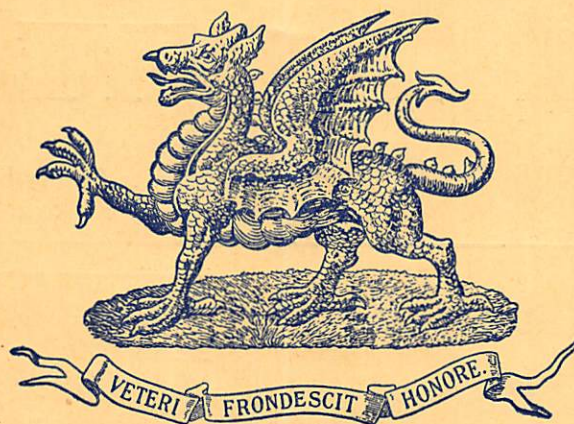


Albuhera Vittoria Pyrenees Nivelles Nive Orthes Toulouse Peninsula

# THE DRAGON

THE REGIMENTAL PAPER  
OF THE BUFFS.



No. 496 February, 1941

Aisne 1914 Ypres 1915, 1917 Loos Somme 1916, 1918 Arras 1917  
Amiens Hindenburg Line Struma Jerusalem Baghdad +

Blenheim Ramillies Oudenarde Malplaquet Dettingen Guadeloupe 1759 Douro Talavera

Punniar Sevastopol Taku Forts South Africa 1879 Chitral Relief of Kimberley Paardeberg S. Africa 1900-02



# REVOLVER BRAND

## ALE and STOUT

brewed by

**George Younger & Son**  
LIMITED  
ALLOA - SCOTLAND



Supplied in all MILITARY  
STATIONS at Home and Overseas



Since the days  
of **George III**  
*Women of Kent*  
have shopped at  
**VYE & SON**  
THE EAST KENT GROCERS  
A private family business with 40 shops  
all over East Kent

# International Stores

Tea, Coffee, Groceries, Provisions,  
Cake and Confectionery.

7 High Street, Canterbury.

Telephone No. 2429.

**J. H. G. HAMILTON,**  
(Late FRENCH & SON)

**WINE MERCHANT,**  
(ESTABLISHED 1739)

26 St. George's Street  
CANTERBURY

Telephone: 2148 Canterbury.

**F**ASHIONED by expert craftsmen, F. PHILLIPS' productions are acclaimed by H.M. Forces throughout the Empire as representing the highest standard of design and execution

Ask  
for  
details

**F. PHILLIPS**

(H. Phillips and R. A. Garratt)

WELLINGTON STREET, ALDERSHOT

CREST BROOCHES, PRESENTATION PIECES,  
WATCHES, SPORTS MEDALS & TROPHIES &c.

FOR :: ::  
ACCURACY IN DISPENSING  
AND :: ::  
RELIABILITY IN ALL MEDICAL  
AND SURGICAL GOODS.

— o —  
**WALKER & HARRIS, Ltd.**  
Sun Street and Northgate Street,  
CANTERBURY.

**A. J. WHITE**

(HATTERS), LTD.

74 JERMYN STREET,  
LONDON, S.W.**Hat and Cap Makers.**Offer their SPECIAL FLEXOLYTE  
**FIELD SERVICE CAP**as being light in weight, soft and  
pliable in texture as quite the best  
possible cap for foreign service,  
being quite rainproof and having a  
smart appearance, not a rag.**FLEXOLYTE**

Reg. No. 327488.

**A. J. WHITE,**

(HATTERS), LTD.

**Hat and Cap Makers,**  
74 JERMYN STREET, LONDON, S.W.1.

Telephone 2107

Established 1818

**GIBBS & SONS,**  
**GENERAL PRINTERS,**  
**16 Orange St., Canterbury.**□  
□**ALL CLASSES OF MILITARY PRINTING**  
**EXECUTED AT SHORT NOTICE.****BALANCE SHEETS, POSTERS,**  
**PROGRAMMES,**  
**SPORTS FIXTURE CARDS,**  
**MENUS.**□  
□:: **ESTIMATES GIVEN.** ::**TYPEWRITERS****for Sale or Hire**Typewriters Repaired**H. J. Goulden, Ltd.**  
**CANTERBURY AND DOVER**

Phone: Canterbury 2786

**FRANK J. SANGERS**

(LATE THE BUFFS)

FAMILY BUTCHER and POUL114 & 114a, NORTHGATE STREET,  
CANTERBURYOwing to my staff having volunteered for  
War Service I am unable to give such  
prompt and efficient attention  
to customers as hitherto**HAWKES & Co.,**

LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED 1771.

**REGIMENTAL TAILORS**

TO

— **THE BUFFS.** —**1 SAVILE ROW, W. 1.**  
**68 HIGH STREET, CAMBERLEY.**

24 THE COMMON, WOOLWICH.

2-5 p.m., Wednesday.

Telephones :

REGENT { 0186  
0187

CAMBERLEY 829.

# Sports Gear · Sports Outfitting

## TROPHIES · CUPS · MEDALS & PRIZES



WHETHER FOR CRICKET, FOOTBALL, HOCKEY, LAWN TENNIS,

GOLF, ATHLETICS, BOXING



OR OTHER SPORT, THE

N.A.A.F.I. CAN SUPPLY THE MOST SUITABLE EQUIPMENT



FOR



SERVICE USE UNDER ALL CLIMATIC

CONDITIONS

SERVICE COLOURS ARE A



SPECIALITY.

COMPETITIVE PRICES AND  
GUARANTEED QUALITY  
WITH EFFICIENT SERVICE

ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUES FROM ANY OF THE CORPORATION'S MANAGERS





Allied Regiments.  
 Queen's Own Rifles of Canada.  
 3rd Battalion (Werriva Infantry) Australian Military Forces.

No. 495

FEBRUARY, 1941.

Price: Sixpence

## Personalia.

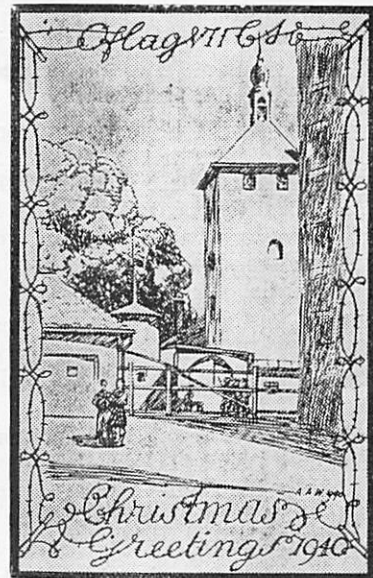
WE congratulate Major General The Hon. P. G. Scarlett on his appointment as Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath.

We are glad to be able to report that the Colours of the 1st Battalion, presented in 1892, and on 16th May, 1906, handed over to the Right Honourable Walter Vaughan Morgan, Lord Mayor of London, who deposited them in the Guild Hall, had been removed to a place of safety prior to the recent lamentable burning of the Guild Hall. The Dean and Canterbury of Canterbury Cathedral have taken similar action as regards the safety of the many Colours of the Buffs deposited in the Warriors' Chapel.

We congratulate Colonel N. D. Rice, who is commanding an area somewhere in Africa, on his promotion. He has had a cheerful letter from Backhouse (P. B.?) who is in the Gold Coast. Sgt. Ingram, who recently went out to Africa, is in the Gambia Battalion and has been promoted C.S.M.

During the month, Major E. A. Terry has become married to Ursula Elizabeth Clementson, and Captain J. S. Blanford to Colina Gordon Mouat. We wish them the best of luck for the future.

We offer our sympathy to Captain A. E. Loyd Hardcastle whose mother died recently. The late Mrs. Hardcastle had always taken a keen interest in the welfare of the 5th Battalion.



The Christmas card which we re-produce with acknowledgements to the *Daily Telegraph and Morning Post* was drawn by Major A. A. West, who is a prisoner of war. He is an artist of talent and is holding classes in drawing in the camp where he is situated.

We congratulate Lieut.-Colonels E. F. D. Strettel and C. R. B. Knight on their promotion.

We were glad recently to receive a visit from Major Reith, who is stationed nearby. He reports that his father, Lieut.-Colonel (Daddy)

Reith, who commanded the 3rd Battalion prior to the Great War, is in good health.

We are experiencing difficulty in issuing numbers of the Journal to our subscribers who have changed their address and who have not notified us of such change. Further, many letters and parcels arrive at the Officers' Mess, I.T.C. for onward despatch to officers concerned. The burden of tracing officers usually devolves on us, therefore we ask for the constructive co-operation of our subscribers and officers so that the Journal, letters or parcels may reach them safely.

WE again add some notes which have been compiled by Major F. W. Tomlinson who asks indulgence if he occasionally gives an officer his wrong rank.

Major-General Sir Arthur Lynden-Bell (who was 74 on the 2nd January) is much occupied, for quite apart from his peacetime activities in connection with the Bench and Prison visiting, he is vice-chairman of the Council of the Kent Territorial Army and Air Force Association and maintains a regular correspondence with numerous officers of the regiment.

Lady Lynden-Bell is immersed in local war work and Vera divides her time between the village First Aid Post, where she spends 4 nights a week, and arranging entertainments for the neighbouring troops. Pat is on the Staff with the Free French and was with them at Sidi Barrani and Bardia.

His old friends will be sorry to hear that Colonel W. G. F. Barnard is lying seriously ill at 135 Stoke Road, Ryder Estate, Walton-on-Thames.

Major B. H. Craig is now second-in-command of a battalion vice Major R. F. Parry who has gone to the Staff College. They were recently visited by Colonel J. F. W. Allen and by Major J. G. Nicholson.

Major A. G. D. Rose is with Air H.Q. in Iraq.

Major G. T. D. Hickman (Preston Lodge, Cirencester) is busy with Home Guard and Police work.

Colonel H. F. Sparrow, become rather a wanderer, was for some time at Windsor and Oxford and more recently has been in London where I dined with him and spent a most cheerful evening. Whites Club, St. James's, will always find him.

Colonel and Mrs. Lucas are at Ridge House, Crawley Ridge, Camberley, the former busy with municipal work and Home Guard. Mrs. Lucas has launched an appeal for the R.A.F. Benevolent

Fund. Their boy John, now a Pilot Officer, had a narrow escape from drowning when flying his Blenheim Bomber recently.

Not far away is Colonel Miles Beevor (Conway, Farnborough Park, Hants) who is employed at H.Q. Aldershot Command as Quartering Commandant for Berks and Hampshire. His elder boy, James, is a midshipman since last August; whilst Michael is still at Wellington.

Brig.-General and Mrs. C.'L. Porter are with their daughter at Fleet; and Brig.-General and Mrs. R. McDouall and Nan are at the Wellington Hotel, Crowthorne, Berks; whilst Robin, now a Flying Officer in a Staff appointment, is only a few miles away.

Mrs. Daughlish writes cheerfully from Standlake Rectory, Witney, Oxon; as too does Mrs. Tylden-Pattenson from Telham Place, Battle, Sussex.

Those who remember E. A. Brackenbury with the Volunteer Company in the South African War, will be interested to hear that his son, Bennet, who was at King's School, Canterbury, is now in the Buffs.

Another fledgling, if he will pardon the expression, is Hardwick Nicholl who has played several times for the Old Stagers in Cricket Week and is now at the I.T.C.

Lt.-Colonel Guy Lee has been promoted to raise and command a Group of A.M.P., Mrs. Lee remaining at Court Lodge, Bishopsbourne. His girl Ella (now Mrs. Durgin, with two children) is near New York. J. Hanley enlisted in the Canadian Army. His wife and two children are living at Narragansett, U.S.A. Pte. J. Turner, who used to be batman to Captain Morley and Colonel Lucas and has been with Colonel Lee for the past 14 years, joined up with him and is still with him.

Major V. T. Dampier Palmer (Little Isemonger, Tenterden) is working at the local A.R.P. Centre which covers 200 square miles of country. Mrs. Palmer is busy with A.R.P. work and St. John's Ambulance.

Colonel J. Body (Wittersham Court, Wittersham) is a member of the Kent County War Agricultural Executive and is much away from home. He gives news of some of his old officers:—Major E. M. Bowden is A.P.M., S. Wales; Major W. R. C. Laverton is with the Home Guard in Berkshire. Major F. O. Marchant is on demolition and reconstruction in London. Colonel C. J. Fisher was up to recently commanding a Pioneer Battalion, whilst Captain A. E. Loyd Hardcastle has a command in the



Home Guard in Sussex. Captain W. A. Macfadyen is in the A.R.P. Office at Tenterden.

Colonel Stanham, who many of us remember at Golf Meetings, is employed at the War Office and is often to be seen at the Naval and Military Club. Here too the other day was seen Colonel D. S. Lister in the company of a captain of one of H.M. ships with whom he had been making a winter cruise!

Major R. P. S. Elderton (Southfield House, Whatley, near Frome) is Divisional A.R.P. Warden and Divisional Welfare Officer.

## Births, Marriages and Deaths

### ENGAGEMENTS.

The engagement is announced between Kathleen, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Kennedy (late Band Sergeant, 2nd Battalion, The Buffs), 21 Manor Road, Andover, Hants, and Corporal W. J. C. Wright, R.A.F., youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. A. Wright (late of 4/7th Princess Royal's Dragoon Guards) of Bexhill-on-Sea, Sussex.

### MARRIAGES.

**Blanford—Mouat.**—On January 14th, 1941, at Eastbourne, Capt. John Stephen Blanford, D.F.C., The Buffs, to Colina Gordon Mouat (W.A.A.F.).

**Harden—Norman.**—On January 15th, 1941, at Wickhambreaux, Canterbury, Captain R. H. Harden, 43rd Light Infantry, to Mary Coote Norman.

**Terry—Clementson.**—On Jan. 22nd, 1941, at Tunbridge Wells, Major C. E. A. Terry, The Buffs, to Ursula Elizabeth Clementson, daughter of A. H. Harrison, Brooksdon, Cranbrook.

### DEATHS.

(On Active Service).

**Findlay.**—Previously reported to be missing, now known to have been killed in May, 1940, Captain W. R. Findlay, The Buffs, dearly loved husband of Winifred Findlay, and elder beloved son of the late Mr. T. S. Findlay and Mrs. Findlay, North Mount Vernon, Lanarkshire.

## Obituary.

**William Robert Findlay.**

Born March 22nd, 1899. Killed in action May 28th, 1940.

W. R. Findlay was gazetted to The Buffs in March, 1918 and proceeded overseas to the B.E.F. in France, being wounded in August, 1918. He re-joined the 3rd

Battalion in Cork, being demobilised in March, 1919. In 1925 he became a Lieutenant in the R.A.R.O.

On the outbreak of the present war, he was called up and reported at the Infantry Training Centre, being posted to the 5th Battalion in March, 1940, during which month he was promoted Captain. He proceeded overseas to France in April, 1940 with his battalion.

By profession he was a chartered accountant, being employed as manager of accounts and travelling accountant to Harrison's and Crossfield, Ltd., and was a member of the Institute of Accountants and Actuaries, Scotland.

He had travelled extensively in the Far East from 1926—1939.

He was a well-known lawn tennis player, having played at Wimbledon in the men's doubles championship, and in men's and mixed doubles at other first class tournaments. He leaves a widow and two children.

## The Buffs Comforts Fund.

IN publishing our 10 List of money received for this Fund, we wish to thank all those who contributed so generously to its support by direct donation or by organising entertainments in aid of the Fund. Knitted comforts are being sent to all units of the Regiment in a steady flow and we are assured that our parcels are most welcome.

Up to January 20th, 1941, donations amounted to £1,278 9s. 0d., the working balance now on hand being £190 14s. 3d.

	£	s.	d.
Captain H. Howard ... ..	4	16	6
Major T. T. Oakes ... ..	2	2	0
Anonymous ... ..	10	0	0
40th Kent Company A.T.S., Canterbury ...	2	2	6
Mr. W. R. Jessup's Collection ... ..	1	0	0
Captain H. Darwell ... ..	1	0	0
The Band Boys, I.T.C., The Buffs ... ..	2	0	0
Anonymous ... ..	7	10	0
Mrs. Lamont, 10th Battalion, The Buffs ...	1	0	0
Major T. T. Oakes ... ..	1	1	0
Major H. L. Archer-Houblon ... ..	5	0	0
M. R. Dockeray, Esq... ..	0	12	6
Folkestone Branch Ladies ... ..	1	10	0
Mrs. C. Wardle ... ..	1	0	0
M. R. Pritchard, Esq... ..	1	1	0
M. A. Collins, Esq. ... ..	2	2	0
Mrs. Wyndham Adams ... ..	0	10	0
Mrs. R. S. Goff ... ..	10	0	0
Mrs. H. Findlay ... ..	0	10	6
T. S. Overy, Esq. ... ..	5	5	0
Major T. T. Oakes ... ..	1	1	0
Rt. Hon. Lord Justice Luxmoore ... ..	7	7	0
Brigadier-General and Mrs. Whitaker Allen...	4	0	0
Mrs. J. Crookenden ... ..	5	0	0
Mrs. Guy Lee ... ..	2	0	0
John Gould ... ..	0	10	0
Mrs. Hogben ... ..	0	5	0
Colonel L. C. R. Messel ... ..	2	0	0
Mr. M. P. Dewar ... ..	2	0	0
P.R.I., 11th Battalion, The Buffs ... ..	5	0	0
St. John Ambulance (Wingham) Whist Drive	3	15	0
The Misses Gould ... ..	1	1	0
Miss Plummer ... ..	1	0	0
Lieut.-Colonel J. Crookenden ... ..	5	0	0
Mrs. I. T. Hirst ... ..	1	0	0
Major T. T. Oakes ... ..	1	0	0
Mrs. Fitzgerald ... ..	5	0	0
Mrs. Mason ... ..	1	1	0
Miss Patience Ronald ... ..	3	0	0

William, Gay, Esq. ... ..	3	3	0
John Gould, Esq. ... ..	0	10	0
Captain and Mrs. H. H. C. Baird ... ..	1	5	0
Mrs. Smyth-Osbourne... ..	1	0	0
A. E. Grant, Esq. ... ..	1	1	0
	£118	2	0

## Prisoners of War Fund

DONATIONS.	£	s.	d.
Mrs. A. West ... ..	3	0	0
Mr. J. Wass ... ..	0	2	0
Mrs. Stanley ... ..	1	0	0
Miss E. E. F. Cobbe ... ..	1	1	0
P.R.I., 7th Battalion, The Buffs ... ..	10	18	9
A. E. Grant, Esq. ... ..	1	1	0
Mrs. W. Adams ... ..	0	2	6
Colonel N. D. Rice ... ..	5	0	0
	£22	5	3

## Marriage.

### Mary Coote Norman and Captain Robert H. Harden

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, WICKHAMBREAUX,  
15TH JANUARY, 1941.

NEITHER petrol shortage nor snow prevented a large number of her friends coming to wish Mary Norman all good things on the occasion of her marriage to Captain Robert Harden in the beautiful little church at Wickhambreaux and afterwards at the reception which Mrs. Norman held at Ickham Hall, lent for the occasion by Mrs. Wallace. It was a delightful meeting and everybody enjoyed themselves immensely.

The bride was married in a green frock with coat to match, trimmed with fur; she wore a small brown hat, carried a spray of pink carnations and looked charming. She was given away by her brother Martin, whilst the bridegroom, in the uniform of the Oxfordshire Light Infantry (43rd) was supported by Captain Thornton, R.A.

The Service was conducted by the Rev. M. L. Man, rector of Chartham, assisted by the Rev. G. A. Blackman, rector of Wickhambreaux, and as the newly-wed pair passed out of the church a round chime was rung on hand-bells, by the bellringers of the church.

The church could scarcely seat all the guests, among whom were the following:—Mrs. Wallace, Mrs. Harden, Captain and Mrs. Baird, Mrs. and Miss Gibbins, Captain and Mrs. Thornton, Commander and Mrs. Bigg, Miss Bromhead and Lady Robertson, Mrs. and Miss Iris Crookenden, Mrs. and Miss Mavis Findlay and Neil Findlay, Colonel and Mrs. Friend, Mrs. O. Grace, Colonel and Mrs. Howard Smith, Colonel G. R. Howe, Mrs. Harry Jackson, Mrs. Maiden, Major A. J. Peareth, Mrs. Jack Robertson, Mrs. Ronald, Colonel and Mrs. Scott, Mrs. Stainton, Major and Mrs. Smyth-Osbourne, Major C. E. A. Terry, Major F. W. Tomlinson and Mrs. Willows. There was in addition a bevy of about 25 F.A.N.Y. with whom the bride had served at various places.

The honeymoon was spent at Brighton.

## The Regimental Gazette

THIRD SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF  
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27TH, 1940, DATED TUESDAY,  
DECEMBER 31ST, 1940.

REGULAR ARMY.

EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS, ETC.

THE BUFFS.—John Edward Osborne (142236) to be  
2nd Lt. (July 29th, 1940).

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF TUESDAY,  
DECEMBER 31ST, 1940, DATED WEDNESDAY, JANUARY  
1ST, 1941.

Central Chancery of the Orders of Knighthood.

St. James's Palace, S.W.1.

January 1st, 1941.

The King has been graciously pleased to give orders  
for the following promotion in, and appointment to,  
the Most Honourable Order of the Bath:

To be Additional Member of the Military Division of  
the Third Class, or Companion, of the said Most  
Honourable Order:—

Major-General the Honourable Percy Gerald Scarlett,  
M.C., late The Buffs.

SECOND SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF  
FRIDAY, JANUARY 3RD, 1941, DATED MONDAY, JANUARY  
6TH, 1941.

REGULAR ARMY.

EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS, ETC.

THE BUFFS.—2nd Lt. G. P. B. Lailey (141522)  
relinquishes his commn. on account of ill-health  
(December 21st, 1940).

The undermentioned Cadets, from 163rd O.C.T.U.,  
to be 2nd Lts. except as otherwise stated (December  
7th, 1940):—

THE BUFFS.—Harry Jones (160481), Bernard Henry  
Koch (160482).

THE BUFFS.—Actg. W.O. Cl. I Martin Geary  
(161359) to be Lt. (December 16th, 1940).

The undermentioned Cadets from 164th, 168th and  
166th Officer Cadet Training Units to be 2nd Lts.,  
except as otherwise stated (December 14th, 1940):—

THE BUFFS.—Robert Henry Hitch (162062) to be  
Lt., Gordon Morris Downes (160997), Jack Glover  
Iggulden (162004), Alexander Karet (160790) Hardwick  
Hugh Nichols (160795), Reginald Albert Parrott  
(162019), Arthur Guy Vercoe (160801).

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF FRIDAY,  
JANUARY 10TH, 1941, DATED TUESDAY, JANUARY 14TH,  
1941.

TERRITORIAL ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS.

THE BUFFS.—Lt. A. R. Pragnell (34320) resigns his  
commn. (January 2nd, 1941).

The undermentioned Cadets, from 162nd, 163rd,  
167th, 168th O.C.T.U.'s to be 2nd Lts., except as other-  
wise stated (December 21st, 1940).

THE BUFFS.—Gordon Alberic Looker (162302) to  
be Lt., John Humphrey Creaton (162301), Richard  
Gabriel Crawshaw (162304), Castledine William Kempton  
(162305), Lawrence Paul William Talfourd Slark  
(162306), Samuel Hugh Wheeler (162307).

The undermentioned Cadet, from 168th O.C.T.U.,  
to be 2nd Lt. (December 21st, 1940):—

THE BUFFS.—Bernard Pheasant (164394).

The undermentioned Cadets, from Sandhurst and  
162nd O.C.T.U.'s, to be 2nd Lts. (December 21st,  
1940):—

THE BUFFS.—Raymond Henry Bates (164392),  
Horace Edgar Matthews (164395), Jabez William White  
(164391).

The undermentioned Cadets, from 163rd and 167th



O.C.T.U.'s, to be 2nd Lts., except as otherwise stated (December 21st, 1940) :—

THE BUFFS.—William Frederick Harrison Cooper (164397) to be Lt., Bennet Humphreys Brackenbury (164396), Gary Fincher (164398), James Edwin Garman (164399), Roy Jenkins (164390), Martin Jeremy Pym (164388).

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF FRIDAY, JANUARY 17TH, 1941, DATED MONDAY, JANUARY 20TH, 1941..

#### TERRITORIAL ARMY.

THE BUFFS.—2nd Lt. D. G. W. Wilson (78834) resigns his commn. (November 8th, 1940).

#### SPECIAL LIST.

Lt. William Geoffrey Cass, M.B.E. (12024), late The Buffs, to be Lt. (September 2nd, 1939). (Substituted for notfn. in Gazette (Supplement), dated December 12th, 1939.)

THIRD SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF TUESDAY, JANUARY 21ST, 1941, DATED FRIDAY, JANUARY 24TH, 1941.

#### REGULAR ARMY.

#### EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS, ETC.

THE BUFFS.—The notfn. regarding 2nd Lt. C. H. Buckingham (10448) in Gazette (Supplement) dated December 12th, 1939 under "National Defence Companies" is cancelled.

SECOND SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF FRIDAY, JANUARY 24TH, 1941, DATED TUESDAY, JANUARY 28TH, 1941.

#### REGULAR ARMY.

The undermentioned 2nd Lts. to be Lts. (January 1st, 1941) :—

THE BUFFS.—J. P. Lucas (74597), N. F. H. C. Norris (74598), A. E. Majendie (85914).

#### REGULAR ARMY.

#### EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS (CADETS).

The undermentioned Cadets, from 164th, 165th, and 166th O.C.T.U.'s, to be 2nd Lts. (December 28th, 1940) :—

THE BUFFS.—Bertram Lewis Arnold (165594), Edward Boyce Barrow Cunning (165595), Derek Williames Davis (165596), Cecil Henry Hatcher (165597), Hugh Wilson Hamilton (165598), Peter James How (165599), Godfrey Harry Myers (165600), Leonard Cornille Robinson (165601), Richard Edward Keith Sistrson (165591).

#### EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS, ETC.

The undermentioned to be Lt. :—

THE BUFFS.—R.S.M. Sydney George Bills (169097) to be Lt. (December 30th, 1940).

#### WAR OFFICE ORDERS.

No. 61 ISSUED ON NOVEMBER 28TH, 1940.

#### REGULAR ARMY.

The undermentioned Lt. (actg. Capt.) to be temp. Capt. :—

THE BUFFS.—A. P. Lillie (32399) (October 15th, 1940).

#### MEMORANDA.

Capt. and Bt. Maj. (actg. Maj.) W. R. Birrell, M.C. (110373), ret. pay (late The Buffs), to be temp. Maj. (September 17th, 1940).

#### TERRITORIAL ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS.

THE BUFFS.—Lt. (temp. Capt.) (actg. Maj.) E. W. Tassell (50378) to be temp. Maj. and War Subs. Capt. (November 15th, 1940).

The undermentioned Lt. (actg. Capt.) to be temp. Capt. :—

THE BUFFS.—A. Broadley (16676) (November 7th, 1940).

#### WAR OFFICE ORDERS.

No. 63 ISSUED ON DECEMBER 12TH, 1940.

#### REGULAR ARMY.

The undermentioned Capts. (actg. Majs.) to be temp. Majs. :—

THE BUFFS.—R. W. Craddock, M.B.E. (47540) (November 15th, 1940); J. G. Atkinson (47509) (December 1st, 1940).

The undermentioned Lts. (actg. Capts.) to be temp. Capts. :—

THE BUFFS.—H. V. Duffy (109232) (October 4th, 1940); C. J. Bremner, M.C. (123566) (October 4th, 1940); E. C. Hilder (110036) (October 30th, 1940); 2nd Lt. (actg. Capt.) B. C. Holding (142203) to be temp. Capt. and War Subs. Lt. (November 1st, 1940).

The undermentioned 2nd Lt. (actg. Capt.) to be temp. Capt. and War Subs. Lt. :—

THE BUFFS.—G. A. H. Proctor (89210) (October 22nd, 1940).

#### WAR OFFICE ORDERS.

No. 64 ISSUED ON DECEMBER 19TH, 1940.

#### REGULAR ARMY.

THE BUFFS.—Maj. (actg. Lt.-Col.) E. F. Hall, M.C. (11714) to be temp. Lt.-Col. (September 13th, 1940).

#### WAR OFFICE ORDERS.

No. 65 ISSUED ON DECEMBER 26TH, 1940.

#### REGULAR ARMY.

The undermentioned Col. (actg. Brig.) to be temp. Brig. :—

J. F. W. Allen, M.C. (4365) (November 30th, 1940).

The undermentioned Lts. (actg. Capts.) to be temp. Capts. :—

THE BUFFS.—C. V. Wattenbach, M.C. (100057) (October 18th, 1940); L. E. Glazier (137423) (October 29th, 1940); S. J. F. Maiden (101640) (December 1st, 1940).

War Subs. Lt. (actg. Capt.) B. C. Holding (142203) to be temp. Capt. (November 1st, 1940). (Substituted for notfn. in War Office Orders No. 63.)

The undermentioned 2nd Lts. (actg. Capts.) to be temp. Capts. and War Subs. Lts. :—

THE BUFFS.—A. C. J. Van-Ammel (104848) (Sept. 21st, 1940); R. S. Minear (113852) (October 19th, 1940); S. Stone (115155) (December 19th, 1940).

The undermentioned 2nd Lt. to be War Subs. Lt. :—

THE BUFFS.—B. C. Holding (142203) (August 9th, 1940).

The undermentioned Capt. (actg. Maj.) to be temp. Maj. :—

THE BUFFS.—G. E. Sankey, M.C. (21818) (October 8th, 1940).

The undermentioned Lts. (actg. Capts.) to be temp. Capts. :—

THE BUFFS.—J. S. Blanford, D.F.C. (172490) (April 11th, 1940); M. Mathew (50315) (October 4th, 1940); 2nd Lt. (actg. Capt.) C. H. Brookman (59274) to be temp. Capt. and War Subs. Lt. (October 4th, 1940).

THE BUFFS.—The notfn. regarding Lt. D. A. Boyd (70347) in War Office Orders No. 52, is cancelled.

## WAR OFFICE ORDERS.

No. 1 ISSUED ON JANUARY 2ND, 1941.

## REGULAR ARMY.

The undermentioned 2nd Lts. (actg. Capts.) to be temp. Capts. and War Subs. Lts. (December 1st, 1940):—

THE BUFFS.—I. B. Gammidge (90883), M. A. Bompas (92686).

The undermentioned Lt. (actg. Capt.) to be temp. Capt. :—

THE BUFFS.—A. Broadley (16676) (November 3rd, 1940). Substituted for the notifn. in War Office Orders No. 57.)

## WAR OFFICE ORDERS.

No. 2 ISSUED ON JANUARY 9TH, 1941.

## REGULAR ARMY.

The undermentioned Majs. (actg. Lt.-Cols.) to be temp. Lt.-Cols. :—

THE BUFFS.—N. D. Rice (5783) (September 25th, 1940) ; T. N. Penlington (18151) (December 30th, 1940).

Capt. (actg. Maj.) J. R. P. Williams (30707) to be temp. Maj. (September 23rd, 1940).

Lt. (actg. Capt.) A. S. K. Anderson (66091) to be temp. Capt. (October 13th, 1940).

## EMERGENCY COMMISSION.

THE BUFFS.—Lt. (actg. Capt.) P. W. G. Kann (125049) to be temp. Capt. (January 7th, 1940).

Lt. (temp Capt.) P. W. Ransley (105988) relinquishes the temp. rank of Capt. (September 29th, 1940) :—

The undermentioned 2nd Lt. to be War Subs. Lt. :—  
THE BUFFS.—A. E. Jackson (136991) (August 10th, 1940).

## REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS.

The undermentioned Capts. (actg. Majs.) to be temp. Majs. :—

THE BUFFS.—(Bt. Maj.) E. B. Backhouse (1175) (May 20th, 1940) ; A. F. St. A. Turner (15463) (November 19th, 1940).

The undermentioned Lt. (actg. Capt.) to be temp. Capt. :—

THE BUFFS.—R. H. Gardner (52991) (October 26th, 1940).

## Some Adventures with Armoured Cars on Active Service (Continued).

Eventually the cars moved off in the following order :—CHATHAM DRAKE and CLEOPATRA bringing up the rear. Distance between cars approximately 50 yards ; speed 20 m.p.h. As the cars pulled out on to the main road, all was remarkably quiet, and, except for an occasional rifle shot, it was hard to imagine there was a war on. Quietly and smoothly the cars moved along, the faint hum of their Rolls-Royce engines being barely perceptible. As we approached the wood, speed was reduced to about 10 m.p.h. and the turrets swung round a quarter left, ready for action. Still all was quiet ; not a sound from, or sign of, the enemy. Speed was again reduced, to 5 miles per hour, the cars just moving quietly along, the crews expecting to be heavily shelled at any moment ; but still nothing happened. When the third car was opposite the wood, the signal was given to withdraw (in reverse gear), and back we went very slowly for approximately a kilometre. The Bulgars, however, kept very quiet, either because they hadn't seen us, or, more likely, they were not to be drawn into giving away their positions. However, after withdrawing about a kilometre, the signal was given to advance again, this time at 100 yards interval between cars, each gun to open fire when just clear of Kalendra Wood, speed 30 m.p.h. This was to give

the impression that we were making a determined attack, and thus cause the enemy to open fire. So, away we went, guns blazing away in fairly long bursts, searching the ground in and beyond the wood. The desired effect was achieved. As the second car reached the end of the wood, so the enemy opened fire, guns, machine guns and rifles letting rip as hard as they could. Bullets, pieces of shell casing, chunks of earth and showers of stones clattered against the plating of the cars, yet no serious damage was done. Immediately all this happened, the signal to withdraw was given, by which time, the cars were, of course, some little distance beyond the wood.

The road, although good, was far too narrow to permit of a quick turn about, so the withdrawal had to be carried out in reverse gear at about 10-12 m.p.h. This necessitated cool nerves, and steady handling on the part of the drivers, who had to look over their shoulders, and obtain a view of the road through small loop-holes which were only large enough to push a rifle barrel through. Furthermore, the gunners, working at their guns, frequently obstructed the drivers' view, thus adding to their difficulties.

Apparently the Bulgars had got their guns well dug in, for it seemed as if most of their shells were just skimming the surface of the road, passing in front of, between, and behind the cars, and when they saw that we were going back, they plastered us more than ever. However, they scored no direct hits, and as we drew away from the wood, the rear doors of the cars were opened, enabling the drivers to see better, and increase speed somewhat. The whole show took considerably less than an hour, and we were soon back at the rendezvous in Jenikoj. Everything had gone off smoothly and satisfactorily ; one driver was very slightly wounded in his right wrist ; and apart from several pictures ; dents in the plating, and some loss of paint, no damage was done to the cars. It was pretty warm work whilst it lasted, but those taking part gained much valuable experience, and learnt several important lessons.

## CHAPTER IV.

As the end of the year (1916) approached, the weather deteriorated, and there was much heavy rain, causing the dust of the road to turn into thick, heavy mud. This made it so difficult for the cars returning to camp from the valley that it was decided to shift our camp to Kilo 70, where we found a very well-sheltered spot at the bottom of the hills. Here all ranks set to work making dug-outs in preparation for the winter. Some of these were quite elaborate affairs too, being fitted out with bunks, rough tables, shelves and stools. Quite a number of the men were extremely good at improvising many articles of domestic value, including acetylene lamps, made from old biscuit tins, etc., for lighting the dug-outs. Eventually we settled down, and were "in clover" compared to some of our less fortunate comrades under canvas. The cars had to be parked in the open, which was rather a drawback, as, in the very cold weather, the engines had to be started up regularly, and run for a few minutes to keep them warm. This had to be attended to throughout the twenty-four hours, and was the duty of the camp guard.

Although we were not very strong numerically, we managed to get together quite a good football team, and used to take on, and beat, most other teams in the neighbourhood. I remember on one occasion sending two or three lorries down to Orljak, where the 2nd Battalion happened to be at the time, and bringing back quite a strong party of Buffs to our camp, under the leadership of Sgt. (Snowy) Manning of "A" Company. With the party was the late Dan Dines. However,



after a very hard game of football, everybody sat down to a really good high tea in the marquee, which was normally our Orderly Room and Quartermaster's Stores, and had a most enjoyable time. The party, after tea, were taken round the camp, and given a close-up look at the cars, which of course were, in those days, rather a novelty. Finally the lorries conveyed our guests back to Orliak, I hope, and I am sure, very well pleased at having had quite a pleasant, if somewhat brief, change from their ordinary daily routine.

From Kilo 70, every night at dusk, one car had to proceed to Jenikoj, and remain there all night on or near the main road, as a kind of standing patrol. Later, when our troops occupied Kalendra Wood, and the enemy had retired to positions behind the Demihissir—Serres railway, the car would proceed to a point roughly half-way down the road between the wood and the railway level crossing, returning to camp at dawn. This was a cold, monotonous job, just hanging about waiting for something to happen. Occasionally we had a little excitement in going up to the railway crossing, and assisting some small infantry patrol in clearing out an enemy patrol which had occupied the buildings there. Then, perhaps during the night the enemy would shell up and down the road, searching for the car. As the shells came nearer, so we would take the car forward to get clear of the bursts; and vice versa as the shells were falling the other way. Sometimes the car would be rather later than usual in leaving to return to camp at dawn, the result being a hastening of its return to the village by enemy gunfire. I might mention that, before leaving at dawn, the car would be turned about, ready for a clear straight forward run back to camp. The road being so narrow, with a ditch each side, made this rather a tricky job, necessitating about a dozen forward and backward movements on different locks, and took some little time. Once, CLEOPATRA was backed a little too much, and finished up in the ditch. Sgt. Bowers had to go off and borrow a team of artillery horses to haul his car out, and was lucky enough to get it done before it grew too light.

During the worst of the cold weather we fortified ourselves with hot tea, cocoa, or coffee according to taste, flavoured with a generous issue of rum. The liquid was poured hot into our waterbottles, which were then wrapped up in cloth, and tied to the engine inside the bonnet, so that during the night a "dose" could be taken as and when required. Two of the crew did sentry outside the car, whilst the other two sat inside, taking a couple of hours turn and turn about.

In the snowy part of the season, we often had considerable difficulty in getting back to camp, even with the aid of skid-chains, the journey, normally twenty to thirty minutes' gentle travelling, taking several hours. The cars looked rather unique when carrying snow about a foot deep, which had fallen during the night.

Another little action my car was involved in was that at Barakli. I do not propose to deal with it in detail, because actually, owing to a prolonged stoppage in the gun, and an air-lock in the petrol pipe, we were unable to do much shooting. In this little show the troops making the attack, consisting, I believe, of some squadrons of yeomanry, some of the East Yorkshire Regiment and one armoured car, were under the command of Colonel Montague Bates, if my memory hasn't failed me. The yeomanry and infantry were to work round the flanks of the village, whilst the car made a demonstration along the track leading up the centre to the village.

The going was pretty bad, and when the car got to within about 250 yards of the village, it was heavily enfiladed from the left flank. The car was halted in a hollow, so that only the turret showed above ground, and from there we managed to silence the post which had opened up on us. Then we started to advance again, and hadn't gone far when we noticed a heavy barricade across the track near the entrance to the village. Fire was opened on the barricade, but not many rounds had been fired before the gun stopped. Try as we did, we could not remedy it, and soon realised the gun would have to be stripped, which is not feasible when mounted in the turret. I therefore decided to withdraw about half-a-mile, to a small clearing I had noticed in the wood on our right flank when moving forward. The driver was ordered to turn about and make for this spot, but as the car began to move so the enemy opened a fairly sharp fire upon us from the left rear, to which two members of the crew replied with rifle fire through the loop-holes in the body of the car. The car, however, was turned round, and we made our way slowly back to the clearing. The going was very bad, being nothing but a mere cart track over uneven ground, causing us to have a most uncomfortable ride, and making it difficult for the two riflemen to get in much accurate shooting at the enemy who were worrying us. Fortunately for us they made no attempt to rush the car, or try to bomb us. Eventually we reached the clearing, and drew in under cover. Having posted the driver and No. 2 gunner as sentries, the No. 1 gunner and I set to and stripped the gun. It was about the worst stoppage I've ever experienced, but after a great deal of trouble we managed to clear it, reassemble the gun, and mount it in the car ready for action once more.

In the meantime, from the sound of firing, the main attacking parties on each side of the village were heavily engaged, but we had no means of finding out how they were faring, and could only surmise how things were going.

However, we had our own particular little job to do, so once more we set out on the track to the village. Again we were enfiladed from the left flank, but this time we were ready for them, and having got the range very nicely, gave the enemy a really good hammering.

Unfortunately the ground was too rough for the car to leave the track—in fact, the track itself was totally unsuitable for armoured car work otherwise we could have got right into the enemy at close range. As it was, we were tied to the track, along which we waddled at about six or seven miles per hour, slithering down into hollows, and slowly climbing up the other side, like a boat on a choppy sea. Progress was necessarily very slow, there being no such thing as dashing in, doing some "shooting up", and out again. Pushing slowly forward, we fired at the barricade in front, and then, being worried again by the enemy from the post to our left rear, had to swing the turret right round, and given them a few more bursts of fire to keep their heads down. It was an exasperating position to be in; a beautiful fast armoured car operating on a track not fit for an ox cart to travel over; a heavy barricade of tree trunks, etc., in front, and an enemy post behind us. Fortunately our orders were only to make a demonstration, for that is just about all we could do. Fire from the village and barricade was not very strong in our direction, so I decided to go right up to the obstruction, find out the strength of the opposition, and, if possible, get round it to see what was the other side.

Slowly the car crept forward, one minute on top of a rise, the next down in a deep hollow, so that it was almost impossible to get a view of our surroundings.

*Continued on p. 39.*

## Past and Present Association.

### DISBURSEMENTS.

			£	s.	d.
Dec. 10.	Grant	...	10	0	
24.	Grant	...	5	0	
Jan. 13.	Grant	...	10	0	
14.	Grant	...	1	0	0
15.	Grant	...	2	0	0
27.	Grant	...	1	10	0

### DONATIONS.

Major J. F. Connolly	...	10	0
----------------------	-----	----	---

### NEW MEMBERS.

*Life Members*:—6288794 L/Cpl. W. Harcourt; 6289913 Pte. F. Grace; 6289877 Pte. W. Goodspeed; 6289967 Pte. G. Stilwell; 9287156 Pte. J. E. Ray.

*Annual Members*:—6288447 Cpl. C. Gordon; 2/Lt. G. L. Walker; 2/Lt. J. H. M. Dawson; 2/Lt. A. L. Letts; 6288718 Cpl. J. Postles; 6291851 Pte. W. Pecqueur; 6291677 Pte. M. Gavin; 6291906 Pte. S. Judge; 6290042 Cpl. E. Holness; 6291915 Pte. F. Neal; 6291942 Pte. T. Thurlow; 6291944 Pte. B. Tungate; 6291940 Pte. E. Tappenden; 6291615 Pte. W. Ebworth; 6291825 Pte. P. Kelly; 2/Lt. J. F. S. Carlisle; 2/Lt. A. H. Hyland; 2/Lt. Hon. C. P. Greenway; 2/Lt. G. R. Lanning; 2/Lt. R. E. Papworth.

### CORRECTION—NOVEMBER ISSUE.

*Life Member*:—For "6288775 Pte. W. Taylor" read "6288775 Pte. W. Taylorson."

### London Branch.

The Branch and Ladies' Guild sent greetings to General Sir Arthur Lynden Bell on the occasion of his recent birthday anniversary and the following reply was received:—

"Bless you all, dear friends of the London Branch and Ladies' Guild and many thanks for your birthday greetings—I am a year older but with the passage of years my affection for you all, if possible, increases."

Reg. No. 2699, R. W. (Bob) Lacey sends greetings to all Buffs for 1941. He writes, "No peace until Hitlerism and Facism has been obliterated for ever." We should like to add "Pacifism" to the other 'isms.

Reg. No. 5593, Joe Maggs, late 2nd and 7th Battalions, has been rendered homeless. Never mind, Joe—you had the sky as your roof for two years during the Boer War—keep smiling.

Several will remember Reg. No. 5678, Drummer (Burglar) Francis, who was severely wounded at Driefontein in 1900. During a recent very heavy raid he and his wife dashed out of their house to try and seek shelter. Hardly had they left it when the house sustained a direct hit and just rubble remained. That's the way to dodge 'em.

We are glad to hear that Captain P. T. Lynden Bell is fighting in the Lybian Desert and convey our congratulations.

We are informed that the British Troops have not yet encountered the "Cream" of the Italian Army according to a Rome broadcast. Difficulty possibly in transport; all the ice-cream barrows have been stored at Hatton Garden and Soho.

Reg. No. 4413, Dick Bush informs us he is safe and fairly well. His best to old pals.

Another well-known member, Mr. G. Hovey, states he has been compelled to change his address owing to the rudeness of Hitler. Never mind, Hovey, "There are nice girls everywhere."

Oh Yez—Oh Yez; Reg. No. 1099, the one and only Sailor Cooper writes his salaams to all old friends. Sailor is safe and well after the Birmingham "Blitz," and still fit to run the hundred. We are passing the information on to Drummy Andrews, Erny Carter, Bob Lacey, Donkey Warren and Joe Green.

Reg. No. 6282691 R.Q.M.S. (Paddy) Good, Royal Irish Fusiliers, late the Buffs, is to be congratulated upon his well-earned promotion. Paddy is the son-in-law of that great Buff, Jim King, of the Ashford Branch.

Leslie King, late 2nd Battalion, is also to be congratulated upon his promotion to Staff Sergeant, 1st Class, in the Military Provost Corps. A real chip of the old block. Both Paddy and Les are Life Members of the London Branch.

Hush! We hear that Captain C. E. Vaughan has been promoted to the rank of Major and at the time of writing is somewhere on the high seas. Good luck and safe return.

Our heartiest congratulations to another Life Member of the Branch. We hear that R.S.M. Petley has been promoted Lieut. and Quartermaster.

Old Buffs will be delighted to know that Colonel F. Bradley Dyne sent along his best to all for 1941. The Colonel has a place in the heart of every old Buff of his time and we wish him every blessing and good health.

We feel sure that Bandmaster Borland will be interested in this month's news and the names that are mentioned.

Mrs. Kechit Rennison, writing to Mrs. Spinner, says that she has the greatest of pleasures in catering for one or two extra Buffs at Christmas. Must have brought back very old memories of the 2nd Battalion—and girlhood days.

Her brother, Captain Phillip Backhouse, is, we hear, an officer in the R.A. best of luck.

Mr. A. E. Grant, late 6th Battalion, sends greetings to all. Both he and Mrs. Grant are staying at Harrogate, where his department was evacuated.

We had a recent visit from Mr. Cotton, late 1st Battalion, also Mrs. Cotten. Both are keeping well and looking forward to the resumption of the good old days.

Air Raids and bombs are apt to make us forget the good work going on night and day in the regiment; we congratulate the O.C. Depot, and all ranks upon the very fine and efficient standard of training which makes future Buffs the pride of the Army. Our battalions throughout the country will see that no German will come to stay in dear old Blighty.

We should like news of Captain Bingham, J. V. Philpot, W. Everitt, A. Cole, Drummer Newton, Alf Port, R. G. Ratti, Darcy Warchus, Buck Thomas and many others. We trust all is well with them.

We hear that Reg. No. 5749, Tommy Atkins has moved from Folkestone to Wales. Drop a line, Tommy, and let the boys know something about yourself. Don't imitate the ostrich!

Reg. No. 2729 Dr. A. F. Brown is residing at Woolwich and sends his best wishes to all who



remember him, and particularly to Captain E. A. Carter.

Reg. No. 6282635, C. Henrickson, late 1st Battalion, called at Oswald Road recently; we understand that he will be shortly back in harness, notwithstanding his important Post Office work.

We recently heard from Superintendent E. J. Hedges of the Oxford Constabulary, and thank him for his Christmas gift of Banburys. Hedges joined the battalion during the Boer War and was one of the contingent sent out to represent the Regiment for the Australian Commonwealth Celebration.

Reg. No. 4325, Signaller C. Crooks, although advancing in years, is always thinking of old pals. We too, often think of Crook who with Jerry Coburn, H. Saunders, and Sammy Martin, were the finest band of "flag-dashers" and "lamp-tappers" in the army at that time. Even Spud will agree to this.

We should like news of Harry Havill, who after the outbreak of war, resumed his duties with the Post Office. Harry was officer's servant to several old officers in bygone days.

Reg. No. 4517, J. Hawkins is, we are pleased to say, safe and well. It is nice to have these reports from members, as every day and night in London is not exactly a picnic—but we still have a Navy, Air Force and Army.

We regret to say that Reg. No. (Bde.) 804, Mr. E. A. Baillie has been recently seriously ill and trust that he will soon be out of hospital. When General Sir Arthur Lynden-Bell once was leaving a Branch meeting a taxi driver said "Garry Wallah, Sahib, and we understand many old yarns were spun on the journey to Victoria. The General and Ballie had many things in common.

We hear that Mr. W. H. Beall has now returned to duty. His father, despite his advancing years, is now keeping fairly fit.

We are pleased to state that Mr. George Cobb has been passed fit for duty with the L.P.T.B. This news pleased us and we trust his good health will continue.

We regret that no news this year has been received from Reg. No. 7681, F. Segus, who was so well-known on his "Star" paper pitch outside Charing Cross Station. He suffered bad health for years and every Christmas came to see Captain Enright. His hamper was returned — "house demolished — enemy action." We are still trying to trace him."

We congratulate the Editor of *The Dragon* on the timely publication of the Roll of Honour, which must have come as a boon to many. Many anxious relatives have now been relieved in mind. The compilation must have taken up a good deal of time, but it has been worth it. Well done!

We have received news that both our old friends Bill Elvey and George Coley have had their homes blasted by bombs and to each we offer our sympathy. It seems as if many of our dear pals have suffered, and it is a consolation to know that our members who have been killed have not died in vain. We shall be victorious.

We have received a letter from that grand old Buff, Reg. No. 3073, Billy Tozer, who informs us of the death of his brother "Chris," which will be a deep concern of all who served with him in the 1st Battalion. The three brothers, Bill, Chris and George were all bandsmen in the battalion when it had the finest band in India, and about that time found several Bandmasters for the Army. We deeply

sympathise with his family. To all old pals who would like to drop the elder brother a line, his address is:—Mr. W. Tozer, "Shwebo," 5 Leigh Road, Bognor Regis, Hants.

We have heard from Reg. No. 2881, Herbert (Darkey) Warner, who is still residing in London. His wife and daughter have evacuated to Lewes. Many will remember Darkey in the band of the 2nd Battalion. He had a special reputation as a cornet soloist.

We regret to hear that Mr. J. R. A. Bampton, late 2/5th Battalion has fallen on a rough stone, whereby his pension is very greatly reduced. We understand this is due to liquidation of one of the smaller private banks. Bampton is a very fine Branch member and we trust his luck will turn for the better. He is a member of his local battalion of the Home Guard.

We were pleased to have a letter from Colonel Guy Lee, who wishes to be remembered to all old friends. The Colonel informs us he is busy up North organising Home Guard units.

We were also glad to have a line from R.S.M. (Jimmy) Dray, whose regimental number was 4960. He also gives news of Reg. No. 3753 Tom Baker, who is keeping fit. Jimmy is an instructor with the Home Guard at Horsham.

Reg. No. 6364 Sgt. Page, late 2nd Battalion, resides at Stamford Hill and sends his best. He has no news of his pal, Reg. No. 6320, W. Ball, who was bombed out at Fulham.

Eddy Shute, late 8th Battalion, sends a very cheery letter of sound advice regarding Meetings, which we have passed on to the Editor of *The Dragon*.

Reg. No. 2293, Cpl. (Tom) Ralph makes enquiry respecting a Special Campaign Pension. Tom is keeping fit.

#### CHRISTMAS APPEAL.

The sum subscribed was just under £100, which will leave something in hand for future calls. Forty well-stocked hampers were sent out, but from reports received several arrived minus contents or part of the same and some had to be renewed. Each contained: Christmas Pudding, Jam, mincemeat, flour, milk, jellies, custards, Quaker oats, Rice, meat or fish paste, soup powders and a tin of fruit.

Money grants were sent in lieu to distant members and each Chelsea Pensioner received a Christmas gift.

Our grateful thanks to all our kind benefactors, whose generosity enabled this work to be carried on notwithstanding the difficult times.

J.E.E.

#### SUGGESTIONS.

57 Walton Avenue,  
South Harrow.

Brother Buffs,

I daresay, like myself, your thoughts often go back to the cheerful meetings we used to have, in what appears to be, the far distant past, and wonder when we shall be able to have them again. When the war started we made up our minds to carry on even if only two or three were able to attend. Many of our members are doing jobs which keep them away, some with the Forces, others on Home Defence and A.R.P. duties, while some have been evacuated. Those who are left to attend are prevented by the attentions of Goering & Co. Despite these difficulties it is essential to keep in touch with each other so that the "Buff Spirit" can be kept alive. How can this be done?

We have, of course, *The Dragon*, and in buying this we are able, not only to read about our friends and the doings of the Regiment (as far as the censor allows), but we are giving a real helping hand to the Association.

I'm afraid that many of you who used to buy one at the meetings, are now not getting one. Why not ask the Secretary to post one to you each month.

Another way I should like to suggest, is for everyone of the London Branch to write a letter to Captain Enright to reach him on the third Saturday of each month. It need not be a long affair, just "How do" with any items of interest about yourself or your job.

Would Joe mind, being flooded out with letters you say? Not a bit of it. His heart is too much with The Buffs to mind having to read a sackful, but you must not expect him to answer. That is not the object. The idea is to create a spiritual Buff re-union, and if everybody, at home and away, were to do this, it would do much to hold the Branch together.

There is another point, the "Bun Penny" collection. As you are aware, we have collected considerable sums of money at our meetings to help the benevolent work of the Branch. The work still goes on, but what of the means? Are we going to leave it to a few generous souls to carry the whole burden? I think not! We can still do our bit by putting in a couple of extra stamps each time we write. There will be no fear of a shortage in the work if we all pull our weight. The welfare of the Branch and the Association is entrusted to us, and when victory comes, which surely it will, we must be able to meet those who are carrying on in other paths of duty with a clear conscience and pride in a job well done.

I know this will reach only those of you who buy a *Dragon*, and I ask you all to pass the idea on to all friends you meet.

To all of you, wherever you are, the best of luck, and a speedy victory.

Yours sincerely,  
EDDY J. SHUTE.

[We would welcome letters from members of the country branches of the Association, telling us how they are faring and what they are doing. *Ed.*]

41 Crescent Gardens,  
Birchwood,  
Swanley, Kent.  
8th January, 1941.

Dear Captain Enright,

Yours to hand. Sure, if my short note gave you pleasure, yours was to me the spice of life. It is great to get news of old comrades—one has to take the good news with the bad news and I am truly sorry to learn of Chris Tozer's decease. The Tozers, every one of them, were the best lads that ever donned the Buff's uniform.

Hughie Borland, Sailor Cooper, Nobby Clark, Ernie Carter and others. God bless 'em for real good pals. I hope Hughie Borland will soon be O.K.

I am, of course, in the Home Guard at Swanley. The asked me to take charge of Swanley and Crockenhill, but I preferred to be the C.S.M. and do instructional work. I'm a grade below any old army rank of R.S.M., but what odds. There's a good crowd of chaps here at Swanley and I'd be proud to be just one of them. I get out on route marches and field work and am quite capable of giving them musketry

and machine gun instruction. I do my night guard, 2100 to 0500 hrs., every Tuesday, and I let 'em know its an old Buff in comand of the guard. Patrols out to time—no skrim-shanking. I don't believe in swanking about in the King's uniform unless you are prepared to do your job properly. Thank God I'm fit. Have not missed a drill or guard since the H.G. started.

I had a very nice Xmas card from General Sir Arthur Lynden Bell and felt like writing to thank him, but you know how one feels. I always think that he must be awfully busy these times and that he has quite enough correspondence to attend to. I hope, anyway, he is well and hearty, that his good Lady is well and hearty, and that his son in the Buffs is A.I. and has a great future before him. May the gods smile on all belonging to him.

I had a nice letter from Mrs. M. Martin, wife of General Martin, whom you all know. Also a fine letter from an officer I served under at the School of Musketry at Satara, where I was Sergeant Major of the School. (Major J. Sterndale-Bennett). He has met General Sir Arthur Lynden Bell, so just see how small this world really is.

I will do as you say and "drop a line" to General Sir Arthur. If I'd known of his birthday I'd sure have written to wish him Many Happy Returns. Begorra! He has my wishes of the best always.

It is indeed nice of you to say all the good things concerning me, but the man who could not go all out in that finest of England's or Britain's regiments, "The Buffs," was indeed a queer chap, and especially in that battalion in which I served most of my time. The gods must have been good to bring together such officers and such men to serve together. I spent most of my younger days till I enlisted in Yorkshire (Wakefield), but thank heaven I went to Kent to enlist, and found the old Buffs.

Thank you for all your kind enquiries re my family of boys. Perhaps I can give you a list of the lads, if it won't be out of place. I wish at least one had joined the Regiment, but they were either inclined to join somewhere with a pal or they wanted to be where horses were.

I'm fit and well—so is the wife. I do my early morning walk, rain snow or blow, 8 a.m. to 9 a.m., in flannels and jersey. There's nothing like it. I guess it behoves everyone of us to keep fit and to try and be of some use to the country.

I'll conclude this by wishing you and yours all the best of best wishes for 1941. Above all, health and fitness, which means happiness in itself.

Yours to a cinder,  
BOB LACEY.

P.S.—Roll of the Lacey family enclosed—all in uniform.

Daughter—

ROSA (34).—Married Reeve. Husband: Mechanical Staff Battalion, R.I.A.S.C., Quetta.

Sons—

ERNEST (33).—P.C., Chester City Constabulary. Served in The Cheshire Regiment; Sgt.; left to join Police. Has won Police Swimming Championship for ten consecutive years at Chester.

BOB (31).—Detective, Chester Police. Previously through Beachley to R.A.S.C. as Electrician Cpl. Was finalist Army Light Heavyweight and prominent in Army boxing.

LOUIS (30).—Armourer Staff Sergeant R.A.O.C., attached to Gloster Regiment, 2nd Battalion. Came through Dunkirk. Sports: shot, javelin, cricket. Won Championship, Devon, Shot and Javelin.

(Continued on p. 35).



**D**ESPITE inches of snow and heavy frost the gradual lengthening of the hours of daylight are a constant warning of the approach of possible invasion dates. The likelihood of an attempt on our shores has led to a quickening in the tempo of training, and the coming weeks are likely to see field training on a scale which will call for more physical endurance than anything short of "the real thing."

During the past month festivities have, naturally, had their place—and most enjoyable we have found them; but they have been but rare and brief interludes in a period of hard work.

A New Year's Eve dance was well attended by members of the battalion and their friends, and by representatives of many other units in the area; while there has been a generous quota of other concerts and cinema and other entertainments.

Promotions and appointments, announced and pending, are making a number of changes in the distribution of officers. Major R. P—— for instance, after an all too brief period as 2/i/c is leaving for a new appointment, his place being taken by Major B. C——, the senior Company Commander. Captain M. G. F. A—— receives his majority, while continuing to command H.Q. Company. Captain W. A—— has left for a Staff Appointment, and Captain P. B—— has taken over command of "C" Company. Further changes and appointments still under discussion are shortly to be announced.

All companies have been engaged in firing over a range constructed by the battalion on a neighbouring estate—a range which, if not offering all the amenities of a permanent open range, has at least provided excellent target practice under working conditions. At the moment the range, with the woods behind it, is being used for field firing, in which we are "getting the feel" of ball ammunition fired on the move in close and open country under conditions approximating to active service.

A Divisional exercise—kept the battalion in hill-top positions for 24 hours of bitter cold and piercing wind, and tested it not only tactically but also in its administrative branches in the feeding of men on hillsides difficult of access.

Among the month's entertainments, possibly the most enjoyable was a concert in aid of the Regimental Prisoners of War Fund, by which about £20 was raised. The artistes included such well-known radio and other professional personalities as Doris and Betty Hare, Alice Lloyd, Amy Kemp (Mrs. Hammond-Davies) and Helga Mott.

#### Sergeants' Mess.

We really have enjoyed this month very much with one thing and another. Our thanks are due to those people who have done such a lot to cheer life in this rustic atmosphere.

The outstanding social event of the Mess was our hockey match with "A" and "C" Companies, which was played in a blizzard. H.Q. Company turned up dressed for the occasion in shorts, with the exception of "Stinker" Ingleby, who arrived like the Baron in "Cinderella" (sweater, slacks with yellow-topped hose to his knees), and wasn't it Brass-Monkeyish. "A" and "C" Companies came on the field dressed in F.S.M.O. and Buffy Howe led his team on, betting R.S.M. "Woo" Martin a crate of brown ales that they would tune us up 20—0. However, the old soldiers smartened the pill across the field and after a good hectic game won 15—8. Ginger Hollands and many others had never seen a ball before but they played like men inspired. After the game we were entertained to tea by our opponents and then spent the remainder of the evening winning easy nourishment at darts, etc.

Now for the real show of the month, and we must offer our greatest praise to Mr. Wilkins for putting on such a lavish and brilliant entertainment for the troops. I am sure all who did not attend have missed something well worth seeing and their few extra bobs would have helped to swell our Prisoners of War Fund. Dear old Alice Lloyd, bless her and the laugh she gave us, and all the others who came from far to contribute to a glorious and memorable evening. How we wished our old comrades now in Germany could have shared the fun. We wonder if "Woo" Martin kept his appointment with Doris Hare for 4.30?

The fortnightly dance went off well and the usual beaux were to the fore. "Whip" Creed does well with his Blue Linnet. Boy, what a bird!

Now for a few items from a battalion exercise which took place in mid-winter, "Somewhere where it was ruddy cold". Everyone was absolutely perished, but found consolation in doing the usual "nasty" jobs. C.S.M. "Slim" Belson took a trip of about one mile into the enemy lines. Through good luck, judgment or physical state, he arrived home safely, and even "C" Company failed to see him slide through their lines. Poor old "Stinker" (sorry to bring his name up again) was invariably found, just like Ole Bill, with his head in his hands over a fire in the cookhouse. I am not sure whether the umpires reported that the Army was still the same as in '14. Still, mon cher ami, you did well and kept the engines from freezing.

I would like to congratulate "Ginger" Hollands and "Tiffany" Eaton, our two R.A.O.C. attached, on their splendid effort as "Little Girls" at the concert. They sold stuff like wildfire. We never knew they both had such personality with the troops (but whose bike did they ride home after the show?).



We welcome our old friend "Bricky" West back to the fold and hope to see him popping in to see us in his "Grey Can". You must come along and tell John Taylor how you got your war wounds. You know, sit in the corner and spin the yarn to the lads over a pint.

We don't see a lot of the other Messes but hope to entertain them one day. On the Sunday after Christmas we gave an informal smoker in our Mess. "Buffy" Howe and Irish "Smudger" Smith were our guests, and from what I saw they did enjoy themselves. "Buffy" was still ringing down the curtain of the clown and "Smudger" told us some good tales of Sam, bowler hat merchant outside Buckingham Palace!

Well, I must be off and hope to have lots of news when I return from my leave in my native land.

S.

#### "A" and "C" Companies' Sergeants' Mess.

Before I adopt my usual approach by giving you all the local scandal (and when I do, *News of the World* please copy, I would like to wish all readers, young and old, a happy and victorious New Year, and sincerely hope that the next one will be celebrated in more peaceful surroundings.

Jumping back into last year, Christmas for "A" Company was one big success after another. All the meals cooked were splendid and the flavour was added when the Sergeants (headed by No. 1, put on their aprons and served to the troops. It was a "bumper" show, and I would like to thank all those who worked so hard to make it so much a success. Well done, "A" Company!

The Sergeants celebrated the next day, or, more truthfully, the next three days. Although at the time I was on leave (winger) enjoying myself, the glowing accounts given me on my return convinced me that everyone enjoyed themselves to the full!

On New Year's Eve the battalion held an All Ranks' Dance, and considering the civil competition of other dances that night, the attendance was good. Leslie brought his "gal", Poole brought his "gal", and Buffy brought his harem! The Band played very well, especially at midnight, when they formed a caterpillar on the dance floor and the dancers moved round behind them in pairs (Buffy had his in threes) to the tune of "Should old acquaintance be forgot". Many thanks are due to 2/Lieut. W— and 2/Lieut. M— and the many eager helpers for making this dance the huge success it was.

Although all this may give some readers the impression that our life is made up of one continuous stream of entertainment, I would like to say that we work very hard in between times in order to make ourselves "fighting fit" and "fit to fight", as our Commanding Officer rightly puts it!

The other most important thing on the programme was the challenge sent out by your humble servants to the W.O.'s and Sergeants of our friends and neighbours, H.Q. Company, to play them a game of hockey for a crate of beer. I sadly say it was accepted, and on a very cold, frosty afternoon, "as the snow lay round about", we made our way to the football field. Fate was against me and I was selected to take charge of the two huge goal-posts. What a game! It was impossible to stand on your feet longer than two seconds, but gallant "A" tore on to a crashing defeat of 8—6. The real trouble was that Buffy, when selecting the referee, did not realise that the man he chose was actually an H.Q. man and only attached to us! After the dog-fight, we all made our way to the Sergeants' Mess, where

an enjoyable tea was had by all. The tables were then cleared and games were soon in progress. Even Steve could not resist the little flutter, but as he said to me: "You want a batman to throw this money in". The evening ended up with a little "combustion stove" singing, and the many good-nights were spoken. We sincerely hope our friends enjoyed our company as much as we enjoyed theirs, and hope to have them with us again in the future.

Now, like Musso, I must pack in.

B.O.B.

#### H.Q. Company.

First of all, we wish to congratulate our Company Commander on his recent promotion. I am sure everyone wishes him the very best of luck, and we hope he is enjoying his well-earned leave.

We also congratulate all those who during the past month have been promoted.

The main feature since our last notes has been concerts, and of course ye olde English game of "House", pronounced "Ha'se". In everyone's opinion the shows have been enjoyed by all. The last one, in aid of the Prisoners of War Fund, was a pronounced success, and we hope that our lads over the "other side" will soon reap the benefit of our efforts. A word of appreciation to the "Swingers" for their part in the show. We are all looking forward to our next concert. Such names as Carroll Gibbons, Jean Colin, Douglas Byng, Harry Welchman, should draw a big audience. This also is in aid of the Prisoners of War Fund.

We have said cheerio to our "Neutral", Paddy Culligan, who has been posted to "Y" List. We hope he has completely recovered from his recent illness.

Also to Joe Side and Happy Williams do we wish all the best in their new surroundings. The Signal Platoon are sure to miss them.

We welcome to our midst Cpl. R— (Mary), who returned to us from the places where they cut you up in little pieces. We hope he will stay with us.

Our Acting/Acting/C.Q.M.S. is getting a terrific fan mail daily from W—. One wonders whether a 1700-2 will be furnished for him in the near future. Go to it, Chalky, it's worth it! For Ref. see C.S.M. B— he knows!

We all congratulate 2/Lieut. A— on his engagement and hope he will be happy.

To Darcy of the M.T. we say, "Well done, Daddy!"

Sport during the past few weeks has been practically nil owing to prevailing weather conditions.

252 AND 1796A.

#### "A" Company.

It was the first Christmas many of the company had experienced in the Army and a communal Christmas dinner served by the W.O.'s and Sergeants was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. The Hall had been decorated and a Christmas tree installed for a children's party which was to follow in a few days. This made a good background for Cpl. Charlie Durban's splendid effort as Father Christmas, correct in every detail, with a present for everyone. The company was delighted with a visit from the C.O. during dinner and his hope (expressed in a short speech) that next Christmas would see us in the bosoms of our families, was loudly cheered.

The Sergeants' Mess went into training for the occasion some seven days before with a series of "evenings" reaching its height on Boxing Day with their dinner and "football-rugby" game between the Mess and the Officers.

On the following Saturday the children's party was held at which many of the company helped. This was a happy time for both helpers and children, who had been evacuated from the London area.

With the arrival of the New Year the company has settled down to strenuous training. A Sunday exercise against the Home Guard clearly showed the difference between professional and amateur, while a very recent 24 hours on the Downs exercised everyone's powers of endurance, for the weather was bitterly old. We know many more schemes are in store for us, and as they will increase our efficiency, we look forward to them and milder weather in which to do them.

#### "B" Company.

First and foremost, I think, should be the Christmas as enjoyed by the company. Many were the discussions as to how our Christmas dinner would turn out, but I can safely say that under the circumstances quite a good one was devoured. The decorations were left to our one and only Q.M., who did very well. The meal was served by full N.C.O.'s and platoon commanders. A barrel of the best was also provided and placed in the charge of Paddy and Bill. After dinner, a bit of a sing-song got under way. In the evening there was quite a jolly time in the "Wet", led by our C.S.M. as M.C. Our officers were present and we had a visit from "C" Company Commander. Each officer took his turn on the table, which Ben had made his stage. I think the company will join me in saying it really was a jolly decent time.

We offer our congratulations to Sgt. McCorkell and Sgt. Adcock on their third tape, and Cpls. Fordyce and Wise on their second.

We are waiting for our C.S.M. to return from leave and the Canteen Manager tells me that Lesson 4 of "Love-making over the 'Phone" will be carried out.

The Q.M. has our accounts through, but he is very quiet about them. He is ensuring we are all pounds in credit before he gets "big week chits", I think.

This place of —is very boring, but we manage to get by. The company spends most of its evenings playing "House".

We have lost Pte. W. Sears, who is leaving to become a dot and dash wallah.

F.J.D.

#### "C" Company.

Fewer changes than usual are noticed in this period. Davidson and Smith have left us to become signallers, whilst Sayer has joined the M.T. The "professor" has turned over his lorry to Bill Burnby and now spends his days "mucking about" in the workshops.

Congratulations to our new Lance-Sergeants, Jaycocks and Blondie Keam, and the new "two striper", Cpl. Packman. Poor Peggy. Mac paid a visit to the dentist one day and, in official language, "12 of our molars failed to return", as a result of which the Y.M.C.A. had to provide a special diet for him. A spot of leave, however, filled the aching void.

On a recent excursion everyone agreed that the Downs are inappropriately named. There were certainly more "ups" than "downs" on this trip, but our old friend Stevens found one of the "downs" with a vengeance.

Victor Lis can often be seen studying urfinture catalogues when he thinks no one is looking, and in view of a proposed visit to a recent station, we must be forgiven for jumping to conclusions.

The assistant C.Q.M.S. has found a cure for the cares of his new office, said cure to be found in that well-known healing centre, Tunbridge Wells. The trade name is, I believe, "Naw Rah".

"Bogey" Knight has undertaken the job of taking Mac's place, but can hardly bear to be away from his old platoon for more than a few hours at a time.

"Toddy" Brown had a curious experience whilst on a Sniper's Course. Wishing to test the extreme range of the telescopic sights, he experimented, and it took him no less than five days to regain the firing point.

Last, but by no means least, we wish to extend a welcome to our new Company Commander, Captain P.B. May his stay with us be as pleasant to him as to us.

COCKER.

#### "D" Company.

Our first duty must be to wish Captain B— our best wishes on his appointment as Company Commander of "C" Company. Frankly, we are curious of their good fortune but glad that he now has a company.

"Bangers" Day is now successfully "spliced".

We miss the dulcet tones of the one and only "Jekyll," who has gone on yet another course; but we have with us once more Bill Cantwell and Sgt. Seymour, so it seems that there really is no rest for the wicked.

During these past few weeks our time has been occupied by shooting on the range and many days of arduous training, owing to recent weather conditions.

On Christmas Day the meals were excellent. After the company had got over the "after-effects" of Christmas, we marched down to the range to get some practice in with the rifle. The results were not too good, but we hope to get plenty of practice in the near future on field firing.

Promotions recently included "Smudger," who is now a Corporal; and Rye and Crick, Lance-Corporals.

We regret to announce that we will soon be losing Sgt. Tubby Fitt. He is going to change his uniform for "bell bottoms" and become an A.B. in the R.N.

We now have two rookie Lance Jacks, "Moore Marriot" and "Happy Herbert", but as they were with us as Privates, we are giving way to them.

We have another newly-married man in our midst, the one and only Pte. Finegold, and it is rumoured that Ginger Dixon will soon be joining the same community.

#### Past and Present Association London Branch.— *continued from p. 32.*

RICHARD (28).—Police, Essex County, Colchester. Previously served R.A.S.C. as Electrician Cpl.. Passed through Beachley to R.A.S.C., Feltham. Was Army and I.S.B.A. Middleweight in 1933.

ARTHUR (25).—Battery Sgt. Major, 14/43rd Battery. Prominent in boxing whilst in India. Won the Boys' Army Championship Welterweight, 1932. Before going to India as a boy: P.T., Gym and Boxing Instructor. Came safe through Dunkirk. At present in Devonshire.

JACK (21).—Lance Corporal in a Specialist Unit. Don't know where he is. Former Corps, R.A.S.C., M.T. He is in a crowd of special rough-necks. I've been taking some training with him when last on leave in unarmed combat so as to pass it on to the Home Guard.

VICTOR (18).—Lance Bombadier, R.H.A.. Has been in Egypt some few years (2).

SIDNEY (15).—A Boy at Beachley Technical School in training to become a fitter in the Army.





SINCE our last notes were written, the second war-time Christmas has come and gone, and we have entered upon a new year with high hopes of being able to put the lessons that are being learned here into effective practice before the year is out.

It is with great regret that we have to report that Captain Maiden is again in hospital, having spent only a few days here; we can only hope that his full recovery, if delayed, will be correspondingly sure.

There have been some personal events of interest, notably the marriage of Major Terry, which has taken place during this month. We congratulate him and Mrs. Terry, and wish them all happiness.

Less welcome news is the departure of Lieut. Colton early in the month to another sphere of genial activity; the mess will sadly miss both his expert culinary supervision and his expansive presence.

Hardly had we recovered from this blow when we received another in the imminent defection of Captain Winch, whose loss will be felt both as Company Commander and a capable and tactful P.M.C. We may find what consolation we can in the knowledge that he is to fill the eminently appropriate rôle of S.A.Q.C., not not a hundred miles from Canterbury.

Before the year was out C.S.M. Southwell had gone to become R.S.M. of one of our battalions, a position which he is well gratified to fill, both vocally and in every other way; and now Sgts. Cox and Mitchell have gone off together to another battalion as C.S.M's. Finally, in the matter of promotions, Sgt. "Joe" Richards' elevation to the rank of C.S.M. will be a source of pleasure to his many friends here.

We are glad to note that Lieut. Colonel C. E. Wilson still manages to pay us an occasional visit, and we were fortunate this month in having a visit also from Lieut.-Colonel Hammond-Davies.

Those who remember John Lucas, now a Pilot in the R.A.F., will be interested to hear that he is reported, though not yet officially, to have been rescued unhurt from a watery grave.

There is not much more to relate, except that the Christmas spirit triumphed completely over all the adverse influences, and the absence of turkey from the feast passed almost unregretted, thanks to the excellent fare provided, to say nothing of the beer and cigarettes. "I" Company carried off the palm for decorations, though "B" Company also contrived to put up a very good show with their holly.

One feature of Christmas Day which proved a complete success was the arrangement of visits to houses in the town; some hundred and fifty men availed themselves of the local hospitality, and so far from there being any complaints from either side, many unofficial votes of thanks were accorded the Intelligence Section for the trouble they took to organise it efficiently.

Last, but not least, of the notable events of the season was the visit on Boxing Day of all the Sergeants and senior N.C.O's to the Officers' Mess: the success of this departure was as marked as its rarity, a fact which R.S.M. Fawcett did not fail to stress in a pungent little speech of thanks.

#### Sport.

Unfortunately owing to the wretched weather our sports fixtures have been severely handicapped. There are a few matches however on which to report and I will endeavour to describe them forthwith.

On Wednesday December 18th our rugby team met as their opponents on the Old Park Ground an R.A.F. side. Our side which contained a few new players, started off briskly and very soon Nevishir went over for a try which was not however converted. Our visitors soon replied and about two minutes later they evened up the score by scoring a try. From this moment our fifteen settled down to some brilliant rugby and it was a treat to see the forwards and three-quarters playing so well together. Both wings Beevers and Nevishir played outstanding games and ran hard for the line each time they received the ball. When the final whistle went we were the victors by 52 points to 3, a result which proved that we have a good side capable of playing good rugby.

On the following Saturday the rugby side met the Canterbury R.F.C. at home. This time we were determined to avenge our previous defeat and we started off with a rush which eventually ended in a try. Our visitors were somewhat shaken by this and to strengthen their defence they brought their full-back up into the three-quarter line. Our team however encouraged by this good start pressed on and by half-time had added two more goals. Unfortunately early in the second half Beevers was injured but in spite of this and of the fact that we were already playing one man short we managed to add to our score and when "no side" was blown we found that we had won by 25 points to nil.

Our hockey side played away to the Kensingtons and at last after a long series of victories fell by the wayside the result being Kensingtons 4 Buffs 1.

The soccer team entertained a Petrol Company at home and won by 9 goals to 1.



On the Saturday after Christmas the rigger team met an Artillery Regiment on our own ground and we had one of the best games which we have so far had this season the result ending in a draw 13 points all. We scored first when Muir went over for a try the kick failing. Our opponents then attacked our line fiercely and eventually crossed it thus levelling the score to 3—3. At half-time the score was 8—8 and about half-way through the second half our visitors added a goal to their score. A ding-dong battle then ensued and in the last ten minutes Muir cut through for an excellent try which Izmidlian converted.

The hockey side played against a Fusilier side whom they beat by 5 goals to 2 and owing to a mistake in the fixture list our soccer side found themselves opposed only by a company team of another Fusilier Regiment. They proved far too strong for their opposition and won by 12 goals to 2.

All our fixtures since December 28th have been scratched owing to the unfit state of the ground but now that the weather has improved we are looking forward to some more keen struggles.

Unfortunately the squash fixtures with the R.A.F. have had to be cancelled owing to circumstances beyond our control but we are hoping to play them in the near future. In connection with squash Captain M— is still trying (without I might add any success, to defeat the Sports Officer. It must in all fairness however be added that he still refuses to give up hope of victory and attempts to put off his opponent by wearing extraordinary clothes designed no doubt to dazzle and confuse but without effect.

#### Depot Company.

Now that Christmas is past and gone, and we have arrived at a New Year, to all Buffs, wherever they are, we extend our heartiest greetings and best wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year. We all hope the leading critics are right when they prophesy that this year of 1941 will be the decisive year of the great struggle we are facing.

I am rather puzzled to know why our worthy A/C.S.M. (Sgt. Joe Richards) has suddenly taken a fancy to cachous. Several brands have occasionally appeared, such as "Smiling Morn", "Break of Dawn", "Egyptian Nights", etc. Maybe he has a New Year resolution never to indulge in drink again. Stock Exchange now publishes a definite slump in profits on alcoholics.

We shall be sorry to lose Sgt. Ingram (Darkie), who has been selected to go to an O.C.T.U. as an instructor. We wish him the best of luck at his new job. Our congratulations to L/Cpls. J. Price and S. Rogers on their recent appointments to the dizzy heights.

We are informed that the "Bell Tent" has taken the place of the "Gas Cape", at least, it does where Joe is concerned. He says it reminds him of the Shwe Dagon Pagoda and the thrills of the mystic East. Maybe he is right, but how does he manage to take a "Bell Tent" out at night? Perhaps Joe will tell us, and is this the answer to the sudden fancy for cachous?

The chief item of the recent past is the overwhelming success of our comrades-in-arms at Bardia. I know of another "Bardia", namely the Orderly Sergeant's Office, where the Orderly N.C.O.'s are attacked by forlorn cries of "Can I have a pass, Corp.!" and "When do I go on leave?" But instead of the attackers being

successful, the defenders counter-attack with their formidable secret weapon (Fatigues) and thus we still hold the line.

To those people who want passes, we say we have "Bardia".

The latest communique from the "Quarter Bloke's" Office:—

"Nothing to report. The 'Quarter' carries on with grim determination to see it through to final victory."

Atta Boy! The Churchill spirit rallies him on, and we still get our pay.

Burra Salem,  
RESERVIST.

#### "B" Company.

Once again Christmas is over and all the unfortunate people who had to remain here will agree with me I think that they had a pretty good time—why even the Orderly Sergeant managed to smile at least twice during the week. Our Company Commander acted as host on Christmas Day and assisted in dishing out the beer and "Weights". Our Sergeants (bless 'em!) then proceeded to wait on the men who I'm sure appreciated it very much in spite of some of the rude remarks passed. The C.O. then gave us a toast and some excellent advice which will remain in our memories for a long time to come. Afterwards the Major expressed his best wishes for the coming year, and everyone present joined in giving three cheers which nearly blew the roof off—still, it was certainly something to blow it off for. When mentioning our "dear" Sergeants just now, I forgot a very important fact. That is, in spite of "hangovers," etc., they were all in the Cook-house at 06.30 hours and taking tea and biscuits round to the men at Reveille, which was heartily enjoyed by all who were lucky enough, or should I say able, to enjoy it.

Next on the list this month we have to mention is moves, the main one being the loss of our C.S.M. to the —th Battalion, where he takes over, we hear, as R.S.M. We all wish him success in his new job and sincerely hope he won't completely forget us. He was given a hearty send off by the Staff, etc., of the company, complete with cries of "Take cover," "Double, you article, you" and appropriately to the tune of "Good-bye, Sally". We welcome our new C.Q.M.S., Fox, and congratulate our late Quarter Bloke, Newell, who is now A/C.S.M., and hope their stay will be long and pleasant here.

Our matrimony and births column is still progressing favourably—already one of our two budding George Formby's, *i.e.*, Sgt. Dawns, has taken the plunge and looks reasonably fit after his leave. Two of our happy events came off O.K. We now have poor old Ernie pacing up and down the corridors in his "pink nightie" looking very worried indeed. Note please—if anyone requires a couple of excellent home-made suitcases or bags, apply to our Ernie, please.

The majority of our prospective O.C.T.U. candidates have left us now. We wish them all the best and hope to see them back here in the near future.

Our Cadre Course is progressing very rapidly under its excellent instructors and now shows a definitely marked improvement. We have the honour (?) to have in our midst as an instructor the originator, I believe, of that well-known phrase, "That shook 'em", now complete with his "Luftwaffe" suit, so-called. Sentries, etc., please note that if you see a weird object approaching on a dilapidated bike, don't get alarmed.

It's not a Fifth Columnist, but only old Andy coming in. Our other budding George Formby is doing quite well with his practice. We are all wondering what charm this so-called musical instrument has over the fair sex (Good evening, lady!). Am still snooping, but hope to give you the low down next month.

Saxophonically yours,  
D.J.E.

### "I" Company.

The Sergeant-Major, on coming in one morning said: "Want anything to do?"—just like that—and of course, as I was only gazing out of the window at the snowy scene before me, I could only answer in the affirmative. And that, briefly, is how these notes originated.

Since the last notes were penned this company has undergone many changes. Old faces have gone, and many new ones taken their place. The intake duly arrived and has infused new spirits among us. Welcome to "I" Company, and may you find your first steps in Army life as interesting and enjoyable (?) as we did. Your progress is being watched with great interest by all. Obviously the "new boys" have the right idea, as witness certain operations on a certain range (the Security Officer's lecture has certainly penetrated alright!), It is understood that the following ditty, to the tune of "Home on the Range", finds favour with Nos. 1 and 2 Platoons of the new company:—

"At H—, H— on the Ranges  
The young rookie Buffs do play,  
No score is more than thirteen,  
And the red flag is waving all day!"

In any case, General Winter did his worst to spoil what should have been an admirable day's shoot.

Of the original company all have departed save the draft (of which more anon) and one or two casuals. At the moment, "I" (1) Company patrol the Old Park and mount guard as required. The "Prowling Patrol"—quite an innovation!—is no doubt responsible for the many things which go bang in the night, and keeps us awake with unceasing tramping and hushed whispers in the small hours. The draft is at present becalmed, awaiting impatiently the breath of wind to whisk them to the foothills of the Sahara or such place as the Powers-that-be may decide. Good luck to you and good shooting.

No notes are complete without some reference to personal matters. Our congratulations to C.S.M. Patterson on his 21st anniversary of joining the Colours, a truly remarkable achievement. Best wishes, too, we bestow on Cpl. Bartlett and his blushing bride. All the very best, Bill! We have bidden good-bye to Sgt. Knight and Sgt. Franklin, both of whom are now with the —th Battalion. The "Q" Branch lost its invaluable Quarter-Bloke, C.Q.M.S. Hopkins, now C.S.M. of "S" Company, and we have gained C/Sgt. Hicks in his stead.

With regard to sport—football, table tennis and boxing are going strong. It is hoped to run a table-tennis tournament shortly and possibly inter-company competitions. The boxing fraternity meet in the gymns. and no doubt we can give more light on these affairs in the next series of notes.

Touching upon the unmentionable subject of leave, it now appears that the equation: One leaky boat equals three days, may be considered constant. One certain Lance-Corporal was discovered busily working out the equivalent to one boat completely sunk. Fourteen days at least, is alleged to be the answer!

May we say just how we appreciate the holding of band concerts in the huttetted gyms. To those of "I" Company who have not yet attended one of these excellent concerts, you are missing something really worthwhile. Make it your business to be present at the next.

MOGGIE AND EDDIE.

### "R" Company.

This month has seen the company rapidly diminishing in size, and in return several new, or shall I say old, faces have come to us with the favourite slogan of "Before you came up". To the many who have left us we wish good luck, and extend to the newcomers a hearty welcome.

Many of our N.C.O.'s have left us to assist other companies in turning out "Section E's" (C3) to AI's.

We hear that a certain Sergeant-Major suddenly takes to skates on the barrack square, and owing to his disappearance for the last few days, we wonder if that is the reason, or that far off subject we often hear about, Leave? Many reasons may be given for a certain Sergeant being given the reception of B.O. on his return—remarks of which the censor will not pass.

Another noticeable fact is about moustaches. Is it that some N.C.O.'s are too young to grow them, or is it that they are so old that they fall off? We also hear that they change colour.

Owing to the weather, sport has been curtailed, but we are still ready for all comers.

The Band has been busy of late with a few members of the company in prominence, where again skates were more befitting than "Ammos", as one portly bandsman was heard to remark.

The N.C.O.'s whose instruments expand and contract are still well to the fore, and Cpl. Simms and Bdmn. Davis continue to hold their audiences in that magic spell which entices requests from many well-known members of the I.T.C.

All junior members of the company, including those who have now left us, wish to thank the Company Commander and Staff for their appreciated Christmas Dinner. Greetings were to be seen plentifully displayed, and the certain N.C.O. who looked after the barrel was, we understand, very prominent. The Sergeants, too, had an enjoyable time in the Officers' Mess on Boxing Night, the after effects of which were varied.

We wish the Officers who have left us for a warmer climate all the best of luck in their new adventure.

We extend our best wishes to a certain Sergeant of the company on his recent marriage.

KAY.

### "S" Company.

The past month has been comparatively uneventful. Those furtive preparations for Christmas became a tangible reality and we all enjoyed an excellent Christmas. Our best thanks are due to the C.Q.M.S. for his hard work.

But our apparent quiescence is not always to be interpreted as due to a lack of actual activity. We should all have learnt that lesson from the antics of "That Man". Possibly someone is about to be attacked and slaughtered. But if this is so, then, to be consistent, now that we are adopting Aryan tactics, we wish to

state that we have no evil intentions towards the integrity of "R" Company. We have no quarrel with them over minorities, for it is we who have the minority—a few men from "D" Company whom we chose to take under our protection. But if "R" Company wants to play—!

But one can hardly condemn their envy. For "S" Company, which already was prepared to class itself as good, educationally and socially, as "R" Company, now takes indisputable precedence in the Depot by the acquisition of the exalted Sgt. P—y. Amongst numerous attainments, this maestro has, in the past few months, conquered Pelmanism, electricity, shorthand and music, all without tears, and is now threatening wireless. This again will be a tearless affair, because it has been expedited by the purchase of a ten and six-penny book on the subject by Cpl. M—, and the Corporal and Sgt. P— are such good friends!

We welcome the Signal Platoon, now attached to us for training purposes, from one of our battalions. And who said "No promotion this side of the ocean"? If only you try, you can even gain access to the "Hall of Mysteries" on the edge of the Depot square, and what a grand, exhilarating sensation it is!—the Other Tape and such High Company. Of course, it would have been bad form to make one's debut there with a wild growth over the lip, so that has gone, along with the old Corporal B—ll whom we used to know.

Our congratulations to L/Sgt. Sharman and Cpls. Longley, Skinner and Latuske upon their promotion; and our condolences to Cpl. G—, who is suffering from a severe cold. This dignified N.C.O. was tempted to go skating and met with a somewhat watery fate. When the Corporal remembered his years and proper decorum, he asked us to say that he had properly been duck-shooting, which is plausible, seeing that Lieut. Bruce and Captain Halfhead acquired at the same time a number of ducks (of course, everybody likes skating, don't they?—even officers).

The Tank-Hunting Platoon has had some interesting and enlightening schemes. One day they went boating—known technically as "Crossing of water obstacles", or should one say "obstacles, water". They took an assault boat and a pneumatic scout boat. Such was the condition of the water that some men returned without the regulation crease in their trousers. On a route march, periodically hampered by an "enemy", the men cooked their own food. There were no cries of "Orderly Officer", such was their pride. After some firing on the 30 yards range, the men claim increasing accuracy, but a "still small voice" remarks: "They never miss when firing blank".

The M.T. are in a "touchy" mood and anyone who knows the M.T. knows also that to repeat requests for news, having been told petulantly, "There ain't none", is to tempt fate. But then they always were a problem.

At the time of going to press we have just competed with "R" Company (yes, "R" Company!) in a cross-country run. "Competed" is actually the orthodox word, but its literal meaning hardly justifies its use, for of competition there was little. The first two of "R" Company to come in gained 5th and 41st places. In fairness to them we must say that some of their men started a few minutes late. We can assure them that that motley throng, some of them in gorgeous pastel shades, officers, N.C.O.'s and men, really was "S" Company, although, of course, up till the very last we had all "D" Company standing by, lest our courage failed us. We all trundled off in a slight drizzle in the

Sturry direction, turning right by the fire station and right past the "George and Dragon" (yes, right past!), over the Old Park and so back to barracks. Pte. Pittman of the —th Battalion Signal Platoon is to be congratulated on gaining first place, and in fact the platoon acquitted itself quite well in having five men in the first thirty. The rest of the places were well distributed over the company (and we do know who came in last).

Perhaps with the aid of "B", "A" and "I" Companies, "R" Company will be able to avenge this outrage. We wish them well.

M.O.I.

### Some Adventures With Armoured Cars—Continued from p. 29.

About 100 yards from the barricade, as the car was about to climb out of a hollow, the engine suddenly failed, and stopped. Normally, if a driver let his engine peter out for want of a little stronger mixture, it would start up again off the switch (we had no self-starters fitted in those days), but on this occasion it didn't work, and it was obvious something more serious was the matter.

In Driver Stuart, however, I had a very good man, who thoroughly understood the Rolls-Royce engine, and knew his job. He got out of the car, made a quick examination of the engine, and came to the conclusion that there was an air-lock in the petrol pipe. This defect he remedied, and we were all set for the road again after a delay of about ten or fifteen minutes, during which we had been constantly sniped from front and rear, but being well down in a hollow, there was little chance of being hit, except perhaps by a ricochet.

By this time the afternoon was well advanced, and the light was beginning to fail, and, as my orders were to withdraw at dusk, failing the receipt of other orders, I decided to get back to the rendezvous at Kopriva Bridge.

This was not too easy a job for the driver, but eventually, after dark, we reached the bridge, and reported our arrival. Here we found most of the attacking force already assembled, the operations not having been entirely successful.

Our work was not finished, however, as I was ordered to take the car back up the track to the edge of a particular wood, and endeavour to locate a Medical Officer and two stretcher cases who had failed to arrive. It was a ticklish job in pitch darkness over such difficult country, but I'm glad to say our efforts were successful, although the poor wounded fellows must have suffered considerable hardship and pain on the return journey.

We remained near Kopriva Bridge for the remainder of the night, and returned to our camp the following morning.

(To be continued.)

## Our Contemporaries.

WE acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following journals:—

"The Green Howards' Gazette." "The Queen's Own Gazette." "Our Empire." "The London Scottish Regimental Gazette." "The Tank." "The Snapper." "The Springbok." "The Oak Tree." "St. George's Gazette." "The China Dragon." "Faugh-a-Ballagh." "The Sapper."





AN official communiqué on the month's activities would read "On the Welsh front there is nothing to report." Yet what a number of activities lie behind this curt announcement.

With us, Officers' P.T. and Drill Courses have been endured: a tactical course for W.O's and senior N.C.O's completed: Christmas successfully passed by and field firing started. An Officers' Fortnight also, is about to begin.

2/Lieut. S——, our Messing Officer, brought all his experience to bear on the problem of the Xmas dinners. He won, and his victory was witnessed by all but himself. The strain had been too great and the Doctor confined him to bed. But the dinner was good!

Several promotions have taken place. Capt. Slick, recently returned from teaching Officers and N.C.O's of newer formations than ourselves is now a Major, and 2/Lieuts. D—— and A—— have harnessed two extra stars to their chariots. May they ride straight and true to greater heights.

Our congratulations are due to those of this battalion who were mentioned in despatches for their work in France.

#### Sergeants' Mess.

It has been said January is rather late in the year to wish you a "Happy New Year". We beg to differ.

All those who wished us a happy Christmas will be glad to know that this wish was granted. But before speaking of things Christmasy we must go back to the days preceding Christmas—to the time when decorations were mentioned in much the same way as H. G. Wells might have spoken of things to come. Once the momentous decision was taken that decorations would add to the gaiety of nations, the question arose as to who should be the putter-up of them. It was only right that one Day should prepare for another Day, and so

Sergeant Day set away  
To make the Mess Room gay,  
And truly it is said  
That ere he went to bed,  
Streamers gaily floated overhead.

Then arose an interesting question. What are the single members going to have for their dinner? After a very few words the fate of at least one turkey was sealed. The question of drink was decided in record time. During this discussion, C.S.M. Pointer was observed to have much the same sort of gleam in his eye as a hunter and was seen to close his eyes when all details were settled, and when he opened his eyes again, lo! there was a soft expression in them and a look of contentment on his face.

The next piece of excitement was the Christmas Draw. They turned up in force for it and as the excitement grew to fever pitch one man was actually observed partaking of another man's beer and liking it! The winner of several bottles of brown water was heard saying: "Why am I cursed with friends?"

Now we come to Christmas Day. The Sergeants had the pleasure now to come to the "Day of the Dinner". A number of energetic people decided that a game of football on the sands before dinner would whet the appetite so away they went with C.S.M. Miller in goal (the cliffs). The ball went into play but it wasn't long before Strong-Arm Kelson was baffled by his opponent's style as demonstrated by C/Sgt. Pinnock. Wisely he adopted similar tactics in common with the rest of the team and man after man bit the dust but arose again to battle on. Sgt. Anderson bit so much dust that he was seen to spit up slabs concrete 3. It was interesting to note that not all the team walked off unaided. The dinner arrived—if one was given to understatement one might have called it sumptuous. The Quartermaster and the R.S.M. were the Guests of Honour and it wouldn't be a terrible lie to say that a good time was had by all.

On the question of dances—judging by the attendance and the expressions on the faces of the dancers your faithful observer came to the conclusion that the dance was a definite success.

A thing that puzzled all but a few of the "old hands" was what "Raising the Brick" meant. Well on Christmas Eve we were enlightened. Everyone was armed with a pint of beer except for the teetotal brethren who had soft drinks and either a cigar or cigarette. The R.S.M. stood much like a bosun's mate with his hand on a cord on a pulley from which was suspended a brick in coloured paper let it be said. The idea was that by the time the brick reached the ceiling every member should have finished his drink and the smoke as well the man failing to do so was to pay for the round. Having made a lightning calculation most people decided to finish their drink in time or die in the attempt. The R.S.M. gave the orders "Drink" or "Smoke" as the brick started on its upward journey. One C.S.M. was seen to swallow his cigar and to take the beer between his teeth. C.S.M. Paramour however denies any knowledge of the matter. C/Sgt. Dorrell would have had to pay for the round if it hadn't been for the fact that Sgt. Kelson was heard to be swallowing somewhat heavily at the wrong moment. He had the honour too of disposing of the brick when it was lowered—it appears it was easier to lower the baby Guinness with which he had been armed.

Leaving the festive season behind is always a painful affair but "it won't be long now" as the man said when he chopped off the puppy's tail before we have another Christmas—we hope!

LOST.—Sgt. Hogben "A" Company gone to an O.C.T.U. Best of luck old boy!

FOUND.—A gem—Sgt. Beardsell Getter-in-Chief of our Christmas dinner. Good work!

#### H.Q. (1) Company.

Having passed over the Christmas period and now well into the New Year we have once again settled down to our normal duties. The whole of the company I am certain spent a very enjoyable Christmas and are wishing such times would come more frequently.

Christmas Day commenced with a Church Parade and later followed an excellent dinner one parade during the year when "all were present". Boxing Day was one of sports and almost everyone took part in one game or another. Football darts table tennis and billiards were played and a competition on the miniature range was held in the morning.

#### H.Q. (2) Company.

Very little has happened since our last report. We are sorry to announce that we have lost 2/Lieut. M— who having a keen eye for shooting is now training battalion snipers. We welcome to the company 2/Lieut. F— who has taken over the Carrier Platoon and we wish him good hunting.

Sgt. Page has joined us from the I.T.C. and has taken over M.T. Sergeant. We wish him every success.

The company had a wonderful time on Christmas Day with plenty of everything and a cinema show in the afternoon. Sports took place on Boxing Day—shooting football darts etc. The Carrier Platoon did very well in the football competition but were beaten in the semi-final by a platoon of "C" Company. We wish them better luck next time.

We are all wondering why a certain full N.C.O. carried a piece of mistletoe with him on Boxing Day.

THAT'S FAIR ENOUGH.

#### "A" Company.

In opening these *Dragon* notes, I should like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the whole company, to welcome as our new Company Commander Major E.S.S., and to express the wish that his stay with us will be a long and happy one. I am sure, Sir that the N.C.O.'s and men of this company will be with you as one man.

We also offer our congratulations to the above-mentioned officer and to Captain K. Mc—d on their recent promotion. Good luck to both of you! Seeing that "congrats" are being thrown out we further extend ours to L/Cpls. Heffer, Coppin and Peale. L/Cpl. Heffer I am given to understand has actually started reading S.A.T. Vol. I, Pamphlet No. 1 (1937) and has since made the great discovery that a 2-inch Mortar is a weapon and not a plaster substance as used by builders.

Christmas being now a thing of the past should by all accounts be forgotten but I should like to say this in spite of the war, a good time and a good dinner was had by all of those unfortunates who failed to proceed on leave for the Christmas holiday. Our friend Gwyther certainly did his stuff aided by a bunch of mistletoe on the C.S.M.'s girl friend, much to the C.Q.M.S.'s dismay, as I'm sure he only grew that bit of dirt (*i.e.* hairs on the upper lip) to attract the aforesaid girl friend. Hard luck Ted! What you really want is six lessons from (No! not Madame What's-her-name) your Company Sergeant-Major (5/- a lesson and cheap at that price).

Coming to more recent times the company has done a considerable amount of training much to 2/Lieuts. M— and B—'s dismay (they spent four days in bed recuperating, only under the heading of "Sick in Billets") and are now ready and willing to fight any Hun or Wop at any odds (Hitler and Musso please note).

We regret the passing of our "golden voice" (L/Sgt. Hogben), who has now left us to become a blinking brass hat, but we wish him the very best of luck and

hope that one day we shall meet again under peaceful conditions. Good luck Hogben!

2/Lieut. B— has left us for a while to study the art or mysteries of messing and we hope for his wife's sake, that the position of Messing Officer does not go to his head to the extent of trying to run the family budget and start a savings campaign.

Sports—so far, nothing to report, except that we've lost yet another game of football. Still, as I've said before, someone has to lose.

M.M.

#### "B" Company.

Well, here are the "Rocks" again. A few changes here and there have taken place in the last month. In this respect we tender our congratulations on his promotion to Captain D—, and we welcome to the company Lieut. J—, who has recently joined us. We are, however, most sorry to lose 2/Lieut. R—.

Sgt. Lovejoy has neglected his platoon rather badly and departed on a course. We feel sure he will earn his forgiveness by passing his course "with honours".

Sgt. Ryan also has "gone astray" and sunk to the depths of Sergeants' Mess Caterer. Luckily it is only for one month.

We mustn't forget the "Old Rock" or he will be jealous. We congratulate him on being captain of the team which was to play the 6th R.W.K., and are sorry to hear that they "threw in the sponge" in time.

Whilst we are on the topic of sports, let us remember the fine game "B" Company played in the six-a-side match against "C" Company over the Christmas period, resulting in a win of 2—0. Up the Rocks! New Year's Day, too, saw a great game against the R.A.F., and although the score was against us to the extent of 5—4, it was gratifying to see Pte. Constable putting up such a fine show, together with the rest of the "Rocks".

When we look back on the excellent Christmas dinner, it seems a miracle that we did so well at the various sports.

The absence of a man with the initiative to "pot" some rabbits on our too frequent "stunts" causes us to put up with the continual "chicken stew" which is so much of a daily occurrence as to be boring.

The lack of transport, too, has caused the boys to put more belief in the gradient signs. "1 in 5" is now read as "1 in 5".

Before closing, we will extend our sympathy to C.Q.M.S. Pinnock on his admission to the R.A.P. and wish him all the best for a speedy recovery. Our strength has been swelled, too, by the arrival of Sgt. Stroud, who returned to duty a sick man. We understand that without the M.O.'s approval he has "discovered" a good tonic which can be obtained any day except Sunday locally.

We have nearly committed the unforgiveable sin and left out the C.S.M. Thanks! No doubt to the watchful eye of his "missus" he appears to be in good health, "thank you," and still going strong.

Rock.

#### "C" Company.

Winter is in full swing and the lads of "C" Company are looking forward to the summer when they will be able to go for a swim in their "briny" in their time of leisure, *i.e.*, if we are still here at —, "Somewhere in

*Continued on p. 48.*

## Somewhere in the South-West.

WE have now settled down to serious soldiering again, having sufficiently recovered from Christmas. Considering the conditions, I think it is safe to say that Christmas was a great success with all ranks. I know (from bitter experience!) that it was with Battalion H.Q. at any rate.

On Christmas Eve a dinner was held in the Officers' Mess, to which wives and friends were invited. The dinner did credit to the Mess Cooks, as did the decorations which were put up by the Officers' Mess Staff, who worked extremely hard throughout. After dinner, an impromptu dance took place with "Meakin's Maestros" or "Gotch's Gondoliers" in attendance. The dancing was interspersed with hilarious games among which were a bull-fight, played by the 2/i/c, Q.M. and I.O., and a very strenuous version of that well-known game played by applying a ping-pong bat to a certain part of other people's anatomy, at which the C.O. especially excelled.

On Christmas Day, after a C.O.'s Parade at which the Drums acquitted themselves very well in their first public appearance, the men had their Christmas Dinner. Speeches were made by the C.O., O.C. "H.Q." Company and the R.S.M., while a poem entitled "Christmas Day in the Workhouse," specially written for the occasion by Lieut. B—, was read out by Pte. White. The P.R.I. is to be congratulated on the dinner he put on, which was readily dealt with (both food and drink) by all the men.

On Christmas night a concert arranged by Lieut. B— was put on. This, too, was a great success, although it must be admitted that the ears of some of the officers were rather red by the end of it.

On Boxing Day morning the Officers and Sergeants did battle on the football field, the Officers triumphing by 4 soccer goals and 1 rucker try to nil after a game in which there seemed to be some uncertainty as to what game was being played. The Sergeants Mess held their dinner on Boxing Day and in the evening they put on a very good dance indeed, which was attended by all the local celebrities as well as the Officers and Sergeants. The Battalion Band again played and several excellent cabaret turns were also put on.

In fact, the whole Christmas period was a great success, and our thanks go to all who made this possible; among those not yet mentioned being the Q.M.'s wife who undertook the making of all the Christmas Puddings, between 40 and 50 in number.

Very little else of interest has occurred since last month, so I will close with memories of Christmas fresh in all our memories and the hope that we may spend next Christmas in brighter circumstances.

### "A" Company.

Our first Christmas in the Army has gone with customary speed into the limbo of past things, but its passing merits a place in this chronicle. We were all, perhaps, a little doubtful about it beforehand; but our doubts were unnecessary and the day, if not as uproariously merry, or as luxuriantly abundant as those of former years, was, I think, enjoyed by us all in our different ways. Our collective thanks are due to all those, especially the cooks, who did their best to make it a happy Christmas, in spite of war-time restrictions and difficulties. The New Year's arrival was also celebrated as far as possible in traditional fashion, and if it lives up to the hopes it inspired, it will indeed be a memorable year.

There is not a great deal to relate since our last notes. Further changes have taken place in personnel, but one could hardly find a more appropriate motto for the company than "plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose". We have three new officers to welcome, Lieut. C— and 2/Lieuts. P— and B—, the latter of whom hardly had time to appreciate our charms before the Chief Magician waved his wand, and he was translated to another company. Inter-company changes have brought us a number of new faces and we hope they will soon find themselves at home with us. Those who have left us we trust to spread our fame abroad. Last, but not by any means least, good luck to our Quarter "Wally" on his new sphere of authority.

Company life continues more or less in its usual strain. The snow which, to our surprise, heralded the New Year, brought delight, we understand, to at least one detachment, where a ready-made Cresta Run provided some thrilling moments.

At headquarters, our amenities have been increased by the instalment of a Y.M.C.A. which, in addition to the "Gardener's Shop", provides solace and refreshment in our spare time.

Ambition flies high in the company, and quite a number of us have felt the urge to fly with the R.A.F. rather than "foot-slog" with the P.B.I.—or is it that Air Force blue has more pulling power with the fair sex than khaki) We invite suggestions on this point from both sides.

The weather, which sadly belies the railway posters, has produced quite a number of colds—sometimes known as "guard-flu" as it has a peculiar habit of appearing about 12 hours before guard-mounting—and there is grave fear that "Doctor" Biggs may have to reduce the aspirin quota from two to one.

One of the company, Frank Norris, took advantage of his seven days' leave to join the ranks of the married; and to him, and his charming bride, our sincerest wishes for a long and happy life together. Many another dallies so much with the maidens of the locality that we tremble for the Paymaster's future peace of mind.

M.C.B.

### "B" Company.

Once again we have several changes to record in the personnel of "B" Company. 2/Lieut. W—, our new

officer, arrived shortly after the commencement of the New Year and for the time being has taken charge of No. 12 Platoon in the absence of 2/Lieut. T— on a course. We give him a hearty welcome and trust that he will soon settle down to his new job. For the second time since the formation of the company our Quartermaster-Sergeant has deserted us, but much as we regret losing C.Q.M.S. Dudman, our best wishes go with him in his new position as A/C.S.M. to H.Q. Company. If he carries out his duties at H.Q. Company with the same enthusiasm and efficiency as he always displayed in "B" Company he should prove a decided asset to them. The vacant position of C.Q.M.S. has been taken over by Sgt. Ramsden, who came to us from "C" Company only about a month ago. Although his connection with us has been short, we have known him long enough to realise that he is fully capable of taking over. During the month we have also received several men from H.Q. Company to make up our numbers, which were becoming sadly depleted, and we are now in the process of exchanging 11 men with "A" Company under the special scheme to even up the ages.

Only one football match has taken place this month, when No. 11 Platoon played No. 12 Platoon. The result was a draw, both sides scoring 3 goals. Our Company Commander and 2/Lieut. W— played for No. 12 Platoon, and they both proved to be very useful players. In fact, most of us were amazed at the agility of Captain B— on the football field. An inter-platoon cross-country run was also arranged, although very few managed to run all the way owing to the steepness of the hills.

The Christmas festivities were a great success and were enjoyed by all. No. 11 Platoon and Company Headquarters sat down to their Christmas dinner in the golf club-house, and the arrangements far exceeded our expectations. Miss Dent and the ladies of the golf club certainly went out of their way to give us a good time, and our thanks are due to them for their assistance so willingly given. After dinner we all adjourned to the canteen, where the C.S.M. and C.Q.M.S. excelled themselves by leading us in songs with actions. The C.S.M. standing on a chair flapping his arms to represent a "Blooming great blackbird" was a sight not to be missed. A few of us were privileged to witness the turn in the back parlour of the S— Inn on Christmas Eve, where we had a right merry time to start off the Christmas holidays.

The most outstanding social function of the month was a dance arranged for us by Captain B— in the ballroom of a nearby hotel. Visitors arrived in great numbers from the surrounding villages and towns and the affair was a huge success. The music was provided by the Battalion Dance Band and during the evening the R.Q.M.S. entertained us with some of his funny stories and Miss Marshall held us spellbound with her singing. We are sure Captain B— must have been well repaid for all the trouble he went to to make the function as enjoyable as possible. At the same hotel we have also had two cinema shows, which provided a welcome break from our daily routine.

No. 10 Platoon, too, have had a good programme of social events and their dances in the village hall are always worth attending. The dance on the Saturday following Christmas was especially enjoyable and we were pleased to see our Company Commander on the floor, although like the rest of us, he found his movements hampered by lack of space.

#### "C" Company.

As I pen these notes, the company is in that state of upheaval usually present when a move is impending,

and, after three months on the sea-shore, we shall certainly miss the sight and sound of the surf, and the kind hospitality of the friends we have made during this time.

Our Christmas festivities, it is nice to record, went extremely well, and thanks are due to Captain D— for his efforts in this direction. Commencing with a dance on Christmas Eve, a really slap-up dinner and film show on Christmas Day, and six-a-side soccer on the sands on Boxing Day, made a varied and successful programme.

Between the two films on Christmas Eve, the Company Commander gave a "solo" turn, clad in the attire of a pseudo padre and Tubby Faulkner's spectacles. "Percy-the-Pride" Pinner obliged with a few of his "specials," but C.S.M. Scallan let down the whole party by refusing to sing his *piece de resistance*, "South of the Border," apparently his vocal chords being insufficiently oiled.

On New Year's Eve an extremely successful dance was run, at which we were honoured by the presence of the Commanding Officer and his wife. A feature of this show was the raising of a goodly sum for The Buffs Prisoners of War Fund by the simple expedient of "driving nails in Hitler's coffin". To the strains of the Dead March, a large black coffin was borne in on the shoulders of four "mournful" bearers and placed on trestles in the centre of the hall. Nails were sold at 2d. a time, the purchaser then driving the nails into the coffin. A unique way of raising cash, but certainly a successful one.

This month has seen many changes in the company personnel, the greatest, of course, being our "swop" with "A" Company. We wish both sets of emigrants luck with their new companies.

Inter-company and inter-platoon soccer has produced some very fine games. We met "A" Company for the first time and ran out victors by 6—0 after an extremely sporting game.

An equally good game was played against a team from one of H.M. Destroyers, and was drawn 1—1. After the match the teams and their supporters had tea in the canteen, after which both services adjourned to the "local" to wind up the day in time-honoured fashion. A return match is coming off shortly, circumstances permitting.

By their 6—0 win over No. 13 Platoon, No. 15 have definitely established themselves as Company Champions.

A number of good film shows have been run, such pictures as "Golden Boy", "Convict 99" and "Alf's Button Afloat" providing great entertainment.

We are sorry to have Sgt. Richardson away from us, ill, and wish him a speedy recovery and return to the fold.

TREBOR.

#### "D" Company.

It is not surprising that these notes should again be written on the eve of a move. After four weeks at M— we again take the road, although our new destination is not very far distant.

Since our last month's notes were written we have suffered loss through the transfer of 2/Lieut. A. H. H— and Lieut. A. B— to H.Q. Company. The latter takes on P.M.C. and P.R.I., but whether this means that his old friends in "D" Company will pay less than the other companies we have not yet had the opportunity of judging. We are waiting our first Mess bills with



interest, but not much hope. 2/Lieut. A. H. H— is very much missed in the company also, but we wish him every success in his new job. We welcome 2/Lieut. F. E. B—, who joined us just before our last move and who is making his weight felt.

We have managed to have one football match and several cross-country runs since we have been here, in spite of the snow (if this is allowed to be mentioned), and Christmas festivities were highly successful. Some very necessary P.T. for the entire company on Boxing Day proved entertaining as well as beneficial, after a Christmas Day which was spent almost entirely in eating and singing. The company has enjoyed being together again if only for a short time, after being separated at various seaside resorts, and although we are going back to the sea again, we shall not be so separated. 2/Lieut. B— will miss the church organ on which he has been astonishing the natives on Sundays! There was some spirited betting as to whether he or the organ would blow up first, but at the time of writing these notes both have survived, with the organ down on points.

#### "E" Company.

After only a very short stay in M—, "E" Company has now settled down in the palatial billets at S—, and the adaptability for which the British soldier is famous has asserted itself; although we have only been formed a very short time we have occupied a workhouse, a public house and now the houses of those who were fortunate enough to spend the summer in such picturesque surroundings. Although the huntin' and shootin' is not so good, the fishing is admirable and if we ever do finish the wiring and sandbagging our predecessors forgot, who knows that in time we may, like the Esquimaux, entirely live on fish and then, what a brain department we shall have. The only fault we find with our new home is that it is such a long way to walk back and "Does the road wind uphill all the way?" "Yes, to the very end."

It is with regret that we say "Good-bye and good luck" to Captain W—, who has left us for an important post. His popularity with the men of "E" Company was in accordance with his fairness and understanding and as he had been with every company in the battalion, we know that the good wishes of the battalion go with him. It is on this note that we welcome Lieut. H—, who from first impressions is the right Company Commander for "E" Company. He was not with us long before leaving us to proceed on a course and his duties are being ably carried out by 2/Lieut. C—, who is well-known throughout the battalion as being the best tank hunter this side of Suez. We also welcome 2/Lieut. B— and hope his stay will be a happy one. 2/Lieut. K—, after having fed on fish for a while, has been transferred to the "brain department" and if he ever feels just a wee bit muddled, he knows that there will always be a welcome for him at S—. Whilst on the arrivals and departures, we must make mention of Cpl. Metcalfe, first home in the company cross-country run, who has left us for the I.T.C., and the best wishes of No. 20 Platoon go with the "Dog."

Our C.S.M., wishing to gather first hand information on a subject on which he always thinks the C.Q.M.S. is an expert, has retired for a while to hospital, there to spend happy hours with the kind nurse one sees portrayed in the illustrated newspapers, we hope. Jokes apart, we wish him good health and a speedy return. The C.Q.M.S. has still that childish passion for "Bubbles" and what he can find interesting in an

*Continued on p. 48.*

## Somewhere in the South.

CHRISTMAS 1940 and New Year 1941 are likely to remain for a long time in the minds of many men in this battalion as the first they had spent away from their families. Yet, although it would be untrue to say that they preferred their army Christmas, it can be said that most of them found it much better than they had expected. Here a word of praise is due to the cooks, who worked their hardest, at a time of the year when most people are thinking of having a slightly easier time than usual. Special mention must be made of the cooks at Battalion H.Q., who had to cook under extreme difficulties, and yet managed to produce a really good meal. It was all to do with the fire. By some extraordinary coincidence, the building which we had been using for the messing of H.Q., caught fire on Christmas Eve, and was burned out 40 years to the day from the last time that a similar occurrence happened to it. By Herculean efforts Captain "Enfant," Sgt. Harlow, and the cooks managed to provide Christmas dinners at a moment's notice in another building, and the dinners were first class.

Major "Leslie" has now assumed the mantle of Major "Rabbit" as 2/i/c, but his great interest at the moment is a small model yacht which he is in the process of rigging and fitting-out for young Peter. As there are at present no masts or spars, anyone with sense and wooden drivers is keeping a very wary eye open.

Major Robin is now the King Umpire of the district, and takes the greatest joy in obliterating buildings and platoons with a few well-chosen words. Anyone interested in umpiring should ask him the correct drill for rousing the C.O. from his bed at 3 o'clock in the morning. It would seem to include the dropping of heavy books near a telephone, and the repetition of the words, "Bombs! You're being bombed, dammit!"

The Adjutant still goes to the dogs fairly regularly. Sometimes he makes some money.

Captain John S—h has taken over H.Q. Company, and moves about (at the moment) in a mysterious way and a car which has lost its silencer. This causes much comment among the civilian population, and not a little amusement in the battalion.

There are a few small personal matters which no biographer should miss. The first is the Carrier Officer's Snore. We have all heard people snore at times, but it is rarely that a snore is so persistent that shouts and missiles only alter its note a semi-tone, or so powerful that solicitors,

the least amazed of men, are forced to sleep in bathrooms to escape it. The second concerns Captain Clive's moustache. If you've ever tried to catch a piece of soap in a bath with your eyes shut, you will realise how difficult it is to say whether the thing is there or here or not—so with Clive's moustache. An ephemeral butterfly of a thing—here today and gone tomorrow! Rumour has whispered that they don't like moustaches in Australia. Perhaps the most recent application of the moustache has an inner meaning. The third matter concerns "Plum"—who is usually good copy for this publication. But "Plum" is now a reformed character. His last escapade was to come into the mess rubbing his hands on a very cold day and say, "Gosh! I'm ravishing!" Since then, he has led an exemplary existence.

We must congratulate Captain John B— of "B" Company on his marriage to Colina Mouat, and wish them both all happiness. We should like to add how pleasant it is to have Mrs. Willows staying here, and we must hasten to say that this not because her husband no longer lives in the mess!

#### Sergeants' Mess.

There was universal disappointment at the non-appearance of our notes in last month's issue of *The Dragon*, and we would like to commence these notes by pointing out that this terrible tragedy was no fault of ours. Indeed, much time was given to composing interesting and amusing paragraphs for the benefit of our regular readers.

Christmas overtook us shortly after the last month's notes were rendered, and the festive season opened with a splendid roof-raising act by the fire brigade. The scene was one of our billets which mysteriously took to the bad habit of bursting into flames in the early hours of Christmas Eve morning. It was such a rollicking show that it was decided to turn the whole company out and let them see it free of charge. I arrived just in time to see Sgt. C—k detailing as many men as he could lay hands on to remove his personal belongings from the doomed building. Under his personal supervision the first thing to be brought out was a "beds, single, iron, one". It's simply amazing how some people keep a cool brain under such circumstances.

Sgt. Marriott was seen wandering among the trees muttering, "I've got my A.C.I.'s". While the R.Q.M.S. pondered on how much stores he could make out of the deal. This proved too much for him at the time and he could hardly be blamed, remembering the hectic time we spent on the previous evening. We could also sympathise with Sgt. K—, who, in his endeavour to re-establish some lost communication, was seen precariously perched on top of a telegraph pole.

Christmas Eve was spent quietly by the Mess. Members sat around preparing for the morrow by practising the delicate art of raising the glass to already very wet lips, and later on, impromptu turns were given without request and, well, no-one remembers too much about it all, and on the following morning nobody particularly wanted to.

On Christmas Day the members, as is customary, served the men's dinners at the various billets. Here again memories are faulty, but it seems that we not only served the dinners but also gave a few turns, some of them highly specialised ones. Tubby Collier gave a song and dance as given by him in the "Pilot" and other places of entertainment, ably assisted by Sgt. C—k. Also assisting was Sgt. K—y, who assisted them from one dining-room to another. There is no reliable information about the rest of the day.

We had our Christmas dinner and etceteras on Boxing Day, and a really good dinner it was too. Before putting the nosebag on, all members stood to attention and together said, "?—! ? Hitler". The food was so good that conversation was non-existent. The only sound was that of fierce munching. Most of the members had been on a diet all day, and by the time we sat down (7 p.m.) we were feeling absolutely swinish. It was not until palates and "tummies" had been quite satisfied that we adjourned to the ante-room and waded into an evening of wine, doubtful stories and song. Several officers came along to help us enjoy the evening, and the M.O. was unanimously declared a "hands down winner" at spinning a good yarn, and second place was tied for by quite a number of the party. The R.Q.M.S. and Sgt. Gallop were in good form, but the wine did its work well and stories gave place to ribald singing. How the ceiling remained in position will always be a mystery. Sgt. Smith put in some excellent work with the accordion and has learned to play with the left hand only. This is a very convenient art to acquire as it leaves the other hand free to manoeuvre with the refreshments.

Most of us have been on the "tack" since those few but expensive days, and Harry Collier's tongue is becoming quite swollen, although it seems that he has broken out again recently since he met his new girl friend. Her age is round about 50 years, but "many a good tune is played on an old fiddle" is perhaps a saying worthy of remembrance under the circumstances.

Spellman Marriott's fiance came down from Records Office for a few days recently, ostensibly for a holiday, but no doubt they had a lot of business to talk about as well—most convenient from the Orderly Room Sergeant's point of view.

We welcome to the Mess Sgt. Lent and hope he settles down comfortably with the gang.

CHARLES.

#### Signal Platoon.

We open these notes with congratulations to Ptes. Hall and Ragfield on appointment to Lance-Corporals, and to L/Cpls. Maris, Harrigan and Amor on promotion to Corporals. Also we congratulate Cpl. Maris for passing the Divisional Signal Course, one of the only seven to pass. We hope he does equally well if and when he goes to C—k.

The Assistant Signal Officer is also under training in preparation for a Signal Course, and is to be seen first thing each morning doing queer things with a pair of flags. His enthusiasm for flag drill quickly waned when he was presented with one of the thickest flag-poles ever turned out for the British Army. They do say that 2/Lieut. S— spent some considerable time locating it for that purpose.

We were pleasantly surprised the other day when Sgt. Joe S. paid us a visit. The old hands remember him as the semaphore specialist at C—. By the way, Joe. What's the idea of whitewashing your stripes? It

never was a habit of yours. Is it a solution to black-out recognition?

Sgt. K— is looking rather pleased with himself lately and we guess that he has visions of a 100% Classification when the young hands are classified. If so, we all hope he is right.

The young hands have improved considerably since being struck off the fatigues and guards roll, and are shaping up well as potential signallers with all the necessary enthusiasm to be really good at their job. Classification is very near at hand now and we all hope they come out "Tops".

The operations personnel work as smooth as glass and are doing a jolly good job of work. Keep at it, boys! and don't let the side down. The exchange operators have developed a perfect technique and it's almost awe-inspiring to watch them at work—smooth efficiency is the only term.

Ptes. Sohowell, Sharpe and Curling are undergoing a course of training with the G.P.O. and are apparently enjoying it very much. Who wouldn't like to be taught by a bevy of fair "Hello" damsels, anyway? Are we jealous?

Unfortunately Pte. Curling is being stolen from us by the R.A.O.C.... We are sorry to lose him but wish him all the very best in his new job.

Finally, we would like to put on record that the young hands have just been on guard for the first time in a long while and made up for the lost time by being highly commended on their excellent turn-out and drill. Well done! The Signals are traditionally always the best.

SPARKS.

#### Headquarter Company.

This edition of *The Dragon* finds us all firmly established in the New Year—ready for any eventuality. We extend our good wishes and the very best of luck to all other Buffs during the ensuing months.

Part of H.Q. Company received a warm send-off by 1940, being driven from their rambling billet by raging flames; these in a short space of time converted the stately abode into a raging inferno. Only a minute quantity of stores, equipment, etc., were lost, and the stretcher-bearers who arrived fully equipped with first aid satchels and open stretchers found, to their bitter disappointment, an entire absence of casualties. However, the stretchers were instantly utilised in the rescue work—being heavily laden with multitudes of boxes, and not as expected—mutilated bodies.

Consequently, the New Year finds us comfortably housed in a detached villa complete with a private boating lake and a fleet of two rowing boats. One I believe has a leak, but rather thoughtfully supplied with a cork and bailing-out can!

A new form of tactical training is being devised, in which the lake imaginarily assumes the proportions of the English Channel, whilst facing forces, some stamped like hot-cross buns, carry out the intricacies of invasion from the attack and defence point of view. Fatigue parties and defaulters supply effects by churning up the water into waves, and others with nasal disorders attempt to imitate planes of the Luftwaffe as they crash into the murky waters.

As bright and cheerful as the New Year itself arrived a fresh and stimulating personality to this

company—Captain J. S—. He relieves Major E— (who is now officiating as Training Officer and 2/i/c), and assumes command of the company, steps into the ever-changing roll of P.R.I., and gains supreme command of the famous P.R.I. A/c, which achieved such widespread renown during the boisterous Major Robin era. All the company warmly welcome Captain S— as their Commander.

A short survey of several platoon activities reveal firstly, that in Signal Platoon Pte. Irvine, who has been operating the telephone exchange, has, through the sonorous qualities of his voice gained recognition as the male counterpart of the TIM girl. Maybe the deep resonant tones which greet us when we lift the receiver are the passing effects of Coryza, or unprofessionally—a common cold, or may even indeed be brought about by inhalation of the deleterious fumes manufactured daily by the oil stove which provides the heat for the room. However, be it what it may, rumours are circulating that Captain M—, the Sports Officer, has approached Pte. Irvine with a view to appointing him compère at all future inter-company football matches and other sporting events. The commentary being delivered à la Howard Marshall.

Cpl. Maris, also of the Signal Platoon, has just returned from a Signal Course which he succeeded in passing.

Secondly the Pioneer Platoon, that happy band of adventurers to whom we all turn in moments of dire need. Under the guidance of Sgt. Palfrey, Cpl. Squires, and recently appointed L/Cpl. Humphries, these industrious people seem to possess that exclusive creative quality, having been known to make a collapsible Guard Room of paper and lathes, complete with sunshine-roof, also black-out screens which require an expert knowledge of jig-saw puzzle assembling to erect, and some bright fellows can even make 2/- out of 1/6.

In the Stretcher-Bearer's Section the men have been using their other occupation—as battalion dance band—for financial improvement. All profited to the extent of several shillings from the proceeds of a couple of dances recently attended. It has been unanimously agreed such a good thing, that they have contemplated inserting an advertisement in the local paper to gain publicity.

Through his great musical powers, Pte. Butcher, the pianist, has been dragged into some antidiluvium order or other by our C.Q.M.S., and now plays with great gusto at their regular weekly séance. No one is sure what business is discussed at these meetings, but the very queer thing is that the Red Lion recently opened a buffet bar, on profits—according to the proprietor. A séance has something to do with "spirits" hasn't it?

Like everyone else, I thrive in a little scandal—who was that dashing blonde seen out with Sgt. Marriott of the Orderly Room, and even in the Orderly Room. I hear she holds a position in the Pay Office. If this is an exhibit of their staff why can't we go up there every Friday to draw our 10/- correct, Sir!

Now, having done what I consider is my duty (and maybe more), I think it appropriate to leave these pages until next month.

PTE. W.W.T.



**M.T. Section.**

The work side of our training has not altered much, and things are very much the same.

We offer our congratulations to Captain M— and are very glad to have him with us. Eh, Jimmy!

Talking of congratulations, we offer them to Donkey and Ken on becoming "Daddies", and one period a day in the office is left for "Bo-Bo" lessons. We would, however, from the bottom of our hearts wish Charles better luck next time.

Football! It sends a cold shiver down our backs, and maintenance has been suspended so that we may learn how. Since moving to M—, most of the boys' "Hearts" have gone to "Oak", but it is such a pity that it is a five miles' walk from home. The Duke used to be a playboy. Perhaps that accounts for his up with the lark feeling, and an early morning rifle inspection.

**"B" Company.**

Since our last notes we have withdrawn from standing to, standing up and little sitting down to a life of leisure on the hill. We understood that the company was going back to polish up its training, but, much to the surprise of our energetic C.S.M., it turned out differently. What with working parties, fatigues and a brigade guard, he sometimes thinks he's standing on his head, which acrobatic feat is not unusual for him, anyway. This probably accounts for his absence at the moment. We hope he returns from his 40 hours' leave with his usual amount of high spirits.

Our congratulations to L/Cpl. Tilley upon his well-earned appointment to Corporal. Also to L/Cpls. Webley and Crittall upon gaining pay of rank.

We are pleased to welcome to the company 2/Lieut. K— and 2/Lieut. S—. By the time this appears in print we shall have lost our very old friend 2/Lieut. F. de R. to H.Q. Company. We wish him luck in his new appointment.

It is whispered that the Sergeant-Major bagged the best room in Company H.Q. for his office so that he could see what went on outside. Moral: When outside H.Q., don't do it.

PES1.

**"C" Company.**

No notes having appeared from us for the previous month, here are one or two items of interest before we turn to the current news.

In the first place, we left — behind us to take up positions in which we could once again gaze across the "drink". Before leaving —, we ran several highly successful dances and also carried out, amongst other things, some delightful "country rambles".

With regard to sport. We played one or two very enjoyable games of soccer, outstanding amongst which was, on top of a twelve-mile preliminary loosener, a grand victory of 4—1 over the R.A.'s.

No. 15 Platoon came out top in the inter-platoon football table and are looking forward to the final encounters with platoon teams of the other companies.

We also supplied some players for the team which drew with the — Battalion after an exciting tussle. (Since then, with the further assistance of some of our "stars", our battalion has licked them up to the tune of 8—1).

Altogether, after our training plus sport period, everyone was in a very fit state when we finally left.

The other Sunday we had the first Church Parade for ages. Old campaigner "Polly" Hollands was present and it really seems probable that if we stay here for the duration there is a chance of reforming him.

Sgt. "Dolly" Gray amused us recently. He had just removed the adhesive plaster from his face, the result of a motoring mishap, when in getting off the local 'bus he stepped on the step that wasn't there. His scarred proboscis was a pretty picture for a few days and the plaster supply at the R.A.P. went remarkably low for a time. However, if reminded, Sgt. Gray still adheres to his story that he was "sober and correct".

Our C.S.M. is soon off on leave, the last one of the company to go. We hope it keeps fine for him.

Sgts. Ford, West and Champion are all in the best of spirits.

OMAR.

**News from the Veterans.**

WE are once more in the throes of moving, but one company, at least, will find itself back again in its old front line. The veterans are looking forward to returning to quarters already familiar to them, which they built up from nothing and worked hard to make as ship-shape and comfortable as possible. There is one post which, being in the direct line of fire, benefits from the enemy's "shorts." Fish killed by concussion and washed up at once by the incoming tide make excellent eating.

Christmas and the New Year leave pleasant memories. "C" Company had a sing-song on Christmas Day and a dance on Boxing Day. Such is the local reputation of the Officer-in-charge for getting up a good show that guests came from 30 miles round, on one of the worst nights of the year. At headquarters we had an excellent concert and dance on Christmas Eve and owe much to the energies of Sgt. Keele and his talented wife and sons, and to other members of the Regiment who made the evening such a success. Those of the battalion who are rationed by the R.A.F. shared that splendid hospitality at Christmas for which this great branch of the Service is famous.

On Christmas Day our beloved Quartermaster called in to give his staff his greetings and was seen leading his goat into the Sergeants' Mess to pay her bearded respects to a small gathering of Old Buffs who had dropped in to wish us a happy Christmas. Only a few days later we heard the tragic news that this great old soldier and most cheery soul had been stricken by serious illness. His many friends in the Regiment and in the district, and in his old Regiment—the South Wales Borderers, will be glad to hear that he is progressing very well indeed.



One of the great difficulties in the separated outposts which we are called upon to man has been to find sufficient books to while away the often rather dreary leisure hours. Now the County library has come to our aid with a magnificent loan, a collection of fiction and more serious works, which will be a Godsend to those who are fond of reading. We wish to take this opportunity of expressing our thanks to the Librarian and to the charming members of her staff, who so rapidly and effectively supplied our needs in this respect.

We are delighted to record that our first R.S.M. is Sergeant-Major A. Trice and that Lieut.-Quartermaster T— has been appointed to succeed Major S—.

One of our Senior Officers had a curious dream on Christmas night, no doubt caused by the celebrations. He dreamt that our battalion was playing football against a very celebrated London team on their ground. To the great surprise of an enormous crowd we won the match by 15 goals to nil. As the London team walked off after the match, to the astonishment of the dreamer, he discovered that Hitler was the captain of the London side and Mussolini the goalkeeper. He heard Hitler say to Mussolini—thanks to you we've lost the blue pencilled match. Next time we will put you somewhere where you can display your famous running powers.

---

### Correspondence

2319 Castillo Street,  
Santa Barbara,  
California.  
October 28th, 1940.

The Editor, "The Dragon."

Dear Sir,

Whilst renewing my subscription to *The Dragon*, I thought that it would interest some of my old comrades to learn what we in Post 12 of the Canadian Legion are doing to help along. We are making a monthly donation to the British War Relief Association, and many of our Ladies' Auxilliary are sewing, knitting, etc. This month we made a whip round at one of our meetings and between ourselves and the ladies we got enough money together to be able to send fourteen thousand cigarettes to the Royal Air Force in England. Besides our regular relief work, we support the Southern Area Last Post Fund. This Fund is for the purpose of preventing any British veteran from going to a pauper's grave.

At our last meeting we had an application for membership, and to my great delight he was a Buff. His name is William E. Jones, No. 25890; he served from January, 1915 to March, 1917. I have not got his address at present, but if anyone should like to write him I will gladly forward his address later on.

For myself I am well and going strong. This is the fifth year that I have been adjutant (secretary) and in addition this year I am commander, so that I am a very

busy man. So now there are four of us Buffs that I know of in California. Of course, our thoughts, our hearts, and our minds are always with our noble fellow-countrymen and women who are putting up so grand a fight in the Home Land.

My best respects to you, Sir, and my hearty greetings to all the boys.

Yours sincerely,  
A. J. HALL

---

"C" Company—continued from p. 41.

Wales". I say if, because I have always found that where there is "Tommy Atkins," there's always a rumour of a move, as there is now.

Last week, No. 15 Platoon left the company lines on their way, in hopes of winning a silver cup on the field firing range some miles from here. No. 13 Platoon had their attempt the previous day and did pretty well, so here's hoping that after No. 14 Platoon have had their "crack" at it we shall see that cup come home to "C" Company, as they have tried really hard (if I may say so). Good luck, "C"!

Owing to 2/Lieut. D— going away on a course, 2/Lieut. W— of "D" Company has been attached to us for a few days. One afternoon while he was with us he sent eight sections of men, each under an N.C.O., on a map march, after which, each N.C.O. was to hand in a written account of the "ramble", bringing out points of military assistance. Both N.C.O.'s and men showed great interest, and everyone admitted that apart from being very helpful in their training as a "good soldier," it made a very enjoyable afternoon, and they hope to get more of these in the future.

Boxing is coming into the front rank in this battalion and I feel safe to say that in the future "C" Company notes will be able to tell you of some welterweight and bantamweight wins for the company with the yellow colour-flashes.

And so, signing off, I hope next month to tell you of how "C" Company won the silver cup for field firing. So long!

BUNNY.

---

"D" Company.

The majority of the company spent their first Christmas in uniform, and judging from the parcels received and the special effort of the cooks on Christmas Day, a good time was had by all. Anyhow, the publicans had a very good time indeed!

The company is to be heartily congratulated on carrying off the majority of the prizes at the sports on Boxing Day. The table tennis, darts and shooting came to us, "B" Company getting the football.

Captain P— is away on another course! The War Office will have to think of some new ones soon, because he must have done 'em all now!

---

"E" Company—continued from p. 44.

old clay pipe and soapy water is beyond me.

Since arriving at S— we have had the football match with the R.A.S.C., in which we were the victors by 2 goals to 1 after a hard game. Our principle pastime is boating, and the onlookers have been quite amused to see various boats drifting in the direction of the English Channel, but fortunately we have a Navy and they're always willing to help us landlubbers, and so we do eventually get where we want to with their help.

# ROLL OF HONOUR—THE BUFFS

LIST No. 3.

## OFFICERS.

### PREVIOUSLY REPORTED MISSING NOW REPORTED KILLED.

FINDLAY, CAPT. W. R.

### DIED.

NEWMAN, 2/Lt. J. W. E.

### OTHER RANKS KILLED.

BRADY, PTE. P.  
 BAUM, PTE. A. I.  
 CUFF, PTE. A. P.  
 CHEESEMAN, PTE. R. E.  
 GOODMAN, PTE. J.  
 GROOMBRIDGE, PTE. G. W.  
 GROOMBRIDGE, PTE. G. J.  
 GREENFIELD, PTE. P. W.  
 LOMAX, PTE. A.  
 MOLONEY, PTE. J.  
 MACDONALD-MALEKIN, PTE. R.  
 NEWMAN, PTE. D.  
 PAYNE, PTE. E. E.  
 SLARK, PTE. C. V.  
 SCOTT, PTE. C.  
 WALLBRIDGE, PTE. C. W.

### OTHER RANKS DIED.

ADAMS, PTE. E. A.  
 BIRCH, CPL. E. G. W.  
 ELGIE, SGT. R. H. E.  
 KING, PTE. A. A.  
 MOORE, PTE. A. E.  
 TUFF, PTE. R. I.  
 WESTALL, CPL. J. E.

### OTHER RANKS DIED OF WOUNDS.

BALL, PTE. R. J. T.  
 PAY, PTE. P. V. W.  
 PULLMAN, L/CPL. H. E.

### OTHER RANKS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED PRISONER OF WAR NOW REPORTED DIED AS PRISONER OF WAR.

CORRIGAN, P.S.M. T. M.  
 WOODARD, PTE. E. H.

### OTHER RANKS WOUNDED AND PRISONERS OF WAR.

DAWES, PTE. D., 6289751	...	...	31247	Stalag IX C
GORSE, L/CPL. C. W.	...	...		Malines Hospital
HAMMOND, PTE. F. A. W.	...	...	16408	Stalag VIII B
HARRIS, PTE. F. A.	...	...		" XX A
KING, PTE. G. N.	...	...		" XXI B
TERRY, PTE. F. J.	...	...		Hospital, Lille

## OTHER RANKS PRISONERS OF WAR.

AMISS, L/CPL. F. J.	...	...	2675	Stalag XXI A
BEAN, SGT. F. C.	...	...		" VI A
BOULTER, PTE. L. S.	...	...	10477	" VIII B
BROWN, A/CPL. J. J.	...	...	19677	" XX A3
BROOKES, PTE. J. J.	...	...		"
BURGESS, PTE. W.	...	...		"
CASTLE, PTE. G. W.	...	...		" XX A
COOK, A/L/CPL. G. D.	...	...	6359	" VII B
COOKE, L/CPL. A. W.	...	...	16563	" VIII B
COOKMAN, PTE. E. H.	...	...		" VI D
COX, PTE. J., 6288422	...	...		" XXI A
DEACON, PTE. L. W.	...	...		"
FRENCH, L/SGT. H.	...	...	15876	" VIII B
GUERTIN, PTE. J. N.	...	...	10770	" VIII B
HART, PTE. R. W. J.	...	...		"
HOLNESS, PTE. R. M.	...	...	3763	" IX B
HILLIER, PTE. J.	...	...	2678	" XXI A
HURKETT, PTE. W. G.	...	...		" VI C
HALL, PTE. R. G.	...	...	18734	" XX A2A
HILLS, PTE. C. E. S.	...	...		" XX A
JARVIS, PTE. R. H.	...	...		Maastricht, Holland
JOHNSON, CPL. G. M. J.	...	...		Stalag XXI BZ A1
JARVIS, PTE. S.	...	...	834	" XXI BZ
JARRETT, A/CPL. N. W.	...	...	5516	" XXI BH (48)
KILLICK, PTE. A. L. J.	...	...		"
KAY, PTE. D. A. L.	...	...		"
LAVENDER, PTE. W. H. J.	...	...		" VI C
MAYBOURNE, PTE. L. H.	...	...	30785	" IX C
MOORE, PTE. H. A.	...	...		Hospital St. Joseph, Enghien, France
MAXWELL, PTE. D. C.	...	...		"
O'BRIEN, PTE. A. L., 6287630	...	...	5526	Stalag XX A3
O'MOORE, PTE. P.	...	...		" VI D
PLUMB, L/CPL. S.	...	...	12961	" VIII B
PARKER, PTE. F. A.	...	...		" XXI B
POPE, PTE. E. J.	...	...	36150	" VI A
POWDRILL, A/SGT. R. J.	...	...	9238	" XX A2
ROSE, PTE. S. J.	...	...		" XXI B
STRINGER, PTE. R. J.	...	...		" XX A2A
SAMSON, PTE. J. T.	...	...		"
THOMPSON, L/CPL. J. J.	...	...		" XX A
WARNER, PTE. KENNETH H., 6288126	...	...	611	" XX A
WATERS, CPL. C. T.	...	...		Hospital, Gaud, Belgium





Established 1799

# J. H. & J. BROOKE Ltd.

*Wine Merchants*

**LONDON**

—27 CLEMENTS LANE, E.C.4

Telephone: MANston House, 5301 (3 lines)

**FOLKESTONE**

—134 SANDGATE ROAD

Telephone: Folkestone 3123 (2 lines)

**HYTHE**

—78 HIGH STREET

Telephone: Hythe 6301

*Samples  
and  
Price Lists  
on  
Application*

## FORM OF LEGACY

(to be included in a will, or as a codicil thereto).

I BEQUEATH to the Colonel for the time being of The Buffs, the sum of £ : : free from legacy duty, in aid of the general objects of the Central Fund (Colonel of the Buffs), for which legacy the Receipt of such Colonel shall be a sufficient discharge to my Executors.

Signature.....





By Appointment

**SANDON & Co.,** Ltd.,

**8 SAVILE ROW,  
LONDON, W.1.**

Civil,  
Military and Mufti Tailors,  
Hunting Coats & Breeches.

Telegrams:  
GEEGEE, PICCY, LONDON.

Telephone:  
REGENT 5783

**Unaffected by Meat Rationing!**

- (i) Pork and Beef sausages and sausage meat, unexcelled for purity and flavour.
- (ii) Prompt service by an efficient staff.
- (iii) Extensive electrical refrigeration.
- (iv) Fine beef dripping.

If you are coming to Canterbury, register with

PHONE 2827 **F. R. BEANEY** <sup>22a</sup> Military Rd. Canterbury.

DAILY DELIVERIES TO THE BARRACKS



BY APPOINTMENT

**THOMAS WHITE & Co.**

LIMITED

*Military Tailors and Boot Makers  
Breeches Specialists*

**COMPLETE REGULATION OUTFITS  
ON THE SHORTEST NOTICE**

*THE NEWEST IN MUFTI WEAR*

**UNION STREET, ALDERSHOT**

Phone: ALDERSHOT 550.  
Extension 6.

Wires "WHITES"

**CONWAY WILLIAMS,**

THE MAYFAIR TAILOR

REGIMENTAL TAILOR

TO

THE BUFFS

SWEATERS, SCARVES & TIES  
always in stock.

EVENING CLOTHES & BREECHES  
A SPECIALITY

**48 BROOK ST., W.,**

Telephone Mayfair 0945.

AND AT

39 London Road, Camberley.

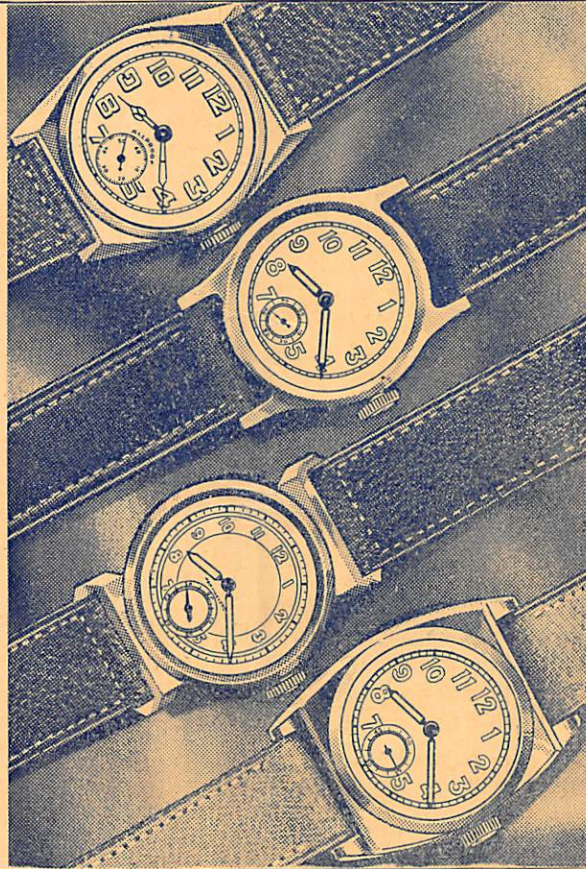


By Appointment  
to H.M.



Silversmiths  
THE KING.

# Service Watches



*During 1914-18 The Goldsmiths & Silversmiths Company became known all over the Empire for reliable Service Watches; and that reputation holds good today. These are four from our very wide selection; they are in Stainless Steel, sand-proof, water-proof cases; and are specially constructed to give never-failing accuracy under most severe conditions.*

*Reading from the top the prices are £6.5.0; £5.10.0; £8.0.0 and £13.10.0. Each watch carries our 2-year guarantee and we can think of no more useful present for a man in one of the Services. If you are unable to pay us a visit, a selection will be sent for your approval should you desire it.*

**THE GOLDSMITHS & SILVERSMITHS  
COMPANY LTD**

**112 REGENT STREET • LONDON • W 1**

**WARNING: NO BRANCH ESTABLISHMENTS ANYWHERE • TELEPHONE: REGENT 3021**