day generally quiet. Bulgarian troops march into recently-ceded Rumanian territory in Southern Dobrudja.

SEPTEMBER 22ND.—German submarine in Atlantic sinks refugee ship with evacuated children aboard ; loss of life heavy. Hostile air activity resumed over London at night and fires and damage caused. R.A.F. continue heavy and effective attacks on enemy military and industrial targets.

SEPTEMBER 23RD.—Institution of new George Cross and medal for deeds of civil gallantry announced by King George VI. Free French forces under General de Gaulle appear off Dakar, in French West Africa, but attempt to land resisted. Enemy continue night raids on London, and R.A.F. bomb military and industrial targets in heart of Germany.

SEPTEMBER 24TH.—General de Gaulle's force desists from attempt on Dakar rather than bring about intensive fight with fellow-countrymen. Heavy R.A.F. raid on Berlin ; German attacks on Central London cause considerable damage.

SEPTEMBER 25TH.—Berlin raided by R.A.F. with effect ; other targets in Germany and invasion ports in Channel also attacked. Enemy night raids directed mainly against London suburbs, day attacks beaten off with loss of 29 hostile aircraft.

SEPTEMBER 26TH.—R.A.F. intensify attacks on Germany, Berlin being again raided. Enemy renew night attacks on London but lose 31 machines in daylight attack off Isle of Wight. U.S.A. declares embargo on export of steel and scrap iron to all non-American countries except Britain.

SEPTEMBER 27TH.—Heavy German daylight air attacks completely repulsed with severe losses—133 machines against 34. Ten-year military alliance signed between Germany, Italy and Japan, under terms of which each will declare war on any new belligerent attacking any one of them.

SEPTEMBER 28TH.—Growing effectiveness of our anti-aircraft defences reduces scope and results of enemy raids on London and causes him to extend attack to other targets in provinces.

SEPTEMBER 29TH.—Arrival of first batch of U.S.A. destroyers transferred to British service.

SEPTEMBER 30TH.—Heavy anti-aircraft barrage beats off bulk of raiders from Central London. Attacks in Home Counties and Merseyside. R.A.F. continue offensive against enemy targets. Night duel across Channel between British and German long-range guns. In daylight air battles Germans lose 49 machines. R.A.F., 22.

OCTOBER 1ST.—Comparatively quiet night in Central London, but sporadic attacks directed against outskirts. Berlin has five-hour air raid alarm. First military awards of George Cross to members of bomb disposal sections announced.

OCTOBER 2ND.—Another fairly quiet night in London. Evacuation of British children overseas suspended. R.A.F. raid factories in Berlin and elsewhere.

OCTOBER 3RD.—Extensive changes in Cabinet announced. Mr. Chamberlain retires and is replaced as Lord President by Sir John Anderson, Sir Kingsley Wood and Mr. Bevin become members of War Cabinet. Quiet night and day in the air. British Mediterranean Fleet completes large sweep and lands reinforcements at Malta, Italian fleet retiring and refusing battle.

OCTOBER 4TH.—Meeting at Brenner Pass between Hitler and Mussolini. Increase in British weekly shipping losses; seven German and two Italian submarines reported sunk in past few weeks.

OCTOBER 5TH.—Sporadic enemy day and night air activity over London and South-east England.

OCTOBER 6TH.—Quieter night in London, "All clear" sounding soon after midnight.

OCTOBER 7TH.—Quiet night, but series of day air attacks on London and South-east England. Twenty-seven enemy machines shot down to R.A.F.'s 14 and all attacks turned back. R.A.F. bomb invasion ports and targets in Germany. German troops enter Roumania.

OCTOBER 8TH.—Prolonged all-night hostile attack on London, followed by another during morning rush-hour and series of unsuccessful attempts during day. R.A.F. deliver five-hour attack on Berlin. Japan notified that Burma Road into China will be reopened on 17th October.

OCTOBER 9TH.—R.A.F. continue heavy raids on targets in Germany and occupied territory. Prolonged night raid on London and other areas in Britain; St. Paul's Cathedral hit and damaged.

OCTOBER 10TH.—Longest night raid of war so far on London and daylight attacks on South-east England R.A.F. continue attacks on enemy targets.

OCTOBER 11TH.—Severe and effective naval and air attack on Cherbourg. R.A.F. again attack German targets. Usual night attack on London.

OCTOBER 12TH.—German raids on London cease early owing to bad weather, which does not prevent R.A.F. operations against hostile targets in Germany and occupied territory. Turkey warns Germany of her intention to resist any advance across Anatolia.

OCTOBER 13TH.—R.A.F. again bomb Berlin and other hostile objectives. Enemy raids on Britain spasmodic by day, but heavy and continuous by night. German forces in Roumania increased.

OCTOBER 14TH.—Heavy German night raids on London and elsewhere in Britain.

OCTOBER 15TH.—Admiralty report successful naval action in Mediterranean in which H.M.S. "Ajax" and "York" sink three Italian destroyers and shot down six aircraft. H.M.S. "Liverpool" slightly damaged. British submarines sink four Italian merchantships. Eighteen German aircraft shot down in day attacks. Night bombing again widespread over London and other areas.

OCTOBER 16TH.—Secretary of State for War arrives in Egypt for conference with G.O.C., Middle East. German convoy of five ships destroyed in North Sea. Navy and R.A.F. bombard Dunkirk with effect. Enemy day attacks in air result in loss of three aircraft; little night activity.

OCTOBER 17TH.—Burma Road into China reopened for arms traffic. R.A.F. bomb Kiel and other objectives in Germany. Little enemy air action either by day or by night.

OCTOBER 18TH.—September civilian air raid casualties announced as 6,954 killed and 10,615 wounded. Enemy air activity over Britain again on reduced scale.

OCTOBER 19TH.—Enemy activity of little importance by day, but night raids on London on larger scale.

The R.A.F. Offensive

It is often, but quite wrongly, said that this war is a war of stalemate—the underlying idea being that neither side can effectively strike at the other—and that though so long as Britain rules the seas she can never be beaten, yet the invulnerability of the Axis Powers on land is just as complete. This view would have been accurate enough had a similar situation existed a century, or even a third of a century ago; it is not accurate to-day, for the simple reason that the advent of the air arm has done away with invulnerability, whether that of an island Power with full control of the sea or of a Continental Power with full control of the land.

The air arm, moreover, is an offensive weapon first and foremost. Defence against its blows, under existing conditions at any rate, is always difficult and at times impossible. It can attack warships and merchantmen at sea and docks and shore installations with a frequency, persistence and accuracy that make it a formidable foe to the superior maritime Power; it can hit at troop concentrations, barracks, camps, gun positions, and lines of communication and thereby considerably hamper and make more costly the operations of even the strongest army. Furthermore, it can assume and sustain an offensive as deadly to a military as to a naval foe, against the actual sources of his armed power, his industries, his external supplies, his internal communications, his homeland and his people. The weight and effectiveness of these various forms of aerial offensive will depend mainly on the absolute strength and efficiency of the air force that delivers it, and, less than is the case with sea or land forces, than on the balance of numerical or other superiority over the enemy.

It is therefore untrue to say that in the present stage of the war as a whole, Britain is solely and entirely on the defensive, although she cannot yet attack her foes by land, her navy cannot reach the main centres of hostile power, and her air force is still outnumbered by that of her enemy. This last factor has not prevented the carrying out of very effective and damaging attacks on the armed forces and the war efforts of Germany and Italy and as our air power grows, the more powerful and deadly will that offensive become. It is already possible from published official sources to estimate what has already been accomplished in this respect.

The list of major air attacks on German territory up to the end of September is a long and impressive one. No less than 125 areas have been assailed, many of them repeatedly. Berlin, which Goering proudly boasted could never be reached by a hostile aeroplane, has had fifteen raids and will have a good many more yet. Bremen has had thirty; Cologne also thirty; Essen sixteen; Hamburg thirty-six; the notorious Hamm junction over sixty; Hanover twenty; Kiel and the canal sixteen; Mannheim eighteen; Osnabrucke twenty-four; Soest junction thirty; and Wilhelmshaven twenty. In addition there is a host of smaller but important places which have had anything from one to a dozen attacks.

A glance at the map shows the wide range and great intensity of these R.A.F. raids. They have covered the whole of Western Germany from the south-western corner hard by the Swiss frontier near Basle, thence northwards by way of the Thuringian and Harz mountains and the Elbe valley to the Baltic coast of Mecklenburg. Outside this belt, other series of attacks have covered a wide area of Central Germany from Berlin by way of Dresden to Gotha and another area in Bavaria, including Munich and Nuremberg, the spiritual homes of the Nazi party. Inside the belt the Ruhr industrial basin has been especially severely hit, the zone from Munster south to Cologne, thence west to Duren and thence north to Wesel and north-east to Munster again have been visited some 300 times, or once for every working day during the period under review.,

In all these areas the variety of targets attacked includes munition works, power stations, aerodromes, seaplane bases, aircraft works, oil tanks and installations, railways, docks and waterways and naval craft and shore establishments; incendiary bombs have also been dropped in quantities in forest areas where munition dumps were known to be concealed. It must be noted that the above data about these R.A.F. operations are concerned with targets inside Germany only, and do not include small bombing raids, leaflet dropping expeditions and recon-

naissance flights. Nor is any account therein taken of the severe and sustained attacks on the hostile " invasion " ports in German-occupied territory, on the enemy's aerodromes there, on his troop concentrations, depots and dumps all over France, Belgium, Holland, Denmark and Norway, or on the communications by rail, road and canal leading thence to his homeland.

It must also be emphasised, when trying to weigh up the importance of the R.A.F. offensive against Germany, that it has been designed and is proceeding on a well-thought-out and systematic plan. Some official details have been given about this plan, which is based not only on military but on economic considerations. Weak spots in German industry are thus being systematically attacked, special attention being paid to plants providing the electric or gas lighting, heat and power for factories, houses, streets, and railways, and to factories dealing with key products of various kinds, interference with the output of which leads to slowing down and congestion over far wider areas of munitions and arms supply. The roads, railways and canals, or rather the nodal points on them, are also frequently sought out, for at these, too, the war effort of the enemy is highly vulnerable.

Germany's synthetic oil industry is of vital value to her, for in the natural oil product, the life blood of modern war, without which neither armies, navies, nor air force can move or fight, she is sadly deficient and our blockade has cut her off from all sources of its supply outside Europe. This snythetic industry of hers, by which she has striven frantically to make up for her shortage of natural oil, has been severely and systematically hit. Forty per cent. of her plants lie in Western Germany and all have been repeatedly raided during the last few months ; all but 20 per cent. of the remainder, situated in Central Germany, are now, with the longer nights and increasing range of our bombers, coming well within range of attack and will soon suffer the same fate as those further west. The oil refining plants, mostly sited about Hamburg and Bremen and the Hanover area, have also been heavily hammered. It is not fanciful to attribute the recent German rape of Roumania and the increasing urgency of her drive to the Middle East, to her increasing anxiety for new natural oil supplies, for the shortage of which her battered synthetic oil industry can no longer fully compensate.

Another pointer to the weight of the R.A.F.'s blows may be seen in the recent desire of Germany to economise her loss of aeroplanes in raids over this country. Her aircraft production has been too severely hit to ensure rapid replacement of machines lost at a rate as high as that incurred in massed attacks by day. Since to interrupt the air attack on this country altogether would be too open and humiliating a confession of defeat, Germany has had to resort to carrying it on, by day by tip and run darts of small fleets of fast fighters used as bombers, and by night by indiscriminate scattering of bombs, which, however, grievous the results in civil damage and casualties, is from a military point of view extravagant and useless.

The great docks on the North Sea and Baltic coasts, their former activities already grievously curtailed by our blockade, have been so severely damaged from the air as now to be practically derelict areas. Germany's intricate and far-flung network of canals and canalised rivers, which carry a far greater bulk of her internal transport than is the case in this country, have long been sorely overloaded by reason of the declining efficiency of the railways ; now they have been further hard hit by our incessant bombing attacks directed at their nodal points and by the withdrawal of a large portion of their barge flotillas for use in the invasion of Britain which failed to materialise. Few of these barges which have been the target for such incessant and fierce attacks on the part of our air squadrons will ever return to the peaceful waters whence they came.

When, therefore, the citizens of London and other British cities recently the objectives of German attack, look at the damage done in their beloved streets and squares, let them remember that the ruin and devastation that our own machines have sown far and wide over hostile territory has not been purposeless and wanton work such as they behold around them, but has been aimed and has struck at Germany's military and industrial machinery and at her means of keeping it in being and running. Blows such as these we are striking at the enemy in the sum of their results will shorten the war by reducing his power to carry it on, whereas his attacks aimed at us have no such effect and are designed, as far as they can be seen to have any reasoned design at all, at so impairing the spirit of our men, women and children in the streets and houses of our cities and villages that they will plead for peace rather than endure the torture of longer continued war. In that attempt he will fail, and in that hope he will be deceived. Meanwhile our power to strike him hard and effectively grows daily and with it the assurance and nearness of our final victory, which we must use to put an end once for all to this needless and lawless terror from the skies, too long the scourge and dread of peaceful folk who desire only to be let go about their lawful occasions unmolested and unafraid.

London Under Attack

The writer's excuse for this article, and for the frequent appearance in it of the personal pronoun, must be twofold. First, that the Capital has been, since the first week of September, the principal target of the enemy attack and the main centre of the war. Second, that his duty has taken him in and out of this same London every week-day, and enabled him personally to see a good deal of how she and her people are faring and bearing what has come upon them. Thus what he has to tell of these things, personal and incomplete as it must be, is at least first-hand evidence.

The first impression to be removed—an impression which Press stories and photographs have perhaps contributed to produce and certainly to exaggerate—is that London as a whole has suffered severe or extensive material damage. Parts of it, many of them where such damage is reported to have been worst, I have not seen and therefore cannot speak of with personal knowledge. The East End, and particularly dockland, have been hard, perhaps hardest, hit, and the bulk of the destruction and casualties here unfortunately took place in the very first few days of the attack, before the measures of defence, security and repair had reached their present stage of efficiency, now, it may be said, very high indeed. Central London has been the special target of high explosive and incendiary bombs on several nights, and here, too, local damage has been spectacular in certain hard-hit spots. The south-eastern and south-western outskirts have been constant targets throughout ; the west and north-west had their bad nights rather later in the hostile offensive period. Of most of these latter areas I have seen something, of Central London and the area due west and south-west from it a good deal ; and my general impression remains—bad local scars here and there, small but severely devastated spots among them, but nothing like general or widespread damage and large areas completely untouched by the hand of the enemy. If Marshal Goering's merry men are telling him that they even begun to destroy London or have seriously marred her outward appearance, they are deliberately or unwittingly telling him lies. If this is the worst they can do to her London can take it, and will take it, if necessary, for many a long day and night to come.

As regards other material effects, more important though less visible to the naked eye than the destruction of buildings, much the same may be said—what has been done in the way of dislocation and destruction has been out of all proportion to the efforts the enemy has expended and the claims he has put forward. In the first period of his offensive there was considerable disorganisation of railway services, delay and congestion on the roads and the Underground, a bad breakdown on the part of the Post Office, and a general slowing up of the wheels of public and private business. That has now been almost entirely got over, on the whole reasonably quickly, though more slowly than it might have been but for errors of direction in certain quarters, of which more later. One is still not quite certain when one's morning suburban train will arrive or one's evening train leave. The running of the buses is still somewhat spasmodically irregular, largely because the overnight arrival of time bombs in unexpected places has necessitated diversions into fresh streets and alleys new. The Underground railways seem to be chronic sufferers from every air raid warning, and their widespread use as dormitories at night does not tend to ease

their difficulties. Letters and telegrams are still liable to delays en route, and telephoning is no task for the busy or impatient-minded. But, on the whole, London's life continued, at a more leisurely tempo and slightly less efficient manner, it is true, but it does and will continue all the same. She still receives, deals with, and dispatches much the same quantity of goods as before ; her streets are as crowded, and her trains and public vehicles as full as usual (indeed they probably seem to those who use them fuller) and though her life by day is less habitual and secure, it is as vivid, fascinating and many-sided as ever.

By night, the time of maximum enemy activity, of course, things are somewhat different. London life by night dies down almost as soon as full darkness falls. Practically all theatres, cinemas and dance halls close up early ; public transport is reduced to a minimum ; and the black-out is intense and rigorously enforced. The great majority of the populace—thinned out considerably not only by the earlier efflux of the suburbanite " daily breaders " but by a steady tide—not yet as large as it might or perhaps could be—of voluntary and compulsory evacuation—retire to their downstairs rooms or cellars, if they have such, or to the public shelters for such safety and sleep as they can get. The civil defence services stand by for the action in which a large proportion of them are certain to be engaged before the morrow's dawn. Myriads of searchlights are ready to stab the sky and hundreds of guns to grumble and thunder and crack at the first drone of enemy aeroplane engines—and they, too, have rarely long to wait for their work to begin. And so it goes on, night after night, interspersed with sirens proclaiming "Alert " or " Raiders Passed " in alternation, until the sun rises again in cloudless or overcast sky, the day's life begins anew, and the citizens emerge and go abroad to find and count the night's wounds and resume their lawful occasions.

The attack on London has already taught us all a good deal. It is probably true to say that it was less severe, even in its earliest days, than we had any right to expect and fear, and that on the whole our defences, military and civil, have stood up admirably to the test imposed upon them. It is also probably true to say that the efficiency and effectiveness of the attack has steadily, if slowly, declined ; that the defence is proving its master more and more ; and that London has already seen and survived the worst the Luftwaffe can do to her.

The Germans' resort to the night bombing they had always decried as inaccurate and ineffective may indeed be considered a confession of weakness, of their inability to break through our defence and deliver the blows at the military objectives which alone could have given them decisive results. But the effect of this change of strategy, from our point of view, was to throw the burden of casualties, damage, and moral peril on to the shoulders of London's civilian population, and the task of repelling the attack on to London's military and civil defences. It would have been indeed remarkable if these, faced with a peril, preparation to meet which could hitherto only be theoretical, had been fully ready and adequate from the first to encounter and defeat it, and had had nothing to learn from experience or from trial and error.

Crews of guns, searchlights, barrage balloons, and night fighter aircraft were bound to, and did, greatly enhance the potency and effectiveness of their methods after the first few days of the hostile offensive. The numbers of these weapons were greatly increased ; new devices, most of them secret and still largely experimental, were brought into speedy action to help counteract the machinations of the night raiders ; and the populace of the City, partly by practical adaptation of their normal way of life to the novel conditions, and partly by the gradual accustoming of minds and nerves to the constant possibility and frequent presence of peril to life and limb, learned how to carry on with the minimum of danger and discomfort and inconvenience.

Nevertheless, there were errors and weaknesses. In the earlier days there tended in general to be too great an insistence on complete and continual security for all, even at the expense of maintaining essential work and services. Government offices and public services, banks, and certain shops set a bad example in this respect ; many of them, ceasing to function at the first warning wail of the siren, spent the greater part of the working day with their staffs in useless idleness and their parts in the national war effort hamstrung. In due course, and thanks largely to the initiative of the staffs themselves, this policy of safety first, ordered initially from above, was changed to the more reasonable one of " carrying on " to the moment of imminent danger, and this is now almost the universal practice.

Next, it was found that the surface or shallow shelter policy, completely justified as it was from the material point of view, had failed to take full account of the factor of morale. Rest, sleep, and ease of mind and nerves were not to be had in the needful degree by the inhabitants of these cramped, uncomfortable little dugouts, exposed to the constant and often terrifying shock and din of battle all around them, so that their degree of safety never seemed to be as great as, measured by the laws of chance and probability, it really was, and their morale was in danger of suffering perpetual and increasing diminution. Strenuous, if somewhat belated, efforts are now being put forth to secure the greater safety and quietness and comfort of deep shelters for a far greater number of people ; progress in this task is being made, and will increase in speed as time goes on. It is important, with the winter coming upon us apace, to enable the citizens of London to be able at need to live underground as peacefully, as securely and as comfortably as possible—in short, quickly to provide them with subterranean homes from homes.

Thirdly, the strain of incessant night work on the personnel of the civil defence services, many of whom are fully employed in their ordinary civil avocations by day, will have in some way to be reduced if they are not to be driven beyond the limits of human endurance. The previous heavy reductions in their strength, in response in large measure to the shortsighted economy drive by the Press and local authorities during the peaceful days of last winter, are now making their evil effects fully felt. Here again there has been a belated awakening to stern realities, and swift improvements may be looked for.

Lastly, the problem of maintaining the rehousing those who have lost their homes and their all has not always been well provided for or well handled, despite incessant and selfless labour on the part of many of those responsible, accompanied often by miracles of adaptation and improvisation. New men and new methods are now also at work on this. Like all these other problems, it will eventually be solved, but neither as swiftly nor as efficiently as it might and should have been.

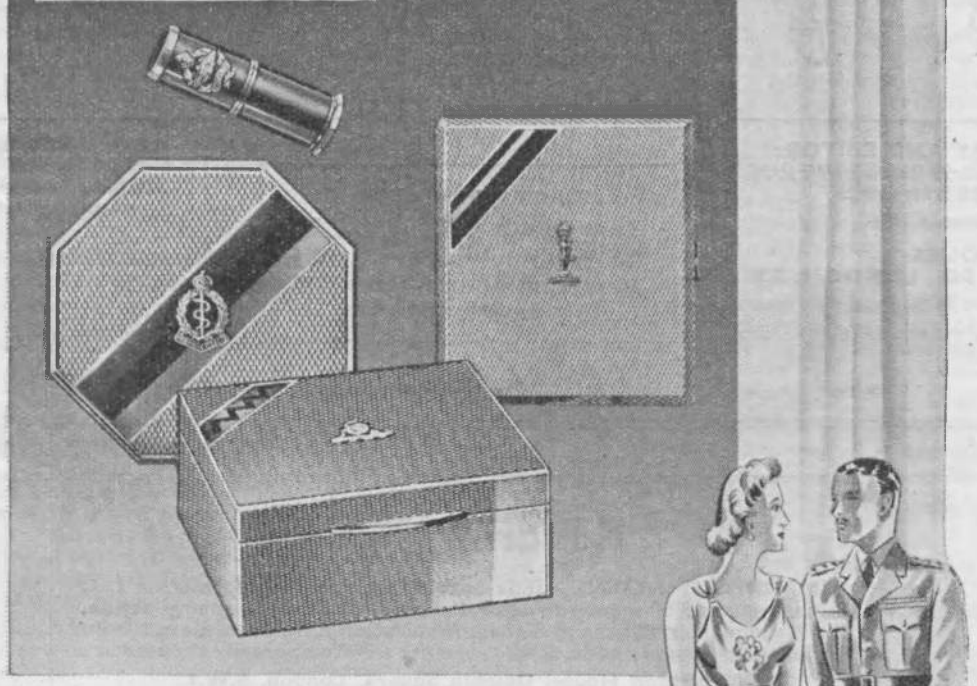
But when all is said and done, the things that, first and foremost and all the time strike me, who myself can lay no claim to the to-day proud title of a London citizen, are the courage, cheerfulness, resilience, and standfastness of those men, women and children of the city amidst whom I spend my working days. The tales of the old lady, who mounted to the top of the heaped up ruins of her home to plant upon it a little Union Jack, or of the shattered shop, inspired by the notice " Open as Usual " erected by an equally shattered neighbour to rival it with one reading " More Open than Usual," have already been told. I, too, among the stray people to whom it has been my pleasure and privilege sometimes to give a lift in their long and laborious way home have seen the same spirit aflame. The two grizzled working men, veterans of the last war, whose only fear was that they should take me ever such a little out of my way or involve me in a traffic jam by waiting too long to get out of the car. The elderly Scot who said that the anti-aircraft guns outside his front door would not disturb him that night, as they had every night that week hitherto, because it was his turn to do duty as warden—" Fortunately the human frame is wonderfully adaptable ; I can stand it and plenty more yet." The pretty girl, " as neat as a weasel " in Chaucer's Miller's phrase, whose neighbour's house, three doors away, had been completely demolished, " I wasn't frightened then, because it really wasn't a loud crash and I didn't know what it was at the time. I would be I expect if it happened again, but that's not likely—I hope ! " London is full of people—ordinary, plain people of all ages, classes, sexes and stations—like these, and while this is the stuff of which her citizens are made, who shall deny her right still to be called, as the old 15th century poet termed her, " the flower of cities all " ?

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VOL. XXI.—No. 250 DECEMBER, 1940 PRICE—SIXPENCE

Editorial Notes

IMPORTANT NOTICE.—It is notified for general information that in consequence of severe structural damage caused by enemy action, the Headquarter Offices of Signals Association have been moved from 95, Belgrave Road, London, S.W. 1, and are now temporarily situated at :

801, Hood House, Dolphin Square, London, S.W.1
(Telephone : Victoria 3800, Extension " Hood 801 ")

All correspondence intended for :

" Signals Association,"
" Royal Signals Benevolent Fund,"
" Editor, 'The Wire,' "
" Royal Signals Comforts Fund,"

should be addressed accordingly until further notice and NOT to 95, Belgrave Road.

With the Best of all Good Wishes to Our Readers at Home and Abroad

Extracts from the " London Gazette " dated 22nd and 25th October, 1940.—The King has been graciously pleased to approve of the undermentioned awards in recognition of gallant conduct in action with the enemy :

THE DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT MEDAL

No. 7811235 Sergeant Thomas Burke, Royal Signals (T.A.).

No. 2564758 Sergeant Leonard Joseph Wells, Royal Signals (T.A.).

No. 2579803 Signalman Harold Wheelwright, Royal Signals (T.A.).

THE MILITARY MEDAL

No. 2574905 Lance Corporal Robert Leonard Lingwood, Royal Signals (T.A.).

No. 783320 Signalman John Alexander Cross, Royal Signals (S.R.).
No. 2326968 Signalman Thomas William Evans, Royal Signals.

MENTIONED IN DESPATCHES

Major H. R. Firth, Royal Signals.
No. 2316414 Sergeant J. H. Dirs, Royal Signals.
No. 2324178 Lance Corporal G. Vincent, Royal Signals.

Royal Signals Comforts Fund.—It is now twelve months ago since Royal Signals Comforts Fund, sponsored by Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, and administered by a small but very efficient Committee of ladies, commenced activities from the Headquarter Offices of Signals Association.

During that time, approximately 17,000 woollen garments have been distributed to Units of the Corps at home and overseas, in addition to quantities of books and games of all descriptions.

Wounded casualties recuperating in hospitals throughout the country have been visited and everything possible has been, and is being, done to provide Royal Signals prisoners of war with comforts and necessities which are denied them from other sources.

This good work has all been made possible by the voluntary and very generous support given to it by all ranks of the Corps, and Statements of Accounts published in the WIRE from time to time illustrate the splendid response resulting from Her Royal Highness's appeal published in our December, 1939, issue.

May we, however, and on behalf of the Corps as a whole, take this opportunity to pay a well-earned tribute to those ladies of the Committee who are giving the whole of their time and attention to this undertaking.

Despite many difficulties, of which " alarms and excursions " occasioned by enemy visitations have played no small part, every working day for the past twelve months has seen the Comforts Fund Committee at their job of ministering to the welfare of Corps personnel in every theatre of war, and we are confident that we shall be voicing a deep sense of gratitude from all ranks of Royal Signals, for their loyal and devoted service. (See page 340 for further particulars.)

The Corps Association.—Within recent months appeals have been launched to offset the decrease in Association revenue occasioned by the outbreak of hostilities, and it is a source of regret that the response so far has been disappointing. This, of course, can be attributed to a variety of reasons, but as one of the contributory causes may conceivably be an imperfect understanding of the aims and objects of Signals Association, it is pointed out that—

Signals Association is a charitable organisation designed to be of practical help to members of the Corps during and after leaving the Service. Its two primary objects are—provision of help to relieve instances of poverty and distress amongst Other Ranks and their dependents and in assisting members to obtain suitable employment on discharge.

Cases of distress are assisted from Signals Association Benevolent Fund which, prior to the outbreak of hostilities, was supported entirely by voluntary contributions from Officers, supplemented occasionally by proceeds of entertainments organised by Units, and donations from Service charities. The amount of money available for distribution each year was, however, strictly limited and in the majority of instances relief had to be restricted.

From the fact that such revenue was barely sufficient to meet normal peace-time requirements, it is evident that a vast increase in income will be necessary if the Fund is to be in a position to provide material help during and after the War.

The Colonels-Commandant, therefore, decided to institute the new Signals Association Benevolent Fund (No. 2 A/C 1940) for the relief of cases of distress occasioned by war conditions.

All Other Ranks of the Corps are asked to contribute 3d. per man per month, and it is thought that no one will decline to contribute such a small amount for such a commendable purpose. Many Units are already subscribing, but support as a whole leaves much to be desired, and it is hoped that the obviously vital urgency of this matter will induce the whole Corps to co-operate.

It seems scarcely necessary to point out that no schemes evoived by the Government and local authorities can be expected to relieve ALL cases of distress which will inevitably occur. Independent charitable organisations with funds at their disposal will also be called upon to co-operate in the process of reconstruction, and vast amounts of money will be required for that purpose.

An individual contribution of 3d. per man per month is, to all intents and purposes, a negligible amount, but collectively it should realise a sum which will go far to meet the calls which it is feared may be made upon us.

Hitherto practically all money given for charitable purposes has been devoted to that end, the bulk of administrative expenses being met from revenue derived from sales of our Corps Magazine, THE WIRE.

It is important, therefore, that sales of the publication should be maintained at the highest possible level, but the very considerable increase in establishment has not, by any means, been attended by a corresponding increase in circulation.

The Magazine is devoted to the reproduction of notes and articles submitted by Units of the Corps at home and abroad, and by virtue of its purely domestic character enjoys considerable popularity amongst our Ex-Service element and all members of Regular Army Units of Royal Signals.

It would not, however, appear to be so well known amongst more recently recruited personnel, and it is hoped that every effort will be made to bring it to the notice of the latter with the dual object of fostering " esprit-de-corps " and providing the funds upon which the Association so largely relies to meet normal overhead expenses.

Whatever the Association has accomplished in the past, and it is generally acknowledged to have been of inestimable service to thousands of members, is little compared with what it will undoubtedly be called upon to do in the future.

The extent of its practical help obviously depends upon the amount of money available for distribution, and as only Other Ranks will ultimately benefit, it is logical to expect them to co-operate in providing the necessary funds.

One direct method of doing so is to subscribe regularly to the Corps Magazine.

Obituary.—We regret to announce the death of Brigadier General William Patrick Newbigging, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., late Manchester Regiment and Royal Signals, who passed away in his 69th year at a nursing home in Bath on Saturday, 7th December, 1940.

Morse Instruction.—There has just been published an ingenious method of learning the Morse Code in record time. It is claimed that the whole alphabet can in fact be learned in ten minutes. Besides saving time, this method avoids confusion of similar letters.

The system was devised by Brigadier Sir Edward Tandy, late Royal Engineers, many years ago, but has never before been published. His method, however, is so simple and easy that it has been decided to make it available for the many thousands who are now learning and teaching morse.

The scheme, which depends on the memorising of certain key words, is printed on a small card about 3 ins. x 5½ ins., which can be slipped into the pocket. Information about the card, its cost and where supplies may be obtained will be found in an advertisement on page g44 of this issue of the Corps Magazine.

EDITOR.

Benevolent Fund Notes

Security regulations do not permit us to publish detailed particulars of Corps Units, but it is hoped that the following list of those formations who have already responded to the Colonels-Commandants' appeal for regular monthly contributions to the Corps Benevolent Fund will be found satisfactory for the purposes of identification.

The Administrator gratefully acknowledges receipt of the following :

Benevolent Fund (No. 2 A/C 1940)

BANKERS ORDER SUBSCRIPTIONS from :

2nd Lieutenant C. E. Ware.

CASH SUBSCRIPTIONS from :

Major A. H. Britton.

Mr. A. C. Lennox.

Benevolent Fund (No. 2 A/C 1940) (Unit list continued)

1 Company, No. 1 — Signals, Surrey—October.
1st Operators' Training Battalion — S.T.C., Yorkshire—July, August and September.
12th — Signals, Home Forces—October.
" F " Section, 2 Company, — Divisional Signals—October.
1st Holding Battalion, — S.T.C., Yorkshire—October.
53rd Heavy Regiment, R.A., Signal Section, Home Forces—October.
1 Company, 48th — Signals, Home Forces—October.
2nd — Signals, Home Forces—October.
3 Company, — Corps Signals, Home Forces—October.
London — Signals, Home Forces—September and October.
— Holding Battalion, Yorkshire—October.
— S.T.C., Wales—July, August and September.
— Operators' Training Battalion, Yorkshire—December.
C.M.A. Section, — Corps, Home Forces—October.
— O.C.T.U., Yorkshire (Other Ranks)—October.
3rd — Signals, Home Forces—November.
Operators' Training Battalion, S.T.C., Wales—June, July and August.
" K " Section, — Divisional Signals, Home Forces—November.
— O.C.T.U., Yorkshire (Officers)—October.
29th — Group Signals, Home Forces—November.
1 Company, 18th — Signals, Home Forces—November.
" F " Section, 2 Company, — Divisional Signals, Home Forces—November.
53rd — Signal Section, Home Forces—November.
54th — Signal Section, Home Forces—November.
222 — Signal Section, Home Forces—November.
1 Company, — Divisional Signals—November.
— Holding Battalion, Yorkshire—November.
Orkneys and Shetlands Signal Company, Home Forces—November.
— O.C.T.U., Yorkshire (Other Ranks)—November.
1 Coy, 11th — Signals, Home Forces—November.
12th — Signals, Home Forces—November.

UNITS ABROAD—
Signal Training Battalion, S.T.C. (I.), India—Special donation.
Wireless Experimental Section, Abbottabad—August.
Kohat District Signals, India—July.
— Indian Divisional Signals, Meerut—July, August and September.

APPEALS dealt with :

1	Wife of N.C.O., Wales	Grant	£2	10	0
2	Wife of N.C.O., Yorks	Grant	£5	0	0
3	Signalman, Yorks.	Grant	£4	0	0
4	Wife of Signalman, Hebburn-on-Tyne	Grant	£2	15	0
5	Wife of N.C.O., Sheerness	Grant	£2	0	0
6	Widow of Ex-N.C.O., Stoke-on-Trent	Grant	£3	0	0
7	Signalman, Yorks.	Grant	£3	0	0

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

Royal Signals Comforts Fund

ANNUAL REPORT

20TH NOVEMBER, 1939—1ST DECEMBER, 1940.

The Royal Signals Comforts Fund was inaugurated under the patronage of Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal on 20th November, 1939, and between that date and 1st December, 1940, 16,534 woollen garments have been despatched to Signal Units. 4,340 were sent up to the end of March, 1940, and 11,397 between 1st October and 1st December, 1940. In addition to these some 90 parcels of books, games, recreational amenities and 797 pairs of socks were sent out between 1st March and 1st December. Last winter the bulk of the despatches were to the B.E.F., but since then a large number of Units at home have been supplied. Parcels have been sent to Units in outlying stations abroad and particular attention is being paid to the Army of the Middle East at the moment. Besides woollen garments the Fund is making special efforts to provide Units with recreational facilities, sports equipment, musical instruments etc.

Immediately after Dunkirk, the Fund sent small parcels of books, games, sweets, etc., to all the wounded men belonging to the Corps. It also arranged for a large number of them to be visited in hospital and sent reports of their condition to the next of kin.

During the winter, two successful dances, two bridge tournaments and a concert were organised by the London Entertainments Committee, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Doyle.

In May, Mrs. Ozanne obtained premises in Hammersmith Road and opened the Comforts Fund Shop, at which she sells everything that is given to her. By this means a considerable sum has been raised for the Fund.

In July the Committee had the honour to receive a visit from Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, who displayed a keen interest in the work.

In September a Ladies' Guild of Workers for the Comforts Fund was formed and Commanding Officers were asked to appoint a lady to form a branch in the Unit. This has produced quite a fair response and several branches are now being started. In forming this Guild it was the aim of the Committee to get more general support for the Comforts Fund throughout the Corps.

By force of circumstances the Fund was obliged to leave the Depot at 95, Belgrave Road in October and, through the kindness of Brigadier Clementi Smith, has been given temporary accommodation at 801, Hood House, Dolphin Square. Despite this the Committee is glad to be able to report that no loss of stock has been sustained by the Fund.

The Committee would like to take this opportunity of thanking the many kind supporters who have enabled them to do this work on behalf of the Royal Corps of Signals. Among these are : Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, who sent a generous subscription and large parcels of woollen comforts ; the 3rd Signal Training Centre, who raised £100 through concerts and sent large contributions of knitting ; the Staff of the Royal Signals Records and Pay Office, which has contributed close on £100 in monthly subscriptions ; Mrs. Wheeler, who has raised £55 recently through entertainments in Edinburgh ; Mrs. Tayleur, who has sent valuable contributions in money and knitting from India ; the Staff of the Inspection Department, R.E. and Signal Stores, who have sent a regular monthly subscription ; Mrs. Elstob and Miss Des Barres, whose knitting party at Beckenham has contributed over 1,000 garments ; Mrs. H. M. F. White, Mrs. Willan, Mrs. Helps, Mrs. Chenivix Trench, and many others who have run successful knitting parties.

Grateful acknowledgements are due to Lady Pender for allowing the Fund the use of her house in Eaton Place for storage of bales during the summer ; to Mr. Reid of the National Foreman's Association, who allowed the Fund the premises at 95, Belgrave Road rent free ; to those who so kindly visited wounded men belonging to the Corps in hospital and to the Staff of the Signals Association for all the valuable assistance they have most ungrudgingly given to the Committee.

It may interest readers to know that the Comforts Fund Shop at 67 Hammersmith Road, London, W., has also carried on successfully through this difficult autumn, and Mrs. Ozanne has been most grateful to all those who have helped her, especially Miss Jill Cary.

NOTES FROM EDINBURGH

Reference our challenge of last month, Edinburgh Signal wives have great pleasure in sending Comforts Fund a cheque for £55 10s. 10d., and enclose some detail of their efforts.

	£	s.	d.
Proceeds of—Whist Drive	18	15	3
Sale of Work	11	0	0
Raffles—Dressed Doll	5	11	2
Quilted Bedjacket	4	3	3
Basket of Groceries	2	1	0
Mile of Pennies		10	2
Gifts in cash (including cheque for £10 10s. 0d. from 3rd A.A. Signals)	13	10	0
	£55	10	10

All officers' wives now have a "Comforts" tin. These will be emptied monthly and the contents sent as a lump sum.

We are already working on our next venture—a Dance to be held on 6th December.

We have adopted Mr. Morrison's slogan: "Go to it!" Has anyone else?

MONTHLY LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS

	£	s.	d.
Mrs. Rance		5	0
P.R.I., 1st Operators' Training Battalion, Yorkshire	9	0	0
Mrs. C. M. F. White	1	0	0
— Divisional Signals, Proceeds of Concert	11	7	0
E. Morgan, Esq., Royal Signals	1	1	0
Officers' Mess, Railway Training Centre, R.E.	5	0	0
London Entertainments Committee, Proceeds of Dance	21	15	8
Staff of Royal Signals Records Office (monthly)	8	5	0
Anonymous	10	10	0
Mrs. Hughes' Work Party	1	0	0
Mrs. Robinson's Work Party	1	1	0
Mrs. Wheeler, Proceeds of Entertainments	55	10	10
Mrs. Jones's Work Party	2	0	0
Kohat District Signals	4	7	9
Peshawar District Signals	4	9	6
Royal Signals. Mess, Aldershot (monthly)	2	8	0
North China Signal Section	3	0	0
Mrs. Bury		10	0
Mrs. Nalder		15	0
P.R.I., — Divisional Signals	8	0	0
Collecting Box, — Divisional Signals		5	6
Lieutenant-Colonel A. H. Lennie, M.M.	2	0	0
Colonel F. R. G. Forsyth, M.C.	2	0	0
— Divisional Signals (Collecting Box)	3	0	0
Mrs. Fresser (Collecting Box)		10	0
Lieutenant-Colonel F. J. M. Stratton	5	0	0
Mrs. Jones's Work Party	1	0	0
Mrs. John Birkett		5	0
Anonymous	1	12	0
Proceeds of Comforts Fund Shop	12	0	0
Mrs. Egerton		4	0

Royal Signals Comforts Fund

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS.—20TH NOVEMBER, 1939—1ST DECEMBER, 1940.

RECEIPTS.

	£	s.	d.
H.R.H. The Princess Royal	50	0	0
Unit Subscriptions	792	3	0
Private Subscritions, Donations for Wool, etc.	549	9	11
Proceeds of Entertainments	395	11	2
Proceeds of Comforts Fund Shop	72	0	0
	£1,859	4	1

EXPENDITURE.

	£	s.	d.
Wool	1,020	19	3
Cork soles	60	8	11
Turkish Towelling for Scarves	67	4	0
Games and other comforts	267	17	0
Printing, Stationery and Collecting Boxes	25	12	10½
Packing material	17	9	9½
Postage and carriage on parcels	59	15	11½
Office expenses, Insurance and Bank charges	16	11	10
Subscription to Prisoners of War Department of the Red Cross	20	0	0
Balance in Petty Cash	7	1	2½
Balance in Bank	296	3	3
	£1,859	4	1

In addition to the expenses recorded above, over £100 worth of goods are on order.

The Middle East Campaign

To write about the war in the Middle East is to place oneself in the disadvantageous position of telling a half-finished story; for that war is in full swing as these lines are being penned, in mid-November, and before they appear in print, perhaps a month hence, much may have happened, and the picture here drawn may have entirely changed. All that can be attempted, then, is to tell the story as far as it has gone, without any but the most general forecast of what the future may hold.

The story begins as far back as 10th June last, the date when Italy declared war on France and Britain. Ever since the German invasion of Poland, in September, 1939, that declaration of war had been an obvious possibility—almost a certainty, once the balance of probability had turned in favour of a German victory over the Allies. And at that moment, with the B.E.F. in France driven to re-embark for Britain, with the loss of practically all its arms and material of war, with Norway, Holland and Belgium overrun by invasion, and with France herself fighting desperately for life with all the odds against her, Italy believed she could come in on a "sure thing," with rich prizes to be reaped at light cost. Within the next fortnight her view of the situation appeared to be fully justified by events. France surrendered to the Axis Powers, laid down her arms, and signed an armistice, by the terms of which she demilitarised all her frontiers with Italy at home and in Africa and all her Mediterranean naval and air bases, and placed her resources at the disposal of her conquerors for their further prosecution of the war against her only surviving ally, Britain. It must have seemed to Hitler and Mussolini that full and complete victory, which would have placed the Eastern hemisphere at their feet to do with as they willed, was as good as won. Even if Britain would, she hardly could fight on for more than a few weeks before being struck down by the mighty armies and air fleets of the Axis. All that had now to be done was to prepare for, and if necessary carry swiftly through, this one final campaign.

Italy's share in it was to be the conquest of the basin of the Mediterranean, which Mussolini had always spoken of as " our sea " and now hoped to make it so in reality. The strategic situation there was one of simplicity and promise. Italy's homeland and home islands of Sardinia and Sicily jutted out southwards into the narrow central portion of the Mediterranean, of which her colony of Libya, less than 350 miles distant by sea, formed the southern shore. Before the surrender of France Libya had been threatened on two fronts—from the west by the French forces in Tunisia, with those of Algeria and Morocco behind them—from the east by the British forces in Egypt, while the Allied fleets in greatly superior strength, were based within easy striking distance of the line of communications from Italy to Libya, a line also menaced by the British fortified island of Malta. The elimination of France from the war freed the Italians in Libya from the menace to their western frontier, whether by land, sea, or air, and allowed them to turn their undivided attention eastwards towards Egypt. Egypt, an ally of Britain, is a rich prize for him who holds it ; it commands the Suez Canal and the Red Sea, the eastern gate of the Mediterranean and the entrance to the Indian Ocean, with access to East Africa, Persia, India, and the Far East. Moreover, ready to co-operate in the conquest of Egypt lay strong Italian forces in Eritrea, the newly occupied territory of Abyssinia, and Italian Somaliland ; at present, cut off from support by land and sea, there were rather a liability than an asset, but if once touch could be regained with them, they would be well placed to strike westwards at the rich British territory of the Sudan or southwards towards Uganda, Kenya and Tanganyika, with Rhodesia and South Africa as ultimate objectives.

During her period of " non-belligerency " Italy had had ample time to study this situation, make her plans for exploiting it, and complete her preparations for conquest in the Middle East, as soon as autumn brought with it suitable campaigning weather. She had half a million men in Libya, probably a quarter of a million in East Africa, and ample resources at home. Her fleet was stronger than that of Britain in Mediterranean waters ; her air force also could be used there at full strength. The British Middle Eastern army, which had to hold a large area of country from the northern border of Palestine to the western frontiers of Egypt and from the mouth of the Nile almost to its source, was inferior both in numbers and equipment, and could not be heavily reinforced from Britain, so long as the danger of German invasion was imminent, as it then was and remained for many weeks to come. British Somaliland was held only by a tiny garrison, and the troops in Kenya could only be slowly reinforced from South Africa. Our available air and naval forces, too, were strictly limited by the urgent and widespread calls upon them elsewhere. From the broad strategical point of view, Italy's prospects seemed encouraging.

Tactically, however, things were not so favourable. Libya is a dry and barren land, to which everything an army needs, even its water supply, has to be brought from overseas. The routes available for the use of a force invading Egypt are few, widely separated, and well marked, and the only one usable by a large force runs along the Mediterranean shore, fully open to hostile air and naval interference, and easily blocked by hostile land defences. Along the two desert routes water is so scanty that they could be used only by small isolated columns. The forces in Italian East Africa, though strong, were quartered in the midst of a potentially hostile population, and were dependent entirely on their existing stocks of war material and supplies, which were limited. Thus, though strategically there was from Italy's point of view everything to be gained by striking quickly and in great force, such a course of action was, for tactical and climatic reasons, very difficult, while the consequences of failure would be disastrous. Marshal Graziani, the Italian Commander-in-Chief, would need all his proved abilities if he were to make a success of his campaign.

It was six weeks before he made his first move, which, so far as it went, was a completely successful one. Early in August, strong Italian columns from East Africa invaded British Somaliland, and before the end of the month had occupied the whole colony. It was a barren prize, however, for neither strategically nor economically was it of any real importance ; a further strip of Red Sea coast passed under Italian control, but so long as Britain continued to command that Sea, as she did, there was little benefit to be reaped from that, and much gain as may have accrued to Italian prestige proved fleeting.

It was not till late September that the sporadic skirmishing between Italian and British outposts in the Libyan-Egyptian frontier belt of desert gave place to a definite Italian advance in force, and hardly had that advance begun than it came to a halt again, still a long distance away from the first formidable British defences in the Mersa Matruh area, more than 150 miles west of Alexandria and the Nile delta. The Italians, who had advanced cautiously and had paid dearly in casualties and losses in material for their very modest gains, had a harassing time at the hands of the British Navy and the Royal Air Force, both during their offensive and after it had come to a halt ; and once halted, there they remained. Meanwhile their foes were putting the time thus allowed to them to excellent use. General Wavell's Middle Eastern army was growing rapidly in numbers, in supplies of war material and in efficiency, so that the original inequality between it and Graziani's command was by the end of October in a fair way to being reduced, and the prospects of the attack by the latter became proportionately less inviting. It looked as if a stalemate was about to develop, if indeed it had not already done so. The Italians in Libya had lost their best opportunity.

Nor had they been able to do more in East Africa. On the Sudan border they had scored two early successes of some local importance by the occupation of Kassala, 200 miles east of Khartum, and of Gallabat, a frontier post 250 miles to the south of Kassala. Early in November, as no further action by the enemy had followed these trifling advances, Gallabat was attacked by the Sudan Defence Force, retaken, and held after series of brisk local engagements, in which the enemy suffered considerably. Far to the south again in the barren desert tracts of the Kenya-Abyssinia border, there was also sporadic local fighting ; the enemy occupied a few scattered villages and water-holes at a cost too high for their military value, and once more relapsed into inactivity.

So, at the time of writing, the military situation on land in the Middle East stands. At sea the Italians have signally failed to vindicate their boast that the Mediterranean is theirs. For the most part their warships, though superior in strength to our fleet, have hugged their harbours, thereby showing prudence at least, for whenever they have encountered the Royal Navy in battle they have suffered losses and been put to flight. The brilliant attack of our Fleet Air Arm on Taranto, with the heavy casualties inflicted there on Italy's battle fleet, has now turned even the numerical balance against her for some time to come, if not for good and all. In the air the Italians have shown themselves as little able to cope with the R.A.F. as their Axis partners ; such raids as they have made, even on so easy and isolated a target as Malta, have been attended with a singular lack of success, and their losses in machines and pilots have been heavy in every air battle and every attack on defended ground targets.

It was no doubt to escape from this stalemate which is all to her disadvantage that Italy embarked in her unsuccessful *blitzkrieg* against Greece, which is still in full progress as we write, and which we hope to describe in a later article.

It is, of course, early to prophesy, but it seems that the prospects are that from now on the main Italian campaign against Britain in the Middle East, even if it can be pursued at all in face of all the present disadvantageous circumstances, will meet with diminishing success, and increasing casualties, and that Germany will soon be compelled to come powerfully to the aid of her Axis partner if a complete fiasco is to be avoided. If, as many good judges believe, the issue of the war is to be decided in this quarter of the globe, the omens would seem to be definitely in Britain's favour, though here, too, as elsewhere, victory can only be the reward of effort, foresight, skill and sacrifice.

HAVE YOU JOINED THE SIGNALS ASSOCIATION ?

HOME STATIONS

Yorkshire 1

1st Operators' Training Battalion

Administrative Wing

Well, chaps, another month has gone by and Britons still rule the waves, and, of course, the air. Adolf, no doubt, is studying his chess board and wondering why his wickets are laid low.

Promotions and Appointments.—Numerous changes have been made in Administrative Wing in the last month. Here are a few of the major changes, the promotions and appointments: R.Q.M.S. Bennett to A/R.S.M.; C.S.M. Jones to A/R.Q.M.S.; Corporal Illingworth to A/Lance Sergeant; A/Lance Corporal Cross to A/Corporal; U/A/Lance Corporal Mace to Lance Corporal; Signalmen Burns, Taylor and Connell to L/A/U/Lance Corporals.

Marriage.—Now for a promotion of different kind, one that will bring a life sentence of joy and happiness to the two parties concerned, and I am sure the whole Battalion will join with me in wishing Frank (Geordie) Tate all the very best on his recent marriage to Miss A. E. McElhone. Their many friends who came to stay with us for their training period wish them well upon their recent venture into matrimony.

Educational.—During the last week or two, classes have been held in German, Italian, French, Spanish and Maths., and now is the time to while away the dark nights by having a little educational course. One no doubt that would cost you many pounds in "Civvy Street." It is surprising the number of talented tutors we have in our Battalion and it is up to the men to take advantage of the facilities offered.

Entertainments.—The junior N.C.O.s have at last wakened up and they held a very successful dance one Saturday evening this month; needless to say Jock Craig was the happy cocktail shaker.

During the beginning of the month the concert party had a very successful night or two out on the moors, but their biggest success was at Hawes, where they had to give a repeat performance on the following night, numerous friendships were made there, but I think the most outstanding personality was old Joss Hutchinson. This old stalwart will live in our hearts many years after this war is over, and I am sure the concert party will take this opportunity of thanking him for the many kindnesses he showered on them. Hawes you should be mighty proud of "Old Joss," as I am sure we are. So much for touring. Lance Corporal Jones is putting his shoulder to the wheel and it won't be long before we have a chance of seeing the farce "French Leave." Signalman Jowett certainly is a live wire and can he make our ribs ache?

The C.O. has formed an Entertainments Committee and so we are hoping for big things to brighten the break.

More about that next month.

By the way, there seems to be a shortage of coal in a certain cookhouse. I hope Freddie is not eating it; he is still taking advances for the forthcoming cigarette cargo; meanwhile the local bank is booming.

Well, folks, that's all for now.

Cheerio.

A. E. H.

No. 1 Company

So full of activity has been the past few weeks with No. 1 Company of the 1st O.T.B. that it is difficult to know just where to begin.

We were sorry to bid good-bye to our O.C., Captain Lang, on posting, and wish him the best of luck in his new sphere. We offer our congratulations to his successor, Captain Norrish.

Highlights of the month were two interesting visits to the countryside for thrilling and educative exercises in which planes of the R.A.F. co-operated. Though these week-end jaunts involved some "route marching," they were not without their compensations—quite apart from the amply supply of fresh air and time ever-varying panorama. For one thing, the Company set off for "home" with an even greater admiration for the British pilots. And that is saying something.

No. 1 Company's "winter sports" are now in full swing! Tournaments are now in progress for indoor games enthusiasts, and debaters and students are already passing pleasant and profitable evenings. Languages, shorthand, and a study of the banking system of England are among the educational avenues now open to trainees, and there is every indication that full advantage will be taken of these exceptionally fine opportunities.

One of the more recent innovations (in which N.C.O.s and men take a common interest!) is 06.00 hours P.T. It is semi-officially stated that some of the more vigorous exercises result in even the sturdy barrack-rooms shaking to their very foundations. The effect on some human frames seems very much worse—at that time of day (or is it night?), anyway.

A visit of inspection to the Unit by the G.O.C. early in November was followed by a happy announcement—an early return from training, when personnel changed into P.T. kit and set off for a cross-country run. But conditions were all against a full distance event—much to the relief of some, who feel less athletic after noon!

And finally, there has been a revival of that universally popular "event"—leave after Group Eddy. At the moment some of the "entrants" are already well on the "course" and there are other eager "competitors" at the starting point. Which remainds us, we must get packing!

F. G. M.

No. 2 Company

They Say.—That our Mobile Platoons and A.A. Sections are SHRIMPLY first class.

That "O" Section get pen on paper, and also PEN on PAD.

That Burgoo still appears before the troops, but (Lieutenant) BURKE appears before the (other) officers.

That one "O" Squad learnt some clever tricks during a short sojourn with their TRENCH.

Congratulations.—To Lance Corporal Adams, who qualified as a Grade "B" Instructor on his recent P.T. Course. Very hot!

Lost.—Squads Nos. 23, 24, 25, 26, 27—in quick succession.

Found.—Squads Nos. 23 and 34 have arrived and got down to it. To outgo and intake: "Cheerio and all the best."

In Theory.—We have *lost* Lance Corporal Galloway, and *found* (a place on the Company Cadre for) Lance Corporal Duncan, but

In Practice—they now belong to the whole Unit, we hope, for good.

Junior N.C.O.'s Dance, and Club.—The Junior N.C.O.s of the Unit held their first dance of the season in No. 2 Company's Messroom. The dance was a great success, thanks to R.S.M. Bennett, who made the dance and the bar possible. (The less said about the bar the better.)

We have great hopes for the future with our dances. Our Messroom is being altered so that more space will be available for bodies to gyrate.

The pair of Corporals' Rooms in our twin lines have amalgamated to form a Corporals' Club, whereby we play games together and arrange competitions. Very soon we shall hold whist drives in the two rooms on alternate weeks. But this is only a start! Watch for our smoke!

Abdication.—Old King Craig has forsaken the realm of Procedure, where he has reigned for 14 months. We shall be sorry for Sergeant Onyett, if anyone of 2/33 Squad fails Group " E " or " B 3 " in Procedure.

Coronation.—Young Prince Grattan has ascended the Procedure throne, and by the time we see these words in print we shall know if Smudger Creed and Co. have got him " taped."

Things We Want to Know.—What's been and gone and happened to our Lance Corporal Roberts ?

Where Corporal Craig got his slimming salts.

Why won't Gripper bring his missus here ?

Why did Corpuscles Craig, Adams and Smith let the Coppers put 7 goals in ?

Did Hooki get his ticket for the A.T.S. Dance ?

Night Life.—Evening uplift is the order of the day. Bruised, broken, and staggering, after the labours of the long hours since six o'clock this morning (or was it yesterday), we lurch into our bungo-homes and " uplift " the window-screens. Morning downlift is the order of the night, because the jolly old screens don't come down nowadays till half an hour after 08.00 hours parade !

Voluntary education classes have got cracking, under Lieutenant Bruce and his staff of experts, and another bunch of busy bees are chasing those " very superior " bees—B1 and B2.

The Doc. has got his " Circle " moving ; in fact, it is now whizzing like a Catherine wheel, if you've ever seen one. In the very first debate we got a line on the blokes who will be running the Ministry of Propaganda before the next war starts.

As usual, the Battalion concert party gave us the biggest evening uplift. They gave a spanking show to the regular crowded house here before starting off on their tour of the " Provinces."

It is said that their new name is " The First Rators." What do *you* think ?

Flitting.—We are in the throes. We're moving house. Captain Norrish has taken over from our Sergeant-Major, and we have taken over No. 1 Company's former home, and we *are* making it posh. The " bhoys " from the old Schoolhouse by the W.O.s' Mess are going to share our old digs with the Padre. Now we are off to fettle the furniture ! Good-bye.

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No. 3 Company

The Company have had plenty to do lately. The main event has been the visit of the Commandant, 1st Signal Training Centre. Our Company was selected for the ceremonial parade and the week previous to his visit entailed extra work to attain the perfection necessary to give complete satisfaction. The bungalows and lines (a feature of No. 3 Company of which we are rightly proud) were given just that little extra attention, so that the Brigadier found them in spotless condition.

Every officer, W.O., N.C.O., and man pulled his weight and the Brigadier left well satisfied with all that he saw. We ourselves were gratified to know that we had maintained the reputation of No. 3 Company.

The Battalion were given two hours off in the afternoon ; this was appreciated by all and, in spite of bad weather, good use was made of the extra time at our disposal.

On the training side we are again very pleased with our efforts. The results of all squads passing out have exceeded the most optimistic expectations. N.F.R.s are non-existent now.

We are now trying the nine-period day and time lost between lecture periods is practically nil. Training is definitely being speeded up.

Arrivals.—Corporal Baxter has joined us from No. 4 Company, Nos. 33, 34, 35 and 36 Squads have arrived from the Depot. We extend to all of them a genuine welcome and hope that their stay with us will be the happiest and most pleasant period of their service.

Departures.—Corporal Glendinning to No. 4 Company. Sergeant Garratt and Corporal Pearson have returned to their civil occupations. Signalman Lifely (No. 21 Squad), Signalman Eades (No. 21 Squad), and Signalman Fox (No. 23 Squad) to the N.C.O.s Training Battalion. Nos. 21, 22, 23 and 24 Squads have left after seven days well-deserved leave. To all we wish good luck in their new sphere.

Promotions and Appointments.—Congratulations to Corporal Tyers to Lance Sergeant, Lance Corporals Brown and Baxter to Corporals, and Signalman Dawson to Lance Corporal.

Marriages.—Bachelors are few amongst the Company Cadre and they lost yet another when Corporal Baxter was married to Miss Joan Milnes. I presume that " Lofty " knows that the definition of matrimony is a committee of two with power to add to their number.

Sport.—Training does not allow of much time for devotion to sport, but it is interesting to note that the all-victorious Battalion hockey team is composed of six of No. 3 Company players in Lieutenant C. Murphy, Royal Signals, C.Q.M.S. Burrell, Sergeant Watson H., Corporals Gillott F. and Davies B., and Lance Corporal Davis W.

A darts championship is being run in the Battalion. The rounds are being played off by bungalows.

A " Housey-Housey " school is in preparation in the Company, the profits of which go to the Signals Comforts Fund. Now, on every Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings the new-comers to this form of amusement are continually being puzzled by " Doctor's Orders," " Dinky Do," " Top of the shop," " Key of the door," " a couple of ducks," etc.

Jews' Mail.—Pat (421). " How's tricks. Busty (618)."

Tailpiece.—Instructor : "Align that lamp."

Recruit : " Which eye must I use, Corporal ? "

S. P. D.

No. 4 Company

Hullo, folks, everywhere ! Before I forget it I would like to wish you one and all a very happy Christmas and a speedy return.

So far the snow has not arrived here, because if it had arrived I would have put in for a posting to a warmer climate. The only thing which I can think of which is really " hot " is the jolly old Creed Machine.

Everybody here is working hard, trying to obtain a higher rating. Yes, I said " trying." Competition is great, especially between Squad Instructors; they are still trying to find the quickest path to " rust."

Take it from me, they have plenty to do. If its not Ironsides, Inlying, or Fire Picquet, then it's trying to seek something they cannot find, namely, rooms and someone to occupy them. " Up housemaids and at 'em."

Arrivals.—Signalman Farrell S. (somebody's gain, our *loss*).

Departures.—Corporal Ingle and Lance Corporal Jennings to Army Reserve and their civilian occupation. Also a couple of firemen. They must have heard the hue and cry " Fireman save my child."

Promotion and Appointment.—Lance Corporal Dunne to be A/Corporal. Signalman Farrell to be A/U/Lance Corporal. (Our secret service has reported him as saying, " You cannot keep a *good* man down."

Hospital.—Nobody yet, we hope.

Marriages.—Corporal Baxter. Sorry I cannot give further particulars. May he pass his Group E with flying colours. We wish them all the best.

Engagements.—Corporal Dunne to Nora. Again, I must apologise for not supplying further particulars, but everybody here is quick on the intake. Good old Joe.

BUSTY FARRELL.

1st General Trades Training Battalion

No. 1 (Line) Company

Arrivals.—These are too numerous to mention, but to them all we wish a very pleasant stay.

Departures.—Alas, we have lost Corporal Teasdale and Lance Corporal McGlinchey. The appeal to " civvy " trade, they could not resist. To all the squads that have passed through our guiding hands, we send our very best wishes.

Sport.—Our football team have been doing great things, having beaten No. 2 (Line) Company, 5—1; No. 4 (M.T.) Company, 8—1; and the 202nd A.M.P.C., 4—0. Keep it up, footballers; you are pretty to watch. We are also supplying the Battalion with some of our esteemed players.

Promotions.—Congratulations to Corporals Adkins and Stillyards on being substantiated. Yes, there's plenty more sweating, but who knows what may happen next month!

Leave.—With a sigh of relief we announce that leave is once again in full swing. Smiling faces everywhere. A whisper has been circulated that the Sergeant-Major has booked Christmas week. We wonder!

General.—Corporal Hose (Jackie). We were very sorry to lose you and trust your stay with the Hill Billies will not drive you to drink on Sundays!

Corporal Barlow T. would like to hear from Signalman Wilkinson H., believed to be somewhere in England. What about a line, " Willy "?

Personnel.—Lance Sergeant McDiarmid, are you still sweating?

No. 2 (Line) Company

General.—Another month has come and gone, and with it our scribe of last month, who so kindly promised a steady flow from his pen to these pages, thereby committing some unsuspecting victim to one day of head scratching per month.

Courses.—Corporal Hughes attended a Gas Course and returned with a " Q.1," but as he was still under the effects, he has now gone on leave to tell them all about it.

Corporal Adams J. on a Weapon Training Course. (Must have done well as he now sports a bush jump on his upper lip.)



A.U.L/Cpl.: "Well, Sir, according to Vol. 4—"
General: "... Corporal, I ***wrote*** the damned book!"

Promotions.—Congratulations to our O.C. on his recent leg-up. May the three soon become a crown, sir!

To Corporals Hughes and Newnham on becoming war substantive. Corporals Adams J., Peart and Keenahan, and to Lance Corporal Donabie on attaining the ranks named. The extra cash will help to buy that third ticket, Corporal Donabie.

Entertainments.—Some very successful dances have been held of late, a notable success being the first All Ranks Spitfire Dance, which was held in the Gymnasium. A goodly sum was a just reward for the labours of all concerned in the organisation, and we trust that our friend Adolf had another headache on seeing the amount sent to Lord Beaverbrook.

Talent among the men seems to be of a very good standard, Signalmen Munkitterick and Goswell being the leading lights of the Company.

It has been said that every smile raised is another nail in Hitler's coffin. " Nails " were plentiful recently at the Military Hospital, where the 1st G.T.T. Battalion Unit Concert Party had pleasure in playing to enthusiastic audiences.

Mention should be made of Signalman Stan Hodson and his Band, whose programmes of melody and rhythm added a note of gaiety to the party. A musical hour was arranged for patients in the isolation ward, and among the guest artists Signalman Croucher S. whistled his way into their hearts, Lance Corporal Tom Stoney sang with feeling and vigour, and the "Boys" played as never before.

Mussolini wants Greece to cook Hitler's Turkey in . . ., but the concerts will go on from strength to strength.

Sport.—Games of all kinds are at present in full swing, and old (?) and young may be seen every Friday afternoon shaking a leg in the search for that athletic figure. What we lack in knowledge of the various games is certainly made up for in keenness and vigour. So far our only casualties are one set of false teeth and a few brushes. Football, hockey, rugby and cross-country

teams turn out every week, so our field units should not lack talent in the sporting line.

Training.—Training goes on as fast as ever and many men come and go, all to take up their places ready for the long looked for day of reckoning. Among those squads that have departed special mention might be made of No. 62, an exceptionally good all-round squad.

Signals Association.—Up to the time of going to press, we have a 100 per cent. membership of the Association, which we hope to keep up with the new squads we shall have arriving in the future.

Leave.—Now that Christmas is drawing near, the cadre can be seen walking around, using both hands as counters and muttering such things as, " I should go after him," " It's my turn next," etc. I hope they all get satisfied, but I hae' ma doots, life being what it is.

Agony.—Corporal Robertson G. The cost is 2½d. these days. —Jake.

Greetings.—We extend to all Royal Signals, at home and abroad, our very best wishes for a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Arrivals.—The glad hand is extended to our new " dictator " of training (Il Duce). We may now learn to lay cable going backwards, if the name means anything.

ROBBO.

No. 3 (Workshops) Company

Our regular scribe being absent on leave (he protests that it is well earned), I tender my apologies to all constant readers for these inexperienced and hurried notes. To have no news at all from the Company which is the backbone of the Corps would be a tragedy indeed, so this contribution should be gratefully accepted in the spirit that anything is better than nothing at all.

Recently we have, in between mending primus stoves, managed to do quite a lot of things, chief among them being a very welcome inauguration of organised games, which have met with the enthusiasm they deserve. We have also started evening classes in various useful subjects—and we can even supply our own schoolmasters. One or two are already out-Einsteining Einstein.

Heartiest congratulations to Lieutenant J. Mills on his promotion to Acting Major whilst employed on special duty. Promotion from C.S.M. to Acting Major within twelve months is rather unusual even in this crazy world, sir !

The Company is still in a state of great activity, and comings and goings have been more numerous than ever. We regret that we have said good-bye to Lieutenant Bramley, S.S.M. McDowall G. V., and Signalman Clarke W. V. Here's wishing them success in their new homes. We welcome Lieutenant (T.M.O.) J. Handford, Sergeant Hobbs F. M., Corporal Ryder J. and Lance Corporal Woods D. To these and all other newcomers we extend the glad hand.

We had a most successful All Ranks Dance in aid of the " Spitfire " Fund, and followed it up with another a fortnight later. The fact that the bar was shifted on the occasion of the second of these dances was not because the Sergeants found the stairs too much for them.

Other entertainments have been more than plentiful. Concerts, cinema shows, billiards and table-tennis tournaments all find plenty of support. We are approaching the time when the main grouse will be that there is nothing to grouse about, and that will never do. Lance Sergeant (very new stripes, too) Benny Graham is quite an expert in the film line. We understand that many confuse Goodman with Goldwyn.

To revert to our pet scribe. Two months ago he asked, rather pointedly, too, " What is leave ? " Well, he should know, this is his second large dose since August last, and he's probably arranging to be on hand to fill the kiddies' stockings in December.

The following have renewed their visions of the F.M.'s baton : Corporal Lee A. G. to A/Lance Sergeant (Annie is very pleased) ; Corporal Goodman H. to A/Lance Sergeant ; Lance Corporals Marshall E. and Reece V. to A/Corporal ; L/U/Lance Corporals Arnold A. E., Roberts E., and Traill J., to A/Lance Corporals.

By way of finishing off this ragged contribution, will someone tell me the name of the War Substantive Corporal who did *not* ask for a posting ?

A. S. E. MINOR.

No. 4 (M.T.) Company

To our great shame we have been unable to produce a member of this Company with sufficient intelligence to sit down for five minutes to write something which possibly would have been of interest to old members of the Company in the great outside world.

We bow our heads.

D.C.M.J.

Boys Training Company

General.—As usual, the weather is showering on us its most profound form of ecstatic abandon. Long combs. are now in fashion, in spite of the fact that Grigg finds them rather tight under the armpits and Sheldrake finds that they make a useful Balaklava as well. I know that the foregoing passage was superfluous ; nevertheless, some sort of effort has to be made and this is my weakest.

In anticipation of having a break from this high speeding exciting and intoxicating existence (I mean Christmas leave, Dixon), our Boys' Club President is organising a musical comedy cabaret.

Obituary.—We announce with deep regret the passing one of of our real sporting boys, No. 2326645 Boy Mole R. S., who died at Redhill County Hospital. " Ginger," as he was known, was a keen hockey-cricketer, a hard worker, competent at his job, and a tryer. His cheery face and likeable nature made him a great favourite. To his mother and father we all offer our deepest sympathy. He was buried with full military honours at Redhill. Corporal Blades travelled down to Redhill to attend the funeral.

Things We Want to Know.—Which boy thought he could scratch his head with his battle bowler on ?

Who wiped his feet before stepping out into the rain ?

The Call of the Yid.—Jack to Eric in Penang. " Has the high rate of living affected your financial standings as far as a 2½d. stamp is concerned ?

No. 5869 to No. 5867, ex-Chester. " Cannot you last on Signalman's pay. A line, if you please."

HAPPY.

Sport.—This has been carrying on as usual and the Company has been doing very well, considering the lack of aid from the weather. Sport is now carried out from the hours of 11.00 to 12.15 hours and works in the afternoon, an experiment which has proved satisfactory in some respects.

RUGBY.—Under the tuition of Captain Bickmore the rugby team has proved successful. Boys' Company beat St. Peter's, York, by 11 points to 3, two magnificent tries being scored by Knight R., our dashing three-quarter, and our flaming friend Martin managed to score a beautiful penalty kick.

The Juniors and Colts v. the Richmond Grammar School. We played two games. The Colts played well but were up against a one-man team.

Boys' Company v. O.C.T.U. We won the first game, 8—5, but lost the next 3—11.

FOOTBALL.—Two games were played against the O.C.T.U. In both games the Boys' Company were victorious, 3—1 and 3—2.

HOCKEY.—Four games have been played since the last notes, Boys' Company winning three and drawing one. Results : v. 56th Anti-Tank Company, won 5—1 ; v. South Staffs., drew, 1—1 ; v. O.C.T.U., won 3—0.

S.T.C. Wales

2nd Operators Training Battalion

The paramount event of the month for this Battalion (and, of course, for the whole S.T.C.) has been the visit of H.R.H. The Princess Royal. In spite of showers, Her Royal Highness was able to carry out the full programme of inspection, spending a considerable time in " Ops " during the afternoon.

A welcome visit from the Corps Band coincided with the Royal tour, and from 5th-8th November there was music in plenty to celebrate the occasion. The Band evidently believe in music as an aid to digestion, for they played in the Mess during dinner on two consecutive days. And didn't the lads enjoy it !

To round off their visit, the Corps Band gave a concert in aid of the 2nd S.T.C. Air Raid Distress Fund. In a short speech of thanks from the stage, the Brigadier afterwards revealed that the Fund had benefited by £17 as a result of their excellent show.

Your correspondent regretfully records an obvious fact—Company notes are already getting thinner and scarcer. Oh, Companies, Companies, why have you forsaken your task ? Have you no sense of public duty ? Have you no shame ? Have you no notes ? You haven't ? THEN FOR PETE'S SAKE, GET SOME ! We want to hear from you. The WIRE wants to hear from you. Everyone wants to hear from you. So next month, Companies, let's hear from you !

We understand that these notes—the present lot, I mean—will appear in December's issue, so it looks as if Christmas greetings are indicated. To all our readers—but especially those who were once among us—we extend our heartiest wishes for a grand Christmas, and better days to come !

No. 1 Company

General.—Many apologies for the absence of notes from the last issue, but time flies so when one is busy (ahem !) that the entry date had passed ere I realised it.

Much material continues to flow from the Cradle—sorry, I mean the Nursery—and we are kept busy endeavouring to mould them into operators.

Seeing that these notes are published during the month of December, may I, on behalf of No. 1 Company, take the opportunity of wishing all our readers a very merry Christmas. Drink long and deep, me hearties. Have one for us—we will have two for you !

Up the Ladder.—The following promotions and appointments have taken place of late : S.S.M. Malvern H. to be C.S.M. ; Corporal Daly J. to be Lance Sergeant ; Lance Corporals Holbrow F., Saunders A. and Beattie J. to be Corporals ; Signalmen Wingfield, Kesby W. and Harvey J. to be Lance Corporals. Our congratulations to you all !

New-comers.—We welcome Corporal Holbrow and Lance Corporal Taylor F. into the gang. May their stay be a happy one.

Out-goers.—Corporal Bassett G. to 2nd Holding Battalion. Corporal Beattie to No. 2 Company. O.S. 34 into the " blue " (how blue we have yet to discover). Best of luck to you all in your new spheres.

Office Chat.—We've a new Company Clerk now—Signalman Jimmy Clements. Sorry we forgot to mention you last time, Jimmy, but we hope this makes up for it. Jimmy's a good lad, with only one vice—motor bikes. I think Jimmy harbours secret yearnings to be a Don Robert. My advice to you, Jimmy, is stay where you are. You can't break your neck on an office chair !

Petit Volunteer Jean Davies continues to decorate the office—and puts in some useful work at the same time. We would like to say something nice about Jean, but her boy friend—reputed to be a wild and " woolly " buccaneer—might misconstrue things and come gunning for us ! And that would never do.

Howlers.—Instructor to Pupil during W/T procedure lecture : " What does N2 mean ?" Pupil (innocently) : " Can't hear you—twice ! "

Recruit (during procedure test, illustrating a station with priority traffic) : " He then 'nips in ' as quick as he can."

Thanks.—To O.S. No. 34 Squad from their Instructor for the gift of a cigarette lighter. Much appreciated.

Curtain.—All good things must come to an end, and we must lay down our pen. Here's to the next time !

ONECO.

Administrative Wing

In my last outburst I promised to write you an epic poem, didn't I ? Well, I haven't done it. Call me lazy—call me anything you like. The fact remains : I have not done it. Promises are easy to make, but often hard to fulfil. Have you ever tried to write an epic poem ? If you have, then you'll find it easier to forgive me. Because an epic poem as an idea is one thing, but an epic poem on paper is another.



2nd Operators Training Battalion, No. 1 Company

Mind you, I did try. I sat down, very seriously, to write a few simple, yet inspiring, verses—something which would do justice to the noble martyrs who pass through the " Nursery," and live to tell the tale. But the verses simply wouldn't come. The only poetic effort I could achieve was a piece of doggerel. It kept on going round in my head, and it went like this :

Sing a song of Signals,
A pocket full of Morse ;
Here am I in Admin.
Swotting up a course.

Well, I couldn't very well go on writing lines like that, could I, and then pass it off as an epic poem ? So I abandoned the whole idea. However, to show that I think the Nursery lads are worth an epic poem, I am willing to offer a valuable Coronation mug (partly chipped), two pairs of Army socks (partly ripped) and half a dozen aniseed balls (partly licked) to the first reader who submits an intelligible epic poem on the subject aforesaid.

Having cleared my conscience on that score, it behoves me (I like that phrase) to cut the cackle and get on with my monthly newsreel.

Flash ! Depression strikes Admin. Two of our best and most popular clerks have been whisked off to Holding. Corporal Neale from " Q." and Signalman Sid Barton from H.Q. With a sob in our throats, we wish them happy landings.

Another Flash ! Scandal rears its ugly head on the Pay Front. Who's involved ? Aha, that would be telling !

More Flashes !—Is it true what they say about Dixie ?

Will Arthur be able to wangle seven days at Christmas ?

Has Raffo ever been to sea ?

Is Aggie in love ?

These Dames Make News.—A.T.S. comings and goings continue to keep your correspondent in a state of pop-eyed vexation. A new addition to the Orderly Room is Volunteer Winnie Winter. Hiya, Winnie !

Jill continues to skip around like an angel on hot bricks. Officially, this heart-throb is known as Volunteer Jill Stubbs. A real " Queen of Hearts "—but now, unhappily, minus her King.

Incidentally (and this is a real news-item), all A.T.S. girls attached to this Centre are now wearing a Signals badge. Only A.T.S. attached to Signals, we understand, are allowed this unique privilege of wearing two badges.

Season's Greetings.—Christmas looms ahead—the season of good cheer, peace on earth and goodwill to all men. Ah, well, if we can't have the second boon, we can have the first, and, I venture to hope, the third one, too. If I may be allowed to speak for Admin. Wing as a whole, then my greeting to you is this : " A happy Christmas, gentlemen, and a victorious New Year ! "

KEN.

Depot Battalion

Nope. It just won't happen. I've tried every means, fair and foul, in a vain endeavour to cajole my feeble " finker " into a literary trend. I ask you fellas, just how can a chap be expected to concentrate after recently returning from a spot of leave ? (Ah, sweet mystery of life !)

During my absence we had a visit from H.R.H. The Princess Royal ; this was our first visit from Royalty. Everything went swimmingly (in more ways than one, thanks to the weather clerk), all concerned giving of their very best ; even the Recruit Companies did us proud.

All " Regulars " will hold out the hand of sympathy to Lance Corporals " Jock " Haxton and Vick Edens, who have surrendered their amateur status by re-enlisting from the T.A. to a normal engagement. Fellow sinners, we welcome you.

With the thankfulness that the drowning man must surely experience on sighting the proverbial straw, I fall to burbling about our soccer prowess. Mind you, I'm not a footer fan by any means—dominoes in a bar parlour is more in my line—but even the layman cannot fail to wax enthusiastic about the titanic performance of our " eleven good and strong." (Orderly ! Bring me another stock of adjectives.) On 2nd November the team played away from home against the M.G.T.C. Cheshires ; the latter suffered their first defeat at our hands—or should it be feet ?—to the tune of 9—2. They hope to avenge the defeat at our home ground on 16th November. Some hope ! Another notable victory was a 10—6 win over the Military College of Science, R.A. But what of the defeats ? says you. Sorry, chum, but there hasn't been any.

Chatter in last month's notes under the heading " Human Element " must be ignored. 'Tis sad, dear reader, but the bloke in question didn't do the time honoured and manly thing ; the engagement ring still remains unbought. Oh, Fudge, how could you ?

We Heard it in the Pay Office.—Pay N.C.O. (to Rookie) : " Have you any children ? "

Rookie : " Yes, two girls and three boys."

P.N. : " Five altogether ? "

Rookie : " No. One at a time."

BIMBO.

SARTORIAL PATHOLOGY

(With apologies to Stephen Leacock.)

I can recollect having read, many years ago, of an American sophomore who won the Nobel Prize, or some such noble award, for a treatise on the indigestibility of the doughnut. Remarkable, really !

My mind has now turned in the same plane and the many gyrations have led me to attempt to reveal to you, the layman —or honest-to-goodness fellow—the fruits of my study in the form of a treatise. You will doubtless realise the scope that is offered by a subject like " Sartorial Pathology." My concepts on this subject must not be construed as convictions.

We find the relativity of brain power to cloth referred to by Shakespeare when he said, " Thy mind is as changeable as taffeta."

But I digress.

Diminutis Soccolorum or Shrinking of the Socks.

The symptom is apparent after rigorous maltreatment by the laundry. In spite of Quartermasters' assurances that the socks are non-shrinkable, the wearer's conviction is unchanged under these palliatives.

If the disease is unchecked, discomfiture results—the most apparent form being semi-nudity of the feet.

A cure can be found in either taking your neighbour's by mistake half-an-hour after " Lights Out " or nourishing your socks by wearing them constantly for six months.

Angola Toga Tornit or Tearing of the Shirt.

A common complaint among the more vigorous type of the community ; more so among the obese. The resultant sudorific state produced by stooping to peep through keyholes and raising the arm to salute officers has a direct bearing on this complaint.

The first indication of this horrible condition is a slight threadbareness and semi-transparency in the middle of the back. Sufferers are advised to arrest this disease in the early stages by forcibly disintegrating the garment at the weak points with the first finger and thumb of both hands, making all haste to the Q.M. Stores. This treatment is not always advisable as it may produce an acute inferiority complex—and a few other complexes —when marched into the C.O.'s office sans hat.

Lucida Sedes or Shining Seat.

This is very evident to-day among clerks, especially those of H.Q., due, it is found, to their sedentary commitments. I find this opinion evinced by many well-known personalities of this Centre. The symptom is a lack of pile on the cloth which, consequently, leaves the thin weave in a very favourable condition for polishing. This polishing takes place when fidgeting in a hard chair waiting for 5 p.m., while the girl friend is changing her weight from one foot to the other at the gate. This complaint may also be attributed to excessive zeal in seeking the " lion's share " of Father Faircliffe's fried fricassees, which

necessitates sliding to and fro along the form in order to reach the tureens.

This strange malady is emphasised among the officers. There can be no doubt that this is due to the fact that they are accommodated in leather-covered chairs, thereby causing a more radiant fulgency.

An efficacious antidote may be found in the application of a poultice of bread pudding, as prepared by the 2nd S.T.C., with frequent spongings of aqua pura. This treatment will do much to improve the general tone of the garment. If a stiffening occurs later, do not be alarmed. This is merely a sympathetic reaction which can be overcome by depositing in a rag merchant's Rolls Royce (I think I am right in saying Rolls Royce as nearly all rag merchants possess such a cart of auto-propulsion in these days of social reform.)

Snappa Suspendorum, otherwise called " Breaking of the Braces."

This is not a very common complaint to-day. Its causes are somewhat vague as opportunities for diagnosis have been rather bare. In our time of moral fortitude and solid optimism one is rather rudely moved by the sight of a thick leather belt worn with braces. This shocking state of distrustfulness and lack of faith has no place in our community.

One cause of " Breaking of the Braces " is picking up pieces of paper around offices and chalets in preparation for the Brigadier's inspection of the Lines. Another cause is directly attributable to over-zealous participants in the " hare and hounds " game (local rules) in which the hound retrieves the diaphanous kerchief of an adorable hare, whose gaze is so gaze-like as to be like a gazelle.

The treatment consists of avoiding all feminine company, especially of the A.T.S., otherwise a fiery redness will assail the features of the victim of this most dreaded disease. Keep cool. Dig the elbows into the sides for temporary support if no belt is worn. Avoid officers and C.S.M.s who are sticklers for correct regimental deportment, otherwise a decided sensation of slipping and consequent inarticulation of the legs will result. If one brace should appear from under the tunic, don't be alarmed. This can easily be tucked around the neck while standing with the back to the wall.

HOMO SAP.

"A" Company Depot Battalion

Variety being the spice of life,
Like loving someone else's wife,
It breeds contentment while it lasts,
The lust for adventure in one it casts.

And so to ease the monotonous strain,
Of WIRE notes written very plain,
I hereby venture to write in verse,
It may sound bad, but it could be worse.

So give Lady Nicotine your fullest devotion,
If you ain't got a fag, well just go through the motion,
Take out your ear plugs, hang up your tin hat,
Muzzle the wife, boys, and put out the cat.

Rumour has it from the goon to the cooks,
That our C.S.M. is on the " hooks " ;
But don't believe it, there's a good lad,
Our C.S.M. ain't really bad.

Promotions this month are only few,
But a Sergeant very smart and new,
And one we greet with open arms,
Is no one less than Corporal Barnes.

Not forgetting brother " Sparrow,"
A wily bird whose mind's not narrow,
A Corporal, Lance, complete with pay,
In him we see a " Q " one day.

A Corporal dark and red of face,
Usually cheerful about the place,
Is walking round like a scalded cat,
'Tis sad, my friends, he's lost his hat.

Our Royal visit went off very well,
Our S.S.M. looked, in fact, quite a swell ;
On his holster he worked hard, a polish to get,
The tragedy was the day turned out wet.

That's all for the present, and so cheerio,
As usual on duty, so off I must go ;
If I'm still here at Christmas, I should be with luck,
I'll send you a turkey, two veg. and a duck.

JIMMY (F.).

"B" Company Depot Battalion

Fatheads.—There are some fat heads about " B " Company —but not for the reason you think. The C.Q.M.S. has been inundated with applications for larger caps since the Commandant congratulated " B " Company on its fine turn out when H.R.H. The Princess Royal paid a surprise visit to the camp on 6th November. Strong men blanched when at First Works Parade next morning the B.S.M. thanked all concerned for their efforts. N.A.A.F.I. showed a big profit in the evening.

Gardeners.—" B " Company is even smarter than before. N.C.O.s have been trying hard to put the offensive spirit into their men. Lacking an enemy, the troops have had to work off their belligerency on local gardens and granite dumps. The result is that " B " Company now looks like Chelsea Flower Show and has a fine metalled road around the rifle range. Flintshire men seem to make the best roads. (Rotten crack.—ED.)

Artists.—Artistry is a strong point of " B " Company. Apart from the man who letters kit-bags for sixpence a time, there is among us one who excels in heraldry. Mr. Mercury is giving the new recruits a start on entering the Company's lines.

Stripes that Cheer.—Congratulations on their promotions are being freely offered to Lance Sergeants Buxton F. L. and Richardson G. E., Corporals Ballard L. L., Davis J. and Fairbrass J. H., and Lance Corporal Bracey J. At meals each of them has a bucket of tea to himself, because, according to the cats, stripes are secured by saving tea coupons. For 3,000 coupons and a leather liver you get a gold crown. Many men are anxious to know the name of the tea company and some have been discovered eavesdropping beneath the coke dump behind the Sergeants' Mess. Others have simply wired their wives to come up at once.

Holy Wedlock.—Lance Corporal Farrow L. has taken a rest from forming threes to forming twos. He tottered to the altar his ears ringing with the cry, " Good—one—luck—two—Corporal—stop." His squad are getting up a thirst for the house warming and hope that he, like other married N.C.O.s, will gain rapid promotion.

Pass off.—The pass-off at the end of October—the first since Captain Freer-Ash was appointed O.C., " B " Company—was above normal standard. Credit goes to the N.C.O.s who worked so hard to make rookies into soldiers, with special commendation to the Sergeant who showed outstanding initiative in falling on his knees in the barrack room and praying for some soldiers.

Next of Kin.—Einstein's law of relativity is being applied vehemently to men who fumble their drill. " You're just like my sister " is a reprimand—not a compliment. Whose sister is who has not yet been explained. We scan Company Orders daily in the hope of finding her posted.

Royal Corps of Swignals.—B.S.M. Abbott, M.M., won a beer-drinking competition in the Sergeants' Mess. Afterwards the Senior N.C.O.s presented pots with pint arms and voted it the best recreational training period they had ever had.

Gas (Harmless).—Who was the lecturer who failed to give his talk on poison gas on the occasion of the visit of the Inspector of Signals ? Was he recuperating after the aforementioned recreational training ? The class spent 50 minutes in the " gas chamber," sustained by puffs of harmless gas from a Corporal.

Conscience Money.—Here is a rare tailpiece. Corporal Fernihough W., of the 2nd Depot Battalion, 2nd S.T.C., North Wales, wants to pay someone some money. He owes it to Driver (or is he now an N.C.O. ?) Macintosh, who should write to Corporal Fernihough if he wishes to recover it. Don't all rush—wait until you are properly dismissed.

JIM.

Yorkshire 3

3rd Operators Training Battalion

A quiet month for Operators W. and L., K., and T.S.B.O. at 3rd O.T. Battalion.

Outstanding topics are the disappearance of a number of familiar faces—and the rain, which is now almost a matter of routine. There remains, by now, few exhaustive descriptive adjectives. The prevailing suspicion, as a matter of fact, is that it was during a visit to the S.T.C. that Groucho Marx originated his *bon mot* " if I were drier I'd drown."

If water is a permanent feature this weather, staffs do their best to atone. The Companies have lost a number of " originals " who used to talk reminiscently of an evening about the days when " we started the 3rd O.T.B." Good wishes follow them to the woods and pastures new.

Outgoing of instructors has not retarded the production of trainees of whom a good quota go regularly to the Junior N.C.O.s' Training Battalion. There, by all reports, they live up to the boast of the song, " None so fair as can compare with the boys of O.T.B."—or S.T.C., according, of course, to the company.

Few of them go without some regrets for, if the weather is a point made with emphatic monotony in those interminable and inconclusive " inter-county " arguments, the local town's hospitality is an unfailing counter.

If the local people have not, by now, " Signals " written on their heart, it must be because they've been too busy caring for " their boys." It seems a pity the weather clerk should prove so obdurate.

Bowing gracefully in the direction of the poet's memorial :

" Hail city of mists and yellow sootiness,
Where are no snobs nor other snootiness,
Where kindness bountiful as autumn grain,
And dark-faced heavens doth daily ' reign.' "

Which is almost as hopeless as the aunt of a young instructor (brimful, of course, of technical knowledge) who asked him when home on leave (yes we have that, too) : " And did they really teach you anything or was your Boy Scout training sufficient ? "

R. E. S.



Officers, Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.s, 3rd Operators' Training Battalion, Royal Signals.



Commanding Officer, Officers, Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.s.

Sports and Entertainments.—On the social side it promises to be a bright winter indeed. In addition to the regular Friday Dances with the Battalion Band playing, and the Sunday E.N.S.A. Concerts, there are frequent additional shows or dances during the week.

The Battalion Band, with its 14 pieces, gives regularly a first-class account of itself and is very largely responsible for the popularity of the Friday dances.

It now has a little brother in the form of a No. 2 Company Band, on, of course, a much smaller scale; this one had its "try-out" at the first Company dance in the S.T.C. Its success staggered even the sanguine promoters and they promise more to come.

A large part of the personnel of the Company Band is also in the "Racketeers," the concert party started, also hesitantly, some weeks ago, and, as a band, they seem also to be already as much in demand for private engagements as for military shows.

The entertaining bug seems to have bitten deep, for close on the heels of No. 2 Company's concert party comes one in No. 3 Company which also seems to be shaping well.

No. 4 Company makes its mark on the turf and not the dance floor, and I believe, despite recent losses, they are still prepared to put a hockey team in the field which, they say, will whack anything from S.T.C. downwards. Which is perhaps not as daring as it sounds since only O.T.B. seems to be able to raise a team. They have numerous civilian engagements—not all so far successful—but would like a chance to whack some of their "ain folk."

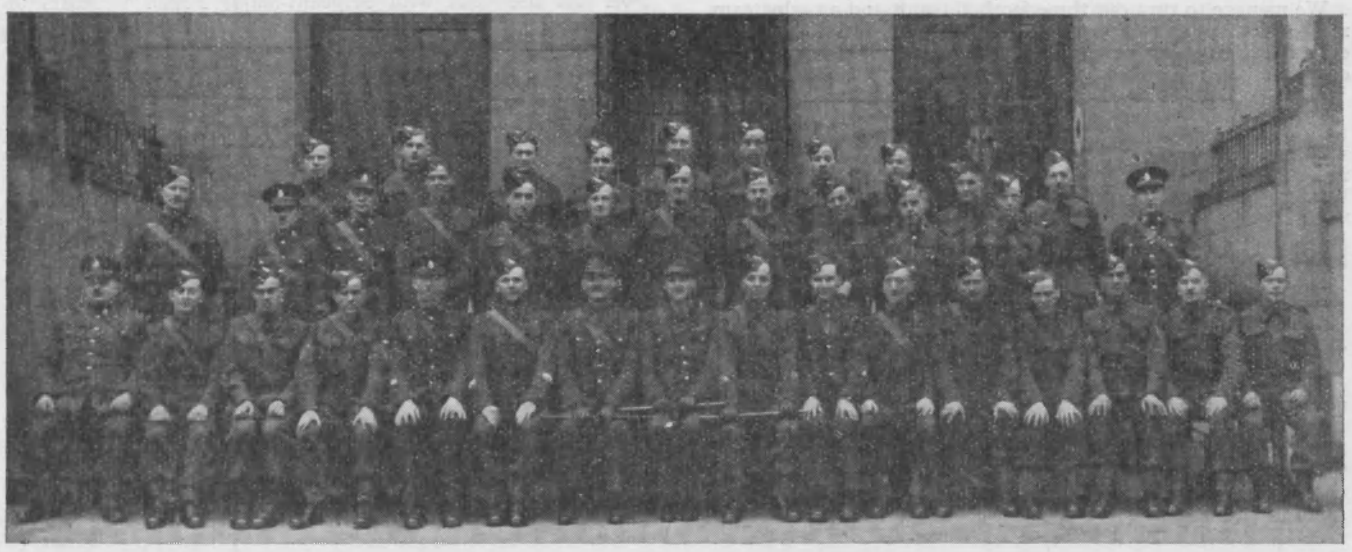
Football and rugby are as bright as ever, but a number of snags have been encountered in the swimming and polo plans and progress has not been so rapid as was hoped after the gala some time ago. Anyone who wishes any more water than there has been already deserves to encounter snags at any rate.

3rd General Trades Training Battalion
Battalion H.Q. and Administrative Wing

A persistent and up to now successful Jonah has dogged several previous efforts from this map reference to see our own jottings published in the WIRE. However, it is hoped that our



Officers, Warrant Officers and N.C.O.s of Administrative Wing



Officers, Warrant Officers, N.C.O.s and Men of Administrative Wing

contributions will be regular in future. Security measures being what they are, it is puzzling to know just what will escape the blue pencils, but here goes!

The powers that be have not given us much opportunity to forget that we are pawns in the game. The difference between us and chessmen is that we move ten times more often. What splendid chances we have had to exercise our muscles and keep fighting fit—packing, unpacking, repacking and unpacking again. The Q.M.'s staff are eager to challenge any team of professional weight lifters.

Out of the Blue.—Some weeks ago the R.A.F. left one of their planes with us and the only reason it didn't find its way into our stores was that neither packing note nor G-1033 accompanied it. (We're sticklers for procedure.)

Indoor Games.—Apart from pontoon and ludo by far the most popular recreation here is endeavouring to prove that the Regimental Paymaster is very weak at arithmetic. You can have no idea what horrible things he has told most of us.

Economy Measures.—It is understood that the Orderly Room clerks are contemplating putting forward a suggestion that the Government should forbid the use of all paper, with the exception of currency notes, for the duration.

We Would Like to Know.—Who originated the expression "reference reverse"?

Are custard and prunes and/or custard and figs peculiar to our Army?

Salvage Notes.—Unwanted copies of amendments of any date, shape, size, colour or condition will be welcomed by Audrey; address, c/o this Unit.

Salaams to—1936, '37 and '38 Zhobites, especially Pip Pearson (both of 'em), Rolls Royce Ratcliffe, Nebby Christie, Shiner Moon, Jock Doris, "How about them cats on them roof tops" Haggis, Busty Conway, Arnold (VU2AN), and last, but not least, Major S. J. Fielder, Royal Signals.

LOFTY.

No. 3 Company

A memo. from the Company Office re WIRE notes jolts us into feverish activity. What a scramble they are this time! A few days on the sick list did not help.

Here is a picture of our routine events. Once a week the Company assembles for a jazz. On one occasion we were provided with a band—maybe it has a better audience now, or perhaps they are footsore. Each day the Company is divided up and detailed for drill, P.T. or fatigues (spud bashing preferred). At 09.00 hours training starts.

We manage to turn out three football teams and a rugby team most Saturdays and for some mid-week matches. A Life Saving class is in full swing on the aquatic side. A table tennis team completes the sports list. Language classes are also operating.

A concert by the Troops opened the N.A.A.F.I. one Thursday and buckshee beer and cigarettes were greeted with a hearty welcome. (Strange, says I.) I was on duty myself, but from reports the concert was quite good. It is hoped that there will be more of them this winter. When everything is ticking over O.K. there will be a concert once a fortnight. It was a pity Jack Warner could not come. I thought the beer would have been enough attraction.

The usual Friday dance completes the official activities.

We Take Off our Hats to—The Diehards who constructed the "Beckett Line."

The guy who said, "Is that who the Bell Buoy is named after?"

Oft-Repeated Phrases.—"Here's Jeepers." "Who's been laying the poison?"

We Wonder.—Is Fifth Column Charlie and Hexagon Harry the same bloke?

No. 4 Company

Complimentary.—If there are any artists, poets or other literary "gents" in this Company they are like the Italian navy—of a very retiring nature. So far, these notes are a one man concern.

General.—There is no photograph and no padding this month, so we shall have to stick to plain, unvarnished facts.

Promotions and Appointments.—Congratulations to the following on reaching the dizzy heights stated: Sergeant Walker S., Lance Sergeants Sparkes A. and Cairns J., Corporals Wright C. and Peet H., and Lance Corporal Bluff E.

Arrivals.—Welcome to Signalman Hayhurst R. G., from the C.M.P. Poor fellow, he's been worked pretty hard since he joined us, but every cloud has a silver lining.

Departures.—With the exception of trainees who pass through in a never-ending stream, we have had no departures of note. Considering the number of duties there are to be done, we are thankful.

Social.—In this sphere we are making big strides. We have held the first two of our weekly Company dances, both of which were well attended and completely successful. We look forward to many more such cheery evenings. There is a Company Order which says something about dance floors and hob-nailed boots. This presents a bit of a problem, but the Post Orderly is heavily laden these days with bundles of "civvy" shoes from home and many "nifty" feet will soon be shaken.

A local cricket and bowling club is entertaining members of the Company at frequent suppers and "do's." Games tournaments held at the Club are keenly contested and our billiards, snooker, darts and cribbage teams all return fairly safely to their bases; they have been known to do a Victory Roll on leaving the Club premises and all state that they thoroughly enjoy their excursions.

Chins up, cads!

NOBBY.

No. 3 Holding Battalion

Well, here we are again! Pause; take deep breath. This Yorkshire air is doing us a power of good.

C.S.M.s Hardy and Woolnough have come among us. So far they like it. At any rate, they haven't commented adversely on our habit of getting up after a heavy meal to go for a nice long walk in the country!

C.S.M. Morley has won undying fame by hearing a charming young woman recite for his benefit "His single hair" acla! And what of Pope; is his fame or notoriety? Scene is drawing room of suburban house; mother (R.) knitting, father (L.) reading paper. Enter partly-grown-up daughter. Mother deplores lateness of hour, dishevelled appearance of daughter. Father says it's high time he had a few words with her. There are things she ought to know. Daughter answers, "You can't tell me anything, I've just been out with Sergeant-Major Pope!" Roars of applause from a delighted audience.

We've got two dance bands now. Not one, mark you, but two. There's affluence for you! One belongs to Chaliceville, and the other to Greavestown. (This is a very clever way of evading the censor.) There's a good deal of friendly rivalry between them to say nothing of the inflated boasts they make about the sums that each is offered by outside promoters! The transfer fees for trumpeters have reached colossal figures!

We have dug ourselves in at a new outpost of the Empire. Much hard work has been done and most of the amenities of civilisation have been installed. We have a night club which closes at 22.00 hours (very professional), a dance hall, a "Garrison Theatre," a football ground, and a quagmire known as "The drive to No. 3 Company Office."

Dramatic Section.—"I want to be an Actor" was put on by a visiting concert party. You'd be surprised at the amount of persuasion they had to use to get the lads on the stage. The bloke who played the part of the heroine had a rare time. And lots of offers!

Special Notes.—We are still anxious about the Sergeant—or was it Sergeant-Major?—who offered to accompany a young woman home from a dance, and who discovered—too late—that she lived four and a quarter miles away. And the next day there was a route march over the same ground.

Lance Corporal Wilson gave a luncheon to 300 guests on Thursday. The tables were arranged tastefully in rows and were covered with modern white cloth of an American design. Attractively arranged on each table were tall glass containers with picturesquely ornamental sprigs of celery. A charming old-world effect was obtained by the backless settles, which were used instead of chairs.

The menu consisted of soup, braized meat and vegetables, savoury suet balls. To save time these were all served in one dish, and called "stew." Then followed a delightful Chinese dish consisting of grains of a white cereal boiled together with sugar and a little milk. The proceedings were marred somewhat by the entry of an obvious gate-crasher who thrust his way in and shouted "Orly Offser, nee complaints," or some similar phrase. The gay chatter of the gathering was stilled for a moment; but the incident was quickly glossed over, and the room was soon a buzz of merry talk once more.

The guests wore normal morning dress, though the proportion of uniforms were extremely high. The host himself was wearing smart white ducks.

Several of our families of young moderns have recently refurnished. I was down at Bank Botton recently, and saw there an unusual new style of bed. It is constructed on an intriguing frame of rich pine, beautifully stained with genuine cresote. I am told by those who have tried it that this bed is unusually comfortable, if a little difficult to get into, and positively dangerous to roll out of.

Our charming town club, under its courteous manager, Mr. Gallop, is always full of members these days. No doubt the high reputation enjoyed by its Chef has not a little to do with this popularity.

The suave manner of the chief receptionist, known as Denny to his many friends, will be remembered by the hundreds of service members who have spent short periods under the club's roof.—Advt.

Answers to Correspondents.—The numbers of letters we've had from A.T.S., asking if "that tall, dark, curly-headed N.C.O." is married!

"Intelligent interest."—(a) NO, you can't ask the Sergeant-Major such a question; (b) Try making love to her mother instead.

"Lineman."—You raise one of the most extraordinary electrical problems in Signals. No satisfactory explanation has been given for the fact that when you use the instrument yourself it works perfectly; but as soon as the Colonel wants to use it, not a sound can be heard.

"Not a move."—Well, strange as it may seem to you, it is none the less true that the C.S.M. was once a dinky-winky little Signalman just like you, dear.

Felicitations.—My, what a word! Much more refined than "Congrats." though. Felic—what I said before to "Sergeant" Tommy Field on his elevation to commissioned rank. Good luck to you, sir!

Tailpiece.—Apparently my last tailpiece was regarded as an epitaph for the Orderly Room Sergeant instead of a song of praise.

Do you remember picture puzzles in which a picture meant a word?

Whenever you saw bridge and weight, "Tonbridge" to you occurred;

Well, here's another like it, if you'd care to try your hand,
It will not try you intellect to a point it cannot stand.

If beer from a barrel means an R.S.M.,
And stockings by a famous makers show a C.S.M.,
An ecclesiastic mighty gives a clue,
And suggests another Sergeant-Major's name to you.
For an annual that's enduring,
And a sheep that needs a shearing,
You'll find the names of two more W.O.s.
This last one won't defeat you,
You need it to complete you,
And remember 12 times 12 is just a gross.

London District Signals

Greetings.—London District Signals send Seasonal greetings to all Units both Home and Abroad.

Headquarters Section

Much water has flowed under the bridge (though very little into —— Buildings) since the last bulletin of our activities was published. One important fact remains, however. Out of a welter of S.S.M.s, C.Q.M.S.s, Lance Corporals, a few Signalmen and ex-C.S.O.s clerks has emerged finally the mighty Headquarters Section standing (we hope) for all that is finest in the world of Signals. No longer are things as they were. The wrathful cry of "Where's Windibank" is no more heard floating through the ever-open door of the Unit Office. Windibank has remustered as a garage hand and tells us that pulling a petrol pump handle agrees with him.

While the unfortunate remnant of the Unit clerks shiver and freeze in the Unit office, No. 1 Company loll in magnificent luxury before blazing fires in the Officers' Mess (ex).

Even Lance Corporal Broome has left us to winter in a private mansion and it is reliably reported that he shortly expects to finish typing his first No. 3 Company letter. After that there is every possibility that he will retire.

To return to our onions, as Sergeant Bond tearfully remarked recently. The clerks ably assisted by the cooks and others had occasion recently to teach the Unit how to play football and suffered for their temerity. We refer to the C.S.O.'s inspection which passed off without incident, though seldom has the Riding School witnessed such a magnificent display of blanco and brass-work.

On top of all this Sergeant Hammerton was bitten by the P.T. bug and can be observed on parade in pants and little short shirt doing exercises for the benefit of his trim figure. When the Adjutant actually went on a week's leave—his first since July, 1914, we could safely say that the upheaval was complete.

Our secret service agent has been making some more under-cover investigations. These are some of the things he has unearthed.

Lance Corporal Jackman, the new post-boy, is very happy in his work. Interviewed during a recent hectic session he remarked "——!"

His stamp-licking predecessor, Lance Corporal Maule, now walks about Leconfield House with his tongue hanging out. Force of habit or thirst, we presume!

Signalman Wain (also at Leconfield) is so hungry these days that he is thinking of trying for a transfer to the staff of the Officer i/c Supplies.

C.Q.M.S Reece has those Chinese laundry blues.

Lance Corporal Harvey is beginning to think that P.T. courses are a bit hazardous as compared with barbering. Our commiserations. We hope he will get a speedy discharge from hospital.

Lance Corporal Putman and his bedmate have joined the Hot Club de France. We are going on parade to the strains of "Tiger Rag" one of these cold mornings.

Signalman Moore R. G. has been awarded the Publican's Palm for the best performance of the year. (Politeness, courtesy and speed of delivery behind the canteen bar.)

Once again that last item seems to strike a reminiscent chord somewhere in us. Typing can be a very thirsty business.

OPERATORS

The Section continues to thrive and has grown considerably during the past few weeks. There was a Trade Board recently with a high percentage of passes. Long weeks of "swotting," key thumping and cook-house fatigues made it a success.

Many of the operators have commented on the fact that we have lately acquired one D.R., Signalman Richardson, and one of the most illustrious of the Driver Section, Lance Corporal

LONDON DISTR



OUR TRUMPETERS

TRICT SIGNALS



LORD MAYOR'S L.D.S. ESCORT, 1940



Carmichael. Future aspirants to membership have to go before our Selection Committee.

There are still a few strays who have not yet had their second "Corned Beef" injection from the M.O. It is a recognised fact that even the mere touching of a rifle may bring about a severe attack of "Operators' Cramp" after receipt of a shot.

It is a matter of regret that Sergeant Ritchie and Sergeant Everett have recently left us. Now we shan't have anyone of whom to ask questions.

Signalman Kirke returned to us from leave with the "M. Glorious" still intact. Shortly afterwards he discovered that Euclid had something when he reached the conclusion that the shortest distance between any two points is a straight line. He demonstrated it ably by a quick passage from the N.A.A.F.I. to terra firma. The more conservative of us, however, will continue to use the stairs.

We have to congratulate Corporal Hurst on having acquired his second tape. It is a popular promotion.

It is gratifying to note that our Senior N.C.O.s are now wearing field service caps. It is very fetching in some cases.

Football enthusiasts within the Section are still wondering about the return match with No. 1 Section. We have recently formed a billiards and snooker team, which is sticking out a few challenges. We are hoping for some good games.

LINEMEN

The Line Section still exists, and so do fatigues, although, in all fairness, it should be stated that lately they have lightened considerably.

Corporal Duffin has returned to barracks after being attached to the North Sub-Area, and Lance Corporal Gurden has filled his place. The Linemen, represented by Lance Corporal Ward A. K. and Signalman Elliott, are taking part in the prevalent practice of course-attending. They have gained much experience thereby, and at the same time have rendered valuable assistance to the G.P.O. Signalmen Fletcher, Fenn, Phillips and Daw are at present away on similar courses. In between times some of the lesser trained members of the Section are receiving lectures by Corporal Duffin.

Signalman Day (D.R.), who has spent a great deal of time in the M.I. room, has now joined our valiant band, and before long we hope to have knocked him into shape.

Lines of communication have been constructed from the Guard Room to the new Officers' Mess, and a very neat job it was, too!

It is interesting to note that the more energetic members are participating in the Unit sports, there being representatives in particular in the soccer team.

CONSIDER THE POOR D.R.!

To the uninitiated, the words "Despatch Rider" spell romance, adventure, a free and easy life, riding around the country and occasionally stopping here and there to deliver an odd despatch or two. Little do they know the true situation—the hard, cold facts—and since it is felt that these should be made known to the uninitiated, the D.R. corner this month will be taken up with a description of the daily life of an average "Don" R.

At the beginning of his Army career, the D.R. is subject to a series of disillusionments. On the very first day it is made quite plain to him that he is just a soldier and not the little tin god he thought he was going to be. Instead of jumping straight on to a super-machine and sailing away on the gay highroad of adventure, he finds he has to go through rigorous and detailed training, which is sometimes monotonous, and quite different from what was expected. Even when the longed-for day arrives and he is allotted a "bike," he finds that a further time has to be spent in the pool.

Now he has to stay in each night until 20.00 hours, and as he has to be back in barracks by 21.59, he has not much opportunity of going out. There being no half-days, his life temporarily becomes a period of "C.B." His one desire is now to get on a relief. That, at least, will take him out of barracks.

Eventually he finds his name on the "roster." Whilst on pool, most of his time has been spent cleaning his machine, and it is all "just so." When the time comes to parade with his relief, he lines his bike, all bright and shining, alongside that of "Old So-and-so." Now, old "So-and-so" has been on "day reserve" the week before, and has had no time whatever to clean his bike. Consequently it is dirty, and standing as it does by the side of a bike just off pool, is shown up in a very bad light. Up comes the Orderly Officer, and with severe mien says, "Put this man on a charge for having a dirty bike." Little does he realise the true state of affairs, and poor "Old So-and-so" has to suffer.

The relief moves off in driving rain. The protective clothing of the D.R. consists of a short shower-proof jacket and a pair of leggings. The latter reach half-way up the thigh and there is a gap of unprotected battle-dress trousers from there to the top of the thigh. This becomes absolutely sodden with the rain-water draining from the tank, and army boots afford inadequate protection from the water which splashes back from the front wheel and mud-guard.

At the Signal Office, the D.R. receives his despatches, and he sets off on his D.R.L.S. run for his first real job. He finds he has to deliver at a number of places, and if he is wise, he makes out a list of the calls in order of visitation. He soon realises that he does not know the location of half the streets on the list, and consults a pal who has done the run before, and then he is off. He finds that one of the roads on his route has been bombed, thus causing a diversion, and arrives two minutes late. His next call is a place of which he has never heard. However, after several inquiries he finds the building, and learns that the place at which he delivers is on the fourth floor and that the lift is out of order. Having surmounted his four flights of stairs, he is confronted with a long passage with offices on either side. Finally he sees the welcome words "Signal Office." Upon his entering the Signalmaster comes up and wants to know why he is ten minutes late. After explanations, he delivers his despatches and receives others to take back, and sets off on his next call, thinking to himself, "I must try and make up the time I have lost." He proceeds with care over roads of wooden blocks, when suddenly a taxi shoots out of a side road right into his path. Almost unconsciously his foot touches the brake pedal, and before he knows where he is, he finds the rear wheel where the front ought to be, and the bike lays on its side and throws him into the road. Disregarding his own cuts and bruises he dashes to his bike, picks it up and finds that a foot-rest is bent, the side of the head-lamp grazed and the lamp glass broken. After telling the crowd which has gathered that he is all right, he carries on and completes his run, all the time being conscious of the pain in his bruised bones, and the discomfort of his wet clothes.

Arriving back at the Signal Offices, he delivers his despatches and reports the accident to the N.C.O. in charge of D.R.s. He makes out his accident form, giving full details of the mishap. It should contain names of witnesses, but in his eagerness to catch up on time schedule, he has forgotten to obtain them. By the time he has completed the report, his next run is due to begin, but this time he manages it without a lot of trouble and is only five minutes late back. He now gets a welcome break, and tries to straighten out his bike. Then he manages to snatch a quick meal before going out again. As it has now stopped raining, and he is now familiar with the route, he is able to be on time all the way.

As he goes back to barracks, he feels sore and unhappy because he has crashed on his first day out. Arriving, he reports to the officer-in-charge and is told to make out two more accident reports. As his bike needs attention, he has to go back on pool for the rest of the week.

On parade next morning he is told, "C.O.'s Orders at 9.20." The dreaded time arrives. The C.O. wants to know the smallest detail concerning the accident. He studies all the evidence, and finally his verdict comes: "You are disrated and fined £?" The amount is stopped at the rate of half his pay each week. Meanwhile he is thinking: "Here am I, risking my life in black-out, bombs and traffic, and yet if I come off the bike, I am severely punished. It isn't as though I did it deliberately or that it was due to careless riding. I wish I could put some of these officers on a bike and let them do a D.R.L.S. run on a wet day in a busy place like ———. Then they might realise what a D.R. has to do.

Thus and thus it proceeds ; a viscious circle of riding, cleaning and parading. Perhaps he is lucky enough to get an odd half-day when he is changing reliefs at the week-end.

Finally he realises that he is a fool for ever expecting to be treated with any respect. He is just another " scruffy Don R." who can get along without pleasure and very little money.

Romance ? Adventure ? Horse-radish ! When next you see him riding around in the rain, perhaps you may spare a kind thought for him along these lines : " Poor devil ! He has all his equipment and his bike to clean again before he goes out on the next day's relief, or people might talk."

Cheerio ! I must be off again. I am already two minutes late for my run !

DILLON.

PHYSICAL TRAINING AND RECREATION

General.—Developments and progressive steps have occurred during the past few weeks. Lance Corporals Masters and Putnam have returned from their refresher courses and both received very good reports. The former, being outstanding in his efforts, has been rewarded by a recommendation to Aldershot, and, as a result, a cherished ambition—three stripes surmounted by the crossed swords—may be realised.

Newly appointed Lance Corporal Harvey (the Unit's " Sweeney Todd ") is at present attending an "Ack I " Course. No doubt he will be actively engaged in instructing squads by the time these notes come into print, and we wish him every success in his new work.

The Park still comes in useful for morning exercises, and it is good to see some of the officers trooping down with the men. One even braves the elements with bare knees, a fact which is generally approved. Whether the approval extends to the scarlet hose is a moot point. The run back from the Park is another factor upon which opinion is divided. These road runs, however, are very beneficial to all who take part, adding to the hardening process, and keeping the physical fitness peak at a constant high level.

Distribution and Expansion.—The personnel at outstations have not been forgotten, and recently skipping ropes and medicine balls were sent to the less fortunate. The latter were made by Sergeant-Instructor Rendell, who is teaching his keen "Ack Is " to go and do likewise.

Boxing.—It is hoped that a boxing ring will shortly be erected in the indoor riding school, and that inter-section boxing competitions will be held there during the winter.

Soccer.—In the course of trial matches a number of good soccer players were discovered. Owing to the presence of an unexploded bomb plumb in the middle of our usual pitch, for a time we found ourselves rather at a loss. However, upon inquiry, Sergeant Rendell discovered that in the past a ground adjacent to a famous cricket pitch (somewhere in England !) had been used. An interview with a famous cricket personality ensued, and he graciously consented to let us use the pitch again this season.

It will be remembered that No. 1 Section won the Inter-Section Soccer Competition (nine-a-side) held on the square. A challenge match has since been played on our newly acquired pitch between No. 1 Section and the rest of the Unit. It was a close match, and would probably have been better had each side been able to field its strongest team. No. 1 Section, however, were playing together better as a team, and ran out winners by 5—4. Another Inter-Section Tournament is to be held, only this time, eleven a side, on grass.

Unfortunately we cannot hope to put our strongest Unit team in the field, as there are always some players required for duty. Results so far, however, have been satisfactory. In our first match of the season, against the —— Police, we scored the only goal of the match. The incessant rain did not interfere with a good and enjoyable game. Driver Dixon, whose name was to the fore in last month's notes, scored the winning goal. We hope to get a return match with the " Bobbies " in the near future.

Our second match, against the 24th Guards Brigade (Signal Section), saw us well set on the " victory parade." We seem to thrive in the rain. It was a remarkable game in so far as a three-goal deficit faced us after a few minutes. Nothing daunted, after twenty minutes we got into our stride, and a gradual transformation took place. Sergeant Rendell, at centre-forward, came into his own with three smart goals, Signalman May put us ahead, and, of course, Signalman Dixon was not satisfied until he had obtained his usual.

The forwards had an afternoon out against an A.F.S. XI and collected seven in the rain. Lance Corporal Rae in goal looked a picture of misery as he leaned forlornly against each post in turn.

At the time of " going to press " the news has come through of our first reverse, against the 24th Coldstream Guards. The Guards had the knack of keeping the ball in the air, and usually, therefore, had about a foot start on our little chaps. It was a poor game, and actually the score ought to have been far greater than 1—0 in the Guards' favour. It would have served them right if we had drawn level, because Lance Corporal Pafford had a glorious opportunity about two feet from the goal with the defence spread-eagled. His slicing of the ball must have been a record of its kind. The Guards' goal was a scrambled affair, but on one occasion their inside left shook the posts with a rasper.

Rugby.—The one and only game played so far was against the 9th Corps, ——, on their own ground. The game opened with a series of scrums resulting in a break-away by our three-quarter line, which enabled Signalman Conradi to cross the line between the posts. Captain Sheepshanks had the easiest of kicks to convert. Shortly afterwards the forwards got the ball out from a loose melee and the three-quarters went away again. From this, Captain Sheepshanks scored the first of his three tries, which he also converted. The whistle went for half-time, after the Corps had kicked a penalty goal, as a result of over-eagerness on the part of the Signals forwards. Over-eagerness again resulted in the Corps profiting from a penalty. Most of the play during the second half was even, and our defence when tested held its own. Towards the end of the game, Captain Sheepshanks received the ball in the middle, and fought his way over for his third and best try, which was unconverted. Considering that the fifteen had never played as a team before, they were well together, and showed good promise for the future. There is an attractive programme before them. Corporal Lauriston R. B. and Signalman Conradi E. R. have been selected to play for The Rest against the Brigade of Guards XV.

Hobbies, Education and the Soldier's Welfare.—A recent notice concerning hobbies, recreational and educational pastimes evoked a certain amount of expressed interest. The discussion, however, seemed to indicate that more information was needed. Accordingly, our representative sought an interview with the Education Officer.

During the course of the interview it soon became apparent that a move was on foot, not only in our Unit, but throughout the Army, to seek out ways and means whereby the lives of all ranks might be made a more interesting affair. Yet it seemed, as the Education Officer explained the idea, that it went more deeply than that. It will probably become more evident as the idea unfolds. The Officer said :

" The intention of the Army Council is that personal interests, or subjects of personal interest to the troops, shall be cared for by officers within individual units. It is felt that men should not needlessly be left to their own devices when they are gathered together in camps, barracks, etc. Barrack life can be very dull, especially in a man's free time, and even in cases where facilities exist for indoor recreation. It is felt that something more than the supplying of games facilities is required in order to make the soldier's life a more interesting and happy one.

" It should not be imagined that this wish to care for the personal welfare of the soldier should be construed as a desire to intrude upon the privacy of the men, or that any fussy spirit of interference should exist. On the contrary, the object of the present efforts is to develop and foster the team spirit even in the communal life of the troops, and that the men may feel that someone is really thinking about them and trying to do something for them.

" Where men are able to live out, or in some way to develop some sort of private existence in their free time, they may feel

that there is no great need for concern about their welfare. Indeed, it is easy to imagine circumstances in which any active 'prying' would be justifiably resented. But no such intention exists. The officers are ready to give their attention and care to the promotion of facilities whereby the men's interest in hobbies, educational pursuits—for example, sports, music, literature, subjects of general interest, entertainment, etc.—may be expressed. We wish to find out if the men have any particular interest along these lines. If they have, we want them to let us know."

The Education Officer stressed the point that there was no desire to provide some organised affair which the men did not want, and that accordingly it was necessary that the men should let them know what they wanted. Reminded of the natural reticence of the men, he said that some informal functions would be arranged, when opportunities would be found to talk things out " when their hair was down."

It cannot be gainsaid that regimentation of any kind tends to stultify the powers of self-expression of an individual. There is an urge to create within everyone. The creative instinct is one of the strongest of human instincts. The fact that nearly everyone has a hobby is an indication of this statement. When a young fellow joins the Army he finds that a tremendous reorientation has to take place in his life. We have all found that. It is an easy thing to allow that Army number to have a greater significance than it deserves. It is an easy thing to allow the Army to become an " escape." Maybe an escape from responsibility, an escape from real hard thinking, an escape from the constant pursuit of knowledge. There is no real escape from these things, but we like to delude ourselves sometimes that there is. When we do delude ourselves thus, we are bound to suffer. Therefore any move which is afoot which will enable those powers of ours to be directed and developed should be firmly seized.

There may be in this new move that which will enable all men in the Army to have a better opportunity to fulfil a big responsibility from which there is no escape—the responsibility of developing his own personality.

Presentation.—During the last Unit Dance a little ceremony took place which was a pleasant climax to the anniversary described in the November notes. R.S.M. Wells gave dignity to the occasion in a speech, after which he presented a mounted silver Royal Signals effigy to the Commanding Officer, on behalf of the whole Unit to hold for the Unit to commemorate its first year of existence.

"A short while ago, it became the anniversary of our Commanding Officer's command of the Unit," he said. " It was suggested that we could not allow that date to pass without some sort of token to commemorate the fact. The whole Unit desired to contribute towards a token which would show their appreciation of everything that has been done for them since its commencement. Sir, on behalf of the Unit, I present this effigy, symbol of the Royal Corps of Signals, and hope you will accept it in the spirit in which it was given and hold it for the Unit."

The Commanding Officer's reply was characteristic. " Ladies and Gentlemen——," he began, and this seemed to be just about the limit of orthodoxy to which our irrepressible C.O. was capable of reaching, for he went on : " I don't honestly know what to say, for two reasons. One was that I overheard a certain little Driver (cheers from that Section) say, ' I gave 2d. towards that. Had I known that he was going to dock me of 21 days' pay I would not even have given that ! ' (Laughter.) The second reason is this : When the actual year was up, we were in the Canteen in the barracks. There was the usual crowd of soakers there, and after I had about four of the most awful beers that Captain Calvert serves up (cries of ' Hear ! Hear ! '), I was asked to say something. So I said the usual inane things, concluding by hoping that we should all be here together next year. Instead of getting the cheers I had expected for such an occasion, a most beautiful raspberry greeted me. I can only assume from that that this token has been given to me to hold for the Unit to let me know that I have been in command for a year, and that a year is really long enough ! (Cheers !) That's what I really mean to say." He went on to give his version of what really should be said, to the huge delight of everyone. It was obvious that this was a cloak for his real pride in the Unit, and when he concluded by calling for three cheers for " London District Signals," everyone responded most heartily.

W.O.s and Senior N.C.O.s' Mess

Well, soaks, here we are again, all alive and kicking, and settled down to Jerry's vicious bombardments. Some of our members have had their homes bombed and lost everything (except their spirit). But they have taken it like the rest of the Londoners (the bombing, not the spirit, of course !). Some of us have had to spend our leave in barracks, but who cares ? It's a rest, anyway !

I am glad to say that our Wednesday socials are going strong now, despite the earlier black-out, and, of course, when they wheel out our " radio-gram " with the tap on the top, the blokes soon get going. " Roll out the Barrel " is now out of date. 'Tis now, " Roll out the Container."

There are one or two alterations since our last contribution. Sergeant Forsyth has left us for " Civvy Street." Some of the lads will miss him and his " Roll on ! " Secondly, Alec has lost his " Fido." I don't know whether he took a run-out powder of his forthcoming race, because he certainly did it in style. He jumped out of Alec's window on the first floor, and hurt himself somewhere. He made a bolt for the barrack gate and hasn't been seen since. We are glad to welcome Sergeant Fisher back after his long illness, and hope it is his last.

It is said that Sergeant Johnstone murmurs figures in his sleep. Something like " Toop-three " ! He will have to guard against throtitis. Is it true that Sergeant Ashby wooes his girls with the " gat " he always carries, or is it really his personality ? I am told that Sergeant Robson is going on a slimming diet so that he won't have to alter his blue patrols (great stuff this radio-gram !). . I hear that Steve nearly wept when we lost our sixpenny machine, but I understand that he is going to give the pin-table a caning. It is whispered that the operators' section are well turned out now, due to the example of S.S.M. Denby. I hear that he now bones his bootlaces and blancoes the inside of his respirator haversack. I wonder if he knows that " Bluebell " is a good thing for boot studs.

Enough of this scandal, or else I shall be getting two or three accidental black eyes whilst playing basket-ball on the square. I think I have made this read like the local rag, so I'll pack in while I can.

EDDYDON.

S.S.A.

Our humble apologies for not having introduced ourselves in the previous issue, especially as it was commemorating the first year of the London District Signals, and we can only hope on this important occasion we will be allowed double space. First we must tell you that we are not at all interested in ourselves but there may be others of the Unit who would like to hear about us and, in fact, for the next issue we will promise a photograph of the Detachment. We are a magnificent body of men. Demands for our photograph have been constant and numerous ; so that we shall be killing 46 birds with one photograph. Take " Tinie Martin," our leading Don Juan—beg pardon, Don R.—and his famous shuffle. You should see his trick riding ; he nearly broke his leg the other day swinging on and off the saddle in the famous High Street. By the way, he was one of the original Big Five—or is it 55. We are thinking of designing an " old school tie " for these originals and giving rattles to the " immatures." We have a lot of them here, but they are growing now into manhood ; soon they will be able to put themselves to bed. Hall J., for instance, knows how to squeeze a mop out with his hands now, and Messrs. Till and Taylor, the famous switch-board duet, " Blonde and Brunette," only Till forgets his ladylike language sometimes.

We have some of the " Old Crocks " with us, too. Our S.S.M. Northcot ; he took over a difficult job at a difficult time, but he's making a good job of it and making himself as popular as Sergeant Majors usually do, especially with the Linemen—More " Inmatures " by the way and who are particularly fond of spit and polish. He has strong sympathies with Lance Corporal Lloyd, who manages to control these he-men of the Signals—Messrs. Tattam, Reed, and Hall. And just a mention of Stillman who drives this menagerie about ; he never knows anything but does a heck of a lot.

To revert back to our D.R.s ; everybody knows the Gaywood Brothers, only Ted was silly enough to break his thumb and has to have it in splints with the result he has to walk about with his thumb stuck up doing " Out Clerk " duties. What a come down. Still it gives Lance Corporal Chapman a feeling of greater importance, having another N.C.O. under him on the famous " B " relief. This relief has been noted for its literature. Sergeant Thomas, who was previously Superintendent of this relief, but has been ordered to a command performance at H.Q. Lance Corporal Chapman carries on the tradition. It's a coincidence that both " Tommy " (Sergeant Thomas) and " Chappy " (Lance Corporal Chapman) should be ex-Middlesex Yeomanry ; and they are proud of the fact. In fact, Tommy persists in wearing Yeomanry buttons.

Lance Sergeant Samuels, from the 1st London Div., has been with us from the beginning, and is now one of the pillars of the detachment. Of course, we have Sergeant Hardman with us, and from the beginning, too, but we mustn't say too much about him or someone will ring down the curtain. We have some of the " THE THING " Catterick boys with us, too—Messrs. Camsell, Hargreaves, Arthington-Davy ; he's very particular about the "Arthington." Hargreaves has blossomed into a first-rate dancer—at least he's a constant attender at the H.Q. dances—and the dances there are considered to be THE thing ; he always comes back well oiled and talking well-off, and pleased about having kicked some gentleman in the pants. Camsell retains his smart appearance. He and Holt (another of the Catterick boys) used to be the inspiration of the song " There's something about a soldier," but now Holt is at one of our " out " stations, and Camsell is playing a lone hand.

There have been many changes in the detachment during the last twelve months. We were all very sorry to see Captain Calvert leave us, but Mr. Reid is just as popular ; and almost from the first day of his arrival we have had the " Blitz." with us. We have been bombed and burnt out, but still we carry on. Some of the old boys who used to be in these barracks wouldn't know the place, but most would remember friend " Terry " of the T.A. bar and canteen. The detachment used to mess there. Well, until the " Blitz." started and then he would close up on the first note of the "Alert " and run with his bag of gold to the dug-outs—and stay there until the "All Clear." Well the boys had to eat, " Blitz." or no " Blitz.," so they persuaded the authorities to let them go to where the girls carried on ; so now we all ration out. And do the girls like it ? And the boys are looking all the better for having some decent grub and fattening up on fresh milk.

In reference to the working of the detachment, everything goes smoothly along, and we believe we give satisfaction to the powers that be. We could do with a few extra clerks. The Superintendents find difficulty in making entries in all the books and are asking for rubber stamp signatures. The latest addition is the " Bath " book. We've searched in Volume 5 for any reference to Superintendents having to keep a " Bath " book, but cannot find any ; still, orders is orders. Well, there it is, the Superintendents of this here area have to superintend almost everything that everyone does in the detachment, from calling the personnel with early morning tea to welcoming the Signalmaster back from the weekly " Prance " at H.Q. And " Sheet changing " (which is also not in Volume 5). Every other Thursday the Signal Office smells like a pawn shop. But, as a rule, when visitors come they are pleased with the way things are run and the general condition of things and this is a consolation. Of course we make our visitors welcome. We have no Mess to invite them into, but we have a cheery word with them and ask about their welfare. We shall be able to make our visitors more welcome shortly because we are going to flit to more suitable quarters. We are hoping to get settled before Christmas, and then we will be able to invite some of our old friends from the wood—even drink some beer from it, too.

As it is very near Christmas we want to wish everyone a very happy Christmas—dreamless and " Blitzless."

We hope to tell you some more about ourselves in the next issue, that is if the Editor is still sane.

A. F. H.

— Corps Signals

Visit of H.R.H. The Princess Royal.—We were very fortunate recently in being honoured by a visit from our Colonel-in-Chief. H.R.H. Princess Royal was met at the Signal Office by the Commanding Officer, who conducted her round in company with the Corps Commander. The Signal Office was first visited and H.R.H. showed a very keen interest in the working of various instruments in the Operating Rooms. The party also visited the Switch Room, Test Rooms and Wireless Station. The Princess Royal then left to visit the men's billets, and on the way was able to see a line detachment at work on one of our lines. H.R.H. then inspected the billets and expressed herself as very satisfied with their cleanliness and comfort. She also inspected the Cookhouse, where lunch was being prepared. The next place visited was the W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess, where the W.O.s and Senior Sergeants were presented to Her Royal Highness. Tea was then served in the Officers' Mess and H.R.H. departed late in the afternoon, thus ending an extremely notable day for us.

Departures.—We have been unfortunate this month in having numerous departures and we wish them all success with their new Units. We were very sorry to lose Captain C. E. Calveley, but we offer him our best wishes and congratulations on being promoted to the above-mentioned rank just prior to leaving.

We congratulate R.S.M. Bailey on being granted a commission, and wish him all the best of luck in his new sphere.

Sergeant Fayers who left us a short time ago has been promoted to C.S.M., and we offer him our congratulations.

Arrivals.—Recently we welcomed R.S.M. Farrington, who takes the place of R.S.M. Bailey. We are very pleased to have him with us and hope his stay will be a long and happy one.

Sport.—As usual our activities have been mainly concerned with soccer. The Unit team recently met with their first defeat. We congratulate them on such a long run before defeat and are glad to see they are again winning their games.

We recently started our Inter-Section League and to date some very close and keen games have been played. We are sure the final positions will be very close indeed.

Our exploits on the rugger field have been much more numerous than before and we are pleased to say quite successful. As yet we have been unable to find a rugger pitch and consequently all our matches have been played away, but with a little ingenuity this problem will probably be overcome in the near future.

Entertainment.—We have not been able to hold our dances as regularly as we expected and as yet only one Unit Dance has been held. This, however, met with great success in spite of adverse conditions.

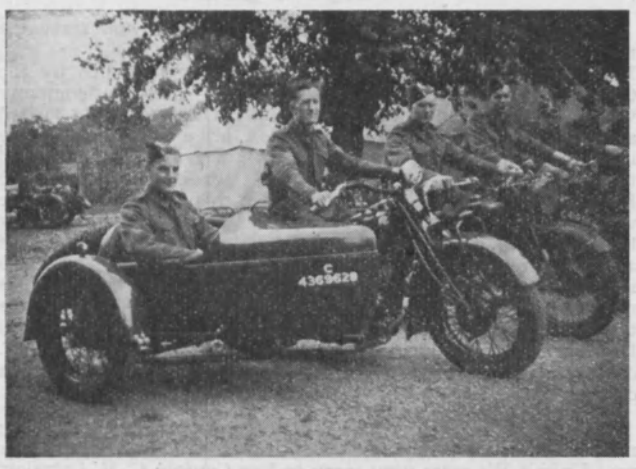
Captain E. M. Richards has given a very interesting lecture on " Submarine Cables," illustrated with slides. We are waiting and hoping for more lectures of this kind.

— Command Signals, Wiltshire

" This is a new Unit." That is always our get-out when there's any official scrounging to be done, or any excuse to make for things which are, maybe, not just what they might be. So it will do here, too, if you've any fault to find with this, the first chapter of our " life history."

Yes, we are a new Unit. But how we grow ! Sergeant Horwood (remember him, No. 2 Corps ?) and his (more or less) Orderly Room staff just about manage to keep track of the new Sections which are tacked on with remarkable regularity. Meanwhile, it is rumoured that Signalman Hilder, our " i/c Records ", will one day catch up on this strength return business.

The Unit started in a small way, and well scattered. Now it's a lively Unit in a big way, and is even more scattered. True, the " kernel " is compact, but even so we have two camps, about three miles apart, to house our Nos. 1 and 2 Companies. And a few men from No. 2 Company are still in No. 1 Company's quarters (more or less detached) and No. 2 Company have their office at the main camp (which is not where their men live, or most of them).



Sergeant Kelly of — Command Signals (story on this page) on his husky Indian sidecar outfit heads a smart turn-out of his Don. R. Section. This Section covers a terrific area, totting up thousands of miles a week, so any one who says Don R.s can't look smart as well as be smart, should study this picture again !

And then we get to our No. 3 Company, Southern Command Signal Company as was. "Atterton's Brigade" to the initiated, the Company Commander being Major F. A. S. Atterton, who, though an R.E., is one of the most popular officers in the Signals. "Atterton's Brigade" are well and truly scattered, with detached Sections practically all over the area.

Major G. A. Keith—he's an ex-R.A. by the way (and I don't mean that he's been "hung"), who ran the show when the Unit was born, quietly, unostentatiously, miles from anywhere, has since moved on to that amazingly popular place, "Home Security." He was at the time O.C., No. 1 Company, his place as C.O. having been taken over by ——, sorry. That's the one name I mustn't mention.

What we gained in being brought within easy walk of a cinema we lost in other ways. Particularly the D.R.s who had been living like the legendary lords at a really "swish" country club, complete with bathing pool and squash courts (sleeping on an £80 floor wasn't quite the thrill you might expect, though !).

Anyway, those D.R.s are quite acclimatised to the change now, and having to work for a living no longer breaks their hearts. With their pistols strapped on and their collars turned up



A neat turn-out of efficient-looking (and they are just as efficient as they look !) Don R.s of — Command Signals. This comparatively "young" Unit carries men drawn from various formations. How many of your former pals can you spot in this snap ?

(unless the R.P.s are prowling about) they quite look the part, though the new style crash hat makes them look like something left over from a Martian landing.

Life in a canvas-covered kaleidoscope of camouflage, naturally, leaves us woefully wanting the dance halls and fol-de-rols we knew around the S.T.C.s, but at the time of writing, Captain L. M. Joseph, who has just handed over command of No. 1 Company to Major Lodder, is busy collecting names of talent (if any) for a camp concert. The tame humorist of No. 2 Company says he agrees with the Captain here, and that he, too, would willingly swop No. 1 Company for a concert party any day. In fact, he says, chuck in Hedy Lamarr and you can have the Company office as well.

We have been despatching all kinds of men to all kinds of places on all kinds of courses. Even some of the cooks have gone, so that the Corporal who said he always had early breakfast so that he couldn't see what he was eating, may soon have no cause to grouse. Though, doubtless, he will.

Speaking of early rising, R.S.M. Crummey is now on with the second term of his Junior N.C.O.s' Course. And if they learn nothing else, they are at least learning how to get out of bed at the double, because you can't linger long when you have to be on parade, washed, shaved and your rifle oiled, by o-seven-hundred.



Are we downhearted ? Well, what would those smiles mean to you ? Don R.s of the — Command Signals happily-snapped while they were billeted in their country club (story on this page) How many of them do you know ? They are (left to right): Front row : Signalmen Ward, Lewis, Lance Corporal White, Signalmen Morgan, Woodhead. Second row : Signalmen Armstrong, Meens, Wyatt, Akers, Daly, and (standing) "Cookie" Young. Third row : Signalman Jones, Lance Corporal Taylor, Signalmen Webb, Morton, Boylett, McGarrock, Howard. Back row : Signalmen Cowden, Dickinson, Woollams, Lamb, Wayte.

There may be many promotions to announce in our next issue. I'll tell you all about them in my next—if I last that long. For this is the third time I've been appointed WIRE scribe. And each time, after one month's notes, I've been moved on. Still, if it doesn't worry you, it won't worry me.

As for promotions that have been already. Well, there's R.Q.M.S. "Jonah" Jones, who surprised one and all in this camp by moving straight up from Sergeant to W.O.2. Sergeant McDonald has gone up to C.Q.M.S.

Sergeant Kelly T. (D.R.) has got rid of his "lance." (Incidentally, he almost got rid of his life, too, when his "Indian" decided it didn't like being so close to the sidecar, but, happily, he's around again, having missed "Y" List by a matter of days.)

Maybe I've missed some, but I guess I've overstrayed my space.

The popular Press can clamour for our stay-at-home army to

do " real work " (maybe that stage will be over by the time these notes are printed), but they can't level any idleness accusations at this Command. No, sir ! Our operators maintain their twenty-four-hour watch, our S.B.O.s work like S.B.O.s should. Our detached Sections cover the water front while our Don R.s cover the countryside (and quite a slab of it, too), and the linemen have set some remarkable times for real jobs.

And so, it is with this thought in our minds, that we turn our backs and regretfully bid au revoir, but not good-bye, to this Command, that never-resting hive of industry of the South.

J. S. M.

A.A. Signals, South-East England

Headquarters

Our main item of interest this month has been the Football League games. We have so far played 5 matches, winning 2 and losing the other 3. The first has already been reported in these notes, but since then we have played two very closely contested games against R.A.F. sides, losing both by narrow margins, and have been successful in the other two matches by rather large scores, totalling 16 goals between the two. We feel that we could achieve a very good side if only we could play anything like the same team in successive weeks. However, *c'est la guerre.*

We have discovered some new and excellent places in which to eat. Firstly, there is the Salvation Army canteen, which has proved very popular, and now we have another—The Services Club—staffed mainly by members of the very helpful W.V.S. Both are well attended and are very greatly appreciated. In addition to the eating side of the business, each possesses a games and rest room and these are crowded every evening.

Incidentally, we feel we cannot omit to mention an item of sartorial splendour now sported by all our Despatch Riders, to wit, a beautiful new shining crash helmet apiece. We are not sure whether they look more like American football players than T.T. men or vice versa.

We learn with great interest, and, be it noted, on excellent authority, that one of our Companies is very keen on banjo players, offering in exchange men who do not possess this gift. We would point out that although we have banjo and ukelele players, also pianists, mouth organists, crooners, and can even boast a saxophonist, we nevertheless demand some more positive virtue than the lack of musical talent in order to look with favour on a swap. Not even the possession of the most wonderful " brush " would tempt us to alter our view.

No. 1 Company

How shall we spend Christmas ? That is the topic of the day just now. Some are curious about prospects of leave. Others are wondering whether the Unit festivities will be as successful as last year. Many of our comrades have joined the Unit since last December, a few have been with us only a week or two. For many it will be the first Christmas spent away from home.

Those who remain in camp over the holiday are assured of a lively time. Since the beginning of November, a Committee, formed expressly for this purpose, has been busily engaged in organising the celebrations. There is talk of turkeys and free beer, concerts and children's parties, dances and outdoor sports. In prospect, it does not seem very much unlike any other Christmas we can recall.

We have seen many changes since last Christmas. In the interim we have acquired a spacious and well-equipped camp while the strength of the Unit has increased enormously. So it will be a larger party this year, with all the necessary facilities to cater for it.

In addition, we have formed a concert party of high amateur talent and an excellent dance orchestra, under the direction of Signalman Harvie Craig, both of which have done great work in recent months. Recently they gave their first public performance—a Sunday concert at a cinema in a neighbouring town. The proceeds, amounting to more than £50, were divided equally among the local " Spitfire Fund " and the Unit's " Welfare Fund."

The event was attended by the Commanding Officer who, in accepting the Unit's share of the booty, spoke feelingly about the importance of Signals work in general (and our own in particular !), about our social activities and the current price of turkeys.

All our regular artistes contributed to the successs of the show, while a pleasing feature was the introduction of Signalman Mathews N. T., at that time a recruit of less than a week's standing, who gave a magnificent pianoforte recital. Signalman Godman, who had joined up at the same time, scored a success with the familiar song about the Sergeant-Major on parade, while yet another new-comer to the cast, Signalman Smith V. J., impressed the audience greatly with some fine playing of the guitar.

Another innovation which proved highly successful was a " Talent Spotting " contest in the Canteen. This resulted in an evening's lively entertainment. Although embryo comedians were not lacking among the competitors, some of the biggest laughs were provided by the barracking of members of the audience. These spontaneous interruptions were generally most witty and always good-natured.

The Officer Commanding presented the prize of £1 to a double turn, Signalmen Buckley and Richardson A., which had proved a model of versatility. It embraced a savage tribal dance, a rendering of " Punchinello," and an impersonation of Donald Duck. The second prize went to Signalman Clements, who, having mastered a spell of artistic temperament, gave a soulful recital with his accordion.

Our football team, now in better form than ever it has been before, visited No. 2 Company and beat them by 7—2. The return match resulted in another victory, this time by 3—1. Both matches were appropriately celebrated by social evenings in our respective canteens.

No. 2 Company

The outstanding feature of our official existence has been the number of recruits we have welcomed at our rural camp during the past month. Needless to say they are now beginning to feel at home and are proving themselves useful additions to the Unit.

There has been some aerial activity with its accompanying excitement, but it can be honestly said that Jerry has not provided us with the large-scale shows we had enjoyed during his earlier attempts. On occasion Jerry's efforts have provided us with a marvellous spectacle, because of the intricate designs which he has been compelled to make with his condensed exhaust vapour in his futile attempts to get past our R.A.F. patrols, and the great heights he is forced to fly in an endeavour to achieve that object. We sincerely hope that all their pilots will soon be as frozen as their exhausts.

Concerning promotions, we have to record with pleasure the promotion of our Officer Commanding, Captain Simpson, to the rank of Major. We all feel that it has been well merited and take pride in the fact that our Company has risen to the dignity of being commanded by a Major.

The best wishes of the Company for their success are offered to our latest O.C.T.U. candidates—Lance Corporals Turner J. S. and Searle D. L. Our congratulations are offered to Signalman Akeroyd R. upon the occasion of his marriage, which took place in November. May the best of luck attend his entry into double harness.

In the field of sport, our football team has played two matches. The first was with the representatives of No. 1 Company, who were successful in defeating us to the tune of 7—2. In spite of the figures it was a well-contested game and our boys at times showed that with a little more practice and greater co-operation they will render a better account of themselves. The second match was played against an R.A. unit in the neighbourhood. We were again defeated by the narrow margin of 3—2.

The thanks of the Company are owing to the enterprise of the Entertainment Committee in providing them with two excellent dances and some welcome Sunday evening concerts. We are sure that the visitors to our dances appreciate the excellence

of the dance music our band has provided. Great credit is due to the organisers of the concerts, which we all look forward to as a welcome break in the monotony of camp life. They have attained a high standard of excellence and, judging by the reports from outside sources, are already adding to the prestige of our Unit in the area.

It would be churlish to conclude these notes without mentioning the pleasure with which some members of our Company accepted the Matron's invitation to a dance at St. Bartholomew's Hospital. We understand that the Hospital's Spitfire Fund benefited considerably by this event and desire to say how much we appreciated this very enjoyable evening. We look forward to further similar functions with great anticipation.

A.A. Signals, North-East England

No. 1 Company

Since the last notes were written, little has happened to throw the operational activities of the Company out of gear. 'Tis true there are comings and goings, with the influx of Yorkshiremen and the posting of some of the local lads bringing about a state of things where a nice point can be argued as to the Company being a " local " one. With so much varied talent amongst the recruits, it is to be hoped for the sake of A.D.G.B. that no open challenge will be made.

On the sporting side, Yorkshire has recently sent us Signalman Naylor, an amateur boxer who has acted as sparring partner to Jock McAvoy, has played cricket for the Yorkshire Colts, and, if we may say so, has no mean feet for football, and Signalman Oldroyd, a grass track cycling champion.

In spite of the influx of recruits, the Company is still plagued with the never-ending quest for " fatigues " (Authority: Sergeant (A/S.M.) Connon, and each and all past and present Orderly Sergeants), whilst Signalman Gladstone in the Orderly Room continues to be sorely troubled at the way his parade states are " mucked abawt "!

Departures and Arrivals.—During the month, Captain D. Middlemiss was promoted to that rank and was thereupon posted to No. 2 Company, whose gain is our loss. The good wishes of all ranks go with him. In his place, 2nd Lieutenant J. L. King arrived from No. 2 Company, and the Company Training Programme reflects something of the zeal and enthusiasm with which he has set about his job.

Messes.—Once more the Sergeants' Mess is on the move, making the fourth in six months. It is not true, however, that the Seniors are in any way behind with their rent, or that the Lieutenant Quartermaster intends indenting for a pantechnicon for this very mobile column of the Company. Sergeants Connon and Welch are still living in harmony, despite a " whitewashing " at darts which Tommy handed out to Leslie! There has been considerable improvement in the darts play of the Seniors, and particular mention must be made of the " R.Q.," who, entering the Mess says " Leslie as a ' comic ' is now—still a ' comic '! "

The Men's Mess is a thriving concern as a result of the persuasive eloquence of Signalman George Stebbings who has proved a high-pressure salesman and who provides from his Canteen everything but a sour look.

The Men's Mess, too, has its darts exponents, and a challenge has been issued to the Seniors, with the winners probably tackling the Officers' Mess for whom, it is said, Lieutenant H. Broadhead and 2nd Lieutenant L. Mickler throw a deadly dart.

Sport.—The sport of the Company has so far centred round football though, as these notes are written, the Company officers are reviewing the situation generally. So far as football is concerned, the Company is doing very well under the captaincy of Signalman Gotts. In recent weeks, a neighbouring R.A.F. side, from, let's say, " X " district, has been played, resulting in a 4—1 win for us in the first match, and then a 2—5 beating on our own midden. A Division side proved easy game for us, as the score (8—2) suggests, and in a return match, " Div." again lost, the score being 5—2 in our favour.

The Company has entered for the Services Cup, confined to teams in the district. Drawing a bye in the first round, our boys played a hard game in the second round with yet another R.A.F. side, this time from, let's say, " Y " district, with the winning goal in a score of 3—2 coming to us only in the last few minutes.

Regular practice is all our boys need to develop into a good combination, and a recruit to the Company, Signalman K. Williamson, who has had amateur footballing experience on the Continent, has already proved himself a most welcome member of the team. Inter-Section matches are now to be played, and the Commanding Officer has kindly agreed to donate a Cup to urge us all on, whilst the second-in-command, Major J. J. Graham, is putting up a Shield for General Efficiency, including sport. Presumably this will be decided on a Section basis—so what abawt it, fellows?

Promotion and Appointments.—Congratulations to C.Q.M.S. Longstaffe, Lance Sergeant Fay, and Lance Corporals Taylor (A.E.) and Crawford on attaining their ranks.

Entertainment.—The Sergeants' Mess promoted a small party dance during the last month. Despite a slow start, the evening warmed up and everybody present—and we were pleased to see such a good mustering of Unit and Company officers—enjoyed a nice night.

Another party dance has been arranged for 10th December, with Lance Sergeant Fay the guiding hand behind the scenes. From what we hear, it should be a good night.

During the month, also, an E.N.S.A. concert party entertained some of the Company, but unfortunately " Jerry " took it upon himself to prove a nuisance on that night—and the programme had, of course, to be interrupted.

The Month's Smile! On the recruit who asked the Quarter-bloke for size 10's in ear plugs, and was countered by a demand as to whether these were for ears or sound detectors!

That's all.

JAYBEE.

A.A. Signals, Scotland

Headquarters.

It has been found necessary to say good-bye to Sergeant MacDonald, our popular Orderly Room Sergeant, who has departed from us on supposed promotion—which, we hope, will soon came his way; and to Corporal Baillie, who has followed the footsteps of his predecessors towards an O.C.T.U. We wish them both good luck and success. At the same time we would congratulate our new Section Sergeant, Lance Sergeant Murdock, who has been promoted to fill the vacancy. While on the subject of promotions, we must not forget to mention the new C.S.M. at No. 1 Company, formerly Sergeant Pyper, and we would also extend to him a hearty welcome to his new position.

I see that the No. 1 Company scribe has sent his star reporter to the Second Unit Dance, so I do not intend to encroach on his territory, but I cannot pass without remarking on the success of the evening. It is whispered in society that it even surpassed the First Unit Dance at which we had no foreign representatives.

Like the proverbial " brook," we are receiving a seemingly unending flow of recruits, who now fill every corner of our palatial billet. (It has even been found necessary for us to cook our meals in mess tins and dine out of doors.) We have heard that the Quartermaster is finding difficulty in fitting one of them who has aspirations to outshine the O.C., Luftwaffe, in size.

ACK-ACK (II).

No. 1 Company

Our notes did not appear last month.

Having got that off our chests, and refraining from excuses, because we dislike politely raised eyebrows, we can get down to the business in hand.

We feel a little superior this month. Several of our N.C.O.s have returned from Courses with very creditable performances behind them. A/Corporal Coltart's grin was particularly broad, and we understand that, fortified by a Q1 he was prepared to discuss authoritatively affairs of discipline, etc., with the R.S.M. There is no harm in being prepared.

A/Lance Corporal Fleming G. M. has left for an O.C.T.U. and our best wishes, not unmingled with a little pardonable envy, go with him.

The crop of recent promotions was expected, and although too numerous to mention individually, we cannot pass by the appointment of Sergeant Pyper J. H. to C.S.M., whose penchant for warmth has earned him the fullest support of the Orderly Room staff.

We turn to sport ; but perhaps somersault is the better verb. (This is merely to kid you that the writer remembers something about grammar.) Accompanied by a bevy of sprained ankles, bruised shins, scarred features, and heaving chests, the rugby team batters on its victorious course. The soccer team acquits itself equally well, and there is every prospect of our stalwarts eventually occupying an honourable position in the final league table.

The highlight of the Company social calendar shone brilliantly in the form of the Company dance. True, the preliminaries were embarrassed by the unwarrantable gatecrashing of Herren Messerschmitt and Junker, but Arthur Ack and Robert Ack Freddie, our champion bouncers, soon sent them on an express trip to the seaside. Ourselves and our guests then proceeded to acquire " Strength through Joy."

The next day the Company was in the throes of friendly but forthright argument. You are quite right ; leave is starting again.

Recruits are now arriving in considerable numbers. " Old soldiers " of a fortnight's standing look in superior fashion at rookies with a mere week's service. As for the " old sweats " who have been up six months—Time, gentlemen, please.

SASSENACH.

Detachment, No. 1 Company

Detachment One Company is at present settling down somewhere in the highlands and badlands of Scotland. The nearest " metropolis " would be a one-horse town, if there was a horse, and a current rumour infers that the aforesaid horse has constituted the main item of our dinner so far.

However, optimism prevails, and on occasional quiet moments in the Signal Office the personnel may be observed speculatively " weighing up " a nearby herd of cattle—the morale of the men remains high.

The lack of a canteen is a temporary embarrassment and " twenty-four hours off " men can be seen arriving from town laden with delicacies from the East, and razor blades that fail to fit any known type of safety razor.

Games are urgently required, and I understand arrangements are being made to provide them.

Entertainments, in the form of whist drives, are under way, and the A.T.S. personnel promise a party in the near future.

Most evenings the occupants of Hut No. 1 can be seen, like the " Macdonalds of Glencoe " fame, scattering to the hills. Explanation—the inimitable " Shug " Reid is in rehearsal for our Christmas concert. " Shug " says his new sketch will bring the house down. We think so, too ; it should land somewhere around his ears.

Everything points to an entertaining winter.

SCOT.

A.A. Signals, South Wales

No. 3 Company

Christmas is coming, even though the geese can scarcely be described as getting fat ; the thoughts of us all (and the eager boots of a fortunate few) will soon be turning more than ever homeward. For in our homes at least the spirit of peace and goodwill still glows brightly. There'll always be a Christmas, which is more than can be said for Hitler.

But those of us whose leave is nearer Pancake Day than Christmas, we shall have our share of merry-making, too. What if our yule log is the oilstove of the canteen, with the Sergeant-Major a poor substitute for Santa Claus ? Mistletoe is not difficult to procure, and neither, praise be, are the A.T.S. Eat, drink, and be merry, then, and on the morrow start all over again !

Since our last notes appeared things have been moving swiftly in many respects. We should like to welcome very heartily 2nd Lieutenant A. F. Sealey, whose coming almost coincided with the opening of a new Signals Officers' Mess. We sincerely hope all our officers will like the Mess they have got themselves into.

Owing to the arrival of a fresh and overwhelming batch of new-comers, many of us have been elbowed out of our sleeping quarters, and billeted. One harassed landlady has complained that the irreparable damage caused by her diligent lodgers' force of habit in endeavouring to fold in three a brand new spring mattress did not unduly perturb her ; it was the array of various domestic articles prominently exhibited on the top that proved the last straw !

Our play, " Libel," is proceeding very nicely, and by the time this article appears in print, learned counsel (much bewigged) will have hurled forth their streams of rhetoric at, we hope, an enthralled audience, and damages will have duly been awarded to the injured party, together, possibly, with the cast.

We are sorry that Lance Corporal Monk's gallant efforts with the Male Voice Choir have been so unprovidentially cut short by illness. But one monk does not make a monastery, and we hope that the subterranean rumblings still occasionally heard in the vicinity of the Dining Hall are an indication that the old volcano has been so thoroughly re-kindled that an early eruption is inevitable.

Soon, too, we are to have a B.B.C. audition. A long-suffering, important Personage will be blessed with a front seat at one of our famous Camp Concerts and will sleep the sleep of the just until it is over. Upon which his secretary will earn her salary by prodding him with her knitting needle, and he will listen with intense interest to the assembled voices rendering the National Anthem, wondering the while where he has heard that tune before. At least, that's how our Pessimist looks at it.

But the many optimists are not to be discouraged, and the possibility of appearing " on the air " has captured their imagination. The Poet is feverishly composing (complete with wet towels), the comedians are frantically scanning old copies of " Funny Cuts " (" Razzles " being barred) ; guitar strings are being caressed, pianos tuned, and vocal chords thoroughly aired. It remains but to ring up the curtain !

Our football sides have been encountering the rough and the smooth of late. The soccer eleven usually returns to camp with a score of rugger proportions to their credit or debit, and the rugger enthusiasts have still apparently to get over the effects, mostly ill, of a recent seven-a-side competition.

Did you hear that they've given our Mad Poet a stripe ? It seems to have made him madder than ever, as witness the following rhyme, written with apologies to Sax Rohmer :

In the house of a hundred rat-holes,
The tomb of a thousand flies,
I cut in a hungry passion
Through one of the cookhouse pies ;
With the shriek of a soul in torment
My knife to the ground I threw,
For there in the core, I am perfectly sure,
Lay the pigtail of Li Fang Fu !

A.A. Signals, Berkshire

No. 1 Company

Greetings all ! This is the — A.A. Divisional Signals, Berkshire, making their debut in the newer and brighter WIRE. It's a pity, boys, but all the news we'd like to tell you seems to come under the heading of " Information Useful to the Enemy," so instead of littering our epic report with mysterious dashes and asterisks and " Somewhere-in-England " s, which we find rather disconcerting even at this stage of the war, we have compiled a chronicle of events which provide an insight into the domestic life of the Ack Ack Signalman.

As we batter at Oscar, our rather enfeebled typewriter, the strains of "Anti-Aircraft Signals" drift down from the top floor. This song (words and music by Ro Ellis and Bill Newton, advt.) is the Unit's favourite. And did we tell you—it's a pip. Listen for it in "Ack Ack, Beer Beer"—the Radio Show—for that's where it's going just as soon as Johnny Mellon, our Don-R Maestro, has transformed those harsh, lusty voices into music script. Pending this miracle we suggest you use those newly issued earplugs.

Work.—During the recent trade tests all ranks put up an excellent show—only one failure. To-day, most of the Unit are drawing trade pay as operators, keyboard or switchboard. In view of the fatigues which take up some of our time, it has been suggested that new trade classes, Operators Scrubbing Brush and Potato Peeler, be instituted. For we are a technical Unit—or are we ?

Though promotion to the non-commissioned ranks seems as slow and arduous as ever, the Company is supplying a regular and seemingly unending stream of men to O.C.T.U. Boards. And most of them seem to satisfy their examiners. Among the lucky ones on recent occasions were Lance Corporals Warde R. A., Perrott D., Signalmen West R. and Ellis R. H.

Exhibitions of the glorification of brawn over brain, which previously took place daily, have now almost entirely ceased. 'Twas an awe-inspiring sight in the grim half-light of 07.00 hours to see the empty-stomached men of No. 2 Section staggering around the lawn gulping in great lungfuls of damp mist. "You too can have manly bodies like ours," they would gasp as they dragged themselves exhausted to breakfast.

Play.—The Sergeants' Mess are making quite a regular feature of their Whoopee Nights. An attraction on a recent occasion were the glamorous W.A.A.F.s, who were to have been imported from the local Balloon Barrage. But calamity—they didn't turn up. Had they been listening to the dreadful rumours about out lady-killing line section, or did they think that Lance Corporal Robin Warde would be there ? C.S.M. Clarke, C.Q.M.S. Lawrence and most of the Sergeants and officers, including Major Moules and Lieutenant McCormick, are regular stepper-outers at these popular gatherings. The "Q," incidentally, as he himself will readily tell you, was in the Army when it really was an Army and not an office boy's holiday camp.

Nos. 2 and 3 Sections between them are usually able to field a couple of good soccer teams most Wednesdays and Saturdays. The first eleven, ably captained by Jim Venner, has not lost a match this season. Lance Corporal Jack Soper has led the second team to victory only once, but they are coming along nicely, thank you. Games have been against local regiments and civilian clubs, and—we blush to tell you—a nearby school. Scoring record to date is six goals in one match. Well done, Allen.

The gang are busy preparing another show for Christmas. It will be in the nature of a second edition of last year's hit show, and the authors and actors assembled under the lash of producer Ellis will include the following talented residents of this Gentlemen's Club: Johnny Woolls, Jack Price, Doug. Ryde, Bill Newton, George Payne, Johnny Mellon, and, of course, the Great Digweed—you can't keep that guy out of anything. Last year the proceeds went to the Local Services Institute, but, my masters, they won't go the same way this time. Reason is: the place usually shuts at eight-thirty and leaves us out in the "crooel" snow.

Lieutenant Up and Sergeant Down.—Our congratulations to 2nd Lieutenant Padwick upon his recent rise to commissioned rank. Our sympathy to Corporal Harold Lawton upon his reduction from three stripes to two.

Lowdown.—Flash ! They say that Doug. Ryde has got so used to impersonating Lionel Barrymore that he can't break himself of the habit. It is not true, however, that Lionel Barrymore goes around Hollywood yelling "Shot him in the leg" and generally acting like Ryde.

Flash ! We hear that Corporal Walt. Clasby is not over-enthusiastic about his recent transfer from the Cookhouse to the Big Cage. But progress, after all, is progress, and you can't keep a good man down. And so Walt. must go on and on—from tapioca to teleprinters, from fishcakes to phonograms. (Stop Press.—Walt. has just been called back to his civilian job, where he is needed. Good luck, Walt. !)

Flash ! At least one of the Corporals (bless 'em all, as the old song says) seems to have taken a junior slave driver's course recently. Of course, his boys don't answer back, but we overheard one of them mutter "Knouts to you," as he cowered in a corner beneath his head and breast set.

Flash ! We are asked to deny the rumour that the Line Maintenance Section is to be known as "Dr. McCormick's academy for the sons of gentlefolk." Some of you dopes will believe anything !

This Month's Crack.—"At love I'm just an amout-teur." Ouch ! This fellow Warde just slays us.

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.

— Armoured Divisional Signals, Gloucestershire

General.—The Unit has spent the last month gathering unto itself officers and men. For security reasons our numbers cannot be given, so it must suffice to say that there are many more of us since our last notes.

There has been a large entry for the A.F.V. School Course and three officers and five N.C.O.s attended each of the last two courses.

Entertainments.—A " Smoker " was held at the White Hart Hotel on Friday, 11th October. Unfortunately it was not very well attended. However, those who did turn up had an enjoyable evening.

E.N.S.A. concert parties have found our abode on two occasions and gave us a couple of real good lively shows, which were welcomed and appreciated by all.

Unit entertainments are in progress, and in the very near future you will read of our Unit Dance Band.

Northern Ireland District Signal Company

With Christmas approaching and hope revived by recent events, there is among the troops here a constant sort of humour that transcends the discomforts of the war and seems to guarantee the better days preparing for us in the New Year. Happy are we also in the sure knowledge that, though most of us have not yet seen the Hun, in the year now drawing to a close, we have not lived in vain.

Command.—Since we last submitted notes to our regimental journal, and we regret this was some time ago, Major M. C. Cooper Royal Signals, has assumed command of the Unit. The first thing he promised us was plenty of variety, and we have certainly had it. Most of us can now ride a motor-bike, read a map, and man a machine-gun. It is even expected that we shall be shaking Molotoff cocktails before the year draws to a close. Well, all this change from the confinement of our technical jobs has been welcome, and we are also glad to report a decided improvement in our social welfare.

Water on the Brain.—One way to keep fit is to drink plenty of hot water. One way to keep out of trouble is to keep out of hot water. These opinions may not seem authentic, but we have them straight from Signalman Lister, who has just returned from an intensive course of instruction on Sanitary and Water Duties. Of course, says Slug Lister, the best way to control the enemy (the disease-carrying fly) is by vigorous swatting or by erecting nets of muslin. If you have no muslin you can dig a trench four feet deep, fill it with hot water, sit in it, and then drown the flies. Cold water is just as good, but its tough on the flies. Of course, everything must be done by numbers. Flies are quite ignorant of numbers.

Route Marching.—Readers may be interested to learn, and this is another one out of Slug Lister's notebook, that when on the march your thirst can be relieved by sucking pebbles. Maybe, when doing this you will see a water rat. If so, act quickly ! Throw the pebbles at the rat, which, if it is a good rat, should lead you to water.

Beer is Best.—This is what Signalman Lister thinks.

Christmas Story.—Once upon a time in a cookhouse in Northern Ireland a cook was squatting in the sink, cutting peas in halves for the pea soup. " Ha, ha, la, da, tiddledum, tiddledee," sang the good cook merrily ; or it may have been to cheer himself up, as he had no fatigue men that morning. Suddenly there was a bang on the door. " Dear, dear," said the cook, " someone must want to come in," and he scratched his moustache and then went on splitting peas. Then the door was busted open and in came a big man with a belt round his waist, a crown on his sleeve and an air of authority. As the cook bowed courteously from the sink, the new-comer demanded : " What's this about you wanting to go to China ? " The cook shook a few split peas out of his wig and replied : " Not me, sir, my name's Coram ; let's talk of something else. Where's Hitler ? " Then they had a bit of chat and then one of them went away to check someone for a hair-cut and the cook started thinking about Christmas. " I wonder what Santa Claus will bring me this year," said he to himself, and large tears rolled down his cheeks and fell into the pea soup. " Dear me, it's raining," he said, and wrapped himself in his ground sheet and went to sleep on the oven. He dreamt that some fairies came into the cookhouse, drew down the black-out blinds, peeled the potatoes, danced on the benches and filled the place with sweet music by tinkling about with the carving knives.

Yes, it was a wonderful dream the good cook had. He slept heavily, snoring, smiling, and dreaming he was in China where they don't bother about hair-cuts and just eat plain rice. " It seems a shame to wake him up," said the Sergeant-Major, who had called back to test the soup. But at this moment the good cook awoke and said : " Roll on, Christmas, and let's have some nuts."

Conclusion.—At the end of an old year it is customary to cast a sort of mental balance sheet, to congratulate ourselves on what has been well done, to consider what has not been done or what might have been done better, and having done with this introspection we may proceed to the New Year the better for our experience. Turning back the pages of the Daily Orders that have accumulated in this year we can trace the differences between to-day and yesterday. We can say to ourselves positively that this year we have lived. We do not know what next year has in store for us, but we are sure that we cannot go far wrong if we persist in the training that has been given to us and mark the lessons of experience. It only remains for us to revive at the end of this year and replenish in the next a better appreciation of the Corps in which we have the luck to be and the cause for which make battle in the war forced on us. To all other Signals Units at home and abroad, and especially to those —too numerous to mention—who have left us this year, we send our heartiest Christmas greetings and best wishes for the future.

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STATIONS ABROAD

Ceylon Signal Section

September.

Blaze Away.—Now that the censorship restrictions have been relaxed we correspondents once again sit back and through the medium of the WIRE are able to call a spade a spade or a Jock a Jock. Consider the erroneous impression one may have created had I cabled (press rates) to my Chief—bear up, Editor—that Mr. A—l—n had successfully starved out the Sappers and the Signalmen or that our laddie J. M—ld—m had cleaned out the Tote during August Meeting. Why, our fans—if any—would hardly recognise those famous box office attractions, posing under such undignified titles. So now to proceed.

Roll Up.—At last we are able to release for public exhibition the photograph the world has awaited. It's one of those which is commonly described as stupendous, colossal and so forth. Information regarding rewards still offered for any of the group will be confidentially treated on a fifty-fifty understanding.

Most of the stars featured in this photograph are still serving with the Headquarter Detachment, but one, alas, has strayed. No sooner was he relieved of the responsibility of commanding the section than he threw his freedom away with both hands, only to place himself in the care of two others—and to think we could have saved him ! However, sir, the Section and Staff send their felicitations.

Greetings.—Although September—especially when one has plenty of sunshine accompanying it—seems an age off Christmas, we, and when I saw we, I mean all the military and civilian staff serving with the Ceylon Signal Section, hasten to offer our Christmas and New Year greetings to all in, or attached to, THE Corps, and we should like to add " KEEP IT UP, SIGS. ! "

Salutation.—We must record our congratulations to ex-C.S.M.I. " Chippy " Woods, Ceylon Defence Force, who now has a firm grip on the Marshal's baton and two pips on his epaulet. He now returns to the Corps and 'tis said is due to be a Pukka Sahib in the very near future. Very best wishes, " Chip "—sorry—sir.

En Route.—It is surprising the number of Royal Signals we see nowadays, Aussies, New Zealanders, and some of the Corps, too. But when Steve Donaghue of "Appy A" Section, 3rd Indian Divisional Signals, passed through (minus his white pack mules for which he became famed throughout the U.P.), one has to sit down to recover their breath. As energetic as ever, Steve (now C.S.M.) had volunteered for draft as a Sergeant so as, to quote his own words, " get cracking."

These pensioners certainly are an inspiration, and I feel sure Steve could still manage his five mile trot.

Another of the Corps at present attached to us during convalescence is Signalman Hoe, ex-Air Formation Signals, from Somewhere in Yorkshire. I wonder where the old A.D.B. Sigs. from Blackdown are now.

We glean from the WIRE notes that the Signals in Hong Kong have a reputation for disturbing the earth—well, here, even if the municipal workmen start on a roadway we still get accused of being the originators of the job.

Ringing Off.—Prior to writing these notes I ambled into the barrack room to see if there was a scriber contemporary to assist with the notes. Unfortunately they were all busily engaged in either tending or dodging the birds of the menagerie. One young crow was walking after his keeper and " caw-ing " like blazes because the said keeper ignored him. Two pigeons were being brushed up while the cat and the parrot were also receiving attention. Result was no offers to write a paragraph or two, but had I not these notes to get off I would have probably fed the cat !

That's all, and once again, KEEP IT UP, SIGS. !

Cheerio !

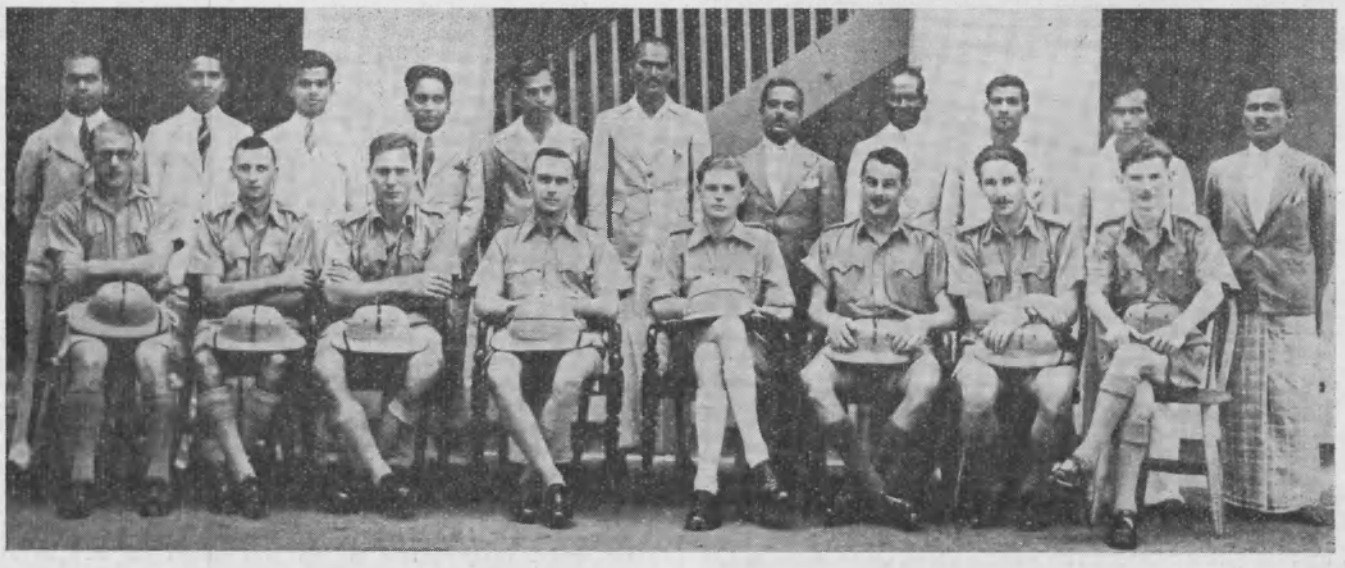
SANDY.

Malta Signal Company

September.

General.—No one who holds himself responsible for contributions to the WIRE could read the " Open Letter to All Ranks of Royal Signals " contained in the last issue without making a few resolutions ; more especially if his contributions of copy were in arrears.

At any rate, we do have two excuses to offer for our absence from these columns ; the first being a short sojourn in hospital with throat trouble (not caused through " gripping " as is commonly supposed) by the scribe, and the second being the entry



CEYLON SIGNAL SECTION

of Italy into the war. The latter has, of course, ended any little impatience we may have shown earlier in the year, but so far has impressed us very little.

For the information of those who have resided in Malta, life both in the cities and elsewhere is almost back to normal. At the beginning we did not receive incoming mail too regularly, but with the arrival of the last big convoy even that has been put right.

At the time of writing and with the enormous events which are taking place over London and elsewhere in England, remind us that Signals must be in the thick of it. Remembering also that although there are many of us here who would gladly join you at home, were it possible, we can but wish you every success in your activities. Especially would we like to send salaams to Ack Ack Signals at home and mention that the new London barrage has greatly cheered us all here.

Arrivals.—And very welcome too—the August number of this journal amongst the mails, also quite a number of Italian airmen, some of whom swam in.

Departures.—Since our last notes—Sergeant Rowe, whom we have been gratified to know has been commissioned Lieutenant. We believe that Q.M.S. Smith reached the top of the gangway, but that's another story.

Congratulations.—To Major E. L. Ellis and Captain W. C. Ramsay on their promotions as shown, and to Lieutenant A. W. Holt on being commissioned and receiving the award of Additional Member of the Military Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire. Also to Q.M.S. Smith, Sergeant Drake, Lance Sergeant Shaw, Lance Corporal Orchard and U/Lance Corporal Taylor on attaining ranks shown.

Tailpiece.—This item is contributed by our C.S.M. and was contained in a letter which he received from his brother, who has joined Britain's Home Guard :

" Well, if I can shoot ducks I can shoot pigs."

TAV.

Diary of Events in the War

OCTOBER 20TH TO NOVEMBER 19TH, 1940

OCTOBER 20TH.—Seven enemy aircraft destroyed in daylight raid on Britain. Fleet Air Arm bomb Tromso in Norway and R.A.F. again attack invasion ports.

OCTOBER 21ST.—R.A.F. raid Berlin and other German targets and also Northern Italy. Hostile day and night activity over Britain on reduced scale.

OCTOBER 22ND.—Italian naval attack on Red Sea convoy beaten off and Italian destroyer " Francesco Nullo " driven ashore. Hitler and Laval meet in Paris. Little hostile air activity by day or night.

OCTOBER 23RD.—Hitler meets General Franco on Spanish frontier. Only minor air activity over Britain.

OCTOBER 24TH.—Meeting between Marshal Petain and Hitler. R.A.F. raid Berlin and other German towns and torpedo two hostile supply ships in North Sea. Italian detachment in Sudan ambushed and loses heavily.

OCTOBER 25TH.—Heavy hostile air attacks in daylight, including Italian machines beaten off ; 12 enemy aircraft shot down. H.M.S. destroyer " Venetia " lost and British submarines sink German torpedo boat and Italian supply ship.

OCTOBER 26TH.—German air attacks by day and night on heavier scale than of late. Three bombers shot down.

OCTOBER 27TH.—Tension growing between Italy and Greece. Enemy day attacks on Britain beaten off.

OCTOBER 28TH.—Italian ultimatum to Greece rejected and war breaks out. Britain promises Greece help in accordance with terms of guarantee. R.A.F. bomb Skoda munition works at Pilsen. Small scale hostile air attacks on Britain. S.S. " Empress of Britain " bombed and sunk in Atlantic.

OCTOBER 29TH.—Naval aid from Britain sent to Greece. Italian attacks from Albania checked. R.A.F. bomb many targets in Germany. Enemy lose 22 machines in raids on Britain.

OCTOBER 30TH.—Unsuccessful Italian attack on shipping at Gibraltar. British fleet bombards Dodecanese Islands. President Roosevelt announces additional aid to Britain.

OCTOBER 31ST.—Bad weather holds up Italian attack on Greece. R.A.F. attack enemy invasion bases and aerodromes. Little hostile air activity over Britain.

NOVEMBER 1ST.—R.A.F. bomb Naples. Turkish President renews declaration of adherence to British alliance. Five hostile aircraft destroyed in night raids over Britain.

NOVEMBER 2ND.—Greek resistance to Italian attack continues successfully. R.A.F. give Berlin its longest raid to date. Enemy air action over Britain on small scale only.

NOVEMBER 3RD.—R.A.F. successfully attack Kiel and Naples. Little enemy air activity over England. British aid officially reported to have been sent to Greece, who continues her successful resistance to Italians.

NOVEMBER 4TH.—Italian submarines sunk. Auxiliary cruisers " Patrodus " and " Laurentic " sunk by enemy submarines. R.A.F. attack Baris Brindisi and Sta Quaranta. Considerable night air activity over Britain. British troops land in Crete.

NOVEMBER 5TH.—Two German submarines sunk. R.A.F. bomb targets in Germany, German-occupied territory, Italy, Libya, and Abyssinia. Hostile day and night activity in air over Britain.

NOVEMBER 6TH.—R.A.F. bomb Berlin and other German targets. Gallabat in Sudan-Abyssinia border recaptured from Italians. Hostile daylight attack on Southampton and night raid on London ; six hostile machines destroyed. Mr. Roosevelt re-elected President of U.S.A. for third term of office.

NOVEMBER 7TH.—R.A.F. attack targets in Western Germany. Enemy air attacks by day repulsed ; heavy night raid on London ; seven enemy aircraft shot down. Greeks continue successful resistance.

NOVEMBER 8TH.—Heavy British raid on Munich and other German targets and on Turin and Milan. Fifteen German dive-bombers shot down in attack on Channel convoy.

NOVEMBER 9TH.—Enemy lose seven machines in sporadic day and night attacks on Britain. Greeks announce destruction of crack Italian Alpine division in Pindus mountains. Death of Mr. Chamberlain.

NOVEMBER 10TH.—Death of Mr. Neville Chamberlain. Severe earthquake in Rumania. Italian division heavily defeated by Greeks in Pindus sector.

NOVEMBER 11TH.—Italian squadron routed in raid on Thames Estuary. German squadron attacking convoy in Channel also beaten off. Axis air losses total 25 machines. R.A.F. raid German targets as far east as Danzig. Weather conditions prevent heavy hostile raids on Britain.

NOVEMBER 12TH.—Heroic fight of H.M.S. " Jervis Bay," escorting Atlantic convoy, against heavily armed German raider enables bulk of ships to escape. Molotoff arrives in Berlin for talks with Hitler and Ribbentrop.

NOVEMBER 13TH.—Fleet Air Arm deliver torpedo attack on Italian fleet in Taranto harbour. Three of its six battleships crippled and two cruisers and two auxiliary vessels sunk. Italian convoy in Adriatic intercepted and three of its four ships sunk.

NOVEMBER 14TH.—R.A.F. heavily bomb Taranto harbour and docks. Greeks advance in Pindus sector. German dive-bombers driven off in attack on Channel convoy with loss of 22 machines.

NOVEMBER 15TH.—Heavy and destructive enemy air attack on Coventry. Severe and effective R.A.F. raids on Berlin and other hostile targets.

NOVEMBER 16TH.—Heaviest hostile night raid on London for some weeks. Greeks continue to progress all along front, threatening Koritza, Italian base in eastern sector.

NOVEMBER 17TH.—Enemy lose 13 machines in daylight attacks on London. Formation of Army Co-operation Command of R.A.F. announced, Air Marshal Barrett commanding.

NOVEMBER 18TH.—Greeks counter-attacking close in on Koritza, Italian base in South-Eastern Albania ; Italians resist strongly with aid of heavy force of co-operating aircraft.

NOVEMBER 19TH.—Quiet day and night in London, but heavy enemy night raid on Midlands. R.A.F. raid German targets ; German liner " Europa " hit by bomb in Bremen harbour. Greeks continue to press towards Koritza and thrust at Italian centre also makes progress.

The Victory of Britain

Some weeks ago we wrote in these columns: "The battle for Britain has begun and Britain is winning it." To-day, a third of the way through November, we can say that the battle of Britain is to all intents and purposes over and Britain has won it.

That battle has been in progress for over three months, although the intensive hostile attacks against civilian targets, which have brought its realities home to us all in so great a measure, have been in progress only since the middle of September. History will probably decide that Germany's resort to this form of warfare marked the recession of the greater peril of military invasion and conquest, which had been her former plan of campaign, and which would have given her the swift and decisive victory promised so loudly and so often by Hitler to his people. Save in the event—unlikely in our case—of a sudden and overwhelming blow from the air completely shattering civilian morale and causing a panic-stricken outcry for immediate peace, on any terms, the process of impairing and destroying the will to war of a country is bound to be a gradual one. Hitler probably had recourse to it less from any great hope of success than because his only alternative would have been an open admission of defeat to his own people, whom, so long as the air offensive continues in some form or other, he can still delude for some time to come with fables of mighty blows struck at Britain and horrific destruction achieved.

Our own High Command, in no such urge to secure quick results that, if not actually of any real military importance, can be tricked out as being so, and conscious that our offensive air strength is on the rise rather than on the wane, has been able to throw its available resources into attacks on targets the destruction of which will actually serve definite military purposes and increase the enemy's great and growing difficulties, material and moral. The German civilian is certainly suffering less than the Britisher at the moment—though he, too, had probably had some nasty medicine to swallow from time to time, as must anyone who lives in the close proximity to a military target—but Germany's war potential is being injured far more rapidly and severely than ours, and this process will be vigorously accelerated and intensified as the months draw on and our offensive power swells.

The course of the hostile air attack on this country, which has ended in so complete and discreditable a military failure, may be briefly summarised. It began in full blast in the middle of August with a series of heavy mass attacks, designed to crush the R.A.F. by sheer weight of numbers and to sweep the skies clear, so that the Luftwaffe could escort and assist the invading forces standing ready across the Channel to deliver the *coup de grace*. But it was the R.A.F., not the Luftwaffe, that swept the skies clear, and it was the latter that reeled back shattered and demoralised from this first mighty aerial clash. The R.A.F.'s great days in this incessant struggle were 13th August, when they shot down 180 enemy machines and lost only 34, and 10th August, when the respective figures were 144 to 22. But the table of comparative losses day by day shows that throughout the whole of the first month of this intensive air warfare, when the Germans were directing their efforts primarily against military targets with the strictly military purpose of clearing the way for an invasion by sea, the same general ratio of losses was maintained, and that ratio—three to one in machines, six to one in personnel—stood most satisfactorily in our favour. Before the end of August, even, the German losses in machines had run into four figures, and by 7th September, when the enemy's attack was compelled to take a different form, this total had been heavily exceeded. His casualties in personnel were, of course, much higher actually and relatively.

All through this month of what may be termed the strictly military attack on the part of the Luftwaffe, its effort, delivered from the very first at maximum strength, had shown progressive signs of weakening as the days went by. More, in the second half of this period, from 23rd August onwards, its tactics were radically changed—not, it may be noted, with any more successful results. Hitherto great reliance had been placed on the famous Stukas or dive-bomber aircraft, the Junkers 87 and 88, which had rendered such yeoman service in the battle of France by sweeping the path clear for the German panzer divisions to break into and through the Allied lines of defence. The Germans had loudly boasted that their Stukas would put paid to the account of Britain, as they had already done to that of France, and one peculiarly fatuous broadcaster remarked that "Goethe, had he been living to-day, would have seen Britain from the cockpit of a Stuka." In fact, had Goethe done so, it would probably have been the last thing he saw, unless he had been fortunate enough to have opportunity for a yet closer view of us through the barbed wire of one of our prison camps. In the worst week of German losses, of the total of 472 machines shot down by the R.A.F., more than a third consisted of those vaunted Stukas, which, however effective weapons they may have been against troops on the ground, were thus proved to be easy preys to efficient and well-handled fighters. From that time on the Stukas rapidly began to disappear from the skies, and by the end of September practically nothing more was to be seen of them. Their only subsequent efforts have been a few singularly inglorious attacks on convoys in the Channel in the early days of November, in one of which the squadron taking part was practically wiped out.

Early in September the Germans finally turned from military targets to devote themselves to a whirlwind attack on the civilian population, particularly in London. The earlier mass onslaughts took place principally by day, the first of them on 7th September; this cost the Luftwaffe over 100 machines. A week later it made an even more formidable raid; the result was that it suffered its heaviest day of losses in the war up to that date, 188 machines. A fortnight later came the third and last of these mass attacks, in which the German aircraft casualties amounted to 133, a third of them bombers. The results of which these terrific losses were the price were trifling, whether from the military point of view of from that of their effect on British civilian morale.

Foiled by day, the enemy thereupon turned his attention to night attacks. The history of these is fairly familiar to us all. They must be expected to continue, spasmodically and in varying intensity, for some time yet to come—so long, in fact, as it lies within the enemy's power to deliver them, and so long as they serve the purpose of bolstering up the weakening morale of his people. They will certainly have nothing but a stiffening effect on the morale and will to war of the British people, who are fully able to gauge from what Nazi Germany has tried to do to them in war what would be their fate at its hands in case of surrender to its tender mercies by accepting peace on its terms, and they are all the more firmly resolved to carry on until the tyrant foe is destroyed.

During the few daylight attacks on which the enemy has occasionally ventured lately, to observe or reinforce the effects of his night operations, he has usually employed fast fighters extemporised as bombers. In this capacity they are not highly efficient, but they can at least hope to run away from our fighters and live to bomb and run another day. The R.A.F. is gradually mastering this menace, too; it has inflicted deterring losses on these sneak-thief raiders on several occasions, and on many more has turned them back for home before they could get near enough to London or other targets to do any damage. The table of comparative casualties in these encounters is rarely so spectacularly favourable to us as in the great air battles of the late summer, but then the enemy was fighting for a decisive victory and we for our lives. Now, by day at any rate, we are merely dealing with an aerial nuisance, and dealing with it more and more effectively as time goes on.

The problem of the night attack by air still remains to be solved, and its solution, too, which will probably be composite rather than single, gradual and cumulative rather than magical and spectacular, will no doubt in the end be attained. Meanwhile, from the moral point of view, the main and the decisive one, that form of attack has already failed of its purpose. When its material costs become too high in proportion to its material fruits, the enemy will find it no longer worth his while and will abandon it. That day, which cannot be expected yet, but will inevitably come at last, will mark the conclusion of the battle for Britain, the issue of which has already been irrevocably decided in our favour.

Nicknames . . .

(BY KIND PERMISSION OF "MOTOR CYCLING")

Their Whys And Wherefores

By

CYRIL QUANTRILL



(By Courtesy of "Motor Cycling")

". . . the Army seems to consist of those men who are known by nicknames, and those who are not "

It is one of the idiosyncrasies of civilised mankind that there are always some among us who, unable to content themselves with accepting their fellow men at their face values, must be for ever classifying them and grouping them under this and that fancy heading. Your good Nazi sociologist is perhaps the supreme example of the ardent groupist, for he can divide the whole of living men (and those who have long since gone to their fathers) into Aryans and non-Aryans, or untouchables; the religious pedant, with his Christians and Heathens, or Believers and Unbelievers, is another.

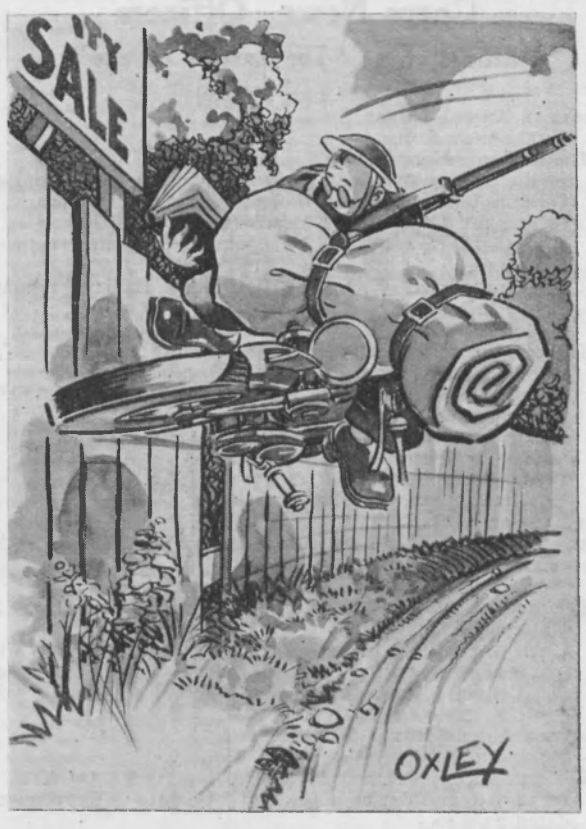
Then there are the "Blimps," with their Gentleman and Bounders; the artist's Intellectuals and Philistines; and the Pedestrians and Motorists, respectively championed and blackguarded by the Pedestrians Association. So I can at least claim abundance of precedent when I say that, to me, the Army seems to consist of those men who are known by nicknames, and those who are not. Really, it is only an elaboration of a common feature of civil life, but in the closer daily contacts of barrack-room and billet such a "handle" becomes of such importance that it may even spread beyond the bounds of its bearer's own camp.

Take the case of the Professor, whose fame has by now been spread to the most outlandish outposts of our Division. I am unable to say exactly how he came by that title. Maybe it was the fact that he hails from Oxford; maybe his scholastic appearance, accentuated by large horn-rimmed spectacles and a nearly bald pate, or quite probably his measured speech and obvious wisdom had something to do with it. Anyway, by the time I joined the Signals, Fred, who had preceded me by a couple of weeks, was the "Prof."

Gosh, how the name suited him! More than one incautious "lance-jack" learned to his discomfort that it was unwise to enter into an argument with the Learned Gent; and he even displayed that preoccupation with matters of no immediate moment which is popularly attributed to Men Who Think. Dicing down the particularly serpentine lane which led to our then Divisional Headquarters, I was afforded a practical demonstration of this one morning. Rounding the snakiest of all the swerves, I encountered a Norton, its for'ard end buried under a mountain of blankets and a palliasse, and ridden by the Professor. His face was a mask of bland benignity and his mind was clearly occupied with far more pleasant subjects than the rather immediate problem of negotiating the corner. I dived for the ditch, but the gracious apology I subsequently received more than compensated me for a bent footrest!

Unfortunately, Fred went to a Brigade some weeks ago, and now we only hear occasionally of his strange adventures. There was a grand tale not long ago of how, having used one of his puttees as a cleaning-cloth, he was forced to come to attention and stand with his one properly clad leg to the fore every time he encountered an officer.

Of course, we have a good assortment of what might be called traditional names. The cherubic Welshman attached to the R.A.S.C. automatically became "Taffy," although the frequency with which he bends bicycles would have made "Wrecker" a more appropriate title. Eric became The Little man; we have had a succession of "Lofties," "Gingers," "Brummies," "Geordies" and "Jocks" but it was not until "the other Cyril" appointed himself Unit barber that there occurred another example of really suitable appellation. One day's



(By Courtesy of "Motor Cycling")

". . . he even displayed that preoccupation . . . attributed to Men Who Think."

output of shorn heads, snicked ears and " raw-beef " necks, and he was " The Killer."

The speed with which this rechristening takes place amazes me. Within an hour of changing from Service dress to battle dress a certain senior soldier was being referred to as " Guts and Gaiters "—for which slander the near proximity of the seat of his trousers to the tops of his gaiters must be blamed.

Some of the lads bring their own choice of " nom-de-guerre " into the Army with them. Often it is rejected in favour of one that we consider more fitting, but not always. For example, the " Beckenham Kiddie," who will follow a particularly hard-to-believe tale of his successful pre-war career with an open challenge to " any three " who doubt his word, has upheld his title. You should hear some of those yarns . . . talk about whoppers! Why, if ever " Mr. Hoover " should knock at the door, Johnnie would probably end up by selling the poor man one of his own cleaners.

Arthur Dean at one time must have wished that the composer of that fine old tune " Nellie Dean " had never been born, but time is a great healer, and now Little Nell answers to his name like a lamb. (By the way, has anyone ever troubled to explode that myth about lambs being particularly obedient creatures? Personally, I have noticed that shepherds generally have to use dogs to round up the little blighters!)

Perhaps it is a tribute to the general good humour of the British masses that very few of these labels could be described as of malicious intent; and the use of them seems as popular among officers as among men. But occasionally they do sound peculiar to anyone not " in the know." What, to cite an instance, would the chance hearer have thought had he heard " Brass Hat " Simpkins-Twittlecombe address " Brass-Hat " Sopwith-Snudgeworth as " Old Soppy "?

Corps News—Officers

Extracts from "The London Gazette"

[War Office, 26/9/40]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS:

The undermentioned to be Lieutenants:

Flight Lieutenant Edgar Henfrey Bryant (139425), 20/6/40.
Captain James Anderson Callen, M.C. (2249), 21/8/40.
Lieutenant John Patrick Morris (146080), 1/9/40.
W.O. Cl. III (Local W.O. Cl. II) John Leslie Tanner (147929), 25/9/40.
Sergeant (Local W.O. Cl. II) Dudley Badley (147925), 25/9/40.
Sergeant Herbert Bronterre Williams (147931), 25/9/40.

The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants:

Harold Kilner Robin, B.SC. (142137), 8/7/40.
2nd Lieutenant M. A. Thornley (111435), from R.A.O.C., retaining his present seniority, 5/8/40.
Lieutenant Leslie William Tooley (144750), 19/8/40.
George Cox Perry (144221), 19/8/40.
Frederick Ernest Mallett (146450), 26/8/40.
Eric Parkin, D.C.M. (36168), 2/9/40.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

2nd Lieutenant R. A. A. Robertson (88770) relinquishes his commission on account of ill-health, 25/9/40.

[War Office, 1/10/40]

The undermentioned Colonel (Acting Major-General) to be Major-General:

A. C. Fuller, O.B.E., A.M.I.E.E. (3072), 15/8/40, with seniority 19/12/37, with precedence next below Major-General (Acting Lieutenant-General) P. Neame, V.C., C.B., D.S.O.

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS:

The date of appointment of Cadets from 152nd O.C.T.U. to be 14/9/40 and not as notified in " Gazette " (Supplement) dated 23/9/40.

War Subs. Lieutenant H. E. Watterson (123171) from General List to be War Subs. Lieutenant, 13/8/40, retaining his present seniority.

Lieutenant R. N. K. Rees (24603) relinquishes his commission on account of ill-health, 28/9/40.

The undermentioned Cadets from 151st O.C.T.U. to be 2nd Lieutenants, 21/9/40:

John Jordan Ballard (149095).
Philip Henry Lewis (149096).
Joseph Esbert Bradshaw Tagg (149097).
George Edward Allinson (149098).
John Headley Baylis (149099).
Thomas Cook (149100).
Hugh Goronwy Downs (149101).
Edmund Charles Fisher (149102).
Geoffrey Thomas Green (149103).
Joe Hepworth (149104).
George Lewis Jeffries (149105).
Reginald Adrian Paul Morgan (149106).
Thomas Vincent Mulliss (149107).
John Blair Smith (149108).
Charles Sidney James Summerlin (149109).
Frank Howard Taylor (149110).
John Godfrey Ward (149111).

The undermentioned Cadets from 152nd O.C.T.U. to be 2nd Lieutenants, except as otherwise stated, 13/9/40:

Wilfrid Cecil Burke (148640) to be Lieutenant.
Kenneth Jules Charrot (148641).
John Cecil Gladman (148642).
Lionel Clifford Libby (148643).
Henry Leslie Stricklen (148644).
William Pearce Bowden (148645).
Peter Marshall Reid (148646).
Michael Charles Stanley (148647).
Thomas Kenneth Wilyman (148648).
Geoffrey Herman Bates (148649).
William Roland Buttle (148650).
John Cavers (148651).
James Bernard Coleridge (148652).
Elliot Paxton Dewar (148653).
Geoffrey Harold Watson Hagger (148654).
Howard Graham Kenneth Leech (148655).
John Douglas Melsom (148656).
David Henry Middlemas (148657).
John James Patrick Craigmile Musgrove (148658).
Geoffrey Bernard Newman (148659).
Kenneth William Reginald Rubin (148660).
David Windram Soutar (148661).
Richard Thomas Wilson (148662).
Brian Alister Milne (148663).
John Ralph Worsley (148664).

[War Office, 3/10/40]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

EMERGENCY COMMISSION:

R.Q.M.S. George Henry Hobbs (150167) to be Lieutenant (Quartermaster), 8/9/40.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

GENERAL LIST:

Captain K. M. C. Evans (62122) from Welch Regt., to be Lieutenant, 3/9/40, with seniority, 13/12/36.

[War Office, 7/10/40]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS:

The undermentioned to be Lieutenants, 5/10/40:

R.S.M. Bernard Edwin Hayles (148067).
Lance Sergeant (Acting C.S.M.) Robert Alan Milligan (150602).
Corporal (Acting W.O. Cl. III) William Charles Neville Wilce (147930).
William George Tutt (139442) to be 2nd, 18/6/40.
W.O. Cl. III Ralph Norman Hardcastle (148065) to be 2nd Lieutenant, 5/10/40.

[War Office, 10/10/40]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.

Major J. H. Brown, M.M. (13639), having attained the age for retirement, retires on retired pay, 6/10/40.

EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS:

Acting Sergeant George Cuthbert Port (134849) to be Lieutenant, 22/6/40. (Substituted for notification in " Gazette " (Supplement) dated 21/6/40.)

C.Q.M.S. Thomas Henry Healey (150698) to be Lieutenant, 9/9/40.

C.Q.M.S. David Billing Parry (150338) to be Lieutenant, 9/9/40.

The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants :
2nd Lieutenant L. W. LeGros (116154), from R.A.S.C., retaining his present seniority, 16/9/40.
Sergeant John Andre Wilks (150339), 9/10/40.
Acting Corporal Harold Stanton Otter (150307), 9/10/40.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
Major W. J. L. Cornelius (33965) relinquishes his commission on account of ill-health and retains his rank with permission to wear the prescribed uniform, 10/9/40.

[War Office, 14/10/40]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS :
The name of Cadet John Harold Patridge (140932), from O.C.T.U., is as now described and not as stated in "Gazette" (Supplement) dated 9/8/40.
R.S.M. Herbert John Richard Bailey (150809) to be Lieutenant (Quartermaster), 22/9/40.
C.S.M. William John Cornish (150815) to be Lieutenant (T.M.O.), 26/9/40.
The undermentioned Cadets from 151st O.C.T.U. to be 2nd Lieutenants, except as otherwise stated, 5/10/40 :
Norman Hampson Smith (151431) to be Lieutenant.
Harold Maurice Bawtree (151425).
Michael William Garforth-Bles (151439).
John Martin (151427).
Cecil James Massey (151428).
Raymond Sydney Ross (151429).
Bowman Scott (151430).
James Adams (151432).
Geoffrey William Batterbury (151433).
Stanley Ronald Bickerdike (151434).
Thomas Frank Brenchley (151435).
Leonard Sydney Bruton (151436).
William Walter Creevy (151437).
Patrick Kellar Frost (151438).
James Grant Geary (151426).
Philip Douglas Gilbey (151440).
Lawrence Victor Gottelier (151441).
Ian Douglas Hunter (151442).
John White Jenkins (151443).
Alan Philip Johnson (151444).
Peter Livock (151445).
Basil Henry Eland Rogers (151446).
The undermentioned Cadets from 152nd O.C.T.U. to be 2nd Lieutenants, except as otherwise stated, 28/9/40 :
John James Pearson (151735) to be Lieutenant.
Oliver William Nutt (151727).
Frank Whiteman Wright (151728).
Arthur Douglas Darby (151729).
Frederick Leslie Drury (151730).
Arthur Dunstan Evans (151731).
Vernon Joseph Habberfield (151732).
John Mark Anthony Lenihan (151733) without pay and allowances.
George Paterson (151734).
Leonard Griffiths (151736).
Gordon Aubrey Hogg (151737).
Peter Cecil Leckeney (151738).
Kenneth McIvor (151739).
Arthur Victor Maurice Merzorati (151740).
Edward Joseph Lant (151741).
Donald Simpson Ross (151742).
Michael Henry Taylor (151743).
Robert Reiner Collinson (151744).
Stanley George Felgate (151745).
Geoffrey Norman Gallagher (151746).
George Harold Partridge (151747).

[War Office, 15/10/40]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS :
John Illingworth (115179) to be 2nd Lieutenant, 1/2/40.
The undermentioned Cadets from Officer Cadet Training Units to be 2nd Lieutenants, 13/10/40 :
John Cottam Moss (151447).
Robert David Gemmell Meek (151448).
John Hivley Wells (151449).
Graham Francis Oldham (151450).
David Alexander Glen (151451).
Arnold Gerald Basil Davidson (151452).

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Rupert Allen King (151453).
David Walker (151454).
William John Lewis (151455).
Leonard Charles Auret (151456).

TERRITORIAL ARMY —ROYAL SIGNALS.
Major R. A. Stevenson (35366), at his own request, reverts to the rank of Captain whilst employed during the present emergency, 30/9/40.
Captain and Admin. Officer A. B. Wemyss (93865), late Indian Army Reserve of Officers, relinquishes the appointment of Admin. Officer, 2/9/39.

[War Office, 18/10/40]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS :
The undermentioned Cadets from 151st O.C.U.T. to be Lieutenants, 21/9/40. (Substituted for notification in "Gazette" (Supplement) dated 1/10/40):
Geoffrey Thomas Green (149103).
Reginald Adrian Paul Morgan (149106).
Sergeant William Percival Wylie (150774) to be Lieutenant, 19/10/40.
The undermentioned to be 2nd Lieutenants :
2nd Lieutenant R. Avery (116041) from R.A.S.C., and retains his present seniority, 21/9/40.
Acting W.O. Cl. II James Frederick Herbert Pearcey (150777), 19/10/40.
Corporal (Acting Lance Sergeant) Nicholas Edward Padwick (150776), 19/10/40.
R.S.M. Arthur Clement Eastes (110537) to be Lieutenant (Quartermaster), 8/9/40.
The undermentioned Cadets from O.C.T.U.s to be 2nd Lieutenants, 12/10/40. :
John Cottam Moss (151447).
Robert David Gemmell Meek (151448).
John Higley Wells (151449).
Graham Francis Oldham (151450).
David Alexander Glen (151451).
Arnold Gerald Basil Davidson (151452).
Rupert Allen King (151453).
David Walker (151454).
William John Lewis (151455).
Leonard Charles Auret (151456).

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
GENERAL LIST :
War Subs. Lieutenant J. F. Everett (69617) from Manchester Regt. (T.A.) to be War Subs. Lieutenant, 30/9/40.

[War Office, 22/10/40]

The King has been pleased to approve of the undermentioned awards in recognition of gallant conduct in action with the enemy :
THE DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT MEDAL.
No. 7811235 Sergeant Thomas Burke, Royal Signals (T.A.)
No. 2564758 Sergeant Leonard Joseph Wells, Royal Signals (T.A.).
No. 2579803 Signalman Harold Wheelwright, Royal Signals (T.A.).
THE MILITARY MEDAL.
No. 2574905 Lance Corporal Robert Leonard Lingwood, Royal Signals (T.A.).

No. 783320 Signalman John Alexander Cross, Royal Signals (S.R.).
No. 2326968 Signalman Thomas William Evans, Royal Signals.

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
Major (Quartermaster) W. A. Gallagher (33403) having attained the age for retirement is placed on retired pay, 20/10/40.

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS.
2nd Lieutenant J. R. Lawrence (76610) relinquishes his commission on appointment to the R.A.F.V.R., 21/9/40.

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS :
The undermentioned to be Lieutenants :
Captain George Henry Fairbairn, M.C. (147841), 20/9/40.
W.O. Cl. III Reginald Arthur Polling (152210), 23/10/40.
C.Q.M.S. (F-of-S) Gordon Hopperton Smith (152181), 23/10/40.
C.Q.M..S Stanley George Gratwicke (152209), 23/10/40.
Sergeant (Acting W.O. Cl. III) Percy William McCreeth (152184), 23/10/40.
Corporal (Acting Sergeant) Frederick Augustus Smith (152274), 23/10/40.
Richard John McElroy (147114) to be 2nd Lieutenant, 15/9/40.
R.S.M. James Wilfred Stainer (151290) to be Lieutenant (Quartermaster), 30/9/40.
C.S.M. Edwin Victor Andrews (152572) to be Lieutenant (T.M.O.), 26/9/40.

[War Office, 25/10/40]

The names of the undermentioned have been brought to notice in recognition of distinguished services in the field :
Major H. R. Firth, Royal Signals.
No. 2316414 Sergeant J. H. Dirs, Royal Signals.
No. 2324178 Lance Corporal G. Vincent, Royal Signals.

REGULAR ARMY.
Major-General (Acting Lieutenant-General) E. A. Osborne, C.B., D.S.O. (3164), to be Lieutenant-General, 1/10/40, with seniority 14/7/38.

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS :
The date of appointment of Lieutenant J. L. Tanner (147929) is 1/7/40 and not as notified in "Gazette" (Supplement) dated 24/9/40.
The date of appointment of Lieutenant D. Badley (147925) is 1/7/40 and not as notified in "Gazette" (Supplement) dated 24/9/40.
Lieutenant Thomas Winton Wallace (147988) to be Lieutenant, 20/11/39.
2nd Lieutenant W. F. Elliott (104268) from R.A.S.C. to be 2nd Lieutenant, 1/10/40 retaining his present seniority.
C.S.M. Charles Leslie Hoy (152705) to be Lieutenant (T.M.O.), 8/9/40.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
Captain G. F. Falk, A.M.I.E.E. (28340) to be Major, 14/8/39.

[War Office, 29/10/40]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS :
The undermentioned Cadets from 151st Officer Cadet Training Unit to be 2nd Lieutenants, 19/10/40 :
Lawrence Edward Allen (153438).
Burt Howard Beresford (153439).
David Gordon Blair (153440).
Robert William Hughes (153441).
Leslie Anderson (153442).
Gordon Duncan (153443).
George Haddow (153444).
William Arthur Lishman Jolin (153445).
Alroy Harry Karamelli (153446).
Timothy MacSweeney (153447).
John Ainsley Ord (153448).
Cyril John Perret (153449).
Andrew Dunbar Rollings (153450).
John Dunbar Rollings (153451).
Francis Donald Shirreff (153452).
Ian Duncan Sidney (153453).

[War Office, 5/11/40]

REGULAR ARMY.
Colonel (Acting Major-General) A. C. Fuller, O.B.E., A.M.I.E.E. (3072), to be Major-General, 15/8/40, with seniority 22/12/37. (Substituted for notification in the "Gazette" of 29/9/40.)

[War Office, 12/11/40]

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS :
Lieutenant Gerald Harper Lepper (116406) to be Lieutenant, 24/9/40.
Robert Alex Whitney (146452) to be 2nd Lieutenant, 1/9/40.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
RESERVE OF OFFICERS—REGIMENTAL LIST.
Lieutenant-Colonel W. Monks (25367), at his own request, reverts to the rank of Major whilst employed during the present emergency, 1/11/40.

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